

on it; as also to clear the Ground of Brushwood and Shrubs within Gun-shot of the Fort, and to cut Pallisades to be placed round the Fort, that this Place may be defended from all Insults of Pyrates or Enemies. Encouragement has likewise been offered to such as shall build and settle in this Town, or come and settle in the Country of this and the other Bahama Islands. There had been a Sickness upon the Island about a Fortnight before the Governour came in, imputed to a great Number of raw Hides put on Shore near the Town, which putrified and infected the Air. The Inhabitants were soon freed from the Distemper, but several of the Soldiers, Passengers, and Seamen who came with the Governour sickened and died. This was such a Mortality as Persons who have lived here these forty Years never knew of the like; on the contrary they all agree, that People when they become sickly in most of the other American Plantations, find Relief when they come hither. This Island every where affords the best Stone, Lime and Timber, and the Soil is very productive of Grain, &c. The Governour has caused a small Fort of eight Guns to be built at the Eastermost Entrance into the Harbour, where Watch is kept. The Independent Company, consisting of 112 Men, garrison the Forts. The Inhabitants and all the rest of the Men on this Island are formed into three Companies of Militia under their own Officers, who by turns keep Guard in the Town every Night. A Guard-Ship also, well provided for Defence, lies in our Road. Our Governour has appointed Mr. Holmes, one of the Council, to be Deputy-Governour of the Island of Eluthera, where there are about 50 Families and 70 Men formed into a Militia-Company; and Mr. Thompson, another of the Council, to be Deputy-Governour of Harbour Island, where are about 60 Families and 80 Men which are also a Company of Militia, they have fortified themselves and secured the Harbour which is very narrow at the Entrance, but a Ship of 18 Foot Water may go in and ride very safely: Our Governour has supplied them with Powder and shot, for they have two small Forts, one having 8 six Pounders, and the other 4 nine Pounders, which command the Entrance and Harbour.

One of the Men of War that came with the Governour sailed the 16th of August, the other on the 14th of September. That Day came Advice that three Vessels, supposed to be Vane and his Prizes were at Green Turtlekey near Albacoa, whereupon the Governour caused a Sloop to be fitted out under the Command of Captain Hornigold to go and view them, and bring an Account what they were: In about three Weeks Captain Hornigold returned, having slain most of that Time concealed and viewing Vane the Pirate, with design to surprize him or some of his Men, who they expected would pass near them in their Boats; but tho' he failed in this, he brought in with him a Sloop of this Place which had got Leave of the Governour to go out a Turtling, but had been trading with Vane, who had then with him two Ships and a Brigantine, his Sloop that he escaped in from hence being run away with by some of his Fellow-Pirates. Those two Ships he had taken coming out of Carolina, one of 400 and the other of 200 Tuns, laden with Rice, Pitch, Tar, and Skins bound for London; the Neptune Captain King, being the largest, he sunk; the Emperor Captain Powers, he left without doing her any great Damage, except taking away her Provisions. Our Governour has caused the Merchant who traded with Vane to be seized and laid in Irons, to be sent to England by the next Ship; there to be tried for his Offence. He has sent to England three Criminals, who were taken away with the Vessel, they belonged to a French Merchant and Merchant on St. Lucia one of the Caribbee Islands inhabited only by Savages.

Paris, Dec. 31. We have received from Madrid the following Account of the King of Spain's State of Health, viz. that though the King had spent three violent fits of the Ague, his Majesty had still an hectic Fever, which had hung upon him from the Beginning of his Illness, The swelling of his Legs continued, and his Majesty endured extreme Pain in one Knee, which was inflamed by the Humours settling in it. Tho' the emetick Wine and other Remedies which his Majesty had taken, seemed to have operated slightly, his Distemper continued to give just Ground for Apprehension. The same Letters advise, that on

the 12th Instant the Marquess de Grimaldo Secretary of State, went to the Duke de St. Aignan Ambassador of France, and delivered to him an Order from the King of Spain, by which he was enjoined to depart Madrid within 24 Hours, and his Dominions within 12 Days, without stopping any where on the Road, for any Cause or on any Pretext whatever, even Sickness not excepted. The Duke received this Order with all the Respect due to his Catholick Majesty; but it being to at Night when it was notified to him, he desired the Secretary of State to intreat his Majesty to allow him time till the next Day, to put his Domestick Affairs in the better Order, promising to leave Madrid within the 24 Hours; but on the 13th at Seven in the Morning, the Duke's House was invested by a Detachment of the Life-Guards commanded by M. Conoc, an Irish Exempt, who having placed Centinels at all the Doors of the Apartments, entered the Duke's Chamber, and made him and the Dutchess get out of Bed; then having made them dress in all hurry, he conducted them with the Detachment of Guards out of the Town, excusing himself by alledging the Rigour of the Order given him, which was to seize the Person of the Duke de St. Aignan, and make him depart Madrid willingly or by Force, without letting him speak to any Person. On the 25th Instant the Duke of Maine was by the King's Order taken into Custody at Seaux, by M. de la Billardiere Lieutenant of the Life-Guards, to be carried to the Citadel of Dourlens; at the same Time the Dutchess of Maine was taken into Custody at Paris, by the Marquess d'Ancenis Captain of the Life-Guards, to be carried to the Castle of Dijon. The same Day the Cardinal de Polignac was ordered to repair to his Abbey of Anchin, accompanied by M. de Monchény Gentleman in Ordinary of the King's Household.

Whitehall, Dec. 27. By the Dutch Mail which came in this Morning, we have the Confirmation of the King of Sweden's Death, which happened the 11th Instant, N. S. by a Shot he received in the Trenches before Frederickshall.

#### Admiralty-Office, December 24, 1718.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty do strictly charge and require, That all such Men belonging to His Majesty's Ships the Prince Frederick at Chatham, the Salisbury, Winchester, Centurion and Seahorse at Sheerness, who are absent from the said Ships by Leave, or otherwise, do immediately repair to their Duty, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

#### Hand-in-Hand Fire-Office.

The Directors give Notice that this Society does now insure Timber Houses and Buildings in all those Places to which they have lately extended their Insurances on Brick.

They likewise give Notice, that in discharge of the Trust reposed in them they think themselves obliged to prosecute all such Church-Wardens and others concerned, who have not provided and kept fit for Use Engines, Fire-Cocks, Plugs, &c. pursuant to the late Acts of the 6th and 7th of her late Majesty Queen Anne, for the better preventing Mischiefs happening by Fire; and hereunto they desire all Parties concerned to have a very particular Regard, being unwilling to surprize any, and which fully determined to put the said Acts in Execution; and in order thereunto in a short Time to publish a Reward to such Persons as shall discover any Defaulters therein. N. B. The Penalty is 10 l. (not upon the Parishes but) to be levied upon the Church-Wardens by distress of their Goods.

#### Advertisements.

Whereas Francis Parquet, Robert Vickers and Samuel Green, were, on the 2d Instant, committed to Newgate; and Willoughby Strickland and Charles Haines, were the Day following committed to New-Prison; and Thomas Atbop and John Prior, Two of the same Gang, were some Days before committed to the Marshalsea, all for Robberies on the High-way; And whereas a Portmanteau Trunk was taken upon the four first mentioned High-way-Men, in which were Handkerchiefs, Pillots, Silver Swore Hills, Snuff-Bags, Rings, and other Things of Value, supposed to have been taken; All Persons who within these last Months past have been robbed in the Counties of Middlesex, Essex, Surrey, and Kent, are desired to view the Prisoners, and the said Goods, (lying in the Hands of George Wilcox, Esq. High Bailiff of Westminster, in Tavolockstreet, Covent Garden) and to give Information against the said Prisoners, or any of them, at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County of Middlesex.