

A WHALE!!!

"Old England," quoth Sam, "will surely be invaded. Though a thing that by us is much to be dreaded; The news of the ruff is worthy of note— They will seem like huge continents when once afloat. All this he deliver'd most plaintive and low, And finish'd his speech with an "ah!" and an "oh!" When Russia speak'd, with a visage demure— "This news, my good friends, is most dreadful before, But as for the ruff, why that is untrue— (Though yet the main plan they still have in view) For I have authentic advice, 'pon my soul, The French have engag'd of Whales a large shoal, On whole backs they will pals to proud Albion's side, We shall know when they move by the rite of the tide."

P A R I S, December 14.

The Executive Directors, in pursuance of their new plan of General Expedition against England, has issued an order that all the different companies who had obtained of them vessels to be afloat, in course should be bound to return them after a short delay, and to put them at their disposal in the different ports which they should point out. The persons who have armed them, are to be reimbursed their expences.

DESCENT ON ENGLAND.

Means of obtaining ten millions of livres for the construction of a thousand or more than a thousand gun-boats. Pitt proposes to raise the sum of seven millions sterling (268 millions Tournois) for the year 1798, by tripling the assessed taxes. According to his calculation, there are in England 1,400,000 houses. The number of persons upon whom taxes fall, including men, women, and children, he estimates at about 7,500,000. He says, that of 1,400,000 houses, about seven or eight hundred thousand pay assessed taxes; the others being miserable cottages, pay nothing at all; the seven millions therefore, which he proposes to raise by tripling the assessed taxes, will fall at the rate of ten pounds sterling (250 livres Tournois) upon each house:—He foolishly believes that this resource is sufficient to prevent France from making a descent.

Having thus stated the question on one side, it remains to treat in the other point of view, in which it ought to be considered by this country.

Our object at present is a descent: there is no other mode by which to subdue the English government, and to put an end to its tyranny. We are in possession of all the requisite means, except that of passing the little arm of the sea that separates France from England. But as our object is not to combat the English fleet, but to escape it, our mode of navigation ought to be such as that the English fleet cannot obstruct our voyage.

Every one knows that there are two modes of navigating—sailing and rowing. We also know that vessels with sails must regulate their course by the wind; but that boats with oars may be moved in every direction, and with the greatest facility, when there is no wind at all.

Thus the most certain and the least expensive means of passing into England, in spite of the English fleet, are to employ row-boats, having a small sail, like the Dutch fishing boats, to serve upon occasion.

If the French coasts were five or six hundred leagues distant from those of England, it would be very ridiculous to talk of row-boats; but in many places there are no more than 8, 10 or 12 leagues between them; and to the most distant parts where we would think of making a descent, there are no more than 20 or 30 leagues, which may be passed in 48 hours, even without the aid of sails, on the supposition that the boats can row at the rate of a league an hour.

The Russian transports take troops in

row-boats across the Black Sea. The Swedes transport theirs in the same manner, to the most distant parts of the Swedish empire. The Russian boats can transport two or three hundred soldiers each, and six men are put to every oar. But upon making a descent upon England, boats of a smaller size ought to be preferred—The sea on many parts of the English coast does not run very high; small boats might go close in shore, and the troops land as easily as persons tie out of a wherry.

The expence of the English navy for the year 1798, according to Pitt's budget is 12,500,000 sterling, or 300,000,000 of livres Tournois. To cover this enormous expence, he proposes to triple the assessed taxes, which will take at an average 240 livres from each family. France wants only 1000 gun-boats, which will cost only ten millions Tournois, to raise this sum, no new impost is necessary: it will be better to obtain it by patriotic gifts.

Citizen Villers has already stated, in the Council of Five Hundred, that many persons had expressed their desire of contributing voluntarily to the expence of a descent upon England. I love the patriotic spirit of these worthy citizens; and as I desire to contribute my mite towards this important measure, I have contrived a plan which will enable every citizen to participate in the honor of destroying a government, which, for more than a century, has been the scourge of the human race.

The sum I would propose to raise by patriotic gifts is, ten millions of livres, to be employed under the direction of the government, in building a thousand or more gun-boats. As it is better rather to under-rate than to exaggerate our means in a calculation of this kind, I shall estimate the population of France at only 25,000,000, though her increase of territory must make the number considerably greater. I believe it will be found that the men of twenty and upwards form about one fifth of this population—that is to say, 5,000,000. One half these five millions, 2,500,000, I shall suppose are the industrious poor, from whom the will must be taken for the deed; I divide, then, the remaining 2,500,000 into two classes of 250,000 each, and four classes of 500,000 each. The greatest patriotic gift, according to my calculation, should be 12 livres, and the smallest 20 sols.—Each person should have the liberty of giving his name to be inscribed in any class he may think proper. If a citizen of small fortune wishes to inscribe his name in the first class, and a rich man in that of 20 sols, they ought both be permitted to do so; it is equality of rights, not of fortune, which is the real principle of equality.

Table of the classes and their respective produce.

Classes.	Number per.	Ind. gifts.	Total liv.
1	250,000	12	3,000,000
2	250,000	6	1,500,000
3	500,000	5	2,500,000
4	500,000	3	1,500,000
5	500,000	2	1,000,000
6	500,000	1	500,000

Total, 2,500,000 per. livres 10,000,000

The average rate of those patriotic gifts is 4 livres a head. That of Mr. Pitt's triple tax is 240 livres.

The weakest part of the English dominions is England itself. It is far less difficult to land 100,000 men in England than to send ten thousand to the East-Indies.

Troops sent to India must be embarked on board transports of two or three hundred tons burden each, and ships of this line must be employed for their convoy. An English squadron may block up the ports in which such an expedition is preparing; and if, by any change of wind the transports should be enabled to sail, the English squadron could also avail itself of the advantage of this wind and follow the convoy: As the voyage is long it is possible they might overtake our fleet.

France, by the union of the Channel, has now a great extent of coast towards the north, where the shores both in France and England, are very low. The sea is so very shallow that ships of the line cannot approach within one mile, as is the case at Dunkirk. The descent ought to be made with gun-boats, drawing no more than two or three feet water, and where, in a moment, the whole force would be landed on the coast of England.

These boats should have a small sail for the fishing boats, and a great number of oars. They might perform the passage in 48 hours, in spite of the English squadrons, as, by the means of oars, they could assist the wind so much, that although there were an English fleet in the channel, it could not interrupt their passage in the few hours necessary to cross and land. Consider, besides, that 1000 gun-boats with 24 and 36 pounders, is a very respectable force.

It may be said that the English may likewise have gun-boats: but these yachts are not calculating to keep the sea long, they are only useful in a coup de main. The English then would be obliged to keep them in their harbours.

The English coast which is opposite to France, presenting a landing place in every part, it is impossible to know at what point the descent will be made, so that the vessels would be both useless and expensive. France can always know where the English vessels are stationed, while England can never know where the descent will be attempted.

THOMAS PAINE.

The Dunes and the Jutes, who inhabiting the Island of England, always chose with success these northern coasts for their expeditions. It was from a fear of invasion from the quarter, that the English fleet is stationed on the harbour of Dunkirk being filled up, and so violently opposed the surrender of Belgium.

LONDON, December 18.

The whole of the Venetian fleet, in the service of the French, consists of no more than nine ships of the line of 64 guns, 12 frigates of 32 guns, 12 corvettes and 18 galleys.

January 2.

Dispatches of so recent date as the 25th ult. were yesterday received from General O'Hara, Governor of Gibraltar. The late information that the Spaniards had withdrawn from the camp of St. Roche, appears premature. The troops are however in an inactive state, and seemingly have no plan of hostile co-operation. The Spanish gun-boats very much annoyed the English vessels on entering the bay, and although there was much vigilance and exertion on the part of the enemy, yet the British interest had not suffered materially.

It is understood that government has determined to abandon the whole of our precious conquests in the Island of Saint Domingo. The 17th, 40th, 56th, 66th, and 69th regiments, which formed the principal part of our military establishment in that Island, are now on their return to England.

DUBLIN, December 15.

Letters received in town yesterday from Cork county, state, that between one and two hundred stand of arms (of French manufacture) with a large quantity of ball cartridge, had been discovered and taken by the military in the neighbourhood of Imokilly; the arms are supposed to have been brought to the Southern Coast by a neutral vessel, which lately arrived there, and was at the time suspected of clandestine intercourse with some of the inhabitants.

We are told that the military forces, of all denominations, in Ireland, are to be increased to 160,000 men, a much greater number than ever were known in this kingdom, either during the civil wars, or in the wars of William III. This augmentation has given ground to various speculations. If it is intended to guard against any invasion of our enemies, large indeed must that force be that can need such numbers to repel it, and more indeed than it can be imagined the French could send over to attempt a landing, or can be supposed to escape the sight of our numerous squadrons. Yet, as to the last sup-

position, the Bantry Bay business last Christmas has shown that a number of circumstances totally unforeseen may occur to render that possible.

The first traces of a standing army, regularly paid and provided, are to be found in Ireland, where, from the frequent internal commotions of the natives, it became necessary for the English to establish a military force. This varied according to the exigencies of the times, and seldom exceeded 80 horse and 300 archers. In the year 1535, in the reign of Henry VIII. the standing forces in the time of peace, consisted of 380 horse, including mounted archers, and 160 foot. In Queen Mary's time they were increased to 1200.

The peace establishment of Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was from 1500 to 2000 men, and continued the same till the reign of Charles I. when Lord Strafford raised near 6000 men. In 1684, the Irish establishment was augmented to 7000 and in 1746 to 12000 at which it stood till the army was augmented under Lord Townshend to 15,000—What is the number now—and what will it shortly be?

SALEM, March 16.

Latest from France.

Captain James Hay, of the schooner Violent, arrived at Gloucester, on Tuesday night, from Rochelle, where he left the 8th of February.—So short a passage, from a country which aspires to govern even the Fates themselves, we hoped would have afforded something to gratify the solicitude of an expecting public, but on application to Captain Hay, we were disappointed to find that he did not bring a single paper: the little verbal information which he gathered in the intercourse of business, he politely communicated, and it is nearly as follows: That the French government expelled the next month the American government, accusing them of being a party with England against France—That it was expected our neglected Envoys would return home in the spring, but longer continuance there was hopeless—That the preparation for the invasion of England was vigorously continued; every French vessel was in a state of requisition, and sailors were constantly pressed for the service—That England, Scotland, and Ireland were declared in a state of siege, and all neutrals bound to or from these countries were subjects of capture and condemnation; & that it was a common sentiment among the enthusiastic populace, that France was to give law to the Universe.

But notwithstanding appearances, there were those who believed the project of an invasion was a mere pretext for raising contributions. The taxes had become enormous, the merchants and others were very uneasy, and wished a new order of things; and even the privateersmen would frequently curse the republic. Buonaparte was said to be still at Paris, and 100,000 troops devoted to him, in its environs. A report was in circulation (whether it deserved any credit capt. H. could not ascertain) that a misunderstanding had arisen between the conqueror of Italy and the Executive Directory, in consequence of the former having proposed a new modification of the government, one feature in which was, that instead of five Directors, the Executive power should be vested in ONE MAN.

Capt. Hay further informs, that the ship John and Richard of Philadelphia, from the Isle of France for Hamburg, had been captured and carried into Rochelle, where the cargo was taken out, the ship stripped, and he supposed she would be condemned.

NOTICE.

THOSE who have any demands against Mr. John Barclay, are requested, in his absence, to apply for payment to POTT & GIBBS, Wilmington, April 2. 66

THE subscribers take this method of informing their friends, that they have commenced business under the firm of WILLKINGS & SCOTT; and have on hand a general Assortment of Goods, suitable for the ensuing season, which they will sell low for Cash only, as they are determined not to open any accounts. M. R. WILLKINGS. JOHN SCOTT.

April 4.