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Lateſt Foreign Intelligence

PHILADELPHIA, July 23.

By the Commerce, Dyer, arrived at this port.

LONDON, May 25.

A mail arrived this day from Hamburgh. Our correſpondent in that city, in a letter of the 20th, informs us, that it is currently reported there that in the event of a war the French will take poſſeſſion of that city and of the whole of the Lower Elbe. A letter from a commercial houſe in Berlin, to one of the firſt houſes in Hambugh, affirms, that the king of Pruſſia has promiſed a free paſſage through his ſtates to the French army deſtined for that purpoſe.

May 28.

Our port letters of this morning will be found particularly intereſting. That from Portſmouth, ſtates the arrival yeſterday of the ſquadron under Sir Roger Curtis from the Cape of Good Hope, and of that ſquadron having taken yeſterday at noon, a French Eaſt India ſhip eſtimated at one hundred thouſand pounds value. The ſame letter brings an account of the capture of the Hazard ſloop of war, which event Sir Roger Curtis learned from La Minerve at ſea.

The proceedings laſt night in the houſe of commons were particularly intereſting and important. Mr. Fox made his promiſed motion for an addreſs to his majeſty, to avail himſelf of the profered mediation of Ruſſia to ſettle the differences between this country and France; and in the courſe of the diſcuſſion which enſued, lord Hawkeſbury candidly ſtated the readineſs of his majeſty's miniſters to explain their views to the court of St. Peterſburgh, and readily to accept the mediation of that power.—But his lordſhip repeated what he had mentioned before, that no direct or preciſe offer of mediation had been offered on the part of Ruſſia; it was merely of the ſlighteſt ſpecies of aſſurance of mediation. It was however admitted, that, meanwhile, the conteſt into which we have again been obliged to enter, ſhould be proſecuted with vigour, until views of mediation ſhall have been realized; and in conſequence of lord Hawkeſbury's candid ſtatement, Mr. Fox withdrew his motion.

Private letters from the Hague, ſay—"The French army aſſembling near Nimeguen has for its oſtenſible deſtination the electorate of Hanover, but it is a curious fact, that this army is encamped upon the ſame ground, where, in 1688, the then prince of Orange, afterward, King William III. under pretence of interfering in the diſpute then ſubſiſting between prince Clement of Bavaria and the cardinal of Furſtenberg, collected the army with which he in November in the ſame year invaded England. It is true, that the prince of Orange had a fleet of 50 ſail of men of war to eſcort his tranſports; but it is equally true that the Corſican diſpoſer of the lives and the liberties of Frenchmen, cares leſs about the loſs of whole armies, than the prince did for the ſafety of one ſingle regiment.

Without any intent to alarm you, I have heard from good authority, that "French emiſſaries have for ſome days been buſy in taking an account of the numbers, the names, and the tonnage of all veſſels, even ſchuits, in our different harbours; and that they have in the ſame manner tried to procure the names and the number of our ſailors, but in this they have been diſappointed, as all our ſailors are attached to the prince of Orange, and deteſt the French, and have therefore already begun to deſert and to conceal themſelves. Some official encouragement from England, at this period, might bring you over many of them.

"I repeat again, that my intention is not to create alarm; but vigilance, vigor, activity, and unanimity, are abſolutely neceſſary to counteract the deſigns of a man, who believes in no other Providence but Fortune, and who hitherto, even in his moſt deſperate enterprizes, has never ceaſed to be its favourite. Remember, that if one army ſhould really attack Hanover, there are already in this country, in Brabant and on the Rhine, upwards of 110,000 men, which are augmenting every day by freſh troops."

May 20.

The recent overtures of France for the renewal of peace, obviouſly reſult from the unprepared ſtate of the government to engage in war; after two years of inſult and aggreſſion it were folly to doubt its hoſtility, yet without foregoing the advantage of the moment our miniſters have determined not only to leave open the door to negociation but to promote, by all conſiſtent facility, every intercourſe which may tend to accommodation.

Reports founded on this fact, combined with ſome communications which the Spaniſh, Dutch, and Ruſſian ambaſſadors have recently made to our government, yeſterday occaſioned a riſe of more than three per cent. on our funds—Conſuls for opening were in the morning at 59 1-2 being 2 1 above the prices at which they cloſed on Friday; they then roſe to 61, from which they declined to 59 3-4, and left off at 60 1-4.—This riſe although aſcribed to reports of peace, we believe to have been occaſioned by ſpeculations, as to the means to be adopted by the miniſter for raiſing the ſupplies for the year, conceiving, as we do that there does not at the preſent moment exiſt the ſlighteſt probability of an immediate peace.

We have ſeen letters from Hamburgh, ſtating, that the Senate had made an application to the court of Berlin for its protection of property in that city, in the event of a French invaſion. Theſe letters add, that no anſwer had been returned. Bonaparte in one of his guſts of paſſion, declared his determination to exclude the Britiſh from all intercourſe with the continent, and, in order to do ſo, to occupy Hamburgh, &c. Conſiſtently with this plan, Portugal is to be ſeized, and annexed to the Spaniſh monarchy if ſhe refuſes to ſhut her ports againſt us; and Naples is to form another Italian Republic ſhould ſhe diſobey the conſular mandate for our excluſion.—The recent march of a numerous French corps into Italy, is ſuppoſed to have been combined with this project, the avowal of which has induced the emperor to ſtrengthen his Cordon on the Venetian frontiers.

Accounts reached us yeſterday from Jerſey, of the 25th inſtant which ſtate, that two French tranſports, full of troops, have been captured by our cruizers in La Baye D'Augeme.—Their deſtination is not mentioned.—Theſe accounts add, that great buſtle prevailed at St. Malo in fitting out privateers.

An expedition to Holland has been for ſome days talked of—but whatever may be the wiſhes of government on the ſubject, we queſtion their preſent means for ſuch an enterprize.

Bonaparte has twice of late publicly ſpoken on the ſubject of his menaced invaſion of this kingdom. England, and not Ireland, he has declared to be his object of attack, as ſucceſs in the former would enſure the fall of the latter, while although victorious in the latter, the former might ſtill reſiſt and baffle his enterprize. He talks of ſending his army hither in row boats during a calm, when our ſhips cannot act, a meaſure for which England is better ſituated than Ireland. That the chief conſul is ſufficiently enthuſiaſtic to aſcertain ſuch a project, is very credible; that he will be beaten ſhould he attempt it is very certain. Our fleet active, enterprizing, and vigilant, enſures us protection from the inſult of invaſion; but ſhould it by an accident reach our ſhores, can any man be ſo loſt to the proud and generous feelings of a Briton, or ſo ignorant of our internal power, as to dread the iſſue?

The regency of Algeirs is ſtated to have demanded 180,000 dollars from our court, as an equivalent for eighteen ſlaves, who made their eſcape from Oran in an Engliſh veſſel. The Spaniſh cabinet has paid all arrears due to the Dey, and has further made a preſent of 50,000 dollars: theſe ſums were immediately applied to the equipment of three freſh cruizers. The Dey threatens the Americans with war, for not ſending their tribute in ſtores, as he required inſtead of ſpecie.

Many captures have been made by our cruizers, &c. during the week, amongſt the moſt important are, a rich ſhip from Surinam, by Lord Nelſon; a valuable merchantman by Sir S. Smith; another Surinam ſhip by the Diamond; and a French Eaſt Indiaman by the Pigmy.

The port of Breſt is ſo cloſely blockaded, that no veſſel can enter it. On Tueſday 5 brigs making for the harbor, were captured, when three of them proved to be laden with naval ſtores—Eighteen ſail of the line are ordered to be prepared at Breſt for ſervice. One of the Deal pilots has been ſeized at Calais, and five men, her crew ſent to priſon.

On Friday arrived at Portſmouth the Diomede, Admiral Sir R. Curtis, Jupiter, Braave, and Hindoſtan, from the Cape of Good Hope, together with the Suffolk and Favourite, laden with ſtores from the ſame place. This ſquadron had the good fortune to capture the Re-Union, a homeward bound French Eaſt Indiaman, burthen 800 tons, and valued at 100,000*l.* Several more might have been taken had they ſooner known of the commencement of hoſtilities.

A French brig called Le Vigilant, from Port-au-Prince, has been captured and ſent into Falmouth, by the Reſolution. She is laden with ſugar and coffee, being the whole produce of the iſland: and had been 55 days on her paſſage. The captain reports that juſt before he ſailed, the French ſhip La Virginie, capt. Le Noir, arrived there from Havre, having on board ſeveral ladies as paſſengers, when ſhe was boarded by the Blacks, who murdered the captain and crew, and ſent the women into the country, and after every thing had been taken from the veſſel, it was burnt. The French ſhips of war were waiting for inſtructions from France at the time the Vigilant ſailed, and about twelve ſail were lying at Port-au-Prince. The iſland was very healthy; the Blacks were ſuppoſed to be 80,000 ſtrong, and ſcarcely a night paſſed without the commiſſion of ſome outrage.

A report has been circulated of the capture of the Duke of Kent, on his way from Gibraltar.

The Hamburg mail has brought intelligence of the adjuſtment of the differences between Ruſſia and Sweden, by a convention.

The diſpatches ſent off to the Hague on Saturday, contained definitive orders to our ambaſſador to demand an explicit declaration of the intentions of the Batavian government.

Numerous arreſts are ſaid to have taken place at Paris, within theſe few days ſeveral emigrants have been ſent to the Temple.

Private intelligence from France ſtates, that the cordon of 20,000 Auſtrians, on the frontiers of Italy is complete, but orders have been ſent for 15,000 more troops to join it. This has offended Murat, who had demanded new re-inforcements from France. Not only the Italian troops but the French conſcripts deſert, in bands of 20 or 30, over to the Auſtrians.—Generals Verdier, Pully and Florella, agree only in their hatred to Murat. The demand of occupying Sicily with French troops has been refuſed for the third time.

A letter from Algiers, dated April 25, ſays, Mr. Falcon, the Britiſh conſul, has been expoſed to the moſt imminent danger. An officer of the Regency and a party of guards ſummoned him to open his houſe, the domeſtics fled, the houſe was broke open and two Turkiſh women found in it were condemned to receive each 500 blows with a ſtick. One of the ſlaves having made a confeſſion which criminated the conſul and his ſecretary, they were both ſeized, ſent on board a veſſel, and compelled immediately to put to ſea.

Our government, it is ſaid, have received advice that the Dutch will not be ſuffered to remain neutral.

The French have reſolved to ſend no more mails to England; but the Engliſh mails to France are ſent to Dover in their regular courſe.

Letters by the Dutch mail ſtate, that an army of 13,000 men, under the appellation of the "army of Hanover," had been collected at Coverden, in order to be immediately marched againſt that Electorate.

A private letter from Paris ſays, "On the 12th inſtant orders were ſent for the French troops in Italy to occupy Ancona, Civita Vecchio, Tarentum, and other ports in the Mediterranean and Adriatic. On the ſame day inſtructions were forwarded to all French agents in Italy, to inſiſt upon the ſequeſtration of all Engliſh property."

Another attempt has been made by the French government to renew the negociation. A new propoſition was on Wedneſday preſented by the Dutch ambaſſador to Lord Hawkeſbury; but it was of ſo inadmiſſable a deſcription, as to be inſtantly rejected.

MAY 31.

The Aukland packet ſailed yeſterday morning from Dover for Calais, as a flag of truce, with diſpatches in anſwer to thoſe which were received from Mr. Talbot on Saturday. The packet returned in the afternoon, brought intelligence that the two packets which were detained, the Prince of Wales and the Nancy, are to be liberated, and were expected to ſail to day. We have not heard whether Mr. Talbot is to be ſuffered to return home, we rather think that he is not, for as his return is much wiſhed by his majeſty's miniſters, he would of courſe avail himſelf of the opportunity of coming home in the Auckland packet.

Mr. Liſton, our ambaſſador at the Hague, has not as was generally reported, been thrown into priſon; but the conſular decree has certainly extended to all the Engliſh in Holland. Mr. Eaſt the meſſenger, has been arreſted, and general Victor has ordered the crews of three Engliſh packets and the agent for the packets at Helvoetſluys, to be thrown into priſon. Diſpatches, we underſtand, have been ſent to Holland, to recall Mr. Liſton. M. Schimmelpenninck will of courſe depart immediately. His preſent ſituation muſt be extremely irkſome. It is ſuppoſed that a meſſage will to-morrow be delivered to both houſes of parliament from his majeſty, announcing that his majeſty has ordered letters of marque and repriſal to be iſſued againſt the Dutch.

But this Bonaparte, it ſeems, attempts to juſtify himſelf by the law of nations, which he aſſerts gives him a right to ſeize the perſons of Britiſh ſubjects in his territories, becauſe we have taken ſhips, and made French ſubjects priſoners without a previous declaration of war. Where did the conſul learn the law of nations? In ſome of his newfangled claſſes of the national inſtitute?

A formal declaration of war is not neceſſary. The recall of ambaſſadors is a ſufficient declaration of war, and proves that two countries are from that moment to be conſidered as in a ſtate of war.—In future, foreigners will be unwilling to viſit France; for they will have no guarantee, that the cuſtoms and uſages of civilized nations will be extended to them, or that their perſons will be reſpected. The arbitrary power of the firſt magiſtrate may in a moment conſign them to periſh in the dark receſſes of the temple, or to rot in the damp dungeons of the Conciergerie.

Spain may be expected to obey the commands of France; but Bonaparte will attempt to delay our hoſtilities againſt her for the purpoſe of enabling her to bring home her treaſures and galleons.—His majeſty's miniſters, however, will ſee through this artifice, and we have no doubt will order all Spaniſh ſhips to be detained and ſent into Britiſh ports.—The rich Mantilla ſquadron put into Table bay, as ſir Roger Curtis was leaving the Cape. It conſiſts of a ſhip of the line and four frigates, all laden with bullion, to the amount, it is ſaid, of four millions ſterling. What riches, in ſtore for our gallant tars!

We informed our readers, that Mr. Tierney was to join the preſent miniſters. He has been appointed treaſurer of the navy in the room of Mr. Bragge. The appointment will, we believe, be Gazetted this evening. Mr. Tierney will certainly be a moſt valuable acquiſition.

The Earl of Yarmouth has been very unfortunate in his trip to France. He reſided there for ſome months, till alarmed at the appearance of war, on the ſubject of which he could, however, obtain no real information in Paris, he came over to London, leaving his counteſs behind him, to know, whether war was likely really to take place. His doubts were ſoon cleared up, and he went back to France, laſt week, to bring away his counteſs; but no ſooner had he landed at Calais than he was made a priſoner!

Our port letters continue to announce to us the ſucceſſes of our tars.

The Hazard ſloop of war, which was erroneouſly reported to have been taken, has brought an account of the capture of a French frigate. She was watching the motions of our channel fleet, when admiral Cornwallis, willing no doubt that ſhe ſhould have a nearer view of it, ſent a frigate after her. She fired a few guns and ſtruck.

Our Dover letter mentions the capture of a fine French Weſt-Indiaman, and that a heavy firing was heard yeſterday evening from the Weſtward.

When Mr. Liſton, our ambaſſador in Holland, diſcovered the meaſures, taken there againſt the Engliſh, it was ſuſpected that no Britiſh meſſenger would be allowed to leave the country, and particularly it was ſuppoſed no one would be able to ſail from Helvoetſluys, the uſual place of embarkation. To guard againſt this, Mr. Eaſt, the meſſenger, was ſent by the way of Helvoet, and Mr. Wagſtaff privately took a boat at Scheveling. The former was arreſted. The latter made his way to England.

Our readers will recollect what ſurprize the Pariſian journals affected to expreſs, at the haſte with which many of the Engliſh departed from Paris, while the late negociations were going on, "as if the good faith of the French government were not a ſufficient ſecurity for their ſafety, even if hoſtilities ſhould be renewed." With what indignation muſt they now hear, that ſame upright government, in contempt of the uſages of all civilized nations, has iſſued a decree, ordering that all the Engliſh who are now in France ſhall be made priſoners of war.

A conſiderable number of troops have been recently marched into Calais, or quartered along the adjacent coaſt. The report was generally accredited at Calais, that the chief command of all the forces in that part of the Republic had been given to general Maſſena, whoſe arrival from Paris was daily expected. Maſſena has during the laſt two years been boaſting in Paris of the facility with which he could invade England, and in many curious converſations, ſome warm debates on the ſubject have occurred between him and Engliſh gentlemen into whoſe company he has occaſionally fallen. He is one of the moſt daſhing, and at the ſame time avaricious generals in the French ſervice. He would, no doubt, be very happy to levy contributions on London.

We yeſterday learnt that the French meſſenger who came over on Tueſday, under the pretext of diſpatches for M. Schimmelpenninck, brought over ſome new propoſitions to our government, but which was rejected, and the meſſenger immediately ſent back.

By our private letters we learn, that the money lately advanced by the Batavian Republic to pay the arrears of the French troops in Holland, was only paid in conſequence of general Montrichard having threatened, in caſe of non-payment, to march 20,000 men to Amſterdam and to ſeize its bank!

Whatever may be the opinion of the public upon the queſtion of war, or the views of a reſtoration of peace, the ſituation of the country is one of much anxiety. We repeat what we have before urged, becauſe every day and every hour more fully proves the truth of our aſſertion, that a ſtrong government is neceſſary, not only for our welfare, but perhaps for our very exiſtence. We cannot doubt that even now his majeſty's miniſters are trying every ground for attaining ſecure peace; but if they fail, then we more particularly ſay, Let us have a government in which the people have confidence. We are convinced that his majeſty's miniſters have meant well in every thing they have done, but the ſtate of the country is ſuch, that we want ſomething more than good intentions. The general opinion which is heard in every corner of every ſtreet,—"That the government cannot laſt as it is at preſent conſtituted," tends to weaken and undermine it; and though the proceedings laid before Parliament reſpecting the negociation, make out the ſtrongeſt caſe againſt France, they do not, at the ſame time, place the conduct of miniſters in an unexceptionable light.

We are unwilling at the preſent moment to ſay any thing reſpecting the board of admiralty. If the remarks we have made upon their conduct, have ſtimulated it to additional exertions, we ſhall have rendered an important ſervice to the country. The firſt lord, after having more than once ſent in his reſignation, and repeatedly complained that it was not accepted of, has, it is underſtood, conſented to remain for the preſent, if his health permits. Report ſays, that lord Moira and Mr. Tierney are to join adminiſtration, and that the latter has been much employed lately upon the budget, which the miniſter is to bring forward in the courſe of the next ten days. Indeed the meaſure which is to be propoſed is ſaid to originate with him.

The ſtate of political parties is at the preſent moment moſt extraordinary.—The prevalent opinion that the preſent adminiſtration has not ſo much the confidence of the country as it formerly had, has created candidates for office on all ſides. Mr. Fox, who has probably ſeen by experience, how much violent opinions have obſtructed his purpoſes, has become temperate, and in his ſpeech laſt night, he reſumed all his former correct opinions on the ſubject of continental connexions, which, in the heat of party, in the courſe of the laſt war, he ſeemed to have entirely abandoned.

Lord Grenville, and thoſe connected with him, ſeem to be the perſons moſt actuated by hoſtility to the preſent adminiſtration, and we underſtand he means to propoſe ſtrong cenſures upon their conduct in the late negociation. In the midſt of all theſe contending parties, we wiſh only for a ſtrong government—the ſituation of the country imperiouſly calls for it.

The greateſt diſappointment and regret has been univerſally expreſſed at no report having been given of Mr. Pitt's ſpeech, in the houſe of commons on monday laſt. The loſs of that ſpeech to the country we have not heſitated to conſider as a national misfortune; it is a loſs, however, which we ſtill hope to be able in ſome meaſure to repair; and though we are unwilling to excite public expectation, on a point ſo intereſting and important, we cannot altogether ſuppreſs our feelings of ſatisfaction, at even the faint hopes which we entertain of being able to procure a ſketch of that ſpeech from a friend who was preſent.