

St. Petersburg, April 24. General in Chief Count Moushkin Pouthkin set out yesterday to take upon him the command of the army in Finland. Lieutenant-General Michelson, second in command, also joined that army a few days ago.

IRISH TRANSACTIONS.

Secular Commemoration of the Shutting of the Gates of Derry, the 7th of December, (O. S.) 1788.

THE first annunciation of our centennial festival was received with such universal approbation, and the design promoted by a subscription so munificent, that we venture to infer, the public will wish to be informed of the particulars of the solemnity; it is incumbent on us to use our best efforts to gratify a curiosity, which redounds so much to the honour of our city.

On the day previous to the festival, multitudes from the surrounding country poured into the town. The streets were thronged with strangers, amongst whom we could observe some of the most respectable personages in this and the neighbouring counties. Every thing tended to shew, that the public expectation was excited, and we trust it was not entirely disappointed.

The looked for morning at length arrived.—The dawn was announced by the beating of drums, the ringing of bells, and a discharge of the old cannon which were used at the siege, and the red flag (the ensign of the virgin city) was displayed on the cathedral. The town was almost immediately in motion; each person seemed eager to bear his part in the rejoicings of the day, and the glow of honest enthusiasm was apparent in every countenance.

At half past ten o'clock, the procession was formed upon the Ship-quay, and moved off in the following order:

The corporation and city regalia;

Clergy;

Officers of the navy;

Forty-sixth regiment;

L. Derry associated volunteer corps;

Committee and Stewards;

Merchants and principal citizens;

Merchants' apprentices, preceded by Mr.

Murray, the great grandson of colonel

Murray, carrying the sword with

which his gallant grand-father

slew the French

general Mamon;

Tradesmen's apprentices;

The young gentlemen of the free-school;

And, masters of ships and seamen closed the procession.

'Tis scarce possible to do justice to the beautiful and august appearance exhibited at this stage of the solemnity; nor was it easy to behold, without the liveliest emotions, so respectable a body of free citizens, thus solemnly commemorating the heroic achievements of their ancestors, on the very spot where these memorable scenes were transacted—a spot, which should be as dear to the inhabitants of the British isles, as ever the plains of Marathon were to the ancient Grecians.—But the shew itself, distinct from the occasion, was extremely splendid; every thing was suitable and becoming, nor was any circumstance omitted that could add dignity to the scene. The universal wearing of orange ribbons had a very happy effect, and the band of citizens, however otherwise respectable, received a vast addition from the elegant appearance of the stewards who preceded them; they consisted of some of the principal young gentlemen of the city, and were dressed in a handsome uniform of blue and orange.

The cathedral could not possibly have admitted the multitude who composed the procession, had not every precaution been used.—Our city never before witnessed so thronged an assembly. The pews, the galleries, the aisles, and all the avenues of the church were crowded, and many hundreds returned unable to obtain entrance.

Divine service being performed, an admirable sermon was delivered by the Dean. His text was Joshua, iv. 24. Nothing could be better adapted to the occasion, or more replete with just and elegant sentiments—but we shall not attempt to epitomise it, as we understand the public will soon be indulged with it in full.—After the sermon, a selection of sacred music was performed from the oratorio of Judas Maccabeus. We shall not presume to appreciate the merit of the performers, but only observe, that that fine air, in particular, so well suited to the occasion—'Tis Liberty, dear Liberty alone,' seemed to give the highest satisfaction to the auditory.

From the church the procession marched in the same order to the Meeting-house, where the Rev. Mr. Black delivered an oration, which displayed at once his knowledge of British history, and his ardent zeal for Liberty.

On returning from the Meeting-house, a scene was displayed unexpected, and perfectly *nouvelle* in this city. His Majesty's ship the Porcupine, commanded by Capt. Brabazon, appeared in the harbour. She was completely dressed, or rather covered over with a variety of the most splendid colours, and formed a spectacle equally beautiful.