

# WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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## INDIA NEWS.

A gentleman who arrived yesterday in the Lucia, from Calcutta, has favoured us with the following summary of intelligence:

"The news of the war in Europe reached Calcutta about the beginning of December; in consequence of which, a number of sailors were impressed from the American shipping, for the British ship Caroline, captain Page. A great number of American seamen had deserted their ships in the months of September, October, and November, and volunteered on board the Hon. Company's frigate Bombay, captain Hayes, where they still are, and probably will be during the war.

"The Company had concluded a peace with the Mahratta powers. The war was of but short duration, though extremely obstinate on the part of the black princes,—many hard battles were fought, in which the slaughter on both sides was very considerable. In one engagement, Scindiah, the Mahratta Chief, lost 90 pieces of artillery. A number of European officers fought under his standard; his soldiers were armed and clothed in a style superior to that of their enemies, and the English troops found them much better skilled in war than at any former period. Several able and distinguished British officers fell in the course of the campaign. By the peace, the Company have gained, as usual, a large accession of territory, besides several strong fortified towns, and a good share of plunder.

"The event of the war seemed to diffuse a general joy among the inhabitants of Calcutta, both Europeans and natives, and His Excellency the Governor had publicly received a congratulatory address on the subject, from the principal inhabitants of the settlement. About the beginning of March the palace and environs were most superbly illuminated.—The names of "LAKE and WELLESLEY" were exhibited in fire works in various positions, and a splendid ball at the Government House closed the festivities of the night. An immense throng, of all nations, hues and tongues surrounded the palace in every direction. In short, the **TOUT ENSEMBLE** was grand and interesting beyond description.

"A rupture between Holkaar, a Mahratta Chief, and the Company was much expected; and it was also whispered that Pegu would soon fall into the hands of the English. On this subject, however, no surmise could possibly be formed from the Gazettes of Calcutta; as not a syllable appears in them which has not previously undergone examination by the Chief Secretary to government; who expunges such articles as he thinks proper.

"There had been a number of French prisoners from the Isle-of-France cruising in the Bay of Bengal, several of which had been taken by English cruisers and sent into Calcutta. They had been at Bencoolen and destroyed a quantity of pepper, and several vessels in the harbour.

"There had been two embargoes on all shipping at Calcutta, and on the river Hooghly, in consequence of the sailing of the Company's ships for Europe."

Particulars of the capture and destruction of Mahey, a Malay settlement on the coast of Sumatra.

ON the 13th of April, two large English ships and three brigs came to anchor in Mahey roads, close in shore. They were well armed, and had on board from 3 to 400 Seaboy troops, commanded by European officers. The expedition was fitted out at Bencoolen. The commanding officer immediately made the following demands:

1. That the natives should pay 100,000 dollars for the destruction of a similar armament by the French in Pulo Bay, near Bencoolen, about six months previous; which armament was destined against Mahey.

2. That a second 100,000 dolls. should be paid for the loss of a country ship, near Mahey, which the British alleged had been plundered by the Malays.

3. They demanded another 100,000 for the expense of the second fleet then before the port.

These demands were addressed to the chief, Datto Sabellon, and at 4 o'clock P. M. fixed for a definitive reply. The settlement was totally unprepared for defence. No cannon was mounted, and there were no troops to defend it. No answer being returned at the appointed hour, the Eng-

lish commenced the attack by firing on the town, from all their vessels. Many natives were killed, before a single shot was returned. In the night they hove up banks of sand, and planted a few cannon, and in the morning of the 14th returned the fire. A warm engagement continued for about six hours. The English lost about twenty men. The Captain of one of the brigs was wounded. The first shot from shore killed three men on board of one of the ships. Finding little could be done by continuing in their vessels, the English landed the soldiers and attacked the intrenchments. Here there was a brave resistance, but finally the natives abandoned the ground, flying in all directions into the country. Datto Sabellon, the Malay rajah, who bravely defended the place, was supposed to be mortally wounded. The English now entrenched themselves in turn, built a fort and took possession of the country, and fearing the natives might poison all the streams and wells in that neighbourhood, landed 200 casks of water from the ships. They destroyed the town of Mahey, burning all the houses to the ground, and plundering the natives of all the pepper which had been collected for the season: The quantity is stated to be equal to five ship loads. The American vessels in port took no part on either side. A few shot from the English vessels passed over them, but did no damage. Not having completed their loading, application was made after the surrender of the place to the British resident for permission to purchase pepper, but the answer was that it was against his instructions, and no pepper could be sold to foreigners.

It will be here necessary only to make a single observation to prove that this unprovoked attack has fallen on the Malays, chiefly in consequence of the Americans visiting their country and purchasing pepper. Last year it was publicly reported on the coast, that so long as the Americans were suffered to trade among the natives, the English ships could get little or no pepper, and declarations were made that it would be necessary to take possession of the native ports, with a view of excluding all foreigners from any participation in the trade.

It is, therefore, pretty evident that pepper must in future, be either purchased through English hands at double price, or not be had at all at Sumatra, while the English can keep possession. A spirit of universal commerce has seized this people. They wish to engross the whole trade of the East and West-Indies, and to fix bounds to even that of Europe and America. As a commercial people ourselves, wishing to come in for a small share at least, of what may be called common property, we cannot and ought not to wish them success in any scheme, which seems to aim at seizing the whole commerce of both hemispheres.

One of the English brigs on her return to Bencoolen, was fallen in with by a French privateer and sent to the Isle-of-France.

FROM A LONDON PAPER OF JULY 7.

It is reported in the foreign papers that Russia is armed against France, and meditates an attack against her on the side of Italy, by means of an armament from the Black Sea, and the co-operation of the English fleet in the Mediterranean. It is also said that Russia has already a considerable number of troops in the Islands of the Adriatic; and has issued a proclamation calculated to cultivate the esteem of the people in those parts where her troops may find so convenient a resting place previous to their landing in Italy.

By the Hamburg mails which arrived on Thursday, were received two letters from Berlin; one of which states that the Cabinet of Petersburg will certainly refuse to acknowledge the new Emperor of France. It is, however, added, that this refusal will have no effect upon the other Courts of Europe. The second letter informs us, that the Elector of Baden has entirely set to rest the discussion that was to take place in the Diet of Ratisbon, on the subject of the violation of the territory of that Electorate by the French. Thus it appears that Bonaparte has insolently declined to furnish any explanation of his conduct in this affair.

On the 21st instant, a boat was observed by our squadron to the westward of Boulogne, at a greater distance from the land than that to which fishing boats go in general. The signal being made to chase, the *Locust* came up with her, and found

in her two deserters from the French army. They had taken a fishing boat from Boulogne at ten o'clock the evening before, with a view of joining our fleet then at anchor in Boulogne Bay; but being unacquainted with the art of managing a boat, and having rowed against tide till they were almost exhausted, they drifted to the situation in which they were found about three o'clock in the afternoon. According to the accounts given by these deserters there are one hundred thousand men encamped at Ambleteuse, Vimcreux, and on the right and left of Etaples; and at Boulogne there are in the harbour and without it one thousand flat-bottomed boats, luggers, brigs, and transports.—The 25th regiment of light infantry are encamped behind Boulogne, and perform no other service than working in the harbour and forts. They hate, likewise, that no more preparations are making for the invasion of this country. The vessels have had on board there these ten months past, pieces of ordnance for land service, but they do not know when the attempt will be made. They contradict the report of the coronation of Bonaparte, and assert that he will not be crowned; if he is, it is expected that the people of Paris will revolt; even a great many of his own countrymen are against it. One of these deserters said he was a drum-major of the 5th regiment of artillery, the other was a sergeant in the same regiment, and both say they were disgusted on being disgraced in the regiment, but on what account we have not been able to learn; they add, that great discontent prevails throughout the whole army.

The same letters inform us that the enemy has not been very lately observed to be making any disposition for coming out; but when our fleet is off Boulogne, there are always about forty-six brigs and seventy-six luggers lying at anchor, under protection of their batteries. A great number of soldiers have been observed exercising on the coast, but as far as our cruisers are able to judge, the troops seen in this side of the eminence behind Boulogne, do not exceed ten thousand men.

July 9.

The rumour of invasion is now revived, and the apprehensions of the public are supposed to have the sanction of the Minister and the Government. Mr. Pitt was indeed the original croaker, and the cry which wound up the nation to such a pitch of anxiety and energy when he was out, will certainly be renewed as one of the means of keeping him in.

The minor craft which Mr. Pitt formerly recommended to the admiralty is now to be brought into use, and to sail to the several depots to attack the enemy; upon whom, we are assured, a vigorous assault is shortly to be made. They are to engage the French gun-boats under the protection of the greater ships; and it is thought that they will doubtless provoke them to a general engagement. We have only to observe upon this, that if they venture too near the coast they will be exposed to the land batteries; and it cannot be supposed that the French will hazard themselves out of their protection.

It is impossible to say whether the chance of invasion, diminishes or increases, as we have no source of information but the occasional report of a sloop who has peeped into the harbours, and can, at best give but an imperfect account; for, surely, we cannot trust to the intelligence of the deserters of Boulogne, or to the exaggerations or delusions of the French papers.

It is generally thought that the Brest fleet is prepared for sea, and will venture on an attempt against Ireland. Our blockading fleet is not so strong but that the enemy will hazard a meeting with it.

July 14.

The French force now at Havre consists of 140 gun-vessels and boats, of which 70 lately came down the Seine. Letters from the British squadron employed in the blockade of that port, state, that expectations are entertained by our officers, of an attempt being shortly made by the enemy to force a passage along shore.

A report prevails at Dover that nearly one hundred sail of the enemy's gun-boats under convoy of a sloop, have within these few days back, effected their escape from Boulogne to Cherbourg. They proceeded to near in shore, that it was impossible for our ships either to intercept them, or in any material degree to interrupt their progress. We trust that the small craft now fitting out to annoy the enemy in shoal water, will be fitted out with all possible expedition.

A private letter from the Hague of the 1st inst. says, "We are uncertain how soon the expedition against England will be undertaken, although every thing is ready, and several regiments have been embarked for more than a fortnight on board the fleet in the Texel; on the other hand nearly one hundred merchant men, put in requisition or hired last Autumn, have been returned to trade gradually; so that the whole number of transports actually employed and at anchor in the Texel, do not amount to more than eighty. The armed vessels, as frigates, gun-boats, and cutters, &c. have been augmented, every where on the coast, on account of the repeated attempts of the English cruisers. In the Meuse alone, one frigate, five gun-boats, and three cutters are stationed, in addition to the number employed last May.

"Of the fourteen thousand men at the Helder and in North-Holland, eight thousand are embarked, the remainder are yet embarked, but in such a state that they may be taken on board in a few hours. The camp near Utrecht, under General Marmont, contains only eighteen thousand men, mostly French; of whom one thousand five hundred are at Amsterdam, one thousand two hundred at Rotterdam, and eight hundred at the Hague.

"Several corps of French recruits or conscripts to the amount of fourteen thousand men, have passed through Holland for Hanover within these last four weeks.

FROM COBBETT'S REGISTER OF JUNE 30. IRISH FINANCE.

From the official accounts recently laid before Parliament it appears, that the whole net annual revenue of Ireland amounts to 4,003,309*l.*, and that its annual expenditure, at least, its expenditure for the last year amounted to 7,798,534*l.* leaving an annual deficit of 3,795,225*l.* And when we consider the anxiety that must have prevailed to make as good an appearance as possible, it is being by no means uncandid to presume, that the amount of the annual expenditure is very little, if any at all, less than double the amount of the annual revenue. The new chancellor of the exchequer has imposed new taxes which he has estimated as 1,200,000*l.* annual produce. This is adding more than a fourth to the total of the present revenue, and if such an addition is actually collected, Mr. Foster will certainly be regarded as a conjurer. This gentleman has been supposed to understand the principles of taxation; and indeed the whole business of a financier; but such a supposition is not very strongly corroborated by the taxes he has selected, by the expectations he has held forth, and particularly by the observations he made relative to the effect of his tax upon bank notes; which tax, he said, at the same time that it augmented the revenue, would tend to keep the quantity of the bank paper within due bounds!!! On occasions like this it is that one is overpowered with melancholly reflections! What but the immediate interposition of providence can bring us safe out of such hands? "Tend to keep the quantity of paper within due bounds!" and that too at the very moment when he is augmenting the taxes one fourth, which augmentation must produce a great augmentation in the quantity of circulating medium that must be made in bank notes. Nay, the very tax upon the notes will cause an increase of their quantity and a depreciation in their quality, upon the same principle that a brandy merchant would put water into his casks if you were to impose a tax upon his liquor without permitting him to raise its nominal price. There wanted only this one observation from Mr. Foster to convince me that the Irish Treasury had gained nothing by the recent change. The new taxes may, perhaps, produce 800,000*l.* some persons think they will produce 600,000*l.* but there is no one imagines that they will add more than 600,000*l.* to the revenue; because they will certainly occasion a considerable falling off in the produce of the old taxes. Money must however be had, and loans must be made under the guarantee of Great Britain; the debt will go on rapidly increasing on both sides of the water; and, if the present system continues for five years, supposing the war to continue so long also, the interest of the debt of Great Britain will swallow up nearly, if not quite, the whole of her revenue.—It is beginning to be the fashion amongst the partisans of the minister to throw the blame of the financial distresses of Ireland upon the shoulders of Mr. Addington and his