

BIOGRAPHY,

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

From the Calcutta Chronicle.

SIR WILLIAM JONES was the son of William Jones, Esq. one of the last of those genuine Mathematicians, the admirers and contemporaries of Newton. He was born in 1746, and received his education at Harrow School, under the care of Dr. Robert Sumner. We are told he was a classfellow with Dr. Parr, and at a very early age displayed talents which gave his tutor the most promising expectations, since so amply justified. From Harrow he was sent to University College Oxford, and about the year 1769, made the tour of France with the present Earl Spencer, then Lord Althorpe, and resided some time at Nice.

After his return from the Continent, it was his most ardent wish to spend several years more in the study of polite literature, to enable him to enter into public life, (to which his ambition had always prompted him) more mature and prepared. Various circumstances, however, concurred to prevent the prosecution of this plan, particularly the necessity of his pursuing some permanent profession, and the death of his learned and beloved friend and tutor, Dr. Sumner.

The short time, however, which he dedicated to literary studies after his return to England, was not spent in vain, for before June 1773, he had published several able works, which we shall hereafter notice. The first production of his pen published in England, deserves particular mention, as the circumstances which led to it, contain a material anecdote of his life; it was a translation into French, of a Persian Manuscript, entitled *Histoire de Nadir Shah, connu sous le nom de Tahomus Kulu Khon, Empereur de Perse*. This work (after repeated refusals) he had undertaken at the request of the Secretary of State, to gratify the King of Denmark, who was then in England under the assumed name of Prince of Travendahl.

It had been suggested to our learned author, that the translation would be of no small advantage to him at his entrance into life, by procuring him some mark of distinction which might be pleasing to him. To use his own words "eager for the bubble reputation," he undertook the work, and with no inconsiderable degree of labor to himself, and great assistance and solicitation on the part of the Danish Ambassador, he completed it in a year, published it at his own expense, and sent forty copies on fine paper, one of which was bound with uncommon elegance, to Copenhagen; what mark of distinction Mr. Jones received, or what fruits he reaped for his labor, he never thought proper to declare, but if any dependence can be placed on common fame, the reward bestowed upon him for this laborious task, consisted only in the thanks of his Danish Majesty, and the honor of being enrolled in the Royal Society of Copenhagen.

In June 1773, he took the degree of Master of Arts, and then it was that he first determined on the profession of the Law. He accordingly entered at the Temple; from that period until his admission to the bar, he continued his legal studies with scarcely any intermission. He was called to the bar in 1777, and attended Westminster Hall and the Oxford Circuit until the year 1779, but obtained very little business. At this time, however, his abilities, and learning had attracted the attention of Lord Balthurst; and it is no inconsiderable mark of that Noblemen's discernment, that he was the first to distinguish Mr. Jones's merit, by giving him the appointment of a Commissioner of Bankrupts.

At the same period the exertions of his friends induced him to form expectations of his being nominated to the seat on the bench in Bengal, just then vacated by the death of Mr. Lemaire. He had considerable reason to expect the immediate nomination to this station, to which his inclination as well as his ambition pointed most strongly. The tendency of his studies towards Oriental literature had peculiarly fitted him for this situation, and he promised himself the utmost gratification, and perhaps was not inattentive to the probable fame to be acquired in searching the hitherto unexplored stores of Indian knowledge.

Some political manoeuvres occurred which prevented the immediate accomplishment of his wishes, and at the same time rendered him unsuccessful in another pursuit. In the commencement of 1780, he stood a candidate to represent the University of Oxford in Parliament, but Politics, and the idea his friends entertained of his speedy appointment to the Bench in India, which prevented their timely exertions in his favor, rendered him unsuccessful.

The Riots in the same year gave occasion to a very able publication of Mr. Jones's, entitled "an enquiry into the legal mode of suppressing Riots, &c." and from that period he appears to have made politics his principal study, until the year 1782, when he seems to have adopted sentiments different from those of the Ministry, and to have disapproved of the measures adopted at that period. In consequence of these opinions he was introduced as a Member of the Constitutional Society, and began to enter warmly into the Politics of the time.

In May 1782, he delivered a speech to the assembled Inhabitants of London and Westminster, the Counties of Middlesex, and Surrey, at

the London Tavern, and during that year wrote several papers on the Constitution, Laws and Rights of the People of England, which were received with the most flattering attention and approbation.

At length it was determined to fill up the seat on the bench here, after it had been vacant five years, and Mr. Jones was appointed to that station, and honored with knighthood in March 1783. In April following he Married Miss Shipley, eldest daughter of the Bishop of St. Asaph, with whom he received a property of about 600l. per annum. He embarked almost immediately for this country, but not till after he had written the celebrated Dialogue, printed by the Constitutional Society, which occasioned the legal prosecution carried on against his brother-in-law, the Dean of St. Asaph, for the publication of it.

During his voyage to India, he laid the plan of the Asiatic Society, which he established immediately after his arrival in Calcutta. The first meeting took place on the 15th January, 1784, and the learned and entertaining volumes which they have published, are too well known to require our comment. In short this institution has been productive of so many and such great advantages to science and literature, that we consider it as one of the most lasting monuments of Sir William's fame.

The literati have not been disappointed in their expectations of the benefits to be derived from the residence of such a man in the midst of an unexplored region, "which has ever been esteemed the nurse of the sciences, the inventors of delightful and useful arts, the scene of glorious actions, fertile in the productions of human genius, abounding in natural wonders, and infinitely diversified in the laws, manners, customs and languages, as well as in the features and complexions of men."

From the time of his arrival in India, his life has passed without any extraordinary occurrence. His time has been entirely divided between his oriental researches, and fulfilling the duties of his station on the bench, with ability, firmness and discretion. We understand it was his intention to proceed next year overland to Europe, and cannot but lament the event which has deprived us of the advantages of his researches through the various countries which he was to pass, whilst at the same time it has robbed the literary world of one of its brightest ornaments.

On the subject of Sir William Jones's abilities, if instead of delighting and instructing the present age, he had long since been reduced to the situation of those writers, whose names and characters only have survived the destruction of their works, the portrait of Sir William Jones might have found, perhaps inspectors as sceptical as those of the *admirable Crichton*. In the gay spring of life, that season which the idle waste in dissipation, and the diligent employ in elementary studies, distinguished by that elegant conviviality which too frequently proves the bane of its possessor, the author of the Oriental Commentaries, assumed the tripart character of a Linguist, a Poet, and a Critic. With powers too vigorous and comprehensive to be shackled by the vulgar trammels of education, he commenced his literary career, where veterans of no common reputation have been content to finish theirs.

To an intuitive perception of the sublime and beautiful, and an imagination at once bold and luxuriant he added, what Mr. Pope thought incompatible with these faculties, "the distinguishing judgment of Aristotle, and a memory quick and tenacious as that of Seneca, and Carneades." Nothing less than the union of these powers in the same mind could have produced such pregnancy of thought, and such elegance and facility of composition, in languages so difficult and dissimilar. Yet this fancy, this elegance, and this facility, did our author possess, in spite of his early destination to a profession, of which even the preparatory exercises exhaust the midnight lamp of the most persevering student.

To the pen, whose more serious business it was to collect the cases, and note the precedents of an English Court of Judicature, we are indebted not only for the speeches of *Itatus* in an English dress, and for an exact delineation of the most complicated part of the Athenian laws, but for verses, which echo the language, as well as the sentiments of Sophocles, Theocritus, and Menander.

To him who might have been supposed to consult the pages of Cicero as the models only of legal argument, or popular declamation, we owe the perusal of such Latin prose, as Tully might have read with pleasure; and of Latin Poetry, which breathes the spirit of the best writers of the best age of Rome. He who was more professionally employed in discussing the legal mode of suppressing riots, cultivated the oriental languages, not only to illustrate the Mahometan laws of succession to the property of intestates, but to develop the grammatical construction of the Persian language, and to woo the Asiatic Muses from the spicy groves of Arabia to the more chilly climate of Britain.

In private life, Sir William's character was amiable in the highest degree. It may, however, be comprized in a few words:—A most affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent master, a warm and sincere friend, possessed of integrity unimpeachable, manners most attracting, and indefatigable attention to those pursuits which dignity the Poet, the Philosopher, the Critic, and the Gentleman.

THE COURIER.

MADRAS.

MAY 23, 1794.

BY letters from TRANQUEBAR, we learn, that the CASTLE OF DANEBERG, Captain Winther, had arrived there on the 12th instant; the is last from the Mauritius, which left on the 24th of March.

The passengers on the above ship are, Mr. Wood, formerly of the Winterton—Captain Parkison, late Commander of the Snow Floyer, Messrs Brovo and Lisle, for Pondicherry, and Mrs. Savage.

The intelligence, brought by the *Castle of Daneberg*, confirms the former accounts in the COURIER, with respect to the state of the Island, which continues according to general report, to be harassed by internal factions, and distressed even for the articles of general consumption.

As it were natural to be supposed, from the confusion predominant on the Island, each day, as it passed, produced new alarms, and apprehensions; generated out of the most trivial incidents; even on the discovery of a distant sail; which by the suspicious, failed not to be conjectured, as the forerunner of a hostile Fleet.

No information had been received, however, of any intended expedition against the place; though such an event was looked for by the dispassionate as a natural consequence of the war.

Under the impression of an invasion, the Club of Sans Culottes had intimated to the Governor, that he should provide for the safety of the Island—by putting it in the best possible state of Defence, in disciplining the Troops, and in restricting the sale of Provisions; and the Governor, it is said, had paid a strict attention to the intimation of the Sans Culottes; and had given orders to exercise the Troops daily; and had limited the sale of Provisions to certain Rations; and had been obliged in the last particular to conform, and demean himself to the letter of the *System of Equality*—Eight ounces of Bread per Diem, was dealt out to each, without distinction of Persons.

It was reported, whether any credit may be paid to the report, or not, we will not pretend to say; that Provision, on the Island was not so scanty in reality, as it had been publicly held out; but that a scarcity had been pretended, in case of an Emergency: either by an absolute attack, or by the Blockade of the Harbour. It should seem most probable that the scarcity was not artificial, as the Carrel ship, proposed to be sent to this Port, was previously sent to Bourbon for Provisions.

The Carrel Ship was to sail from the Mauritius on the 26th of March.

No Intelligence, in the middle of March, had been received, of the English Frigates being off the Island.

The *Cleopatra*, an American Vessel, had sailed for Boston, on the same day on which the *Castle of Daneberg* left the Isle: She had on board Eighteen or twenty French Merchants, with their property; some of whom had obtained leave of the Government to embark for the Continent of America, and others had been privately received, at the risk of the Commander.

Two Prizes had been brought into the Mauritius on the 19th of March—one named the *Loocka*, Captain Fitzherbert—taken on the West Coast—the name of the other unknown—Commanders name, Lynch.

We are happy to have it in our power to contradict the report of the Death of Captain Savage—that Gentleman having been left in perfect health at the Island.

The PILOT Indianman had been brought in, on the 14th of March, under the Command of the French Prizemaster—She did not fail under the protection of any Convoy; nor was she disabled or otherwise disabled as has been represented in other accounts.

The *VILLE DE BOURDEAUX*, a Frigate of forty Guns lay at an Anchor in the Harbour, and was fitting out, together with the *Pigot* for immediate service—*LA HYRONDELLE*, and *LA MOUCHE*, were undergoing some Repairs, and it was thought would sail in company with the *Pigot*, and *Ville de Bourdeaux*.

No Engagement between the *Cybele* and the *Prudente*, and *Commodore Mitchell's* Squadron, was spoken of at the Island at the time of the *Castle of Daneberg's* sailing from that place, nor previously; nor had any Intelligence been received of the above ships of a later date than what had been brought by the *Pigot*.

The *Sacramento*, a Prize; said to have been taken by a French Privateer, had not arrived at the Isle.

The English Prisoners, we have the pleasure to learn, are treated with great humanity, and attention, the allowance for each is 4 0 Livres per Month—but though the sum allowed be in some degree inadequate to the comfortable subsistence of the Prisoners, their rate is alleviated in general, in its hardships, by the Hospitality of those on whom our Countrymen are quartered.

The European Force of the Island is estimated at four thousand, not taking into that estimate any of those who are employed in the Maritime Service. The extent of the native troops, we do not learn with certainty.

Of arms, and ammunition, there is no deficiency.

Of Spirits (*ie*) Gin, Rum, Brandy, and Arrack, they have an abundant supply, but have little, or no Wine.

The best expectation, of the better sort of people on the Island, is, the arrival of an English Fleet, before it, for then, and not till then may they look for the establishment of order and the blessings of plenty.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

Head Quarters, Country Plain 20th May, 1794 G. O.

BY COLONEL BRATHWAITE,

Colonel Brathwaite being now informed that the several Native detachments required for Foreign Service, are completed by Volunteers throughout the different ranks, and not only so, but that several Native Corps have to a man offered themselves as Volunteers for the ensuing expedition, thinks it incumbent on him to publish the high sense he entertains of the zeal, order and attachment shewn by the Native Establishment on the present important occasion.

In justice to the Native Troops in general, he is obliged to say that from the cheerfulness with which on former occasions they were found to embark for distant Service, he could not doubt of their alacrity when called on by the present juncture.—At the same time as the intended expedition is of a different nature from any in which the Native Troops of any of the Presidencies were ever employed, he conceives that the ardent spirit of enterprise which now pervades and animates those of the Coast, demands his most particular notice and his warmest applause.

It is unnecessary for the Commander of the Army to advert, that in every instance, the meritorious behaviour of the men is referable to the good order and discipline maintained by the superior ranks who have them in charge, and that on this principle, he cannot speak too favorably of those Officers, who have trained the Coast Native Establishment to the degree of perfection, which is so deservedly noticed in this order.

The foregoing orders to be particularly explained to all the Native Corps on the Establishment.

Captain James Brunton is posted to the 3d European Battalion, and Lieut. George Lang to the 8th Native Battalion.

Lieutenant T. Pierce is removed to the 11th Native Battalion.

A General Court Martial consisting of a Field Officer President, and 14 Members to assemble at Pondicherry on the 2d of next month at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the Trial of such Prisoners as shall be brought before it.—The President and Members to be furnished by the Garrison of Pondicherry, and the Officers present at that Station.

The two junior Members to be in waiting. Prisoners, and Evidences to be acquainted and to attend.

Fort St. George, 20th May, 1794

G. O.

Captain William Kinsley, appointed to the Command of Negapatam, during the absence of the Royal Artillery.

Capt. Hammond to continue in the Command of Nagore, Edigin Thomas Baynes to be Lieutenant, Menham deceased—date of Commission 12th May, 1794.

The detail of Lascares, and Artificers allotted for Salem by the General Orders of the 18th Jan. last to proceed to that Station without delay.

The Honorable the President in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. William Frazer to be the Agent for Transports for the ensuing service, with an assistant and two writers.

All Indents for Cloathing are to be forwarded, so as to be received by the Contractor annually on the 1st September.—They are to be countersigned by the Adjutant General: and as Recruits for this Establishment seldom arrive at a period of the year subsequent to the above date, the present strength only of European Corps is to be Indented for.—Native Corps to Indent for the full Establishment including authorized Supernumeraries.

As the Indents from European Corps are to include the entire effective strength of each, no separate Indents for Europeans on the returns of Corps are on any Account to be complied with.

Indents for Europeans not on the strength of any Corps are to be signed and forwarded by the Officers Commanding the Station to which they respectively belong, or by the public Staff Officer present.

Corresponding half mounting Rolls from Corps and Stations to accompany the Indents.

No Cloathing to be Indented for an account of the detail ordered to be levied in lieu of the Native Detachments for foreign Service.

The following detail in the Ordnance Department, (to be employed under the Deputy Commissary General of Stores, on the intended expedition) to assemble at the Presidency without delay.

Deputy Commissary of Stores, MR. FRANK,

CONDUCTORS, MESSRS. NORMAN, FICKER, LINDSAY, STEVENS, WYNN, LEWELLYN,

G. O.

Fort St. George: 15th May, 1794.

Lieutenant Mark Wilks, appointed Secretary to Colonel Stuart, without prejudice to his present appointment of Barrack Master, from 23d April, 1794.

Lieutenant Alexander Grant, of the Body Guard to act as Barrack Master of the Presidency Division, for Lieutenant Wilks, so long as the latter Officer may be employed with Colonel Stuart or be absent on the Public Service.

Colonel Stuart's Aides du Camp will be Appointed in future orders.

Lieutenant James Scott, Deputy Commissary General of Stores, to be Commissary of Stores on the intended Expedition, with the Assistance of one Deputy Commissary, and six Conductors to be hereafter named.

Cornet Daniell, to be Adjutant to the 5th Regiment of Native Cavalry; vice Hargrave, resigned.

COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

On Wednesday last a Court of Admiralty was held at the Town-Hall, when Judoo for the murder of Mr. Forster, Chief-mate of the Theresa, then lying at an anchor in the Roads of Madras, received sentence of death.

The principal evidence against the prisoner was a boy, the servant of Mr. Forster, at the time the crime was perpetrated—he deposed, that his master after supper, retired to sleep on a hencoop, and that he, the witness, went to sleep on the deck near him: that shortly afterwards he was awakened by the noise of people, and on looking up, he saw the Gunner, Cook, and Butcher, surrounding his Master, each with a knife in his hand, and the prisoner standing at his feet, that the prisoner tied his master's feet, and others tied his hands, and something over his eyes.

The witness questioned them as to their conduct, and then they tied his hands also, and carried him below: where he soon heard his master cry out O Lord, O Lord—he then contrived to extricate himself and get upon deck, where he saw his master wounded, and of which wounds he died in a few hours after.

The witness on seeing his master's deplorable situation was enraged with the Gunner for his barbarous villainy, and on asking him his reasons for doing so, the Gunner took up a hatchet, and cut the poor boy in several parts of his body, so that his life was long despaired of.

CIVIL APPOINTMENT.—Mr. R. WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Peace, on the resignation of Mr. POPHAM.

The Troops to the Southward, ordered on the approaching expedition, have begun to move from their several stations; and the greater part of which may be expected at the place of rendezvous, about the end of the next month.

The alacrity shewn by the Native Troops, in volunteering their services on foreign duty, not only discovers a strong confidence of success in the particular object of the present equipment, but also a generous and general attachment to the service itself.—Several Battalions, we understand, have turned out to a man.

The ROYAL ARTILLERY marched from Negapatam for the Mount on the morning of the 18th instant.

HIS MAJESTY'S 35th regiment, we are informed, will march from Warriore, in the course of a few days.

The WEATHER.—The heat for the last three days has been excessive;—the Thermometer in the shade, having stood as high as 102.

We understand the Packet of the Sugar Cane is now open for the reception of Letters at the Council House, at Calcutta tho' we have not heard the exact time when she is likely to fail.

The hostilities in Angria's country still continue; and we hear more troops have lately arrived at the Mahratta encampment.

On the 1st Inst. a Meeting of the ASIATIC SOCIETY was held at Calcutta, for the purpose of deliberating on the choice of a President.—when it was agreed to offer the honour of the Chair to SIR JOHN SHORE, Bart.—and a Committee, consisting of the following Gentlemen, SIR ROBERT CHAMBERS, MR. JUSTICE HYDE, COLONEL JOHN MURRAY, THOMAS GHAHAM, ESQRS. JOHN BRISTOW, was appointed to wait on him with the Resolutions of the Society.

BOMBAY.

A meeting of the Merchants of Bombay has been held, to take into consideration the Insurance Premiums to China this season, but nothing final was determined upon, owing to the uncertainty of obtaining convoy, of which however, there is every expectation; and that government for this purpose will employ the Bombay Frigate and the Swift, formerly the Bien Aimé. The following is a list of the vessels sitting out to form the first Fleet, which it is supposed will fail the latter end of the present or beginning of next month.

Table with 2 columns: SHIPS and COMMANDERS. Lists various ships like Upton Castle, Hornby, Shaw Ardaseer, Travencore, Shaw Jehangeer, Bombay, Anna, Carron, Talfux, Milford, Lowajec Family and their respective commanders.

Letters from Dinapore mention, that a violent Storm happened there on the 22d of April, which has done great damage on shore—and on the river: upwards of three hundred Boats are reported to be totally destroyed or sunk, a Bungalow at Banipore, was blown down instantaneously, and three natives in it killed.—large Trees were broke down, and heavy branches, torn off by the wind, carried many yards.

BURMAHS.

RECEPTION OF COLONEL ERSKINE, April, 17.

This morning Colonel Erskine, visited the Rajah of Rarbre.—When the Colonel first approached, he was seated under a tree, a few yards within the pass, as it is entered by Rutna-pulang to Rajah-pulang.

Many of his people sat around him; and in the woods at some distances, several small parties were posted.—His seat was a neat carpet, with a matt under it; which were immediately changed for a chair;—probably this might have been intended as a compliment to Colonel Erskine, as the chair was evidently in waiting.—The Rajah is about middle age, strong made, and nearly five feet ten inches in height—his colour a deep copper—the contour of his face Chinese, but with rather strong features:—he was dressed in a green velvet boddick, puckered and edged with gold lace, that reached to his middle—round the waist was wrapped a piece of China Silk, of a plaid pattern, which hung down to the calf of his leg.—A large hat, with edging the same as the boddick, resembling an umbrella, so enveloped the head, that it was with difficulty a few of his grey hairs could be seen—he had no beard, nor whiskers:—The dress altogether was very unbecoming.—A young man said to be his Nephew, and Secretary to the Akhoobon, was seated on his right hand—he appeared less stout than the Rajah, and more resembling a Chinese—he wore the same kind of dress, with only the exception of the boddick being blue, instead of green velvet.—Two or three of the principal men familiarly dressed, sat close to the Rajah's Nephew—the other attendants were naked from the middle upwards.

Their arms chiefly consisted of old French, and English Muskets—most of their barrels rusted and worn to the substance of a wafer: their ammunition was carried in large cow-horns and pouches.—Some of them were armed with common spears, and others with swords or knives, twenty inches to two feet in length, with a handle a little curved, of eight or ten inches more—the scabbards of the higher order, had silver out-fits—those of the lower, plain wood.

The Colonel's reception was beyond measure pleasant.—The Rajah first, and then his Nephew shook him and his suit by the hand, with much apparent cordiality, accompanied by a good humoured smile. This salutation being ended, they seated themselves without ceremony, leaving us to do the same.—A conference immediately took place, after which, the Nephew presented the gentlemen of the staff with Pavans, and in about half an hour more, Colonel Erskine was presented with one from the Rajah's own hand. Cheroots, made of green Tobacco, not unpleasant in its flavour, were then served up:—about this period, a kind of dance, and sparing match commenced, to music not of the most melodious tones, produced from a small Tubla or Drum, two Cymbals, and two clarinets.—A man with a black blanket tied under his arms, by way of petticoat or gown, kept time to the doleful air, by writhing his arms, body, and thighs, in various modes, without moving his feet, except now and then, to make way for the spectators.—These entered the lists two and two—one challenged the other, by snatching his hands violently upon the upper part of his arms, shrugging up his shoulders, distorting the features, and occasionally hooping shrilly, which seemed all to be in regular cadence with the Music.—The attack began with throwing themselves into a variety of postures, each endeavouring to seize his adversary, so as to dash him upon the ground:—they displayed great muscular powers, and conducted both the attack and defence with much address and ability.—Pugilism is a favourite art among them, and their blows are often productive of serious consequences.—Anger however, is never allowed; and he who shews irascibility, his head is devoted to the altar of violated friendship:—An executioner always attends these exhibitions.—Their laws are of a most sanguinary nature—beheading extremely common;—and the most venial faults punished by flagellation.—We parted with our entertainers after a visit of two hours:—the same cordiality passed, with as little ceremony, as at our entrance.

LONDON.

TUESDAY—DEC. 3.

Yesterday an officer arrived in town from the Duke of York's army. Nothing of any very material import had occurred; the deserters were daily coming in from the French territory.—These consist chiefly of troops of the line, who are tired of the war, and of the want of adequate subsistence. His Royal Highness was upon the point of removing his Head Quarters to Ghent.

The Prussians have experienced a little check on the side of Bliescastel—their loss amounted only to 150 men.—The Austrians have nobly maintained their post—they were obliged at one time to retire from Brumpt, but immediately retook it, and repulsed the enemy with considerable loss.

Letters from Frankfort, of as late a date as the 25th ultimo, state, that a battle was fought on the 18th, between the Austrians under General Wurmfur, and the French garrison of Strasbourg. The cannonade was most violent,

and the action terminated in favor of the Austrians.

General Wurmfur has removed his Head-Quarters from Brumpt to Hagenau, in order to enter into cantonments during the winter.

The French have of late made several attacks upon General Wurmfur, but were always repulsed with loss.

The French are again masters of Bliescastel, and threaten Deux-Ponts. The Prussian armies on the Rhine, however, have collected in such a manner, as to promise speedily to repulse the invaders.

Letters from Treves, of the 21st ultimo, brings advice, that the Republicans again begin to molest the Electoral Territory. On Sunday the 17th, the Sans-Culottes, to the number of 8000 men, surprised and hemmed in, at Lebach, 500 Austrians, who resisted like lions during three hours, and, destitute as they were of cannon, repulsed the enemy, but were completely surrounded at last.

The Hussars of Wurmfur cut their way through the hostile ranks with small loss; but two squadrons of the Dragons of Toscana were either cut down or taken. The French afterwards plundered Lebach, Eixweiler, and Tolai.

The account of the defection of the King of Prussia from the cause of the Allies, is probably, very ill founded. We are to seek, perhaps, for the source of the report in the good wishes of those who have given birth to it.

There seems no reason at all to suppose, so closely connected as he is with the Dutch, so closely with the King of England, that he would suddenly and abruptly quit the confederacy of the combined powers, without taking care at least to include those two States in the treaty, and to give them timely notice of it, by some preliminary steps before hand.

It was much more likely that the Dutch should be the first to fall off; they entered into the war, it is well known, with no very great liking. They have more than once even expressed their wish for its termination, and the Gallic Batavian faction among them, will doubtless attempt this as soon as it lies in their power.

But for Prussia, the second party in the war, the second against whom the French, in their insulgence have declared, and the second whom their invading arms had compelled to defence; for her to desert now the cause of the combined Kings, the cause of all Europe, does not come at all within the bounds of credibility.

Victorious as she has been in the present campaign, while her views elsewhere have not suffered the least let or hindrance, it is not to be thought that she will thus hastily, and capriciously go over to her foes, and form new treaties of peace and alliance with a people on whom, in their present state at least, there is no possibility of resting any dependence.

The rumour, therefore, may fairly be attributed to the evil designs of those, who are perpetually disturbing the Public, with their fictions, or at best referred to the Gentlemen of the Stock-Exchange, who are every day broaching tales of this sort, to promote their own sordid purposes.

[St James's Chronicle.

The late Duchefs of Orleans has been brought to Paris, and is confined in the Palace called Luxembourg, which has lately been converted into an house of arrest.

Brigadier—General AUGUSTIN ISEMBERT, of the Army of the Rhine, has been shot for cowardice.

On the 6th of December a messenger reached Whitehall with despatches from Toulon, dated on the 15th ult. Between the 15th of October, and that period, no event of any consequence had occurred—a proof that the French are not in a condition to make any attempt, much less any impression, upon the formidable allied force now assembled there.

The same messenger brought an account, which he received on his journey, of a very considerable victory gained by the Prussians over the French, in the neighbourhood of Lauterbourg.

The Earl of Moira still remains at Guernsey, waiting for further advices from France. The Flora frigate, one of Admiral Macbride's squadron, has been cruising from the heights of Cherbourg, along the Coasts of Normandy and Brittany, as far as Cancale. In approaching the latter coast, signals from the land were hoisted, to announce that the Royalists were not yet masters of any fit place to disembark our troops, but that every necessary disposition was making for that purpose. It was hoped the Royalists would be masters of Cancale in a few days. The Flora frigate, on board of which was Count d'Hervilly, a French officer, returned to Jersey on the 2d, from whence the Count has crossed over to Guernsey to join the Earl of Moira.

The gallant Royalist Commander, La Roach Jaquel, has written to the Duke D'H—, from Mont St. Michel, dated Nov. 23, that a direct communication has been established between the coast of Normandy and the Isle of Jersey.

On the 22d ult. a very long and bloody battle was fought at Bayet, between Dol and Pont-Orfon, which lasted from nine in the morning till five in the evening. The Republicans returned several times to the charge, but were at length obliged to retreat to Pont-Orfon.

On the 23, the Royalists marched out of Dol in two columns, and attacked the enemy at Pont-Orfon from whence they were driven with

great loss, and in the end were completely routed. During the night two Republican regiments fired on each other by mistake, and killed a great number of men before the mistake was discovered.

Lord Pager's Regiment is complete; Lord Craven serves in it whenever occasion may offer.

Mrs. Woolstoncraft, it is reported has got out of the French dominions.

The amiable Duchefs de Chatelet is said to have died lately of a broken heart in a prison at Paris.

PROMOTIONS.

WAR OFFICE, OCTOBER 18th, 1794.

We have the pleasure to annex the names of the Officers, promoted in the General Military Promotion, which took place in October last; the outline of which we have inserted in a former Courier.

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Generals, Henry Scourmont Conway, His Royal Highness William Duke of Gloucester, K. G. and Sir George Howard, K. B. to be Field Marshals.

As likewise Lieutenant Generals Robert Melville, Marquisse Frederick, Robert Dalrymple, Hon. Edm. Stone, James Johnston, Charles Marquis de Drogheda, K. St. P. Sir William Ansell, Pitt, K. B. Lord Adam Gordon, Hon. Alexander Maitland, Archibald Earl of Eglintowne, Hunt Walsh, Guy Lord Dorchester, K. B. Sir Charles Thompson, Bart, and K. B. Robert Clerk, Robert Cunningham, Hon. Sir William Howe, K. B. Lord George Henry Lennox, Henry Fletcher, John Hale, Sir Robert Boyd, K. B. Sir Henry Clinton, K. B. Charles Lord Southampton, Bernard Hale, Francis Craig, Hugh Duke of Northumberland, K. G. William Taylor, Charles Marquis Cornwallis, K. G. to be Generals.

As likewise Major Generals, Sir Thomas Shirley, Bart. Joseph Brome, Patrick Thoms, Gabriel Christie, John Reid, Charles Ross, Sir William Green, Bart. George Scott, Charles O'Hara, Robert Sandford, Loftus Anthony Tottenham, William Rawley, Harry Trelawney, Peter Bathurst, Hon. William Gordon, John Maunfell, Stuart Douglas, Robert Prescott, Hon. William Hartcourt, Henry Earl of Carhamton, William Dalrymple, William Pitton, Sir Hector Munro, K. B. Hon. Edward Simpson, Hon. William Hervey, West Hyde, John Fletcher Campbell, Francis Lucelles, James Murray, Samuel Townsend, Sir William Medows, K. B. Thomas Olbert Mordaunt, to be Lieutenant Generals.

As likewise Colonels, John Lind, William Shirreff, William Grinfield, Samuel Hulse, Albemarle Burtie, Charles Vallancey, Thomas Pigou, Hon. John Thomas De Burgh, Sir James Stewart, Bart. Thomas Carleton, James Marill, Cavendish Lister, Charles Leigh, James Ogilvie, William Roberts, Robert Kingston, Sir Robert Laurie, B. John Tunner, William Martin, John Archie, William Edmellon, David Home, Hugh Debbieg, Montgomery Agnew, Thomas Jones, James Stewart, Alexander Earl of Balcarres, Hon. Charles Stuart, Cornelius Cuyler, Thomas Dundas, Charles Earl of Harrington, Hon. Richard Fitz Patrick, Nesbit Balfour, Edmond Stevens, Thomas Trigge, Francis Earl of Moira, Peter Craig, Benjamin Siehelin, to be Major Generals.

As likewise Lieutenant Colonels Robert Masou Lewis, Thomas Glyn, William Colquhoun, Wallace Ellis Dwyer, Charles Horneck, Alexander Ross, John Whyte, Charles Graham, Andrew John Drummond, Thomas Swanton, John St. Leger, Christopher Maxwell, Henry Bowyer, Richard Betteforth, Arcut Schuyler de Peyster, John William Egerton, Peter Hunter, William Maxwell, George Lord Herbert, John Earl of Chatham, George Campbell, Alexander Campbell, William Viscount Fielding, Richard Symes, to be Colonels.

To be Aides de Camp to his Majesty Lieutenant Colonels William Morhead, Francis Dundas, Hamilton Maxwell.

As likewise Majors William Anstruther, James Stevenson, Boudier Johnstone, William Swinburne, John Doyle, William Brady John Dorrer Alcock, Patrick Wauchope, James Higginson, Baldwin Leighton, Arthur Brown, Patrick Sinclair, John Elford, Benjamin Fish, David Campbell, M. B. St. Leger Keating, John Coffin, Honorable George Hanger, Richard Armstrong, John Calander, Archibald Campbell, and John Murray, to be Lieutenant Colonels.

Extra of a Letter from Barbadoes.

Three nights ago about 22 French prisoners from Tobago, who for a bribe of 30 guineas to the sentinel on duty, procured their escape, immediately seized and took possession of the sloop Amity, principally belonging to Mr. George Craft, lying without the Mole, with a property on board to the amount of 5000l. an armed schooner with six guns was dispatched, and after a chase of eight hours came up with her, but unfortunately found her under the protection of a French privateer, of 12 guns; the schooner exchanged three broadsides and sneered off, and arrived here yesterday.

His Majesty's sloop Rattlefacke, Capt Alexander Mouat, has taken and carried into St. Kitt's La Jenny from Point a Petrie, Guadalupe, to Bayonne, laden with sugar, coffee, cotton, and elephant's teeth, valued at 15,000l. La Jenny is a letter of Marque, of 10 guns, and had captured a Spanish ship on the 28th August, and had her ransom on board for 20,000 pieces of eight. The Rattlefacke, in lat. 19 N. long. 63. 28. W. fell in with the Venus, an American ship; and was going in chase of 20 sail of French ships that had run out of Martinique.

STATE PAPERS.

Note delivered by the British Ambassador, at the Court of Copenhagen, to the Ministers of the Danish Cabinet.

It can by no means be mistaken how much the circumstances of the present war are different from those wars in which the Powers of Europe can depend on the established laws, and rights of nations; no more can it be denied, that this palpable difference ought to have a material and powerful influence, on the enjoyment of the privileges allowed to neutral nations, by the same general laws, and rights, of nations, or by particular treaties.

At this moment there is no government in France, which is either acknowledged by the Neutral or by the Belligerent Powers. The Court of Denmark, has neither a Minister at Paris, nor has it accepted of any, from that country since the unfortunate death of his late Most Christian Majesty, the King of France. That Court has justly taken particular care, not to acknowledge the existence of any legal authority in France; as in fact, there is none at present; and although many particular considerations, prevented that Court from entering openly into the hostile measures, of the coalition Powers, it could never look on the government of France, as a party with whom they could enter into any amicable relation, and must even find a great difficulty in preserving a strict neutrality with respect to them.

In general cases, where a Neutral Power keeps up a commercial relation with two Belligerent Powers, that Neutral Power in the first instance has means, either by negotiations with the two Belligerent, or other Powers, or by the established laws of Europe, to enforce the strict observation of neutrality towards itself, equally from both the Powers which are at war with each other. The two Powers on the other hand have assurances, that the neutrality of that Power will never be exerted in favour of one of the parties, and to the disadvantage of the other. And in case any of the commercial transactions of the Neutral Power, should prove disadvantageous to one of the Belligerent parties, means of amicable representations are always left to them, in which such differences are easily settled, to the equal satisfaction of every party.

The circumstances, in this present case, are quite otherwise. Denmark, in retaining, with respect to England, all the commercial privileges of a Neutral Power, which are guaranteed to them by the general right of nations, as well as by standing treaties, can by no means be assured, of the observance of the same regulations and laws of the rights of the nations, on the part of France. In that country, this neutrality has not only already been violated, but continues to experience daily infringements. There the Court of Denmark has no Minister, who could keep sacred its rights, as well as the rights of its subjects. In that country there is no authority from whom justice might be expected, where in fact there are no other laws nor Courts of justice, but the will of a licentious mob, &c.

His Danish Majesty will also find it impossible to treat with France in an amicable manner, and as a Neutral Power, respecting the means of introducing those measures of precaution, upon the observance of which, the other Belligerent Powers have so great a right to insist, in order of the prerogative. Neutral commerce especially the corn and grain trade, be not abused at a time when so many circumstances perfectly new have occurred. It is a fact of universal notoriety, that the corn trade of France, with foreign countries is no longer a mere private trade, but that, contrary to all custom, it remains almost entirely in the hands of the pretended Executive Council, and of the different Municipalities. It can therefore no longer be considered, as a mere combination of private speculations, of which the individuals of other nations partake, but as a business immediately carried on by the above mentioned pretended Government, which has declared war against us.

It is equally notorious, that at the present moment, one of the most essential expedients to compel those who have declared war against us, to equitable terms of peace, consists in their being prevented by importation to remove that want, which is a necessary consequence of what they have done, in order to arm the whole laborious class of the people of France, against the other Governments, and the general tranquillity of Europe. It is a principle allowed by all the writers upon the public right, that importation may be prevented, if there are hopes, that by so doing one can conquer an enemy, and especially so, if the want of that enemy has been occasioned by those measures which they took, to injure us: and it is incontrovertible, that in this case, quite new in its kind, cannot be judged by the principles and rules which were only made for, and carried on according to the customs introduced among the Sovereigns of Europe.

It is farther to be observed, that his Danish Majesty, if he gives reception in his ports to French privateers with their prizes, cannot secure to himself that security which is requisite,

according to the laws of nations, for the validity of their letters of marque, and for the regularity of their conduct. The Courts of justice cannot, without involving themselves in a manifest contradiction, acknowledge the legality of any patent or letter of marque, that is derived from a Government, which his Majesty does not acknowledge to be sovereign. On account of this non-acknowledgment, prizes can neither be condemned, nor British subjects and British property be retained, in the ports belonging to a friendly Power; whose protection they are entitled to claim, without a direct violation of the treaties; and it is, above all, impossible to apply, in this case, the usual laws of an impartial neutrality, since there is no acknowledged authority in France, which can give to privateers the proper instructions respecting their conduct, and to which a Neutral Power might apply, to bring them to punishment, whenever they deviate from those instructions, on the non-observance of which, they are not to be considered as legal privateers, but only as pirates.

(Signed) HAILES.

Answer from the Royal Court of Denmark, to the preceding official Note.

His Majesty cannot, but with the most lively regret, find himself necessitated to complain of the conduct, or to combat the principles of the Power, who for so many years, he had been used to look upon as his friends and allies. His Majesty had always entertained hopes, that his conscientiously observing the strictest neutrality, and his adherence to the literal sense of the existing treaties, should have secured him from such unpleasant transactions, as those to which he alludes; but the unexpected contents of the Note, delivered by Mr. Hailes, Ambassador Extraordinary of his British Majesty, supported by a Memorial delivered by Count Goltz, Ambassador Extraordinary from his Majesty, the King of Prussia, do not permit him to pass it over any longer in silence.

The reasonings which his Majesty has to oppose to those, which have been laid before him, are contained in the inclosed Memorial. The desire of maintaining an opinion which he once had expressed; is not what induces him to persevere in the same principles. His Majesty is entirely directed, by the interior conviction of the most important interests to preserve a Peace, as being an object much desired by his Majesty's subjects.

His Majesty being convinced that he addresses friendly, just, and upright Sovereigns, will therefore declare his sentiments with candour, and without reserve.

The question is not concerning the rights of Denmark. The rights of that Kingdom are not problematical, and the King, my Master, in this respect, appeals to the feelings of the Sovereigns, his friends, how painful it must be for him, to be obliged to enter into a controversy, where there is nothing necessary but the fulfilling of the most clear treaties universally acknowledged and agreed to.

His Majesty flatters himself, that no principle will prevail, or be looked upon as grounded upon justice, which would establish a principle that the particular nature of an accidental war could in any means alter, the nature of mutual treaties, or contracts, or that mutual consent could be considered as a favour or privilege; or that certain Powers had a right to make regulations at the expense of a third; or that Powers, in order to lighten the burthen which is inseparable from the war in which they are engaged, had a right to lay the weight of it on the shoulders of innocent and neutral neighbours.

These objects may perhaps give occasion to difference; but his Majesty would think it an insult against the respectable Powers to whom he appeals, if he harboured the least suspicion, that after having been made acquainted with his representations, they should persevere in their former demands, or a still greater, if he manifested a fear, lest they should make use of a superior force, in order to place violence in the room of proofs, of a necessary consent of the interested parties. His Majesty not having had any communications upon this subject with the other Neutral Powers, is for this reason unacquainted with their sentiments there upon; but is convinced at the same time, that their opinions, as well as opposition, must be unanimous; and that they must be certain of the impossibility there is to make a system of neutrality agree with measures which are totally detrimental to such a system.

His Majesty is not afraid that his conduct will appear reprehensible. He demanded nothing but what was agreeable to the sense of the existing treaties; he remained faithful to the stipulations expressed in those treaties, as well as to Neutrality itself. His Majesty thinks himself the following party. He is at a loss to form an idea how his Britannic Majesty could have given to the commanders of his Majesty's ships new instructions, which are directly opposite to the former regulations, as well to the sense of the treaties, existing between his Britannic Majesty and the Court of Denmark, without the latter's knowledge or consent.

His Majesty first expected, that those instructions would only have regarded such Neutral Powers, as had not entered into any decisive Convention with England; but on the conviction of the contrary, he could not help protesting against such orders and instructions, considering them as an open breach of those treaties, and an infringement of one of the most sacred and binding laws, which were established among mankind. His Majesty, therefore, intreats his Britannic Majesty, to revoke such institutions, and to issue orders, conformable to the strict sense of the sacred engagements and treaties existing between the two nations.

His Majesty, at the same time is willing to shew his Britannic Majesty, as well as his Majesty of Prussia, and the other Coalition Powers, that his intentions are to comply with any of their requests, which are not contrary to the rules of strict neutrality, or to the interests of the Danish nation. He therefore consents to consider all French sea-ports, before which there shall be any considerable naval force, belonging to England or her Allies, as blocked ports. The Danish Government will neither enter into, nor favour any contract with the Government of France, for the purpose of supplying their navy or army with provisions. No sale of prizes made by French armed vessels, shall be permitted in the Danish ports, or other parts of the dominions of his Danish Majesty.

His Majesty, besides, will omit nothing in order to deserve in future, as well as hitherto the friendship and esteem of his Britannic Majesty and his Allies, and shall contribute every thing in his power, in order to strengthen, if possible, the ties of friendship and alliance which have hitherto existed between the British nation and that of Denmark.

Given in the Department for Foreign Affairs at Copenhagen, July 28, 1793.

(Signed) A. P. VON BERNSTORFF.

Counter Declaration of the Court of Denmark, in reply to the Memorial delivered by the British Minister.

The law of Nations is unalterable. Its principles do not depend on circumstances. An enemy engaged in war, can exercise vengeance upon those who do not expect it; but in this case, and without violating the rigid law, a fatal reciprocity may take place; but a neutral power which lives in peace, cannot admit of, nor acknowledge such a compensation; it can only screen itself by its impartiality and by its treaties. It is not pardonable for her to renounce its rights in favour of any Belligerent power. The basis of its right is the universal and public law, before which all authority must vanish: It is neither a party nor a judge; nor do the treaties give room to privileges and favours. All these stipulations constitute the perfect law; they are mutual obligations. That would be a very unnatural agreement,

which any of the contracting parties might at pleasure suppress, interpret, or restrain. In this manner, all treaties would in general become impracticable, because they would be useless. What becomes of equity, fidelity, and safety? and how much more unjust must become oppression, when it sets aside the infringement of sacred duties, the advantages of which have not been enjoyed, but only acknowledged as long as they suited self-interest!

Denmark will surely never attempt to justify the present Government in France, its nature, and origin; but she will neither give her judgement, and her neutrality will not permit her to express her mind on this subject. We only confine ourselves to lamenting the disasters which befel that country, and, on its account, all Europe; and to the wishing to see them brought to a speedy termination. But this is not a moment to own or acknowledge a form of Government, which we have always refused to acknowledge. The nation is there, and the authority which it acknowledges, is that to which application is made in cases concerning individuals. The commercial connexions subsist likewise in the same manner as they did between England and France, as long as the latter chose to preserve peace. The nation has not ceased to acknowledge her treaties with us; at least, she conforms herself agreeably to those treaties. As she appeals to them, so do we appeal to them—and frequently with good success, both for ourselves, and in favour of those subjects of the Belligerent Powers, who commit their effects to the protection of our flag. In cases of refusal and delay, we have frequently been obliged to hear often and reluctantly, that they only used to take reprisals, since the nations with whom they were at war, shewed as little regard for their treaties with us; and thus the neutral flag becomes the victim of errors, which it cannot reproach itself with. The path of justice still continues open in France. The counsels, and the mandates of private individuals, are heard. No one is prevented from applying to the Tribunals of Commerce. This is sufficient in ordinary cases. No fresh negotiations are required for the maintenance of existing treaties. Ministers become quite superfluous in this respect; there are judges, and this is sufficient.

These considerations are already violated by the observation, that our grievances are fre-

quently heard in France, and that there is no possibility of getting them redressed. The Municipalities, to whom application must be made, are certainly not alike equitable.—The sentences of the Tribunals of Commerce are not founded upon uniform principles; the extreme means of refuge to a medium of power, is totally removed; and these circumstances occasion at times grievous acts of injustice. In this respect, none are greater sufferers than the Neutral Powers; and it would be very inequitable to punish them doubly, and also on the part of those Powers, who cry aloud against those unjust proceedings, and yet seem to justify it by their own imitation.

A negotiation between a Neutral and a Belligerent Power, which would have for its object that the latter should not make use of Neutrality to the detriment of the former, cannot be thought of. A Neutral Power has fulfilled all its duties, if it has never receded from the strictest impartiality, and from the acknowledged sense of its treaties. In case the Neutrality should prove more advantageous to one of the Belligerent Powers than to another, becomes foreign to the Neutrality, and does not concern it. This depends on local situation and circumstances, and does not remain alike. The detriments and advantages are compensated and balanced by time. All that which does not absolutely depend on a Neutral Power, ought to have no influence upon its Neutrality; otherwise a partial, and frequently but momentary interest, would become the interpreter and judge of existing treaties.

The distinction between private speculations and those made by the Government and the Municipalities, seems to us to be as new as it is totally unknown. As this case cannot at all find place here, it would be superfluous to discuss the question, whether a contract between a Neutral Government and a Belligerent Power, respecting supplies for armies, garrisons, towns, or of ships of war, can be contrary to a treaty, in which no such exception has been mentioned. The only question here is respecting speculations which might be made by private individuals—respecting the sale of productions quite harmless in their nature, the disposal of which is not less important to the vendor, than the possession of them is to the purchaser, respecting the use of the ships of a nation, which must chiefly seek her subsistence in navigation and the corn trade. Nor is the question here about ports of war, but about ports of commerce; and if it be lawful to reduce by famine blockaded harbours, it would not be quite so just to accumulate this misery upon so many others, where it befalls the innocent, and may even reach provinces in France, which have not deserved this increase of wretchedness, either on the part of England, or on that of her allies.

The want of grain, as a consequence of the failure of domestic productions, is not something unusual, which might only take place in the present moment, or which might be occasioned by the grounds, which constitute the difference so often alleged between the present and former wars. France is almost constantly able to make imports from abroad. Africa, Italy, America, furnish her with much more corn than the Baltic. In the year 1799, France was more exposed to famine than it now is, and yet England would not then avail herself of the same grounds. On the contrary, when soon after, Frederick IV. King of Denmark, on account of his war with Sweden, which requires almost constantly importations from abroad like France, could believe that he might adopt the principle, that exportation can be lawfully prevented if one has hopes to conquer an enemy by so doing, and he intended to apply, with regard to a whole country, this principle, which is only considered as valid with regard to blockaded ports, all the Powers remonstrated, especially Great Britain, and unanimously declared this principle as new and inadmissible; so that the King, convinced of the contrary, desisted from it. A war can certainly differ from others with regard to its occasion, tendency, necessity, justice, or injustice. This can be a most important concern to the Belligerent Powers. It can and must have influence upon the peace, upon the indemnification, and other accessory circumstances. But all this is absolutely of no concern to the Neutral Powers. They will upon the whole give the utmost preference to those on whose side justice seems to be; but they have no right to give way to the sentiment. Where a Neutrality is not quite perfect, it ceases to be Neutrality.

The ships bearing the British flag, like those which bear that of the Allies of England, find in all the harbours of his Majesty every possible safety, assistance, and protection; but those cannot be reckoned among their number which have been captured by their enemies: the French privateers cannot be considered as pirates by the Neutral powers, as long as England does not consider, and treat them as such. In England the prisoners are deemed to be prisoners of war; they are exchanged; and negotiations have even been entered into for this purpose.

(Signed) A. P. VON BERNSTORFF.

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