

to affize the flour, in a regular proportion to the price of wheat.

At Mithurst, and other places in the Western parts of Suffex, wheat has been sold at from 15l. to 17l. 10s. per load.

April 22.

There was this morning a report in this city, said to have been received by a gentleman from Hull, of admiral Duncan having fallen in with and captured two of the Dutch fleet. We consider this as unfounded. Government have never received any information respecting the enemy since they first sailed.

CAPTURE OF SIR SYDNEY SMITH.

A gentleman yesterday morning arrived in town from France, who left Paris on Sunday last, and Havre the Monday following. While he was at Havre on Monday, he saw Sir Sydney Smith taken, who with thirty-two of his officers and men had left the Diamond frigate, (it being then a dead calm, and flood tide,) and gone in their boats, five in number, into Havre roads, where they captured a privateer of eight guns, when they were followed from Havre by a lugger of 14 guns, and five gun boats, who drove them up the Seine, the lugger coming up, began the engagement, which lasted about 40 minutes, with the greatest fury, but some gun boats coming down, and the English having one man killed and four wounded, fired a broadside and hauled down his colors. Sir Sidney, his officers and men, were immediately taken to Havre, where they were put in prison, and from thence Sir Sidney himself was sent, under a guard, up the country.

Those taken were, Sir Sidney Smith, W. Moore, R. Kennynon, P. Burrow, and two other officers, with 27 men. In all, 33.

Another account states, that Sir S. Smith, was taken while reconnoitering the coast in a single boat, from which it is inferred that his life is in some danger.—This we do not believe to be the fact.

The following are the only vessels of force which were in Havre, on Monday, when Sir Sydney was taken:

La Carmagnole frigate, and a new frigate, 3 sloops mounting 24 pounders, and one privateer from Dieppe.

L O N D O N, April 23.

By the arrival of the Argo, of 44 guns, one of Sir Edward Pellew's Squadron, at Plymouth, intelligence is brought of the capture of La Unite French frigate, of 40 guns, by the Concorde of 36 guns, captain Hunt, likewise one of Sir Edward's Squadron after a severe action in which the enemy had 36 men killed and wounded—but happily from superior skill and management, not a single man was either killed or wounded on board the British ship.

Extract of a letter from on board the La Pomane, at sea, April 7, 1796.

"I take the liberty of again acquainting you with our success, having captured close of Cament Bay, the entrance of Breit, with the boats of the Squadron.

"One brig, Le Marie of St. Maloes, 150 tons of wheat; do. name unknown, 100 do. flour; do. do. 120 do. wheat; 1 sloop do. 70 do. wheat which are sent into Falmouth.

"Also one brig, name unknown, 90 tons, being leaky, scuttled and sunk her—loaded with wine and wood.

"The enemy must feel the want of the corn and flour very much, as we are given to understand the allowance for the navy and army has been considerably reduced, in consequence of the scarcity of grain at present in France.

"We detained also a ship shewing American colours, from the Mauritius loaded with cotton, coffee, sugar, indigo and pepper, and several French passengers on board, which was steering for L'Orient—Gave us a long chase and used every method by trimming ship to get away. We trust she will be condemned, as the property must be French. She sailed from France [L'Orient] last year with a cargo of wine and brandy

for the Municipality as the Mauritius, and was returning with produce of that island.

"The aforementioned vessels make 16 in number taken from the French Republic by this Squadron within one month; a proof of vigilance and good fortune."

Off Ushant, April 16, 1796.

"Since writing the above, we have captured a brig loaded with salt, and Le Rebelle National Corvette ship of 22 guns, and 145 men, after a long chase, the ship sailing remarkably well."

One of the taxes at present imposed is an additional duty on wines.—This is a tax impolitic in every sense. Mr. Pitt, of all men, should be the last to withhold this opiate from our sufferings. He should remember the epigram:

"Why should you have us *coolly* think?"

"If you would govern, *we* must drink!"

Mr. Alexander Lameth, who was so long and cruelly confined in the prisons of Prussia, is arrived in this country, in order to take the benefit of the Bath waters, recommended to him for the recovery of his health, which has suffered greatly by his long imprisonment.

The ship Juliana is arrived off Plymouth, from the Cape of Good Hope. The following is a letter from an officer on board her, dated off Plymouth Sound, April 12.—"Please inform at Lloyd's Coffee house, that we left the Pilot the 1st of December; the 28th November passed three Danish ships called the Droninguard, Captain Wallford; the Moeb, Captain Lee, and a small ship commanded by Captain Ponaing, and the Princess of Wales, Captain March.—The Juliana left the Cape of Good Hope the 2d of February; and the Dart packet arrived in False Bay three days before we left the Cape. No other news. All well at the Cape.

Mr. Pitt's intended tax on Legacies and Inheritances is nearly an exact copy of that imposed by AUGUSTUS, when he established a permanent military force for the defence of this Government, and for the extraordinary expenses of War. Gibbon in his Roman Empire, vol. I. oct. ed. p. 293, says—"The ample revenue of the Excise, though peculiarly appropriated to these uses, was found inadequate. To supply the deficiency, the Emperor suggested a new tax of five per cent. on all Legacies and Inheritances; but the nobles of Rome were more tenacious of property than of freedom. Their indignant murmurs were received by AUGUSTUS with his usual temper; he candidly referred the whole business to the Senate, and exhorted them to provide for the public service by some other expedient of a less odious nature. They were divided and perplexed. He intimated to them that their obstinacy would oblige him to propose a general land tax and capitation. They acquiesced in silence. The new imposition on legacies and inheritances was however, mitigated by some restrictions.—It did not take place unless the object was of a certain value, nor could it be exacted from the nearest of kin." The consequence of this law, however was, that "in the course of two or three generations, the whole property of the subject must have gradually passed through the coffers of the state."

Alderman Macauley is become a bankrupt, and all his property has been brought to the hammer. Through his failure a capital house at Berlin has also fallen. The house of Staple and Co. have also fallen.

The bank have begun to pay the 4 per cent. and 3 per cent red. and the short and long annuities. The want of ready money was so great, that the holder of a lottery prize of 20,000l. which is payable in 3 months, could not get it discounted for less than 10 per cent. so that, instead of receiving the whole sum, the holder only received 18000l.

Through the sudden fall of the funds one house alone, it is said, has lost 90,000l. sterling.

The following very extraordinary circumstance took place, a few days since, at Penly, in Buckinghamshire:—A swan, while sitting on her eggs, on the side of the river, observed a fox swimming towards her from the opposite shore, and rightly judging she could

execute the enemy best in her own element instantly darted into the river and having beat off the fox for a considerable time with her wings, actually succeeded in drowning him to the astonishment of several persons spectators of this singular phenomenon.

D U B L I N, April 22.

Advices from London, by the last mail, bring intelligence more agreeable than we had from thence lately respecting the pecuniary distress that prevailed there. It appears that since the stock engagements were made good, and the plan ascertained, without any mention that part was for the Emperor, public confidence has much revived, so that good paper is easily convertible into specie.

WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE PORTE.

P E S T, March 30.

The march of the Russian troops to the Ottoman frontiers has long announced an approaching rupture between Russia and the Porte. It is expected that hostilities will soon break out. It is pretended that which has determined the Empress to hasten the opening of the campaign, is her uneasiness at the preparations of the Turks both by sea and land, and information of France having sent officers and arms of all sorts to the Porte; in consequence, she has caused to be followed by three armies of 50,000 men each, a manifesto that she has published against the Divan, and she has determined to attack some parts of the Turkish empire, before the French can have time to combine their plan of operations in the ensuing campaign with that of the Mussulmen. Such are the motives that the Vienna Gazette assigns for the recent hostilities of which we are informed. We are assured the Russians have already taken the fortress of Choczim; and that an army, under the command of General Romanzo has already reached the borders of the Dniester.

It is thought that this sudden invasion is an event concerned in execution of the terrible alliance and that its object is to oblige the Grand Seigneur to break all connection with the French.

N E W B E R N, June 25.

Extract of a letter from Hamburg, dated 22d April,

"The situation of Europe is at this moment exceedingly critical: a war is on the eve of breaking out between the empress of Russia and the Swedes; vast preparations are making by both powers; 60,000 Russians are on the borders of Sweden, and all the troops of the latter are in motion.—The king of Prussia is said to have an army of 40,000 men ready to join the petty principalities, then to march into Holland and once more restore the stadholder, in consequence as he alleges of the French having violated their treaty.—On the other hand in consequence of this republic having refused to acknowledge the French minister, they have laid an embargo upon all the ships of this flag in their ports; in consequence of which, numbers of ships that were ready to proceed to the different southern ports have been detained.—England and France seem to maintain the war with unabated activity; so that, in short, from present appearance it is reasonable to conjecture the summer will find all Europe in a blaze."

Acts passed at the First Session of the Fourth Congress.

1. An act making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1796.
2. Further extending the time for receiving on loan the domestic debt of the United States.
3. For the relief of Benjamin Strother.
4. For the relief of Israel Loring.
5. For allowing compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and to certain officers of both Houses.
6. Providing relief for a limited time, in certain cases of invalid registers.