

who had just returned from Westminster Abbey; in consequence of which, a Council was held. The contents of the dispatches had not transpired at a late hour, last night; but they were said to be favourable to the views of this country.

Government have received advice, that there is but too much reason to apprehend that a plan had been laid by the enemies of this country for setting fire to the dock-yards and arsenals; for which purpose several desperate foreign incendiaries have lately arrived in England; in consequence of which, orders have been issued for the strictest vigilance to be used at our several dock yards, to guard against their sinister designs; to which no person, who is not well known, can now gain admittance, without undergoing the most rigid examination.

These orders are so strictly observed at Portsmouth, that even the Captains of the fleet at Spithead are not suffered to come on shore at the Jetty after sun-set. All the warrant officers are ordered to sleep on board their several ships whether on weekly duty or not.

A number of gun-boats, lately constructed at the Merchant's yards, have been put together in the boat house at Deptford-yards, to be surveyed by the Commissioners of the Navy; after which they are to be taken to pieces, and sent on board the men of war under the command of Lord Hood, destined for the Baltic.

Prayers, according to the rites of the Protestant church, were publicly read in Paris, on the 22d inst. for the first time, except in the chapels of Ambassadors, since the revocation of the edict of Nantz. The preacher, with very laudable gratitude, employed part of his sermon in recommending submission to that Government, which had given him the privilege of addressing his congregation.

The last letters from the British merchants in Russia are more calm in their apprehensions than they were before. No immediate symptoms of hostility or ill-humour having taken place, they hope that the inconvenience to the trade will be merely ideal. It does not indeed appear by the private letters of the latest date, that any memorial from our Court had arrived at Peterburgh; at least, no circumstance had transpired to the public.

About 2000 seamen are all that are wanted, for the full complement of manning the fleet, which it is expected will sail immediately after the prorogation of Parliament.

Yesterday morning a messenger was sent off from the Earl of Chatham's house in the Admiralty, with dispatches to Lord

Hood, Commander in chief of the Squadron at Spithead, where they are rendezvousing, previous to their coming round to the Downs, which is the general rendezvous before sailing to the Baltic.

Orders are sent to the dock-yards to get six more ships of the line ready to put in commission.

Parliament, it is said, will certainly be up on Thursday next; at least such is mentioned to be the Royal determination at present.

A man of the name of Baker, near Dunganon in Ireland, being reduced to the greatest distress, took the horrid resolution of destroying both himself and family, which he effected by means of arsenic: in consequence of which, his wife and five children died; and after administering the fatal potion, the wretched man cut his throat.

Lately died at Yaxley, near Peterborough, Mrs. Higby, aged upwards of 90 years. She retained her faculties to the latest hour of her life; and was mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, to 250 children.

The Assembly of Jamaica have voted a present of a sword, value one hundred guineas, to Captain Samuel Hood of the Juno, for his conduct on the following occasion:

During a very violent gale of wind, in which the Juno lay in St. Ann's harbour, a raft was discovered at sea, with three persons upon it, who appeared every moment likely to be washed off. Captain Hood immediately ordered a boat to their assistance, and the sailors appearing unwilling to go, upon what they thought their certain destruction, he leaped into the boat saying, that he never ordered a man to do what he would not. They put to sea, and saved the men upon the wreck, though with the utmost danger of their own lives.

The granting of reverfionary annuities out of the the Chest of Invalids at Paris, has been prohibited by a late decree of the National Assembly. One family alone has the honour of an exception—that of PERNANDERFER KERANSTREIT, who was killed on board the Flora English frigate, upon the deck of which he leaped singly in an engagement, in the year 1780.

Cagliostro is not to be confined in the fortress of St. Leon, but in the castle of St. Ange, which is the better residence of the two. His sentence has been published at Rome, with no other reasons for his conviction, than that he has been declared an heretic, a judicial astrologer, a *magician*, and a *free-mason*!

The decision of the National Assembly