

Feb. 4. Letters from Berlin state, that on the 18th a courier had arrived at Berlin from Petersburg, with dispatches containing intelligence that the Empress accepted the mediation of the King of Prussia, to effect a peace between her on one hand, and Sweden and the Porte, with this express condition, however, that her Majesty should not be required to give up Oczakow, or make the smallest cession or concession to the King of Sweden.

It is certain, however, that the Court of Berlin is, in the mean time, making great preparations for war; and it is believed that a body of Prussians will soon enter Sweden as auxiliaries.

Prince Henry of Prussia, and the reigning Duke of Brunswick, were to be at Berlin on the 17th, to treat with the King about important business.

The Marquis de Luchefini, the Prussian Minister at Warsaw, returned lately to Berlin, very unexpectedly, to concert measures relative to the projected alliance between his Court and Poland.

The operations of the Austrians on the borders of Turkey will be merely defensive during the next campaign. Notwithstanding the season of the year, many thousand men are employed in repairing the fortifications of Belgrade, and adding new works to that fortress. The Engineer, under whose directions these works are carrying on, has pledged himself to the Emperor, that Belgrade shall be, early in the spring, in such a state as to be able to stand a three months' siege.

Marshal Laudohn is named as the person who is to have the command of the grand army of 100,000 men in Bohemia, to oppose the Prussians.

An officer, who arrived at Belgrade the 30th of December, from Clodeva, reports, that ten thousand Turks had attacked the free corps of Branowetski, whom they dispersed, and cut numbers to pieces; and after taking possession of two polakas, they sent a letter by three deputies to Lieutenant Colonel Lipsey, requesting he would forward it to the Field-Marshal Laudohn, assuring him that they would not commit any further hostilities until they received his answer.

Many causes concur to hasten the election of a King of the Romans: it is a ceremony which, whatever turn affairs on the continent may take, cannot be delayed much longer.

Our readers may perhaps not be aware, that the King of Great Britain, as Elector of Hanover, before he can be qualified to give his voice at this election, must pay a formal visit to his Hanoverian dominions. He may then act in his electoral

capacity, through the proxy of an ambassador invested with due powers.

This circumstance places in a clear point of view, the expediency of his Majesty's departure for Hanover, in the course of the ensuing summer. It will be an excursion equally profitable as pleasant.

The foundation of the new college at Edinburgh is dug in the solid rock, and the workmen have already begun to raise this intended elegant pile of building.

The breed of sheep imported by Colonel Fullerton from Colchis, to his estate in Ayrshire, are very long in the body, though short in the limbs; their fleeces reach down to the ground, and are exceedingly thick; but the quality of the wool is much inferior to that of Spain or England.

There never was, during the whole period of the dependence of America on England, a greater demand for stockings from this country for American consumption than at present. The French have sent thither a great quantity of woven hose, but they have turned out exceedingly bad.

A story of a very dreadful kind, is now strongly prevalent in the neighbourhood of Southwark, which we hope is a mere invention for the sake of sporting with public credulity, but which is so confidently related, and is so singular in its nature, that it is entitled to the notice of our readers.

According to the story, two gentlemen came a few nights ago, about twelve o'clock, to the house of a Mr. S—, a practitioner in midwifery, near the Borough, and informed him that a lady of some consequence required his assistance, induced him to accompany them in their chariot. The coachman drove him with the utmost rapidity down Kent-street, and when the carriage arrived at the Stones' End, Mr. S— was told it was necessary that he should submit to be blindfolded, as he was not to know whether he was going. Mr. S—, after some expostulation, upon an assurance that no harm should befall him, consented and he was conveyed, as far as he could guess under the emotions arising from so strange a circumstance, about three miles, when they arrived at a house, into which one of the Gentlemen admitted himself and the rest with a key. Mr. S— was led into a room, which appeared to him to be extremely warm, and he immediately heard the groans of a pregnant woman. He was conducted to the bed, and desired to perform his office. Mr. S—, upon this, summoned courage enough to insist upon having the covering taken from his eyes