

Feb. 29.

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SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

January 18. 1792.

FOREIGN.

THAT heavy political cloud which has long lowered over the horizon of France with a threatening aspect, has, of late, become more and more gloomy, and seems to portend that an important crisis is at hand, big with the fate of thousands, which excites a foreboding anxiety in the mind of every attentive beholder. The emigratit princes, on the one hand, have omitted no exertion that was in their power, to rouse up foreign enemies to the late established constitution of France, and to encourage internal divisions in the state; while the new national assembly, on the other hand, appear to be equally forward in alarming the national fears, and exciting the ardent spirit of the French, not only to take up arms in their own defence, but even to rush forward in quest of their enemies, where-ever they can find them, even in the territories of other princes. Whether they will carry these rash threats into actual execution,

no person can tell: For altho' it indicates a degree of political insanity, that nothing but actual desperation could excite, yet such acts of desperation have been seen; and no nation seems to be in a fitter state for it, than the French at the present moment. The present national assembly, unacquainted with the functions of the important business devolved upon them, seems to be exceedingly embarrassed on all occasions how to proceed. The levies of the taxes have fallen so exceedingly short of the necessary expenditure of the state, and the difficulty of enforcing the collection of these in the present state of affairs, seems to them to be such as to deter them from attempting it. To lose time, in these circumstances, would seem to threaten, in their eyes, evils of a more serious nature, than those they are going to encounter. In this deranged state of their finance, they have resolved to put arms in the hands of more than 300,000 men. To let

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