

*Hague, July 30.* Those of *Utrecht* having offered in the name of their Superiors an Advice or Proposition for a good Peace, seconded with several Arguments drawn from the present state of things at home and abroad, and the hopes this conjuncture of affairs seem to give of a good issue, if the matter were vigorously and in good earnest followed. They of *Holland*, and the rest of the Provinces allowed it as a good motion, but pretended it was out of season, that an overture of that kinde now would discredit us abroad, dishearten our Fleet, and retard the payment of such *Quotas* as are in arrear in several of the Provinces: And so the Motion was stifled, the entry of it rased, and the whole thing buried; onely a second Answer for Forms sake, was prepared for the Envoye Extraordinary of *Swede* upon the point of the Mediation, desiring him to descend a little more to the particulars of place, form, and ingredients of the Mediation. In the mean time, we cry out against the tardiness of *France*, and their sailer now a second time after they have declared for us.

The Assurance from *Rochelle* to *Amsterdam* is 36 per cent. though our Fleet be, as we say, Masters at Sea. Again, *Zeland* hath moved to have the Prince taken into the Council, and *Utrecht* at the same time, that at least a Minute of Instructions might be made ready for their Captain General when there should be use of one. But the one and the other of these Propositions were laid aside by *Holland*.

*Erifol, July 21.* Our *Virginia* and *Barbadoes* Fleet are now safely arrived, being in all 26 sail, most of them ships of burthen of 200 Tuns and upwards, laden with Tobacco, Sugar, Indico, and a good quantity of Beaver, under the convoy of Three Men of War; which arrives very seasonably for our Fair, to the great satisfaction of this Town.

Our new Fregat the *St. Patrick*, is fully manned, and will sail with the first wind, being commended for an extraordinary fine ship.

On Monday last the *Milizia* Horse of *Glecestershire* came to a general Rendezvous at the *Seven Downs*, in presence of our Lord Lieutenant the Lord *Herbert*, in order to the drawing out a fourth part of them, who were to march away for *Maiden-head*; for which service, they all expressed extraordinary eagerness, making friends for that employment. The whole Regiment appeared in their Buff-Coats, Carabines, and Pistols, and well hors'd, much desiring the service. Several of the most considerable among the Gentry expressing their readiness, if occasion required, to raise Volunteer Troops of Horse or Companies of Foot, to be employed in the service of their Prince and Country, in so eminent a conjuncture.

*West-Cover, Isle of Wight, July 23.* On Saturday last the *Drake* Fregat brought in hither three Prizes, the one a French Vessel of 20 Tuns, which he met with to the Eastward of *Cape de Hague*, upon the Coast of *France*, and chased her on shore, where the Men got to land, and alarm'd the Country, who both Horse and Foot came down to defend her, but the *Drake* plyed them so warmly with their Guns and *Bunderbusses*, that they were forc'd off with considerable loss, and the Vessel brought off: The second was the *Fortune* of *Hamburg*, with Wines, Brandy, Salt, and Honey, from *Nantes*, and other parts of *France*: The third the *Arms* of *Newport*, with Salt, Brandy, and *Reysins*, bound from the same place for *Newport*.

From *Rochelle* they report that a Galliot was arrived fresh from *Beaufort*, with advice, that in six or eight daies they might expect him there: in Order to which great quantities of Provisions of all kinds were preparing for his supply, so that in all the Country about, scarce an Oxe, or a Sheep, or hardly an Egg, was to be had for money.

*Plymouth, July 22.* This day the *Guernsey* and *Eagle* brought in three Prizes, one a Fly-Boat of 300 Tuns bound for *Rochelle*, another an *Hey* of *Bourdeaux*, both of *Amsterdam*, laden with *Deales* and *Tarr*, the third a ship of *St. Malos* of 70 Tuns bound for the Bank with Salt. Another Prize they took coming from *Rochelle* bound for *Amsterdam* with Wines, was by foul weather driven into *Milford*.

*Portsmouth, July 24.* Yesterday the *Orange* came in with a supposed prize; the *Drake* is hastning away to the Fleet, with 120 men more then his Complement.

*Harwich, July 24.* On Saturday the Dutch Fleet stood off to *Bardsley Sands*, from whence, late in the Evening, they sent back six ships into the *Gunfleet*, who remained there till the next day, 20 others coming to them from the Northwards, but returned again presently to their Fleet. The next day being Sunday, upon discovery of our Fleet, which appeared opening the point of the *Naze*, the six ships made all the sail possibly they could to their Body, came coming that Evening to an Anchor off the *Naze*. On Monday July 23, we again discovered the Dutch Fleet, who firing several Guns, stood off to Sea: The same morning about four of the clock, our Generals fired a Gun, which was immediately answered by the other two Admirals, who altogether set sail towards the *Kings Channel* and *Skedway*; and the same day about three Afternoon, sent off the *Vicwallers*, and these other ships that were thought useless, and in their course made after the Dutch by the *Longsand-head* without *Bardsley Sands*; but the wind being Easterly, and cross to them, they were forced to lie close to the wind, and take the advantage of the *Tydes*, so gaining upon the enemy, who stood Southwardly, the wind at *East N. E.* but 'tis supposed they stood that Course to get clear of the Sands. That night our Fleet came to an Anchor over again *Orfordness*, where by the Thunder the *Ferisy* received some hurt in her Mast, and was forc'd to return to the *Nesse*; and some injury was likewise done to Cap: *Flames* Fire-ship, which is sent in hither to be refitted, and returned with all speed: The Captain informing us, that the Generals and the whole Fleet, are laboring hard to get up with the Dutch, who were, when he left them, out of sight of the Fleet; but the *Little Mary* and another nimble Vessel were sent before to observe their motion, the Body of our Fleet pressing after with all the sail they could make.

*Whitehal, July 25.* This Morning, between the hours of Ten and Eleven, we conclude our Fleet engaged with the Enemies, great Shooting having been heard from Sea, which continued very violent, and equally audible till towards Three, after which time it seemed to grow faint, and to go further off. By which, among other good Arguments of our Hopes, we have reason to believe the Enemy gives way, and under the Blessing of God, we doubt not but our next will bring the happy News of a glorious Victory over them. In the mean time His Majesty, out of His infinite Care and Goodness for all the merit of Him and the Nation in this important War, was pleased this day in Council to Order, That amongst other provisions for the maintenance and encouragement of such as should be maimed at Sea in His service, The Masters of all Hospitals within this Kingdom, be required in His Majesties Name not to dispose of any Almsmens places, but to such as are maimed in His Majesties service at Sea, and thereby rendered unable to gain a Livelihood: And if any other Persons after this Notice given, be placed in any Hospitals, that they shall be removed to make room for the maimed Seamen.

And the Justices of Peace are required not to dispose of any Penions at their respective Sessions out of the Monies collected in the several Counties for Relief of the Poor, but to such as are disabled in the Kings service at Sea to get a Livelihood by their Labour.

The Commissioners for Sick and Wounded men are ordered, That when any Wounded person is put into their care, they take notice of the place of his Birth, and of his last Residence, before he entered into the Kings service, so the end, That where the Statutes and Constitutions of any Hospital require that the Almsmen be of such a place or County, those maimed persons that are of that place, may be there received by Preference to any others: And that the Penions allowed by any County, may be to such maimed Seamen as were born within the same County, if there be any such.

And His Majesty further declared His Pleasure and Command, That His Principal Secretaries of State, and Masters of Requests, do not henceforth move him to bestow any Almsmens rooms which are within His Majesties Donation, but to maimed Seamen.

The Account of this Weeks Bill runs thus The Total 326. Of the Plague 48. Increased in all 32. Decreased of the Plague 3.