

THE STATE GAZETTE

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N O R T H - C A R O L I N A .

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POLITICAL STATE of EUROPE,
for OCTOBER, 1788.—From a late British publication.

BELLIGERENT POWERS.

ALMOST a whole campaign has elapsed since the Imperialists took the field, without producing one military achievement, either important or glorious to their arms. The fortresses of Oczakow, Choczim and Belgrade, which they had devoted, in idea, to inevitable capture, or demolition, have resisted the utmost efforts of their power. The Emperor, instead of marching his army, as became an aggressor, into the dominions of the Turks, is reduced to the mortifying situation of acting upon the defensive, in consequence of his own territories being rendered the scene of a desolating incursion of the enemy. The invincible standard of Mahomet waves triumphant in the Bannat of Temeswar; while the Emperor has, at last, thought proper to resign the command of his principal army to Marshal Laudohn, who ought from the beginning to have held it. Under the conduct of that brave and experienced commander, the Imperial troops have gained an advantage at Dubicza; and he has thence proceeded with the army to attempt the reduction of Novi. But while the great fortresses continue impregnable, no lasting impression can be made by the Imperialists upon the dominions of the Porte.

In the North, both naval and military operations seem to be equally suspended. No new action has taken place, either in the Black Sea or the Baltic; and though the Swedes have not evacuated Finland, they remain as yet unattacked by the army of the Czarina.

DENMARK.

The accomplishment of a peace between Russia and Sweden seems at present to be the object of Denmark; who, judging it most prudent to preclude, if possible, the necessity of her own interposition, is more desirous of extinguishing than supporting the flame which has been kindled in the North. If, however, as there is reason to think, the design of Sweden was merely to make a diversion in favour of the Ottoman power, it is probable that any endeavours to restore tranquility will lead to a general pacification. The Imperial allies must by this time be convinced that the resolution of extirpating the Turks from Europe was a project no less chimerical than unjust; and they cannot but secretly wish for the termination of a war which drains their blood and treasure, without the prospect of any advantage, but, on the contrary, of disgrace to their arms. The result of this attempt may teach them to estimate more justly both their own and the Ottoman power; and, if they cannot prevail against the latter with all their united exertions, let them never, henceforward, think of assailing it in their separate capacity.

FRANCE.

The partial change which took place in the French Ministry, the preceding month, has in this, been followed by a total revolution in the cabinet. The Archbishop of Sens has at length experienced the effects of that general odium which the arbitrary measures he pursued could not fail of exciting against him in the nation. He appears, nevertheless, to have quitted his public station with the favour of his sovereign; an unequivocal proof that the King was sincerely disposed to the plan of extending the royal prerogative. Mr. Neckar being chiefly known as a financier, his principles respecting the government and constitution of the kingdom, seem not yet to be clearly ascertained. But, we may be well assured, that, until the finances are extricated from

their present embarrassment, he cannot, consistently with common prudence, recommend any other measures than such as are known to be most agreeable to the people. The recalling of the Parliaments, therefore, will doubtless be an indispensable object of the new Ministry; and that an edict for this purpose, reinstating them likewise in their rights and privileges, has not hitherto been issued, must be ascribed entirely to the circumstance, that the offices in the cabinet are not yet completely arranged.

The extremely disordered state of the French revenue has, at this time, not only rescued the liberties of the people from the meditated encroachment of the crown, but proved the salutary means of restraining the flames of war from a more extensive conflagration over Europe. The inactivity of France in the present conjuncture, is a measure of necessity, not of inclination; and, while she publicly observes a neutrality, which she is unable to violate, there is the strongest reason to suspect that she is secretly engaged in the inconsistent and complicated artifices of fomenting both war and peace at the same time. She, undoubtedly, exerted her influence in exciting the warlike preparations of Sweden; and she seems to be now no less assiduous in endeavouring to negotiate a peace amongst the belligerent powers. We wish that her character as a mediator were not blended with that of an incendiary. But, amidst her apparent solicitude for extinguishing the flames of war, there is ground to suspect that she is again employed in rousing the embers of faction which were, in spite of all her efforts to the contrary, smothered in Holland last year. The plan of her garrisoning the towns of Austrian Brabant and Flanders, to accommodate the Emperor, is a measure neither favourable to the security of the United Provinces, nor very consistent with the conduct of a power professedly neutral. But her matrimonial alliance with Austria, joined to the embarrassed state of her own finances, has at this period involved her councils in a degree of perplexity never before experienced, amidst her uniform, though various, pursuits of ambition and national interest.

NAPLES.

A dispute between a Sovereign and the Pope usually terminates, in modern times, to the detriment of the Romish Hierarchy. The King of Naples has not only peremptorily refused to send the haquene, or white horse, and seven thousand ducats to Rome, but to allow the Pontiff, in future, to nominate any bishopric within his dominions. He has also prohibited any application to Rome for dispensations; and, not content with this restriction, has declared all the religious orders independent of their respective generals and superiors. As a proof of this Prince's resolution to shake off the usurpation of Rome, it is affirmed that he has signed a sentence, declaring the marriage of Donna Maria de Cardenas to be null. The Pope has taken fire at this new exercise of regal authority, and enjoined the clergy positively not to marry her again, declaring, that by this act of his Sicilian Majesty the rights of the papal jurisdiction are flagrantly violated, and the church dishonoured and profaned. But the mandate of his Holiness seems to meet with as little regard as the denunciation of his displeasure. If the voice of rumour may be credited, the King of Naples will soon manifest, in his domestic conduct, an additional similarity to the character of the sovereign who first abolished the Pope's supremacy in England. But there is no symptom to indicate that any reformation of the church will result from the abolition of papal supremacy in the dominions of Naples.

L O N D O N, October 4.

The following is a proof that no fortune, however ample, will secure its possessor from poverty, while the paths of vice and infamy are pursued: A few days ago died in prison, Charles Anderson, who had been confined for upwards of four years for debt. In the early part of his life he married the daughter of a West-India merchant; with whom he received a fortune of 12,000l. per annum. Although his lady was possessed of every rational and personal attraction that could give felicity to the conjugal state, yet, unfortunately for him and her, he in a short time conceived such an unconquerable aversion to his own home, as to abandon his wife and reside at Paris. Here he lived for several years, immersed in dissipation and debauchery, totally unsollicitous about his lady. He kept several women, on whom he profusely lavished away his fortune. After seven years absence, the dreadful effects of a dissipated life began so far to operate, as to induce him to form a resolution to return to his native country and live with his much injured wife the remainder of his days. With this view he arrived in England; but happening to call at a certain hotel, where he met with a beautiful demirep, he was so fascinated with her charms, that in the ardour of his passion he made her the most liberal overtures, which she readily accepted. He immediately gave orders for his baggage to be reshipped, and conveyed his new mistress to the Continent.—Having by his perfidy occasioned the death of his wife, who died of a broken heart, and having wasted the whole of his fortune by his extravagant debaucheries, he returned to England, where he contracted debts, which not being able to pay, he was arrested and sent to gaol, where he continued in great distress till the hour of his death.

GREATNESS of MIND in His MAJESTY.

His Majesty, who with a magnanimity that does him the greatest honour, hesitated not a moment to receive his Excellency, Mr. Adams, as Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, treating him at all times, whenever he presented himself at Court, with becoming attention. His speech on the occasion, shewing as it does the political greatness of his mind, is worthy of public notice:

“I wish you, Sir,” (the King said to Mr. Adams, at his first audience) “to believe, and that it may be understood in America, that I have done nothing in the late contest but what I thought myself indispensably bound to do by the duty which I owed to my people. I will be very frank with you, Sir; I was the last to consent to the separation; but the separation being made, and having been inevitable, I have always said as I now say, that I will be the last to disturb the independence of the United States, or in any way infringe their rights.”

For a King thus to receive and address one, who had been his subject, in a diplomatic character, commissioned by those who had been in his allegiance, and now acting as sovereigns independent of him, is no common event.—The low minded Prince, and what is equally ridiculous, the high-minded subject, like the women of Genoa, who considered themselves as Queens of Corsica, would have boggled at it. They would have thought the reception of a Minister in these circumstances, beneath the royal dignity, and considered every audience he afterwards might demand, nay, his very presence at court, as an insult. His Majesty however was better instructed in the principles of sound policy, and, therefore, conducting himself with manliness on that trying occasion, gave his subjects a useful lesson. He taught