formal siege of Valette, the principal town of this island.

NAPLES

seems to be perfectly relieved from insurrection; for, the return of the King to his capital is announced by some of the papers as being to take place early in next month.

EGYPT.

The Turks have been successful against the French in this country, and have recaptured El Arisch, after a very severe conflict. Letters from Constantinople also state, that, when the Grand Vizier had advanced within three days' march of Cairo, he received overtures from General Kleber, requiring permission to evacuate Egypt with all his army, and to return to France. Dispatches more recently received state, that the Turks have granted the French three months for this purpose; and that Sir Sidney Smith had engaged, that the squadron under his immediate command should not interpose any obstacle to their departure. A degree of uncertainty, however, hangs about the particulars of this convention, though the fact itself does not appear to be at all doubtful.

RUSSIA.

The accounts in the foreign journals, on which we founded the statement in our last Retrospect, of the Russians having been again ordered to proceed to the Rhine, were, as it now appears, entirely false; but the Petersburg Gazette informs us, that, although the Russian troops have separated from the Austrians, they will nevertheless be employed against France; if not on the banks of the Rhine, yet certainly on the shores of the ocean, or elsewhere. Accordingly, we find that 45,000 troops are assembled at Riga and Revel, ready for embarkation as soon as the season shall open. One of the causes of misunderstanding between the Russian and Austrian Courts is said to have originated at the siege of Ancona, in which although the Russians assisted with a considerable body of land and sea forces, the Russian commander was not consulted when the capitulation was made. A treaty of alliance has been concluded between the Emperor Paul and the King of

SWEDEN,

of which the articles are very numerous; but the following are the most important:

1. The two contracting parties reciprocally guarantee all their territories, provinces, and possessions in Europe.—2. There shall be the most intimate correspondence between his Majesty the King of Sweden, and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias; and they shall give immediate warning of the evils they see impending on the dominions of each other, and shall use all their endeavours to avert or repair them.—3. If it should happen that one of the parties should be attacked in his European provinces, the other, as soon as he is desired, shall employ his good offices to put a stop to hostilities. In case these representations should be unsuccessful, troops shall be furnished in the proportion which follows: His Swedish Majesty, when called upon, shall send 8000 foot, and 2000 troopers, or dragoons; six ships of the line of 60 or 70 guns, and two frigates of 30 guns each; and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias shall furnish to his ally 12,000 foot, and 4000 troopers, or dragoons, nine ships of the line of 60 or 70 guns, and three frigates of 30 guns each.—4. If the succours stipulated for by the present treaty shall be found insufficient for the defence of either of the contracting parties who shall be attacked, the other shall assist him with a greater number of troops and vessels, if his own situation will allow him. (This alliance shall last during the space of 8 years.)

With

PORTUGAL

also, the Emperor of Russia has concluded a treaty of defensive alliance, nearly similar to the foregoing in its leading principles; and the French papers strongly state indications of a rupture between the Courts of St. Petersburg and of

BERLIN.

Certain it is, that military forces from both these powers are assembling in the vicinity of Polish Prussia; but the object of their movements time only can bring to light.

The following curious article is extracted from the French journal the Gazette de France; and it is particularly entitled to the attention of our readers, from the respectable name of the Abbé Sicard, the preceptor of the deaf and dumb, which appears subscribed to the first letter.

"Citizen, *Paris, Feb.* 21.

You are undoubtedly not yet acquainted with the extraordinary experiment which is publicly displayed in No. 40, in the street of the priests of St. Germaine l'Auxerrois, since you have not made any mention of it in your journal, in which you are careful to insert every thing which can interest, not only politicians, but also those who cultivate the sciences, learning, and the arts. I think that I shall conform to your wishes, by recounting what I have seen, and in detailing the sentiments which I have felt on this occasion. In a small chamber of this house, in the third story, and within a grated circumference, is seen a chest of white glass, suspended to the cieling by four little chains, which keep it perfectly separated from every other body. This chest is transparent, and penetrable to the eye in its whole extent. To one of its extremities is adapted an opaque tube of horn, by which a voice is heard, which appears to be that of a young girl, who replies

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plies distinctly to every question put to her. The impression of breathing, and the heat of the air of respiration impregnated with the odour of liquors which she has taken, are also perceived. I thought at first that this voice was that of a ventriloquist, and that it was the voice of him who shewed the curiosity. But on the morrow my astonishment was extreme, when this pretended ventriloquist went out of the chamber with another, and when I put new questions with a voice so low, that I was not heard by any of the other spectators, to find that the replies were perfectly just, and well articulated. The breathing was the same. What can be the cause of a phænomenon so astonishing? Where is the person who replies to the questions put to him? What are the means of communication with this opaque, I would almost say magical tube of horn, since the chest in which the one end of this horn is placed is perfectly separated from every other body; since the tube itself is perfectly isolated, at least as far as relates to the end which might be supposed to be the communicating medium between the person who asks, and the person who makes the replies? This is the secret of the inventor of this wonderful machine, which appears to me well worthy of exciting public curiosity, and which will not fail to give occasion for the researches of those who wish to comprehend and to explain every thing.

SICARD."

We were not, in reality, informed of the phænomenon of which Citizen Sicard here speaks. It was sufficient that it had excited his attention to excite our curiosity. We went a few days ago to the present residence of this young Invisible. We will not attest the truth of the details given by Citizen Sicard. The testimony of no other person is necessary to make them believed. We will not undertake to explain what he has declared himself unable to explain. We will only join our admiration to his, and we shall give an account of the negative and positive ideas which what we saw and heard produced upon us.

1. We thought, as Sicard says that he did, at first that the perfectly distinct sounds which we heard proceeded from a ventriloquist, who, it is pretended, can give to his words the direction which he pleases. We intreated, as Sicard had done, the person who presided in the house to leave the place where we were; and we spoke so low to the *Invisible*, that it was altogether impossible that any other person than *it* should hear what we said, especially as we were perfectly sure that we were not near any conductor of the voice besides the horn, which ended within the chest of glass, which is perfectly isolated.

2. We could not believe that the questions which we put could be heard out of glass, nor that the answers could come from without it, because the tube, which serves as a conductor for the questions and replies, communicates only with the chest into which the words are conveyed, and from which they return; and because the chest does not communicate with any thing but the chains which suspend it to the walls and cieling.

3. If it be said that magnetical or electrical virtues are introduced for some purpose in the operation; we would ask, how it happens by any of *these virtues* that the *Young Invisible* sees and names, without ever being deceived, the object which is held in the hollow of the hand, such as a piece of silver, a watch, &c. the surface of which is held up to the orifice of the tube in such a manner, that these objects cannot be perceived from any other point.

After being unable to find the explanation of this phænomenon in any of these means by which, in other cases, the most marvellous effects are produced in physics, we concluded, that perhaps there was in the chest a *really invisible girl*, a dwarf much smaller than that of the King of Poland *. If this is the fact, it must be only from 12 to 15 inches in length, and about 5 or 6 in thickness; this being all the space of the chest which cannot be seen, it being behind the communicating tube. The questions which we put to the Invisible, and the replies which it made, were as follow: What age are you?—4 years of age. Where were you born?—At Marseilles: (she has an accent absolutely provincial.) What is your name?—Françoise. Are you pretty?—No. Are you good?—Yes, though sometimes ill-natured. What is your position in this chest?—I am reclining. Do all the questions which are put to you not disgust you?—Never; but I am sometimes very much wearied. Let me feel your breath. (The Invisible immediately made it strongly felt.) I feel your breath very well; but Citizen Sicard observes, that he also felt the smell of liquors, which I do not perceive.—That, perhaps, was owing to my having taken liquor that day in the morning: to-day I breakfasted on coffee. How is it that you see every thing that is presented to you; that you hear every thing that is said to you, and that no person can discover you?—That is the secret of those to whom I belong, &c. I went away, persisting in saying, that, though I could not pretend to have discovered the solution of the mystery, I would rather believe it to

* This dwarf died at Nanci, June 9, 1764. A wooden shoe served it a long time for a cradle. At six years old it was 15 inches high, and at 16, 29. History speaks of a dwarf, who, at 30 years of age, was only 18 inches high; it belonged to Queen Henrietta, of France, wife of Charles I.

be

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be a dwarf than any other thing. "The greater number profess themselves of this opinion," said the professor of the secret, with a smile. *Gazette de France.*

The proprietors of an inclosure near *Montpellier*, in digging up a plantation, discovered a tomb in which was inclosed an alabaster urn, hermetically sealed, and containing ashes, an alabaster incense pot, the handle of which represented the head of a ram; a sepulchral lamp, and several pieces of money, struck in the reign of Domitian. Another discovery, for the amusement of antiquaries, has also been made in France. A temple has lately been found, which was dedicated to Ceres, and which, according to history, was situated on the road from Paris to Chartres.

Ireland.

Dublin, Mar. 24. The proceedings upon the question of Union are now drawing to a close; they will have completely passed the Parliament of Ireland in the course of this week, and an Adjournment will immediately take place for a month or 5 weeks.

Dublin, March 23. This morning two Students of our University, Messrs. Conlan and Morgan, in consequence of an unhappy dispute the preceding evening, met in the fields near Harcourt-street. They fired at the same moment, when Mr. C.'s shot unfortunately took place in the temple of his antagonist, and killed him on the spot. The surviving combatant has been expelled the College, and the seconds rusticated.

Scotland.

Jan. 2. This day there was a heavy fall of snow in *Ayrshire, Lanarkshire*, and in nearly the whole of Scotland, South of Edinburgh and Glasgow, which impeded travelling in every direction: the mails could not travel by carriage, nor on horseback; during the night, the snow had so nearly filled up the track of the road, and was so drifted into the Glens, that no one would venture. Two women, on their way from Edinburgh to Glasgow, perished in the snow, about three miles from Glasgow. Their bodies were found by the Glasgow carriers. Through the inclemency of the season, no fewer than 40 score of sheep have perished on one farm in *Berwickshire.*

Country News.

Jan. 5. Yesterday, as the children of the Rev. Mr. Jenkins, of Bridgewater, were playing in the nursery, the foot of a beautiful little girl, about three years old, slipt, and she fell upon the fire. The nursery maid, who was in the adjoining room, being alarmed by the screams of the children, fled to the poor girl's assistance, but she was so dreadfully burnt that she expired in the greatest agonies this morning.

Jan. 10. As Mr. Hobdell, wheelwright, at *Ridge-Hill*, in Hertfordshire, was hastily putting on his coat, in stretching out his arm he struck one of his children, of about two years old, who was standing on a chair at the breakfast table; and the poor infant, falling with the back of its head against the edge of a chair, received so dreadful a hurt as to occasion its death the next day, notwithstanding every possible assistance was afforded. The Coroner's Jury have brought in a verdict of Accidental Death.

Hertford, Mar. 4. The Assizes finished here this day, when W. Criswell and James Burgess received sentence of death for a burglary in the dwelling-house of Nath. Camp. It appeared on the trial, that the prosecutor Camp, an old man, with his wife, resided in a cottage near half a mile from Stansted; that it was generally understood about the country, that he had acquired money, which he kept in his house, which is supposed to have been the reason that induced the prisoners to select him to make their prey of; and accordingly, on the night of December 19, when he and his wife were in bed, they broke into the house, knocked him down with a large ashen stick, and cut him with a knife in the neck, and across the calves of his legs; they also cut his wife through her stays and shift to the skin, and in the neck, threatening, with the most horrid imprecations, to finish them by cutting their throats, if they did not discover where the money was; and, after searching the whole house without finding any money, took some spoons and other things, and set the old man in a chair telling him he might sit and bleed to death. They were ordered to be executed near the spot where the offence was committed, which was accordingly done, on Friday the 13th, amidst the greatest concourse of people ever assembled in the county, except at an election: the lane, being narrow, was entirely filled. The Criminals behaved in the most daring and abandoned manner. Criswell, who was a native of Hodesdon, was of gigantic and savage appearance, always armed with a bill, and ready for every desperate action, and it was found necessary to chain him by the arm in his cell after conviction. Burgess was born at Ware. The wife of the prosecutor had the fairest opportunity of knowing the persons of both by the clear light of the moon, which came into the room through two opposite windows, so that the trial was short. Waters was executed on the Wednesday for robbing the Duke of Leeds's steward, on the highway near North Mimms.

Chelmsford, Mar. 7. The business at *Nisi Prius*, before Mr. Justice Heath, finished this day with a Traverse before a Special Jury, against Messrs. Williams and Hughes, of Peter-House, Cambridge, and Messrs. Purne and Gardner, of Dunmow, in Essex, for

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AND

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PRODESSE ET DELECTARE  E PLURIBUS UNUM.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, *Gent.*

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