

# HALL'S WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

[No. 13.]

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[Vol. I.]

## ARMISTICE ON THE LOWER RHINE.

COLOGNE, December 16.

An armistice has just taken place on the Lower Rhine, and the generals of both armies have agreed to the following articles, subject to a future ratification:

1st. The troops of the respective armies shall go into cantonments for the winter, the French behind the Wupper and the Austrians behind the Sieg.

2d. The positions occupied by the two armies respectively at the moment the armistice takes place, shall be re-occupied on the renewal of hostilities. Till that period the positions shall be guarded by posts not exceeding 25 men.

3d. The Tete du Pont at Nieuwied shall be dismantled, and the French shall leave only a guard of 20 men.

This convention was signed on the 7th of Dec. by generals Kray and Kleber, and the troops have, in consequence, gone into winter quarters. A division of the army of the north, who were stationed near Mulheim, go back into Holland. It is also understood that the cavalry will be cantoned in the district of Guelers.

LONDON January 1.

We yesterday received Paris papers to the 27th inclusive—they contain a report that the King of Prussia has issued a declaration, promising to defend Baden, Wertenberg, and the other members of the Germanic Body, who, in consequence of their having made peace with France, were threatened with hostile measures by the Emperor.—Should there unfortunately be foundation for this rumour, the situation of the Emperor must become embarrassing in the highest degree, and Germany probably be distracted by intestine war.

The German accounts from Italy state, that Buonaparte has made an unsuccessful attempt upon Mantua; and the retreat of the Austrians is ascribed to a new plan of operations. Both armies received considerable reinforcements; and Alvinzy's headquarters were 45 Italian miles from those of the French.

Mr. Secretary Dundas, on the subject of the late negotiation for peace, brought up on the 26th the following message from his majesty to the house of commons:

“George R.

“It is with the utmost concern, that his majesty acquaints the house of commons, that his earnest endeavors to effect the restoration of peace have been unhappily frustrated, and that the negotiation in which he was engaged, has been abruptly broken off, by the peremptory refusal of the French government to treat—except upon a basis evidently inadmissible—and by their having in consequence required his majesty's plenipotentiary to quit Paris within forty-eight hours.

“His majesty has directed the several memorials and papers which have been exchanged in the course of the late discussion, and the account transmitted to his majesty of its final result, to be laid before the house.

“From these papers his majesty trusts it will be proved, to the whole world, that his conduct has been guided by a sincere desire to effect the restoration of peace—on principles suited to the relative situation of the belligerent powers—and essential for the permanent interests of his kingdoms, and the general security of Europe.—Whilst his enemies have advanced pretensions at once inconsistent with those objects, unsupported even to the grounds on which they were professed to rest, and repugnant both to the system established by repeated treaties, and to the principles and practice which have hitherto regulated the intercourse of independent nations.

“In this situation, his majesty has the consolation of reflecting, that the continuance of the calamities of war can be imputed only to the unjust and exorbitant views of his enemies; and his majesty, looking forward, with anxiety, to the moment when they may be disposed to act on different principles, places, in the mean time, the fullest

reliance—under the protection of Providence—on the wisdom and firmness of his parliament, on the tried valour of his forces by sea and by land, and on the zealous public spirit, and resources, of his kingdom, for vigorous and effectual support, in the prosecution of a contest which it does not depend on his majesty to terminate, and which involves in it the security and permanent interests of this country and of Europe.

“G. REX.”

January 2.

## INVASION OF IRELAND.

We have now to impart to the public the most satisfactory intelligence respecting the French fleet which lately sailed from Brest.

On Saturday morning a dispatch was received at the admiralty from vice adm. Colpoys, dated on Monday last, the 26th ult. off Brest. That dispatch states, that the British Admiral had received intelligence of the French fleet having been dispersed in a gale of wind; and on the morning of the day on which he wrote, upon a fog clearing away, he perceived six sail of the enemy's line standing right towards his fleet. The French unfortunately perceived their danger time enough to effect their escape into Brest. The admiral likewise states the loss of the French ~~gun~~ ~~the~~ ~~Sedusant~~, which is mentioned in the French Journals of the 27th Dec. She had no less than 1800 seamen and troops on board, upwards of 1000 of whom perished.

On Saturday night dispatches were likewise received at the admiralty from admiral Kingsmill, dated the 29th ult. from Cork, stating that 8 sail of French line of battle ships, with some frigates, &c. appeared off Bantry bay, on the southwest coast of Ireland, on the 22d, on the 24th they anchored in the bay. They remained there, the wind blowing hard, till the 27th, when they made sail to put to sea, with a foul wind. They did not attempt to land a man during the time they staid in the bay; but a boat, in endeavoring to pass from one ship to another, was blown on shore, and a lieutenant and 7 men which were in the boat, were made prisoners. These state, that this is part of a fleet which lately sailed from Brest; that they had met with some severe weather since they had been out, and that their fleet had been dispersed; that Hoche was to command the expedition, but that they did not even then know its destination. The people of the country, upon the first appearance of the French fleet, armed themselves, and shewed the most loyal disposition; and if the weather had permitted an attempt at landing, there is no doubt that they would have given the enemy a proper reception. It was the opinion of seafaring men, that the French fleet could not weather the rocks at the entrance of the bay in attempting to get out on the 27th. Notice had been immediately sent to admiral Colpoys on the first appearance of the French fleet, and orders were immediately dispatched to lord Bridport, to put to sea on the receipt of the intelligence at the admiralty, so that we hope to hear a further account of these ships before they can recover Brest harbour.

Last night about ten o'clock an express arrived in town with dispatches from Dublin Castle, to the Duke of Portland, upon the above subject. The account at Dublin represented the French fleet at Bantry bay to consist of 17 sail of the line, but we have every reason to believe that admiral Kingsmill's statement is more correct.

The following official letter appeared in a Dublin paper of the 30th ult.

To the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Dublin Castle, Dec. 29.

“My Lord,

“The last accounts from gen. Danrymple are by his aid-de-camp, captain Gorton, who left Bantry at ten A. M. on Tuesday, and arrived here this morning. 17 sail of French ships of the line were at that time at anchor at the lower part of Bear Island, but at such a distance as their force could not be ascertained. The lieutenant of a French frigate was driven on shore in his boat, going from his vessel (which was dismantled) to the admiral—He confirms the account of the fleet

being French, and with views hostile to this country; but does not appear to know whether the whole fleet (which consisted of about 17 sail of the line, 15 frigates, and including transports and luggers, amounting to 50 sail) were all to assemble at Bantry bay. Gen. Hoche was on board, commanding a considerable force.

“I have the honour to be,

“My Lord,

“PELHAM.”

## BANTRY BAY.

This place, the so often supposed rendezvous of the French fleet, is situated about 45 miles from the city, and 30 from the harbour of Cork, on the southwest coast of Ireland; it is a safe and spacious bay, and deep enough for ships of any burden. It is peculiarly favorable to such an enterprize, the adjacent country being fertile, plenteous in the extreme, it is very little distance from Kerry, but from the military garrisons of Cork harbour, Carlisle fort, Westmoreland fort, Haulkourline island, the beach of the Cove of Cork, the city of Cork, from Kinsale and Charles fort in Kinsale, a force of volunteers, regulars, cavalry and militia equal to opposing any number of troops which the French fleet may attempt to land, may be easily collected.

We received on Saturday by express, Paris papers of the 26th and 27th ult. The most interesting intelligence they bring, and it is interesting indeed, is the account of a declaration said to be made by the king of Prussia, expressive of that monarch's determination to protect those princes of the empire who have signed separate treaties with the French, and have, on that account, refused to supply their contingencies for the Imperial army, against punishment they have reason to dread from their justly offended chief. Thus then, has the unfortunate death of the Imperial Catharine already begun to operate on the politics of the continent; for without this event, this treacherous monarch would not have dared to sanction in others, that breach of allegiance which he had committed himself, and which has offered a most pernicious example to his own subjects, who are not bound to him by any tie more strong, more sacred, than that by which, as a prince to the empire he was bound to its lawful chief.

We may then, probably, have to thank his Prussian majesty for the haughty rejection of our terms by the despotic sovereigns of France, and for the consequent prolongation of the war.—We may have to thank that machiavelin policy, which marks the whole conduct of his Italian minister; which regards the obligation of treaties as no longer to be observed than ambition dictates and interest suggests their observance; which considers the bonds of good faith as objects of derision; and which looks on the ties of honour with contempt; for the obtinacy and arrogance of our ministers, founded on premises that reflect eternal disgrace on those who made them. This dishonourable attempt to enfeeble the exertions of our ally, whose superiority of mind, whose elevated character, whose inviolable adherence to treaties, and whose glorious perseverance in an honourable cause; in short, the perfect contrast of whose character must naturally have excited envy and dislike, cannot be too strongly reprobated, not only by every Briton, but by every friend to truth and virtue.

Let not, however, this puny prince indulge a premature exultation on the development of his dark machinations; let him recur to the page of history, and he will find sufficient reason for believing, that he will never be suffered quietly to overthrow the Germanic constitution, which he is bound by an oath to protect; nor by the diffusion of those jacobinical principles of anarchy and innovation, which he solemnly pledged himself in the face of Europe to resist, to acquire a preponderance in the empire, founded on the base invasion of the sacred rights of a prince who has never violated any engagement, nor forfeited, in any degree, his claim to the respect and esteem of the present age, and of posterity. There are still, we trust, sufficient force and energy