

of France, upon the affair of Avignon, is not final. They have resolved, that it does not at present belong to the empire of France; but the question, whether it shall not be united to it, in conformity to the wishes of the people, still remains to be determined.

The body of Voltaire has been removed, by order of the National Assembly of France, from the Abbey de Lellieres, which is about to be sold, to the parochial church of Romilly.

Government are about to establish a spice plantation on the North West side of New South Wales, from which they are led to expect great commercial advantages.

Great advantages are expected from the proximity of our new Colony on the N.W. side of Botany Bay, to the Coast of Ceromandel; it being nearer from this part of South Wales to Madras, than from the Isle of Mauritius to Pondicherry.

The Providence sloop, in which Capt. Bligh is about to embark on a second bread-fruit tree expedition, mounts sixteen carriage guns; she measures 400 tons burthen, and her upper deck is flush throughout; independent of her compliment of officers, she takes out an Astronomer, a Botanist, and Assistant. She has taken in the spacious wooden pots, for the reception of the bread fruit trees, and is expected to sail about the middle of this month:—she will touch first at the Canary Isles.

The Neptune, a new second rate, of 90 guns, on a large scale, is begun building in the King's yard, at Deptford. Her keel is laid, and the ribs are now getting up. She is to stand two years in the frame to season the timbers.

According to the Laws of the Isle of Man, a young woman lately prosecuted a young man of that place for a rape; he was returned to the Spiritual Court, being found guilty. When the Dempsler, or Temporal Judge, delivered to her, according to the custom of the island, a rope, a sword, or a ring, by these presents giving her the choice, whether she would hang, behead, or marry him, she very naturally chose the latter as the *severest punishment!*

*Extract of a Letter from Gottenburgh dated April 30.*

"It affords the British merchants here satisfaction to know for certain, that Sweden will not take part with Russia against England; but the King of Sweden has, on the contrary, declared that his harbours shall be opened to the British fleet, in case they come up the Baltic, or the Gulph of Finland. This has been strenuously remon-

strated against by the Russian Minister at Stockholm. The King, however, considers he has a right to do what he pleases with his own harbours, which is answering the Empress in her own stile precisely."

*Extract of a Letter from Elfsneur, May 14.*

"Two ship-masters arrived from St. Petersburg say, that the Russians are very vigilant in fitting out the fleet, and are otherwise making great warlike preparations. The British Merchants were dispatching the ships as fast as they could, for fear of a rupture taking place.

"The two Petersburg ships left Cronstadt the 28th of April; none of the other vessels which wintered there had got any cargo on board, except the John and Catherine of London.

"The Kite cutter, which has been in our road since the 18th ult. is just now got under weigh to drop down with the current."

*Extract of a Letter from Plymouth May 31.*

"A King's Messenger arrived here last night with dispatches for Commissioner Fanshaw, which has alarmed the whole place. A general search has been made throughout the dock yard and storehouses. The yard-gates are not now opened till half past six o'clock in the morning, and even the shipwrights, and other persons employed, are strictly searched and examined."

*Extract of a Letter from Pertmouth, June 1.*

"The last express received by commissioner Sexton contained intelligence of an intention, by means of foreign emissaries, to effect the destruction of our dock-yards and arsenal. Such measures are, however, taken, as must render the plot abortive, should they be daring enough to make the attempt.

"Two foreigners were yesterday followed to Gosport; but proving, upon examination, to be French gentlemen, and giving a satisfactory account of themselves, they were only requested immediately to leave the place, which request was readily complied with."

Married] at Cowley, William Taylor, Esq. of London, to Miss Van Cortlandt, daughter of Major Van Cortlandt, of Halifax in Nova-Scotia.

*Office of Ordnance, May 27.* Royal Regiment of Artillery, Captain Lieutenant Frederick Irwin is appointed to be Captain of a Company, vice Alexander Mackenzie, deceased.

— First Lieutenant George Scott to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Frederick Irwin, promoted.

Corps of Royal Engineers, Second Lieutenant William Gordon to be First Lieutenant, vice Thomas Wheldale.