

LONDON, August 8.

Stocks experienced another elevation yesterday, from the increasing hope of a general pacification.

It appears that the naval engagement was only, as stated in the French journals, running high, the French fleet having immediately, on perceiving the English made the best of their way for a shelter, and that in consequence of the death of both fleets remaining in the bay, those ships which were wind as to overtake the enemy, the first of which was the *Alcide*, admiral Mann, succeeded in capturing the French ship *Alcide*, of 74 guns, which unfortunately took fire soon after she struck, and after burning some time blew up. While she was burning, our officers and seamen, with that gallantry and humanity which ever characterize the British sailors, rescued near 300 of her unhappy crew from the certain death that seemed to await them. It is with pleasure we state, that the loss on board our fleet is only 10 killed and 26 wounded; among the former is one midshipman, and among the latter a lieutenant and two midshipmen.

August 10.—We received this morning the Paris papers of the 6th instant. One of them contains a report of the arrival of the comte de Hardenberg at Paris, for the purpose of procuring an armistice for the German empire. Another mentions that a negotiation is already entered into between the emperor, the empire, and the French republic; and that the preliminaries of peace are settled between the French republic and the Italian powers. Another mail from Hamburg and another mail from Italy arrived this morning. The former brings an account of the opening of the protocol for appointing a deputation of the empire to negotiate with the French republic. The latter brings advices from Leghorn of a rising of the people of Sardinia on the 5th of last month. They put to death some persons most obnoxious to them, and were in such force that the troops were wholly unable to reduce them to submission.

The official advices received at the admiralty from captain Ellington, of the *Sceptre* man of war, confirm the capture of the homeward bound Dutch East Indiamen. The number is only nine; but another fleet, consisting of five sail, was expected also to fall into our hands, on board one of which was the governor of Batavia; these comprise the whole of what was expected to come to Holland this year. The nine ships are estimated at near three millions sterling. Vice-admiral Elphinstone, with commodore Blanket, and Mr. Brooke, governor of St. Helena, who took with him all the troops that could be spared from the island (about 500) had proceeded against the Cape of Good Hope.

August 11.—Paris Papers of the 7th and 8th were received this morning. Their contents are of little importance. They speak with increasing confidence of a speedy peace with Sardinia and the empire, and they express a belief, that at the end of September a general will take place. The comte de Breuil and the bishop of Dol were detained by the military commission established at Vannes, and shot on the 24th ultimo. The execution of four hundred more emigrants taken at Quiberon was to succeed the execution of the bishop of Dol and the comte de Sombreuil.

It has been asserted, that the cession of the Spanish part of St. Domingo to the French republic, will occasion a dispute between Spain and this country. The cession, it must be confessed, is directly contrary to the following article of the treaty of Utrecht:—“And that more strong and full precautions may be taken on all sides, as aforesaid, concerning the navigation and commerce to the West Indies, it is hereby further agreed and concluded, that neither the catholic king, nor any of his heirs and successors whatsoever, shall yield, pawn, transfer, or by any means, or under any name, alienate from them and the crown of Spain, or to any other nation whatsoever, lands, dominions, or the inhabitants, or any part thereof, belonging to Spain in America. On the contrary, that the Spanish dominions in the West Indies may be preserved whole

and entire, the queen of Great-Britain engages, that she will endeavour, and give assistance to the Spaniards, that the ancient limits of their dominions in the West Indies be restored, and settled as they stood in the time of the above-mentioned catholic king Charles the second, if it shall appear that they have in any manner, or under any pretence, been broken into, and lessened in any part since the death of the aforesaid catholic king Charles the second.”

Such is the prohibitory article of the treaty of Utrecht; but treaties must submit to circumstances; and there are seasons in which claims ought not to be urged with too much obstinacy. Spain wisely thought it better to surrender St. Domingo, than to risk the loss of Madrid; and Great-Britain, who did not think the mercile partition of Poland an event of sufficient importance to justify a war with Russia, will hardly, we should think, go to war with Spain in defence of the treaty of Utrecht.

August 12.—In consequence of orders received from London, for buying horses for foreign service, contracts have been made with horse dealers at Weymouth, Holstein, and Jutland; the timing of their delivery has already taken place.

The Russian fleet arrived in the Downs is come from the Baltic rather on a visit than on business. In the present state of our navy, compared with that of the enemy, it is not easy to discover upon what service those allies could be usefully employed.

August 14.—Bourdon of Oise, a member of the convention, set out some time ago for St. Domingo, with a very extensive commission, limited only by secret instructions from the committee of government. He is a man of vigour and activity, and animated with a hatred towards Englishmen, of the coarsest and most undiscriminating kind. It was yesterday reported, but we apprehend without sufficient ground, that all shew of an expedition under the command of lord Moira was at an end, and his staff dismissed.

The troops to be sent to the West-Indies, as soon as the season will permit, are to amount to 25,000 men; 15,000 for the Leeward Islands, and 10,000 for St. Domingo.

We are told again of a dissention in the cabinet upon the subject of continuing the war. That such a dissention as we formerly stated did exist, we are persuaded; and that dissentions upon that or any other subject may frequently occur, no man will doubt, who knows that the two parties now in the cabinet never meet in council upon any matter of importance, without each of them holding a previous council apart. They are joined by their common love of power and place, but have too much mutual distrust and fear to be united.

Among the objects of jealousy between them, a dissolution of parliament is not the least. A new parliament would be very convenient in many points of view; but a new parliament, although equally obsequious to administration, might not be quite so much devoted to Mr. Pitt as the present.

By the *Manchester* we learn, that there are 15 sail of the line at Port-Orient, all dimitted, and their sails serving on shore; that there are 14 frigates at Rochefort, but not one day's sail out, a lord Bridport is cruising from the mouth of Bourdeaux river to Rochefort. All the ships in Brest water are likewise laid up.

Pichegron established his head quarters at Strasbourg on the 12th ultimo. Many of the French troops have quitted the environs of Mentz, and repaired with their artillery to the vicinity of Landau.

The tide of success in Italy seems to be turning in favour of the French; the latter, 8000 strong, in the neighbourhood of Omna and Garresio, have been attacked in their intrenchments, but the assailants were repulsed with loss. General Kellerman has also regained possession of de Col St. Bernard, and pushed his advanced posts towards Ceya. On the 15th ultimo, the Austrians marched against Albenza, the French head quarters, while the Piedmontese marched against Ormea and Gartesia.

According to the last accounts from lord Bridport's fleet, there are no hopes of reducing Belleisle by blockade. Small French vessels elude in the night the utmost vigilance of our ships. The inhabitants are well acquainted with the melancholy fate of the emigrants, and have begun to cut down their corn, which although not sufficient for the

consumption of a whole year, will maintain them for several months.

Accounts from Ratibon, of the 3d instant, mention, that the count de Goltz, has declared, that his master will once more request the emperor, as chief of the empire, to accept of a peace, since it is the desire of the French nation to live in amity with all nations, and that, if the court of Vienna does not think proper to give a satisfactory answer to this proposition, it is the intention of his Prussian majesty to conclude a peace for the empire.

In consequence of this declaration, the count de Goltz had demanded that the minister of Mentz should open the protocol, for the purpose of communicating this resolution to the Germanic corps. Whether this request has been obeyed, was not known when the post came away, or whether he waited further orders; it was only certain that the suspension of arms had been prolonged, but for what period was equally unknown.

Louis XVIII. has sent a circular letter to several German courts in which he announces, that he is upon the point of putting himself at the head of all the expatriated French, and to enter with them into France. These persons are, in the mean time, to assemble under the colours of M. de Conde. A proclamation from him to all the French, is daily expected to appear. Extract of a letter from an officer on board the *Victory*, in admiral Hotham's fleet, dated St. Florenzo, July 17.

As soon as we brought the rear of our fleet to action, we run right into the thick of them; the first ship we opened our fire upon was the *Alcide*, which was our object; we at this time were engaged by four more of their line. After engaging and sustaining the fire of the whole four of their fleet for about two hours and forty minutes, we had the pleasure to see the *Alcide* haul down her colours to us. By this time we were much disabled; some of our fleet was coming up, but to our great misfortune our prize caught fire from a hand grenade in her foretop, and about an hour after she blew up. Near three hundred of the crew picked up were singing *ca ira*. Besides us, the only ships in action were the *Culloden*, *Agamemnon*, *Defence*, *Cumberland*, and *Bienheim*, and we were in action an hour before any of them came up. By the account of the second captain of the French vessel, that was picked up, we killed and wounded upwards of two hundred on board his ship. We had two midshipmen and three seamen killed, and about fourteen or fifteen wounded. I am sorry to give you so bad an account of the French fleet; had we attacked them the first of the morning, we should have taken every one of them.

Advices from Bass state a rumour of the English minister there having received intelligence of the Austrian general de Vins having captured the city of Nice, in Italy.

The emperor's ratification of the conclusion of the diet of Ratibon has been formally announced. His Imperial majesty, it is said, wishes the general congress to be held at Augsburg.

The whole circle of Suabia is expected to declare speedily for a perfect neutrality with France.

Much alarm prevails in Holland respecting the arrival of the Russian fleet in the British seas.

Two of the French ships that were in the late engagement with admiral Hotham, are said to be quite unserviceable.

The English Mediterranean fleet is again at sea; the French, however, are in Toulon harbour, where, it is supposed, they are not in force to attempt any thing of consequence. This fact is not disputed in the French papers.

It was last night reported, that the princes had just received advice that the port of Quiberon had been retaken, and was in the possession of the royalists, and that they had gained many advantages in Brittany and Poitou.

The heavy artillery and baggage of lord Moira's army are all embarked, and 160 transports are now in Southampton water. Lord Moira yesterday said, that in three days the whole of his army would be ready to sail with the first order he should receive.

The mail from Hamburg arrived on Friday with letters down to the 7th instant. Both from the contents of the

German letters, as well as from the Paris papers, we may consider a peace between France and the empire as concluded.

It is, however, far different between the emperor and France. We think we may safely venture to announce, that there is no prospect of a peace between these two powers. If we are not much deceived, we shall very shortly see the imperial troops marching towards Alsace and Franche Comte, joined to the troops under the prince de Conde. General Pichegron seems to be aware of this circumstance, and is arrived at Strasbourg. A large body of the republican army has marched towards the Upper Rhine.

The Paris Gazette down to the 12th instant, were received in town on Friday. By these we learn, that the insurrection in La Vendee had broken out again with more violence than ever; and that the insurgents have nearly blockaded Nantes on the inland side; so much so, that the communication with Paris is almost wholly interrupted.

It is probably to favour this insurrection, that we understand general Doyle, the intimate friend of lord Moira, is immediately to sail with four regiments to the entrance of the Normoutier, to get possession of that island, which commands the entrance of the Loire, on which the river Nantes is situated. We state this only as a conjecture. Certain it is, however, that general Doyle is ordered to sail on a secret expedition, without loss of time.

Government on Friday received accounts from Brittany. They state, that M. Tintinac has made no less than nine different engagements with the republicans; in all of which he has been victorious; but, in the last, was unfortunately wounded.

It is likewise stated in these dispatches, that Stofflet and Sceneau, with 200,000 men, were within twenty miles of St. Briex; and that Charette, with a large army, meditated an attack upon Nantes.

A letter from Frankfort, dated the 21st ultimo states, that it is probable nothing of any importance will occur this year on the Lower Rhine not even before Mentz. Many of the French troops had quitted the environs of that place, and had repaired with their artillery to the vicinity of Landau.

Letters from Italy state, that the court of Turin has solemnly complimented the present queen of France, residing in that country, on the accession of her royal consort to the throne of France, under the title of Louis XVIII; and that the king of Sardinia has sent a solemn deputation to that monarch, to compliment him on the same occasion.

The same letters add, that the court of Naples is gone into mourning for 4 weeks, on the demise of the son of Louis XVI.

By a letter from Holland, we learn, that towards the latter end of last month, a treaty was ratified between the convention and the states of Holland, by which the former agree to furnish the latter with 25,000 men, for the defence of the Batavian republic.

The Russian squadron arrived in the Downs, are to remain there until further orders. Their further destination depends on the issue of events now on the tapis. It is certain, that another very strong squadron of the same nation is ready to co-operate with our naval force, if the exigency of affairs should require it.

August 15.—An order of council was this morning issued, to prevent the sailing of ships bound to Spain. This order is supposed to be the preliminary step to hostilities between Spain and this country; hostilities founded upon the cession of the Spanish part of St. Domingo to the French—a cession which is certainly contrary to one of the articles of the treaty of Utrecht.

A gentleman arrived from France, yesterday, and brought intelligence, that previous to his leaving Lille, an account had been received there from Paris, by the telegraph, of a peace having been concluded between the republic and the emperor.

On this foundation the intelligence rests, and it has neither been confidently confirmed nor contradicted by any advices that have been received this morning.

For our own parts, we have always been led to believe that peace with the empire would precede the emperor, and that the latter was desirous to ascertain