

tensive; through the activity and prudent management of Mr. Mears, that factories and trading houses were begun, to be erected, the same as at Hudson's Bay, and several discoveries were made in different parts of that coast of America and the Straights of the Archipelago, where no European had ever ventured. A colony was nearly formed at Nootka Sound, as a factory for the trade, when a small Squadron of Spanish men of war, commanded by a naval officer and a man of high rank, seized on two of the vessels, and in spite of every remonstrance, he has sent the crews of them to Mexico in irons.

Thus has this valuable trade been nipped in its infancy, though we trust that the means which have been taken to crush it, will be the fore-runner of its future success and prosperity. At the time of this seizure, Mr. Mears was fortunately at China, superintending the extension of this enterprising and beneficial commerce, for the principal article of barter being furs, which are highly valuable in China, the trade was profitable beyond conception. Being furnished with every particular circumstance of the transaction, he came home lately in the *Ganges*, East-Indiaman, from Coïna, and has since submitted a state of the case to Mr. Grenville, who communicated it to his Majesty.

The consequences naturally resulting from this behaviour of the Court of Spain, have been the message from his Majesty to his Parliament, and an exertion on the part of the members of administration, to make proper preparations for resenting the insult offered to the British flag by the capture of those vessels.

The first advice of the capture of British vessels in Nootka Sound, came through the channel of a private communication from France. When Mr. Pitt was acquainted with it, he declared, that on the first official confirmation of it, he would propose vigorous measures to be instantly pursued, in order to obtain from the Court of Madrid the amplest satisfaction.

Notwithstanding appearances, the best advised men think there is little probability of war at present taking place. The Court of Spain cannot be so devoid of understanding, as to make a serious quarrel with this country upon so idle and ill-founded a pretence, as her hitherto unheard of claim to the sovereignty of the seas to the North westward of America.

Count Florida Blanca, the Spanish minister, is reported to be a warm man, though a faithful and able servant to his master. Possibly in his cooler moments, he may be glad to correct the hasty style of his answer to the remonstrance of the Bri-

tish Ambassador. The language held by the Court of Madrid, when applied to on the subject of the seizure of the British ships in Nootka Sound, is reported to have been, *'We are warranted in the proceeding complained of, and we are ready to justify it.'*

His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Colonel George Hotham, David Dundas, Adam Williamson, Robert Abercromby, Gerard Lake, Thomas Musgrave, Joseph Goreham, Gustavus Gwydickens, John Mansell, George Morgan, Alexander Stewart, James Coates, Ralph Dundas, Richard Whyte, Alured Clarke, and James Huginin, to be Major Generals.

It has been ignorantly stated by the misinformed prints, that a visit to Hanover was necessary to qualify His Majesty for the discharge of his Electoral functions at the ensuing election of an Emperor. The fact is notoriously the reverse: His present Majesty voted in 1764 at the election of Joseph II. to be King of the Romans, though he has never been in Germany.

A very curious discovery in natural history has taken place at Blackwall lately. Mr. Perry, the ship-builder, is now planning and making one of the most extensive private wet docks in the kingdom; for which great undertaking he has appropriated seven acres of land. In digging the ground, regular strata of sand, clay, &c. have been found, affording materials for bricks—and at the depth of 12 or 14 feet from the surface, under the above strata, numbers of very large trees have been discovered; and what is most remarkable is a hazle-nut hedge, with considerable quantities of nuts as they grew on the trees. What inundation, or convulsion of nature has thus sunk the original surface of the earth, and covered it with such regular strata to so considerable a depth, must be left to the conjectures and information of the learned.

The Electoral votes in favour of King Leopold to the Emperor are thus stated:

<i>For him.</i>	<i>Against.</i>
Bohemia	Brandenbourg.
Cologne	And
Treves	Hanover.
Mentz	
Bavaria and	
Saxony.	

The wonderful change that the opinions of the people in general of France have undergone, is manifested by the smallest circumstances.

Sunday last the Vicar of Argentuill thought proper to mount the pulpit, and declaim against the Decrees of the National Assembly. An honest Cobler of the town, who, without having been at College, is a wiser, and certainly a better patriot