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Moscow, March 7.

THEY have actually begun to make Preparations for the Return of the Court to Petersbourg in the Month of May next. Last Saturday a Council was held at the Palace, at which her Imperial Majesty assisted; and the same Evening a Courier was dispatched for Petersbourg, with Orders for the Admiralty to cause all the Men of War and Frigats in that Port, as also those in the Port of Cronstadt, to be equipped with all Diligence, in order to form a Squadron which is to cruize this Summer in the Baltick, as they did last Year. The Court has likewise sent Orders for a considerable Body of irregular Troops in the Ukraine, to march forthwith towards the Frontiers of Lithuania, where several Regiments of regular Troops are ordered to assemble. These Precautions, 'tis said, are taken in Consequence of the Preparations that have been for some Time making by a certain Power, on the Frontiers of the Dutchy of Courland, where Provisions, Warlike Stores, pontoons, and a considerable Train of Artillery are got together, but with what View, no one can as yet form any real Judgment. The Merchants of this City have, in Consideration of the Empress's abolishing the Custom-houses in the interior Parts of the Empire, made the Great Duke and Great Dutches a Present of 30,000 Rubles. They have likewise agreed to present the Senator Count Schuwalow, by whose Interest they in a great Measure obtained that Abolition, with the Sum of 20,000 Rubles, one Half of which is to be laid out in a magnificent Cross of the Order of St. Andrew, and the other to be paid him in Specie.

Naples, March 12. Last Week a Courier arrived here from Versailles, and a grand Council has since been held at Caserta, to consider of his Dispatches, but nothing of Consequence transpires. The Archiepiscopal Palace in this City is fitting up for the Reception of our new Archbishop, who is expected here towards the End of the Month. They are buying up, not only in this City and its Neighbourhood, but likewise in several other Parts of the Kingdom, great Quantities of Corn for the Use of the Spaniards, who are in want of that Commodity. Almost all our armed Vessels and Gallies are now cruizing in the Seas of the Romagnia, and all along the Coast, but we do not as yet hear of their having taken any Prize. The

King has appointed M. Antinori, Bishop of Lanciano, to be Archbishop of Matera, and he is preparing to set out in order to take Possession of that Benefice.

Rome, March 16. Last Saturday a long Conference was held at Cardinal Valenti's, Secretary of State, to consider of proper Measures to revive the Commerce of the Ecclesiastical State, which has declined very much for some Time past. On Wednesday Cardinal Mellini, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Empress Queen of Hungary, had an Audience of the Pope, on the Subject of some Dispatches he received from Vienna. The Frigate that the Government bought lately at Leghorn, is sent to Malta, to be armed and equipped, after which she is ordered to cruize in the Seas of the Romagnia, against the Barbary Pyrates. 'Tis said the Duties on Tobacco are going to be taken off, and that a Scheme is preparing for making good the Deficiency by a Kind of Capitation Tax. The Reason that is given for this Alteration is, the great Trouble and Expence the Government is at to prevent the Smugling of Tobacco, which is carried to such a Height, that the Finances have suffered very much of late on that Account.

Madrid, March 25. His Catholick Majesty, who was last Week a good deal indisposed with a Cold, is now perfectly recovered. On the 11th of this Month an Express arrived from Lisbon, with an Account, that the Dragon Man of War, after having several Times been in Danger of being lost, had at length been obliged, by contrary Winds, to put into that Port. Upon the Receipt of this News, Orders were sent from hence for her to proceed to Cadiz with the utmost Expedition, under the Convoy of two Men of War, which were immediately dispatched to Lisbon for that Purpose. It is said, that this Ship brings above seven Millions of Dollars in Specie. Last Week a new Man of War, called the Aquilon, was launched at Ferrol.

Hague, April 9. The States of Holland and Westfrizeland, who opened their Assembly last Thursday, have this Day renewed their Deliberations. The Deputies of the several Colleges of the Admiralty continue also to deliberate on the Affairs of their Department. A Deputation from the Province of Utrecht is arrived here, in order to execute a private Commission, and they have already had an Audience, for that Purpose, of her Royal Highness the Princess Governante.

