

Latest European Intelligence.

LONDON, DECEMBER 18.

By an account laid before Parliament, of the total net produce of all the permanent taxes, in the years ending the 10th of October, 1801 and 1802, respectively, it appears that in the year 1801, they amounted to 22,086,399l. 14s. 11d. and in the present year to 25,199,088l. 14s. 9d.

The following article we give from a paper reputedly much in the confidence of administration:

"The present has been admitted by all parties in Parliament to be a period big with dangers; that it is so, no man in his senses can for one moment doubt. The address and firmness of our Ministry may avert war for a while, but it is too much to say that France will, under the present government, abstain from giving frequent occasions both of jealousy and alarm. That the Chief Consul is bent upon disturbing our sovereignty in India, has been long proved from his actions, and is now pretty generally believed. His expedition to Egypt had that principally for its end; and his eye is still fixed upon it with a steady perseverance. He is attempting every thing, even now, to facilitate, at some future period, and that, perhaps, not far distant, the accomplishment of his views, and it behoves us to watch his every movement with the most scrutinizing attention.

"It has been stated from the Hague, that since Lord Whitworth's arrival at Paris, the embarkation of French troops for Louisiana, which was to take place in the Dutch ports, has been countermanded. We think this extremely probable, because we can readily perceive it was a measure which our Ambassador was likely to be instructed to remonstrate against and oppose, and we sincerely hope it is true; but, if the accounts received by the French papers last night be correct, the views of the Consular Government are not bounded by one acquisition in the same quarter.

"It is now said, that Spain has been required to cede the Floridas to France, on condition of which the Duchies of Parma and Plaisance are to be united to the kingdom of Etruria; and if not, to the Italian Republic. It is almost needless to observe, that if the bait offered to the Court of Spain is not great enough to induce a compliance, the influence of France in that cabinet can enforce it as a demand. It has likewise been stated, from a respectable quarter, that Cochin has been given up to France by the Dutch. It is true His Majesty's Ministers have not officially learnt this circumstance, but that does not lessen its probability. At peace with the French Republic, are we thus to be doomed to witness a perpetual succession of encroachments, against which, we presume, remonstrances will on our part be made? Are we to come, period after period, to the verge of hostility, and then be soothed with explanations, which may be no sooner made than the occasion of them may be repeated? We think too highly both of the discernment and the spirit of our Ministers, to suppose for a moment that they would thus compromise the honour of their country, by descending to such mean submission.—Bonaparte may cut and carve on the continent as he pleases—there seems no powers existing in Europe to prevent him from giving full scope to the dictates of his towering ambition there; but when he thinks of extending his empire on the other side of the Atlantic, or to the shores of India, he must be sensible, we should suppose, of the necessity of obtaining the concurrence and consent of the British Government, and it must strike him that these transfers of property, and bargains of exchange, are not likely to meet with our approbation, more especially as the equivalent, if such it may be called, to be given on his part, has been illegally obtained.

"Amongst the subjects of discussion at Paris, of which we conceive there must be many, Malta will doubtless form a very leading and important one. We perceive with satisfaction, however, from the proceedings in the House of Commons that the laws relative to its trade and its geographical situation are to be renewed, a pledge that it will not be immediately, or without due consideration, ceded. The material changes indeed that have taken place in the political situation of Europe, and that are projected and carrying into effect in other quarters of the globe, would, in our opinion, fully warrant us in permanently retaining it. The French Government may say, that that would be a violation of the treaty of Amiens; but in how many instances has it been already grossly violated by France?

"We view, with the most heartfelt satisfaction, our country in the enjoyment of peace, and of a degree of prosperity, almost in our own annals unexampled; but we cannot permit our fellow subjects to sink at any time into a false security than which we are sensible nothing can be more likely to invite the attack of the enemy, or be more fatal to our future welfare. The establishments which our government have proposed to be maintained, prove at once their vigilance, and the sense which they entertain of the formidable power of France; but we shall ever contend, that any establishments, however large, are inadequate to our defence, unless the country keep alive and cherish the spirit of active patriotism, which has so successfully carried it through such dangers, as the civilized world had never before to encounter and overcome."

We have nothing to add to the above, but that all the letters from Gibraltar confirm the determination of our government to retain Malta. The Niger frigate arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th ult. having on board Brigadier General Oakes and his suite, with 200 recruits for the different regiments, at Malta, and 150 for Gibraltar. General Oakes goes to Malta as second in command under General Villettes. "Orders" say the letters, "have been sent for evacuating Egypt, and withdrawing the troops from thence to Malta, where all that cannot be accommodated will remain, and the rest are to be quartered here. It is supposed that about 6000 British troops will be stationed at Malta, and that either three or four regiments will come to this garrison."

Lord Whitworth, it is said, has had a conference with the French Ministry, relative to the destination of Parma. It is even asserted, from authority, that the Consul has it

in contemplation to add Tuscany to the French territories. Where will all this end? Parma, ceded to Spain, careless as it should seem, of the reverberatory rights of the House of Austria—Tuscany conquered from a member of that House, given to a son of Spain, and now to be refused by the conqueror, will make another state, or swell the bulk and size of that Colossus, whose limbs extend from the North of Europe to the South—whose feet rest upon the shores of the Baltic, and upon Sicily, and whose arm and whose sword, extended over Germany, and to the remotest confines of Turkey, is ready to fall, and annihilate the power or the potentate that shall dare to murmur at its will.

Respecting Cochin, abovementioned, it is taken for granted, that if France has not actually obtained the cession of that place from the Dutch, she has such a plan in contemplation. The motives that must induce her to wish for such a settlement are sufficiently obvious. It is for the purpose of alarming us for the safety of our empire in the Carnatic. Cochin, advantageously situated on the Malabar coast, has an excellent port for naval operations, and would afford an enemy an opportunity of carrying on military operations in the southern part of the Carnate.

The bed-chamber of Madame Recamier, we are told, is fitted up in a style of luxury and splendour far surpassing any thing of the kind in Europe; the bed-polls are of gold; the bed curtains of gold muslin; and the tester one entire looking glass. The rest of the furniture is in the same style of magnificence—and who was Mr. Recamier? an humble hat-maker in better times!

We have seen an estimate of the Chief Consul's court-dress. The useful part of it is valued at 251l. 10s. the useless at 397l. 74s. 10d. total 397l. 99s. 10d.

The costly apparel and furniture of this great man offer a fine contrast to the wardrobe of Robespierre, who, for a certain time, enjoyed an equal degree of authority, although he did not use it with the same laudable moderation. When that extraordinary man set off from Arras, to take his seat in the States General of France, his flock of clothes, not including the dress he had on, consisted of—A worsted stocking, black coat, half worn out—a waistcoat to match it—one ditto, same materials, pretty good—one pair of black velvet breeches, nearly new—one pair of ditto, almost worn out—one pair of new shoes—one pair, a good deal worn—five cotton shirts, pretty good—eleven neck-cloths—two night-caps of worsted.

When this same man became master of France, the furniture of his room (in a joiner's house) consisted of only two broken chairs, a deal table, and a wretched bed without curtains. His body guard consisted of the joiner, his son, wife, and two daughters! The spangles on an embroidered boot, or on the turban of a Mameluke, exceeded in value the whole of the clothes and furniture of the quondam Master of France.

Among the persons most distinguished by the favour of the First Consul is General Abdalah Menou. He is appointed successor to Jourdan in the important office of administrator-General of Piedmont, a situation of Vice-regal power and emolument.

Count Castille, a member of the first Convention of France, and who in consequence of the organization of affairs at that time taking place, quitted that country, and has ever since resided in England, sailed on Wednesday last in the Prince of Wales, Captain Sutton, from Dover, to visit his native land; but he was destined never more to behold it! A French packet ran foul of the English one in the night, and, during the confusion, the Count was observed to drop down suddenly upon the deck; upon lifting him up, he was found to be totally deprived of life; but whether an apoplexy at that moment, terminated his existence, or, as it is conjectured, from some appearance about his person, he had received a violent blow from the boom of the other vessel, cannot be ascertained; the body was conveyed back to Dover, and is now lying at Stericker's Hotel. He was a gentleman, whose personal appearance was of a very superior and prepossessing cast, and whose features were uncommonly handsome.

The celebrated George Barrington, who, after having always offended the law in this country, at last acted as high constable at Botany Bay, is, we hear, dead, leaving a property worth 12000l. The circumstances of his life are well remembered by many. He escaped transportation, for stealing the Duke of Beaufort's Diamond George, at St. James' on a birth day, because the Duke felt the pull. It was stolen, but the nice distinction of the law said not privately. Afterwards he was tied and transported for stealing a gold watch at Enfield races, but that was privately, the owner did not feel the pull. The George was found on Barrington; and the watch was not; yet the nice distinction of the law got the better of positive evidence. He is now gone; after having in his later years acted a good part. His conduct was exemplary, he applied his former knowledge of the world to the improvement of a country which may one day equal in importance and splendor any that has yet existed.

Monday, the deputy tide surveyor of the customs at Greenock seized a considerable quantity of India silk handkerchiefs, which he found rolled round the bodies of two of the stowage passengers on board the Fanny, from New-York.

A deputation of the Swiss Deputies at Paris was presented a few days ago to Bonaparte at St. Cloud. The deputy Ruttimaur made an address to the First Consul, who held a long conference with them upon the situation of their unhappy and insulted country. It is expected that the New Constitution will be finally arranged by the end of January.

A duty of 400 francs has been laid in France on every five mynogrammes of white cotton, stitched, embroidered, or striped, imported from abroad.

Extract of a Letter from Hawkesbury, New South Wales, dated September 25.

"I am appointed agent on the estates of Mr. —, and have 20 farms under my charge; but you are not to suppose these farms like farms at home; they consist of from 30 to 60 acres, some more, but not all cleared, with a hut on each. The principal farm, on which I reside, has a modern built genteel house upon it, most agreeably situated

on the romantic and beautiful banks of the river Hawkesbury. The whole of this extraordinary country, with very few exceptions, of a spot here and there (at least as far as has been discovered) was one vast forest on its being taken possession of by our countrymen. It is very thinly peopled: the few natives that are to be seen are miserable, slothful beings, possessing no manner of ingenuity, and showing the least inclination to acquire knowledge of any kind. This place lies near a vast range of mountains which have been but partially explored. I have no doubt from their exterior appearance, but they abound with minerals of great value. On any considerable quantity of rain falling, it descends from the mountains in torrents, and inundates the whole of the adjacent country, frequently sweeping away men, beasts, houses, stacks, stock, &c. before it, and leaving the miserable settler as bare as nature found him. Notwithstanding these evils, those floods, like the overflowing of the Nile, have their advantages, by fertilizing and enriching the land, which produces abundant crops thereafter. I have now, on Mr. —'s account, 400 acres of wheat on the ground, which we expect to reap in December.

"In this district, where cultivation is properly attended to, we generally average 30 to 40 bushels per acre; but this extra produce only applies to this situation and a few others. Ploughs are seldom used here, owing to the situation of trees, which are cut 3 feet above the surface, and the ground is broken up by the hoe, and the seed chipped in. We have at present a great scarcity; wheat is at present 20s. per bushel, we shall soon, please God, have a plentiful harvest."

DECEMBER 20.

The accounts from Constantinople informs us that the Turks in Egypt, unable to make a stand against the Mamelukes, and defeated in seven engagements, implored the assistance of the British troops, who rescued them from total destruction.

A private letter from Hague mentions an unexpected firmness of opposition having been shown by the Dutch Government to the French. General Montrichard was sent to take the command of the French troops in Holland. He acquainted the Dutch Government with his orders, and added, that he should fix his head quarters at the Hague, where he should bring a body of French troops as a garrison. The notification excited much surprise, for it was supposed that the Dutch were to be relieved from the burden of a foreign force. The Batavian Government immediately signified to the French General, that they could not recognise him as Commander in Chief of the French troops in the Republic. It is said also, that they have declared to the French Government their resolution not to continue paying those troops beyond the end of this month.

General Montrichard has dispatched a courier to Paris to notify to the First Consul the intentions of the Batavian Government.

The troops for Louisiana, it is now said, are to embark immediately, and to proceed thither without touching at Dunkirk, for the remainder of the expedition.

Shocking Murder.—On Friday se'night, Miss Bibbitt of Kegworth, in Leicestershire, a very amiable young lady, about twenty-eight years of age, house-keeper to her brother, in Kegworth, had been to see her mother, who lives only at the other end of the close adjoining the town called the Home Close, through which is a public path from the neighbouring villages, and was, on her road home, about ten o'clock in the evening, most brutally murdered. As she was in the habit of frequently sleeping at her mother's, her absence created no alarm; but in the morning, about six o'clock, she was discovered in a puddle on the ground, against a stile leading into the town, with her clothes turned over her face, her shoes, bonnet, and neck-handkerchief torn off, and her pockets filled with what valuables she had; she was recognized, and a surgeon sent for, but she expired while they were undressing her. From the bruises upon her legs, thighs, and breast, she must have made great resistance, as she party, no doubt, intended to violate her, but did not succeed, and in attempting to stifle her cries (which must have been heard, from the houses being so very near) strangled her. A verdict was returned of wilful murder against some person or persons at present unknown.

By a Gentleman of opulence lately returned from Botany Bay, we learn, that the noted offender who called himself General Holt, conducts himself there in a very proper manner, working as a gardener in the agricultural line. The well known person, Ivers (from Carlow) is dead, whose name was in the curious pass word, as they called it, that admitted rebels to the convention they had at Bond's, in Bridge-street, Dublin, viz. "Where's M'Cann? Is Ivers from Carlow come?" Doctor O'Connor is in Norfolk Island. Barrington got his death by excessive drinking; he held an employment called Headborough, something similar to that of our High Constable, for which he had a salary of 60l. a year; he had been endeavouring to obtain a pardon from the Governor of Botany Bay, but being disappointed he took to drinking, "to banish sorrow." It appears Botany Bay is much improved; stock has considerably increased, particularly that of sheep.

At a Special Sessions, lately holden in Halifax, a cause was tried between a Clergyman and the Keeper of a Toll-gate, wherein it was determined by the Sitting Magistrates—"That a Clergyman, going on duty, is every where exempt from the payment of toll."

A poor unfortunate Irishman was last week brought before a Magistrate as a common vagrant. The Justice asked him what brought him over to England!—A ship, your honour!—A ship! echoed the Magistrate—you impudent fellow!—How do you get your living? By my hands, your honour; I am a hay-maker—And how long have you been out of work?—Please your honour, our trade has been rather dull this winter.

DECEMBER 25.

The Catholic inhabitants of the Batavian Republic have presented an address to the Government, praying for the same privileges to be granted to them, with respect to the erection of churches for the exercises of their worship, as are possessed by the members of the Reformed Religion.