

at the custom-house at Cadiz. The Governor has, in every respect, completely seconded the wishes of the Republicans. He has manifested an intention of punishing the Irish houses, which directed the movement on board the French fleet.

Citizen Dumanoir, commander of a vessel, according to letters of the 27 Ventose, has gone to Madrid, for the purpose of making in conjunction with our Ambassador, complaints to the Court of Spain on the conduct of the Irish.

BASLE, April 1.

Whatever the French papers may say, there is no appearance here of a speedy peace.

The Swedish chancellor Engellstrom who staid a few days here on his journey from London to Vienna, had indeed a conference with the French Ambassador Barthelemi, and he paid a visit also to the Imperial Minister Degelmann. The Chancellor's intentions might be pacific, but he staid at Basle a very short time, and since his departure, there has not been the slightest communication between the French and Austrian legation.

What may have given rise to the first reports of a negotiation was, that at the time of the exchange of the French deputies for the daughter of Louis XVI. the Secretary of the Embassy was under the necessity of conferring with the Austrian Commissioners, the Prince de Gaves and the Minister Degelmann, and that in these conferences much civility was displayed on both sides. Barthelemi had no concern in the exchange. It was transacted by the Secretary Bacher.

Nothing more has resulted from this mutual civility.

LONDON, April 15.

Government are said to have received accounts this morning, which put it beyond doubt, that the Dutch fleet have gone North about. There was no truth in what was stated of the Black Joke lugger having seen them enter the Texel. Another fleet of 6 ships fitting there led the captain into the mistake. They have never been seen since they left that port; and the most prevailing idea is, that they are gone to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Valliant lugger, from Sir J. B. Warren's Squadron, is arrived at Scilly, part of five prizes taken off Brest, the rest are beating into harbour. They are loaded with grain and flour, shipped from L'Orient. All the Frenchmen had quitted her, being close to the shore; and the corvette, their convoy, ran in there from the lugger.

Yesterday arrived the Paris papers down to the date of the 10th instant; the most important article they contain is an account from Zurich, in Switzerland, which states, that the French army in Italy, of 20,000 men, on account of a total want of provisions, were obliged to retreat, and even to abandon their cannon.

The new French Paper currency is not in good repute; it is at a considerable discount.

No mention is made in any of the journals of the late correspondence which passed between Mr. Wickham and M. Barthelemi; it is however said, that a negotiation with Austria was in a very fair way, when the English minister prevailed on the Emperor to break it off.

A new loan of six millions and an half is about to be contracted for; and on Wednesday Mess. Roberts, Mr. Boyd, E. P. Saloman, and Mr. Abraham Goldsmid attended the minister by appointment, to consider the terms of it. We understand that Mr. Pitt wished to make the loan by public competition, to which these gentlemen made some objection, as being the contractors for the last one, to which there was annexed an agreement, that no more money should be borrowed for the service of the present year. The above gentlemen were with Mr. Pitt upwards of two hours, but there was no definitive agreement entered into.

The loan will come extremely heavy on the contractors, as 40 per cent. of the money is to be paid up in May next, to make the payment on a par with the other loan. It is said that the consols are to be taken at 65.

The late decline of the funds is partly accounted for in the following manner:—the bank have seven millions of Exchequer bills, which occupy so much money as may otherwise be applicable to the purposes of discount. To enable the directors to turn this amount into cash, they are going to fund the whole. The money which this stock, so funded, will produce, is to be appropriated, thus: four millions to be advanced to government, on a vote of credit, and three millions to come into circulation.

April 20. No mention has yet been made in Paris of the correspondence in Switzerland, though the rumours of approaching peace have considerably subsided. The mandates continue to lose their value, and the prices of provision are again considerably upon the advance.

In consequence of the notice given by public advertisement to the holders of the Navy bills, a numerous meeting was yesterday held at the London Tavern, when, after taking the subject of the meeting into consideration, it was unanimously agreed to fund the amount of the bills up to the 30th of November next, in the five per cents. after the rate of 105l. for every 100.

This proposition was immediately sent to the minister for his approbation and consent.

The average price of wheat, at Monday's corn market, was lower than it has been for a twelve-month past; but the price of flour remains still disproportionate—and thus the affize of bread is kept up, by a new manœuvre of iniquity.

NEW LOAN.

Friday Mr. Pitt concluded his bargain for the new loan, which is to be for seven millions and a half.—The bargain was made with Mr. Boyd, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Theilsson, Mr. Goldsmid, and Mr. Saloman for 7,500,000l. on the following terms:

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|---------------------------------|----|-----|-----|---|---|
| 120l. of 3 per cents consols at | 67 | 80 | 8 | 0 | |
| 25l. 3 per cents reduced | 66 | 16 | 10 | 0 | |
| 5 6 Long Annuity | 18 | 1-2 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| Discount | | | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| | | | 103 | 6 | 9 |

To this bonus is to be added full three quarters per cent. on account of the annuity, commencing from the 5th of January last, so that the bonus is 4l. 18. 9d. per cent.

The periods of payment are as follows:

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|-----------------------------------|
| 10 per cent. on the 26th instant. |
| 15 ditto 27th May. |
| 15 do. 23d June. |
| 15 do. 20th July. |
| 15 do. 19th August. |
| 15 do. 2d September. |
| 15 do. 26th October. |

We understand that the bank and India house are to have their usual proportions of this loan; but the contractors cannot spare any part of it to the other public officers. If this report be true, it would seem as if Mr. Boyd and his party had resolved to act upon the evidence which he gave before the committee of the House of Commons, and to exclude the bids who bore the brunt of the late loan.

Capture of Sir Sidney Smith.

A gentleman yesterday morning arrived in town from France, who left Paris on Saturday 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, in 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 for 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 colours. Sir Sidney, his officers and men, were immediately taken to Havre, where they were put in prison, and from thence Sir Sydney himself was sent, under a guard up the country.

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

Another account states, that Sir S. Smith was taken while reconnoitring 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 Smith was taken:

La Carmignole frigate, and a new frigate, 3 floops mounting 24 pounders, and one privateer from Dieppe.

The intelligence contained in the Paris papers, received down to the date of the 19th of the present month, is of a more interesting description than any they have exhibited for a considerable length of time. As we mentioned on Wednesday, terrorism seems again advancing by hasty strides to the possession of the centre of government. The Directory are evidently alarmed, and their enemies cannot conceal their triumph. The proclamation they have issued, which we have given in another part of this paper, is a composition not likely to produce any very powerful effects. At length some slight notice has been taken of the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Wickham and M. Barthelemi; this, however, is taken from an English paper, and it is not a little remarkable that on the very period of printing it, heavy penalties were decreed in the Council of Five Hundred against those who should report accounts on the authority of Foreign Prints!

Nothing further is stated in the Paris papers of a commencement of hostilities between the Russians and Turks, nor of the invasion of Hanover by the French—both accounts we consider as premature.

Yesterday the Governor of the Bank gave public notice, that Mr. Pitt had refused to accept the propositions of the Navy Bill Holders, made at their last meeting, for funding their securities.—Another meeting will be held this day.

Yesterday an account was received at Lloyd's coffee house, by an American vessel arrived from Havre, that an embargo was laid upon all vessels whatever in the French ports. The above ship from Havre got out with difficulty.

There are letters in town from Spain, which state, that a correspondence of a most serious and important nature has taken place between the Courts of London and Madrid. Their inferences lead to this fearful result, that with respect to Spain, instead of "a friend the less," we shall shortly have "an enemy the more!"

The marquis Cornwallis is now making a survey of the posts established along the Kent and Sussex

coasts: he inspected the garrison of Canterbury on Thursday, and on Friday proceeded to Dover.

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 his government, and for the extraordinary expenses of war. Gibbon, in his Roman Empire, vol. I. oct. ed. p. 263, says,—"The ample revenue of the Excise, though peculiarly appropriated to those 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 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."

A number of coal heavers, to the number of 20, in the service of Mr. Sant, coal-merchant, were fortunate enough to possess one half of a ticket, which came up a prize of 20,000l. in the present English State Lottery. One of the members had sold his share previous to its being drawn, the purchaser afterwards made him a present of 20 guineas, and the remaining members conjointly made it up 100l.

Three Cocknies met at the Lord Mayor's: the first said, he fell asleep the moment he laid his head on the pillow; the second said he had no idea of it; and the third declared both ought to be thrown out of the window for their bad English.

There will be a trial at the next Summer Assizes for the county of York by the Grand Assize, on a writ of right concerning estates in Cleveland, and the Special Jury must be of four Knights and their twelve Squires, who, according to their ancient custom of the law, will be summoned to come girt with swords. The memory of the oldest man doth not furnish an instance of such a trial in any county, except once in Middlesex.

AN IRISH LEGACY.

On the 1st inst. Lord Viscount O'Neil presented a petition to the House of Lords, Ireland, from the trustees of Mr. Hutchinson, of the Inner Temple, praying to have a bill for regulating the trusts reported in them. The following singular circumstances were stated by the Lord Chancellor:

Mr. Hutchinson had bequeathed fifteen thousand pounds to purchase an estate, from the issue of which, his relations of every the most remote degree, were to have annuities; the lowest five, and the highest ten pounds. A master in Chancery was authorized to call upon the claimants by a public advertisement, to produce their claims, which he did; and a northern attorney published, at the same time, an advertisement in a Belfast newspaper, offering, for a shilling each, to establish a right of inheritance. The consequence was, that there were sixteen thousand claimants of five and ten pounds annual produce; and the master in Chancery applied to the Lord Chancellor to make such a partition, which not being possible, he had recommended an application to the legislature. The principal object of the bill was to limit the right of inheritance to the sixth degree of affinity, which was the limitation of the canon law.

LITERATURE.

OF CHARLES FOX.

From Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works.

"The Man of the People escaped from the tumult, the bloody tumult of the Westminster election, to the lakes and mountains of Switzerland, and I was informed that he was arrived at the Lyon d'Or. I sent a compliment, he answered it in person, and settled at my house for the remainder of the day. I have eat, and drank, and conversed, and sat up all night with Fox in England; but it never has happened, perhaps it never can happen again, that I should enjoy him as I did that day, alone, from ten in the morning till ten at night.—Our conversation never flagged a moment; and he seemed thoroughly pleased with the place and with his company. We had little politics; though he gave me, in a few words, such a character of Pitt, as one great man should give of another his rival; much of books, from my own, on which he flattered me very pleasantly to Homer and the Arabian Nights: much about the country, my garden (which he understands far better than I do) and upon the whole, I think he envies me, and would do so were he minister. The next morning I gave him a guide to walk him about the town and country, and invited some company to meet him at dinner. The following day he continued his journey to Bern and Zurich, and I have heard of him by various means. The people gaze on him as a prodigy, and he shews little inclination to converse with them." Vol. I. p. 192.