forgotten to remove a littel box, containing several pounds of powder; and the spectators little imagined how dear they were about to pay for their innocent curiosity. We were pressing round the little building to which he had set fire, and while we were admiring the effect, some unlucky spark entered the fatal magazine,—the explosion was dreadful,—some legs and arms broken, two or three faces miserably burned, and some paces of wall thrown down, were the disagreeable consequences of it: but while, to save themselves, all those whom the splinters had not reached, broke down the pallisades of the neighbouring garden. Bonaparte was seen armed with a pick axe, pushing back into the fire all those who had burst through his fence; he became enraged in seeing the destruction of his arbour; and the blows which he bestowed on the unhappy fugitives increased the number of the wounded.

It is useless to say how our comrades were revenged. Bonaparte himself, without doubt, would own now that he justly deserved our resentment; but at that time he thought of nothing out his ruined garden: he had no concern in the imprudence of his companions, and he thought it hard to be the victim of it. Exasparated, perhaps, by the noisy demonstrations of a joy, of which his heart did not partake, it is also very reasonable to suppose that rejoicings in honour of a King might have excited the ill humour of a Republican; and Bonaparte had long manifested his sentiments in that respect.—However it may be, time seems to have much softened that unfeeling roughness, for he is not less celebrated by his moderation towards his enemies, than by his brilliant exploits.

Bonaparte quitted the school of Brienne at the end of the year 1785. M. le Chevalier de Renault, than inspector General, knew how to estimate the merit of that young man, to which he did justice, notwithstanding the bitter complaints of his masters, whom his hard stubborn character had generally rendered unfriendly to him. There was, in that year, a promotion of several of the King's pupils, whom their progress in the studies had rendered worthy to be sent to the Military School of Paris—Bonaparte was of the number; his talents gave him value in the eyes of a gallant officer, who himself owed his preferment and his fortune to his own merit, and to the universal testimony of an irreprochable conduct. On his arrival at Paris, he testified his inclination to serve in the artillery, because this and the engineers were the only corps in France where interest and riches could not so easily usurp the place due to merit. He applied himself, with an unwearied zeal, to the mathematics, which then became his principal study, and was soon in a situation to go through the necessary examinations. He acquitted himself with credit, and was then promoted to the rank of an officer in the regiment de la Fere, shortly before the Revolution.

From the principles which he had avowed so early, it is very natural to believe Bonaparte, at that memorable epoch, did not hesitate to declare in favour of independence. Always unalterable in his dislike of royalty, and devoted to the love of glory, his ambition did not neglect so favourable an opportunity to singulise himself as was presented by the Revolution. It is difficult situations that a strong mind can best force itself into notice; in that moment, when timid indecision betrays its own weakness, it never hesitates to separate from the crowd: to triumph, or to die with glory, are the only alternatives, and from these nothing can turn it aside. Notwithstanding the danger of an early declaration in the beginning of the disturbances, Bonaparte disdained to feign. He declared himself in favour of freedom. Almost all his brother officers blamed him for so prompt a decision; and the spirit of party, occasioned soon after the most violent alterations between him and them, so that it was fortunate the loss of their friendship did not cost him his life.

One day, walking by a river side with some young officers, with whom he generally associated, the dispute ran high, and in a moment of enthusiasm, on which there have been numerous instances in all the ways of opinion, the young people, enraged, seized Bonaparte, and were on the point of throwing him headlong into the stream, when a momentary reflection made them perceive the shameful inequality of the number. Bonaparte could not be forced to retract his mode of thinking, the danger which he run altered not his plan; but he broke off all his connection with his companions till the revolutionary spirit having made more progress, induced some of those who had condemned him, to adopt, shortly after, the same opinion. The others listening to nothing but their attachment to the King, and despairing to be able to aid his cause at the head of troops who had the most decidedly revolted against him, took the desperate resolution to sacrifice their rank and fortune to the sentiments of honour and probity by which they were animated. Their departure still rendered more exasperated those of their comrades who were attached to the opposite party.

A powerful friend,* it is true, seconded his personal merit, and facilitated his entry into that career, in which he has at least equalled the most celebrated heroes.

In 1790, Bonaparte accompanied to Corsica, General Paoli, who had made some stay at Paris.—During the three years that he remained with his family, he employed the whole of his time in improving himself still more in the theory of military science; but the disturbances which arose in that island in 1793, after the accusation brought against Paoli by the convention, determined him to return to France. He persuaded his parents to accompany him, and the family settled near Toulon. The siege of that town then occupied by the English having taken place soon after, Bonaparte was promoted by Barras and the other commissioners, to the rank of general of artillery. It was there he gave the first proofs of military genius: intrusted to direct the attack of the redoubts and outworks which formed the defence of the place, his bold and enterprising genius devised a plan which one would have thought impracticable, if the courage, of which he set the example, and knew so well to communicate to his army, had not taught us that he was not less capable to execute than to project.

The reign of Robespierre, which immediately followed the retaking of Toulon, was unfavourable to noble actions, and an ignominious death becoming the lot of whosoever excited the jealousy of that monster, condemned true merit to silence and retirement. I imagined Bonaparte to have been among the number of the victims, but the event of the 13th Vendemaire undeceived me. Barras, who directed, on that occasion, the measures of the government against the revolted sections, intrusted to him the command of the conventional army after the resignation of general Gentili, whose deafness was an obstacle to the discharge of the duty of his post. The most complete success justified still more the partiality of Barras for the young Bonaparte. Paris, on the point of being reduced to ashes, saw its interior calm restored. The convention was indebted for its triumph to Bonaparte; and France, appeased as much by his firmness as by his courage, owed to him the preservation of a number of its citizens, whom a senseless fury had excited to destroy each other.

From that period to the moment when the French government formed the project of carrying the war into Italy, the public life of Bonaparte offers nothing very interesting; but the unfavourable auspices under which he was intrusted with the conduct of that dangerous expedition, contributed not a little to heighten his reputation. The ferocious Robespierre had sacrificed to his fury the best generals of France; Custine and Houchard, both well known by their great successes, had perished on a scaffold; Dumourier had betrayed his trust, and Pichegru, the conqueror of Holland, had been recalled; when Bonaparte, still very young, was chosen to retrieve so many disasters.

On the eve of engaging the best troops and the most experienced generals of Europe, and in a country where nature presents on every side obstacles, which Hannibal alone had been able to overcome, the French troops could have little confidence in the conduct of a general of twenty six years old; unprovided as they were of magazines, inexperienced till now in the art of war, and in want of cloaths, the soldiers did not seem encouraged by the appearance of their new chief. His exterior not very prepossessing gave occasion to many of their jokes. Bonaparte, far from being alarmed by these obstables, did not seem at all affected by them. Persuaded that the attachment of soldiers cannot be forced, he sought the only true means of rendering himself worthy of their confidence. The pressing wants of his troops became the first object of his attention; he employed himself unceasingly to supply them, and in a little time, his unremitting activity had provided for every thing. The army in a condition to act offensively was able very early to estimate the influence of his great talents. Hope elated every heart, and the campaign was hardly open when the first essays of that ill-organised army were marked by very important successes.

From this time I cannot follow the hero; a pen bolder than mine is destined to record facts, which posterity will hardly be able to credit. I had no other wish, than to give you some account of his early youth and of his first conduct, at the beginning of the astonishing revolution of France.—Assisted by this slight sketch, which I have traced for you, you will be able to discern, however, that from infancy, his character has been consistent.—As intrepid in the execution of his projects, as he is unalterable in his principles, from the beginning of his military career, Bonaparte has displayed an ardour which is heightened by obstacles, a rapidity which anticipates every determination of the enemy. It is by following his blow, by redoubling his efforts, that he pours with his troops like a torrent against them. He is all activity, and every where the same; whether you behold him fighting, negotiating, punishing, it is always an affair of a moment, of a word; never any hesitation; he cuts the Gordian knot which he cannot untie.

* Barras.

Foreign Intelligence.

Received by the way of Halifax—London dates, to June 5.

LONDON, June 3.

REPORTS OF CONSPIRACIES.

Extract of a private Letter from Paris, May 21, 1802.

" A report is circulated in Paris of a conspiracy, the object of which it is said was the assassination of Bonaparte at the last parade. A soldier was to have delivered him a petition at the moment when the Light Cavalry were performing a certain evolution which was to be the signal for one of the conspirators firing a pistol at the First Consul. It is pretended that Bonaparte was informed of the design; that he took the petition, and at the same time made a motion with his hand to the Light Cavalry not to stir. The signal having thus failed, the assassin had no opportunity of executing his intention. It is added that Fournier was charged to fire the pistol; but that the accomplices fearing his indiscretion, would not allow him to come to Paris till just at the moment when the assassination was to have taken place. All their precautions could not however prevent his arrival twenty four hours before the time agreed upon, and it was within such period that, hurried away by an emotion of passion against Bonaparte, he betrayed himself, and suffered some words to escape him, which were reported to the First Consul, and thus the plot of the conspirators was defeated. It is certain that several generals and officers have endeavoured to excite the soldiers to revolt. It is said that within these few days a great number of officers of the 19th regiment of Dragoons, who were sent from Paris, have returned there without orders. It appears that the First Consul meditates the augmentation of his Guard; and we are assured that it will be composed of the 6th regiment of dragoons, commanded by his brother, Lucien Bonaparte; and the 9th regiment, commanded by Sebastiani, his relation, and a Corsican as well as himself.

" A person named M. de la Riviere, was arrested some months since upon a charge of having concerted with Georges, to deliver the port of Brest to the English. A naval Court Martial was summoned to try him, and he was acquitted; but Bonaparte, irritated at the sentence, has sent orders to Brest to have him confined in prison. Several members of the Court Martial have also been arrested and conducted to Paris. They have been some time detained at the temple in close confinement as Chouans."

A private letter from Paris, dated May 24, observes, " that it is quite certain there existed a conspiracy to assassinate Bonaparte. Fournier, and a grenadier of the name of Donadieu, were charged with carrying it into execution, but Bonaparte had timely information of the plan. Fournier has been examined, but has not confessed any thing. He has been promised pardon if he would develope the whole of the plan; he has refused, and demands to be brought to his trial—he has been conducted to the Temple—such is the state of this affair. Fournier passes for a most determined man and a dangerous character.

Bonaparte is reported to have said to some one, that within these few days one hundred and fifty grenadiers of the guard had demanded their dismission. As the situation of grenadier of the guard is very advantageous, we can only attribute this proceeding to the discontent which has been endavoured to be spread among them. It appears commands have been given to almost all the generals who are now at Paris, and they are, for the most part, on the point of departing. Within these two days disturbances have taken place in certain parts of the city on account of the high price of bread. Several bakers were without a supply of that article; but abundance is restored, and we know not how to account for the momentary scarcity. The most likely cause is the discontent of the bakers themselves, who are averse to the government charging itself, as formerly, with the distribution of it in *Paris*; it appears that things are established upon the same footing as before the revolution. The inquietude which has prevailed, is also attributed to the secret manœuvres to excite discontent among the people, at the moment of voting for the prolongation of the consulate. We are assured that some of the country people have refused to vote till the bread is cheaper. It is dreadfully dear at *Paris* and in the environs. The numbers of persons at *Paris* who have signed their names with the Notaries is very limited. There is not a Notary whose list exceeds 15 persons, and of those there is a greater proportion of *ci devant* Nobles than of other classes. The people appear very indifferent upon the subject. In *Provence* the signatures have been minutely more considerable.

The act of the government for an appeal to the people to appoint Bonaparte for life was rather curiously juggled through in the council of state. When Cambaceres proposed it, he said, those who are for it should hold up their hands. Six immediately did it, namely, Rœderer, Portalis, Fourcroy, General Marmont, Bruix, and Regnaud de Saint Jean d'Angely, all the others appeared to be struck dumb with amazement; they hesitated, and said it was unconstitutional, and if the Senate chose they would be even accused for it. Cambaceres then said, " that those who are of the contrary opinion should hold *up their* hands." Thus was that extraordinary illegal act carried, not by a *majority*, but by a *minority!*

A private letter from Paris says, that " Monge, the Senator, a few days since conversing with Bonaparte about the Concordat, the former observed, that he did not think it was *a propos* to have had the Bishop of Aix to preach at Notre Dame on Easter Day, as he was so well known to the people, on account of certain anecdotes not much to the credit of his morals! Monge was still making stronger observations on the proceedings of that day. Bonaparte said, is it thus you mean to talk of the acts of government when you visit the Departments? (he was going into the country.) " I never talk about government, (said Monge) but to you." " Then (says Bonaparte) this shall be the last time you ever talk to me." Monge was formerly his bosom friend.

The Gazette of Strasburgh announces, that a Congress is to be held at Brussels next month, where the First Consul is to attend. After stopping there for about twelve days, it is said he will visit the Port of Antwerp.

Rebellion in Morocco.

It appears by accounts from the Mediterranean, that a rebellion lately broke out in the Empire of Morocco, against the Emperor, and the insurgents were headed by the Emperor's nephew, who has, however, been defeated with great loss. The particulars of the battle are contained in the following extract of a private letter:

" *Tangiers, May 19.*

We have this day received intelligence of an action having taken place between the Emperor of Morocco and his nephew, in which the latter has been completely defeated with great loss; it is already known that there are 8000 killed, 2400 taken prisoners, besides an immense number wounded. The Emperor speaks in the highest terms of the very great assistance he received from an officer who arrived at the camp the night before the action, and requested the Emperor to accept his services. He had the command of a squadron of horse, and contributed in a great measure to the defeat of the enemy. It is expected that this week will put an end to the war, as ambassadors are now going from the Emperor in answer to terms proposed by the Nephew. We learn that the officer who distinguished himself so much belongs to the City of London Light Horse, and that he is deputed from some of the principal merchants in that city, to procure the release of two ships detained by the Emperor of Morocco. We are happy to find, that in consequence of his great services on this occasion, the Emperor has lent a favorable ear to the object of his mission. The Emperor has already conferred some distinguished honors upon him."

OF EGYPT.

Letters from Constantinople, of the 30th of April, state, that the Beys deposed by the Porte, who fled to upper Egypt, are in open insurrection against the Grand Vizier. They insist upon being reinstated in their former authority. The British Generals are said to have declared, that they will by no means interfere in this matter, nor afford any protection to the refractory Beys. The Turkish commander, Osman Effendi, was on his march against the insurgents when these accounts came away, with a considerable body of troops, which the Grand Vizier had ordered to be reinforced, by detachments of fresh troops, who are to form an army of reserve. This situation of affairs causes much discontent at Constantinople.

The House of Commons had voted 1200l. to Mr. Greathead, as compensation for his invention of the life-boat. It was said that within a few years 300 lives have been saved by it on the coast of Northumberland alone.

London, May 28, 1802.

We learn by letters from *Milan*, that as the Roman Catholic religion is now the religion of the State, the Vice President of the Italian Republic has issued an order, that when the *Holy Sacrament* shall pass a guard house or military post, the troops shall be ordered under arms, the drums beat and the officers salute with their swords.—Should the Sacrament meet a corps or detachment of troops on the march, the same shall halt, and salute the Holy Sacrament with all military honours.

LONDON, May 31.

The Dutch government is preparing 9000 troops to send to the West-Indies. The new expedition fitting out at Brest to reinforce Le Clerc at St. Domingo, is preparing on the most extensive scale. The number of troops will exceed 20,000. The whole armament was expected to sail by the 15th of June. Is the whole or any part of this force primarily or ultimately destined to Louisiana?

London, June 4—5

We last night received a few Paris papers to the date of June 1, inclusive; by these we have the first official information that an alarming scarcity prevailed in France.—In order to appease the people, and perhaps, also to place the provincial administration on their guard, it has been thought adviseable to publish a letter upon this subject from the minister of Interior to the Department of the North. The writer states the prospect of a vast importation from Dantzic, Amsterdam and North America, and adds that corn abounds in the Southern Departments and in Britanny, so that the high price in the districts near Paris must speedily decline. The public are assured by the minister, that government are taking all possible measures to that end.

M. De Calonne arrived in Paris on Wednesday se'night, after an absence of fourteen years, in consequence of the invitation of the first consul. The object of his excursion is of infinite magnitude. He is gone over as the agent of the French princes, whom Bonaparte is resolved to rescue from (at least every kind of pecuniary) embarrassment.

The Maltese tongue, which was to consist wholly of native Maltese, will now, it is said, not be established. The election of a grand master is rendered liable to more difficulties by the assumption of that dignity by the king of Spain, which makes a kind of schism. In the treaty of peace, as published in the Petersburg Gazette, the whole article concerning Malta is omitted. The emperor of Russia is said to have declared to France, that if the sovereignty of Malta be not yelded to Naples, he will not take upon him to guarantee the order, and will separate from it the priories in Russia.

The propositions which have been made to the Hungarian diet by the emperor, are, in the first place, for subsidy of two millions of florins to be added to the impost paid by the Hungarians. For recruiting the army likewise, a fixed number of men are to be raised annually. The usual stipulation of the military for a stated service is also to be introduced into Hungary; and Dalmatia to be united to that kingdom, besides the incorporation of some contiguous parts of Hungary with Austria.

A private leetter from Paris says " This department, and those adjoining, are at present afflicted with a most distressing drought. The fruits, the harvest, and the hay, are all nearly destroyed. In the country the priests are making their processions in order to procure rain! Bread is kept down in Paris to the price of 18 sou (9d) for the loaf of four pounds, but this is done at an expence to government of no less than 30,000 livres per day. In the provinces where the bakers are not indemnified, the price has ascended to 24 sous, a circumstance which excites the strongest sensations of discontent."

A most ingenious plan, it is said, is at present under the consideration of the directors of the bank of England, effectually preventing the forgery of bank notes.

The frost has been so severe in and near in the vicinity of Paris, that the vines are totally destroyed; the beans, asparagus, melons and cherries, have all shared the same fate.

A great scarcity of specie prevails throughout the whole of the Batavian territory.

July 5.

Paris Journals to the 30th ult. inclusive, have been received.

The appointment of a commercial commissioner of this country, for the purpose of adjusting disputed points (and we trust of negotiating a treaty of commerce between the two nations,) is announced in the Moniteur of the 30th.

The moniteur is filled with addresses to Bonaparte on the peace and with proceedings all favourable to his election for life. The Prefects write from all the departments (says the Defenseur) that the wish of the citizens is unanimous to elect the Chief Consul for life.

The scarcity of bread continues to be felt in France, and the expected arrival of flour from America is mentioned. The arrivals spoken of from England, and indeed any commerce in grain between this country and France, we understand, is entirely confined to that which, having been imported from foreign parts, may again be exported. When the comparative price in France, however, affords a strong temptation to export, it is probable that some English grain may be carried away under this description.

M. Peuchet is believed to be the person chiefly consulted by Bonaparte with respect to the commercial arrangement now upon the tapis between Great Britain and France.

A letter from Rotterdam, of the 2d of June, says, that the price of grain is extensively high in that country, owing to the vast supplies lately sent to France.

General Murat is arrived at Paris from