

occasions confirmed by himself. He afterwards proceeded to the main business concerning *Gastro*, which he earnestly pressed in behalf of the Duke of *Parma*, which the Pope seemed to refer to a consultation of Cardinals; as soon as the other great affairs that highly concern the interest of Christendom will permit him; which at present take up all the time, that by reason of his indisposition he is able to allot for business; but promised his endeavors to satisfy the desires of the French King, and in due time to comply with him in behalf of the said Duke.

This week his Holiness appeared in the Consistory with much more health and vigor than was expected from him; where *Don Sigismundo* was formerly declared his Nephew, his family being accordingly established, and himself employed in visiting the Colledge of Cardinals. The Pope has likewise made him *Gran Croce* of *Malta*, in which charge he succeeds the Cardinal *Antonio Barberini*, lately promoted to be Grand Prior of *Rome*. He has also preferred the Master of his Chamber *Monsieur Cizza*, to the title of *Prior of Ireland*; the Cardinal *Landgrava* of *Hesse*, formerly created by his Imperial Majesty, Protector of the Empire, is also by the Emperor honored with the Protection of *Hungary*, and by the Queen Regent of *Spain*, made Protector likewise of *Aragon*, *Valenza*, *Catolonia*, and *Majorca*.

*Naples*, Decemb. 14. The Duke de *Ferrandina*, General of the Gallies of *Sicily*, is preparing with all possible speed the Gallies designed for *Genoua*, to attend the Duke of *Albuquerque*, and if the wind serve them, may put to Sea this night.

The great stormes we have lately had upon these Coasts, have done much injury to the Merchants especially upon the Coasts of *Calabria* and *Sicily*, to the wrecking of at the least forty Merchants, several of them richly laden, and amongst them five *Tartanes* that lately went from this place, one of them laden with Oyles, the other four with Coine belonging to several Merchants.

From *Sicily* we are informed, that by reason of the great Raynes the City of *Palermo*, has suffered much damage by a great and sudden inundation, which has thrown down some of the houses, and made great spoil in Goods and Provisions, and drowned several persons, especially those Prisoners that were secured in the Suburbs, and were unable to save themselves by flight.

On Sunday, *November* the seventh, there hapned an unusual and lamentable accident to the City of *Sciorthino*, about eighteen miles distant from *Syracuse*, belonging to the Prince di *Cesaro*, and the Marquels di *Serifino* of *Gaeta*. The City being situated on the side of an high Mountain, consisting of a soft and mouldring stone, it hapned that a great piece of the Rock that had long hung over them, breaking loose from its place; in its descent, bare down before it about 100 Houses of that City, and with their ruines, destroyed about 500 persons, with a Church, together with the Priests and Singing-men, and many of the Layety that were then at *Mass*; The greater part of the Houses, having for their conveniences, Cellers and Caves made in the Mountain, several voices of men have been since the ruine of the Houses heard from them: as also under the place where this moving Rock fixed it self, several of them have been with great care and labor, drawn out and preserved, but some of them are shut up without possibility of being recovered.

Another part of the same Mountain seems to threaten the City with the like danger, which the Citizens by their past calamity, being grown very apprehensive off, are to the number of about 7000 seeking out a more remote and safe habitation in a Town in the Plains below that Mountain.

*Legorne*, Decemb. 20. The sixteenth instant arrived here two French Men of War from *Thoulon*, viz. The *Siren*, Cavalier de *Caldan* Captain, and the *Sea-Horse*, Cavalier de *Peda* Captain, each of them carrying 52 Guns, and 350 Men, and (tis said) both of them bound for the *Levant*. Captain *Caldan* came on shore, and making a visit to the Governour, returned again immediately to his ship.

Some few days since arrived also a *Venetian*, call'd the *St. Anthony* of *Padoua*, with Raisins from *Zante*, and bound for *Ostend*.

The *St. Carlo*, a French ship, arriving here from *Scanderoon*, confirms the taking of several French Merchants by the *Algier* Vessels under the Colours of *Tripoli*, which they have sent into *Tripoli*.

The great Duke of *Florence* is removed thence to *Ambrögiana*, a Palace of his, about twelve miles distant from *Florence*, where he intends to pass the Holidays, and from thence to remove to *Pisa*.

*Paris*, Jan. 8. The second instant about ten at Night, her Majesty was happily delivered of a Daughter, and the news immediately congratulated by a great number of Benefices; the next day his Majesty received the Compliments of the Queen of *England*, and all the great persons and Ladies of the Court, with the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Officers of the City; making likewise their Compliments and Addresses to his Majesty at *St. Germain en Laye*, with their usual Presents.

On the fifth, the Chancellor of *France* with the Council, Parliament, Judges and Clergy, together with the Popes Nuntio, and the publick Ambassadors, met at the great Church of *Noire Dame*, where they heard the *Te Deum*, which concluded with the discharge of the Cannon from the City, *Arsenal*, and *Castille*.

*Middleburgh*, Jan. 7. Though the generality of the People are in all places pleased with the thoughts of Peace; yet all our preparations are for War, which notwithstanding is interrupted at present by the Frost. Four men of War are gone out of *Zealand*, bound for *Guiny*, and six Capets are put to Sea, intending to try their fortunes about the *Caribbee* Islands.

Some intentions there are of sending an Ambassador to the Emperor; to which end, Prince *Maurice* continues at the *Hague*; but nothing of that nature will be determined till the meeting of the Assembly of the States of *Holland*, towards the beginning of *February*.

From *Amsterdam* we are advised, That twenty of our Men of War that went out at Sea, have suffered much damage by ill weather, and are again returned to the *Texel*.

Five Men of War that went some days since from the *Texel*, had the fate to fall into the hands of seven of the English, who sinking one of them, burnt a second, and carried off two others; onely one of them returning into the *Texel* with the news, and full of the marks of that encounter.

The *Offenders* under an Arrest, are again dismiss, leaving behind them 100 of our Seamen found aboard; of whom, some that formerly quitted the service of the States will be severely punished. All those that engage themselves to appear the next Spring are set at liberty, and the rest imprisoned.

*Weymouth*, Jan. 2. This morning came in a Privateer of this Town, called the *Hopeful Providence*, with three French Colours at his Stern: Having since he went out taken four Prizes, whereof one of them was unhappily cast away at *Guernsey*, but the Goods saved, two other were sent into that Island, belonging both of them to *Rohan*, laden with Wines from *Bordeaux*: A fourth he has now brought in with him, belonging to *Havre de Grace*, laden with Salt, Wines, and Oyl; being a large Vessel carrying two Guns, and some number of Men, who made a fight the greatest part of Sunday last.

*Lyme*, Jan. 2. This morning arrived two Vessels from *Fersey* and *Guernsey*, speaking the good condition of those Islands: Besides the prizes brought into *Guernsey* by Captain *Abbot* in the *Hopeful Providence*, the Governour Privateer hath taken two Dutch prizes, one of 150 Tuns, the other of 100 Tuns with Wine and Brandy; and Captain *Earl*, a *Dartmouth* Privateer, hath seized a small French Vessel of 30 Tuns laden with Wine, and another Vessel of 50 Tuns, pretending to be a *Swede*, bound for *Nantes*.

*Bristol*, Jan. 2. Here is newly come in an *Offender* with Iron, and some Pitch; likewise a Vessel from *Scotland*, with Tar and other lading, taken out of prizes there brought in: Also twelve or thirteen Vessels from *Ireland*, with the Commodities of that Countrey, who report all those Coasts to be very clear, no enemy lately appearing to disturb them.