

L O N D O N, Aug. 31.

The gazette contains his majesty's order in council for prohibiting the exportation of gun-powder, salt petre, or any sort of arms or ammunition for the space of three months longer, to commence from this day the twenty-third instant.

The following is part of a letter received from Brett: the Vigilante and Modeste, two French East-Indiamen, are arrived in this port in a distressed condition, having fallen in with three American privateers, who taking them for English, immediately ran along side, and fired their broadsides into them, when a regular engagement ensued, which lasted a considerable time; at length, after the loss of a number of men, and the greatest part of their rigging shot away, the Indians were obliged to cease firing. The captains of the privateers when they found their mistake, gave them all the assistance that was in their power.

Letters were received yesterday at the admiralty from captain Boteler, late commander of his majesty's ship the Ardent, of which the following are authentic particulars: that on the appearance of the French and Spanish fleets off Plymouth, having hoisted English colours, were taken by the captain for the English fleet, who having received orders to join Sir Charles Hardy, made sail towards them. Captain Boteler soon perceived his mistake, having almost immediately as he discovered his error, received a broadside from a French ship of 74 guns. This he most gallantly fought, and was endeavouring to effect his escape, when two other ships of the same force bore down, and engaged him likewise. Notwithstanding the unequal contest, like a brave Briton, he would not strike his colours till such time as he found his ship unable to keep above water; as soon as he struck he made his situation known to the enemy, who instantly hoisted out their boats, by which means himself and all the remains of a brave crew were saved; for in a few minutes the Ardent went to the bottom.

Sept. 2. On Saturday a captain of a regiment was examined before lord George Germaine, Mr. De Grey, and Sir John Fielding, at lord George's office at the treasury, charged with holding a traitorous correspondence with the Americans, with the captain were examined a person who some time ago kept a lottery-office, and another person, clerk to a merchant on the French coast. The reasons for apprehending them are principally as follows: the lottery-office keeper was on Saturday last at Margate going to embark for Ostend, and from his conduct and expressions had given reason for being suspected, making several boasts, that he was in the secret of all the secretaries of state, and their offices open to him: From other circumstances he gave reason for captain Grant, of the Prince of Wales American regiment, to apprehend him, when his papers were examined, many of which proved inexplicable for want of the mode of deciphering he made use of, and those which could be made out discovered a correspondence between him, the captain above mentioned and the clerk.

In consequence of this discovery, captain Grant brought the office-keeper up to London, and carried him to lord George Germaine, where Sir John Fielding was sent for, and after several hours examination, sufficient proofs appeared against him of a secret correspondence with American officers, agents, &c. and he was committed to Tothill-fields Bridewell. The same evening about 11, the clerk was apprehended at his lodgings in Piccadilly, and intelligence being obtained of the captain, he was apprehended, and taken before Sir John Fielding, his papers, &c. secured, and he committed to Clerkenwell Bridewell. On Monday morning they were all re-examined as above mentioned, and from the nature of the correspondence were re-committed, every thing appearing to criminate the captain.

This day an express arrived at the admiralty, with an account of Sir Charles Hardy being left well with his fleet on Tuesday off the Lizard.

Another account says, advice is received that Sir Charles Hardy had arrived in the channel, and by a shift of the wind had fortunately got to the leeward of the enemy, who could not escape him, without risking a general engagement.

On Tuesday night some dispatches were brought to the admiralty-office from Plymouth, with advice that several French transports, having sailed the French and Spanish combined fleets, were driven upon that coast, and by the

assistance of some men of war that were coming there, it was expected that they would be all taken.

The St. Joseph, captain Coster, from the Savannah, with 3,000,000 of specie on board, is arrived at Cadix. She left five others, that sailed in company with her, ten days after they sailed, in a gale of wind.

The St. Joseph, Lack, from Buenos Ayers, bound to Cadix, with merchandize and some dollars, is taken by the Winchcombe privateer, and carried into Lisbon.

Seven Spanish ships loaded with wines, provisions, &c. are taken and sent into Gibraltar, by the Nonfuch, Achilles, and Fame cutters.

Ext. of a letter from Co-wes, August 31.

Arrived his majesty's sloop of war, the Cabot, with a fleet of ships from Gurney. Two Dutch ships and a Swede, laden with salt, are taken by the Oxford privateer of this port, on their passage from one French port to another, and carried into Poole.

Ext. of a letter from Plymouth, August 7.

Two days since a schooner arrived here express from the governor of Guernsey to lord Blandford, with an account that 30 sail of French transports, full of troops, sailed by the island to the westward, as supposed to join the French and Spanish fleets. The camp in Buckland Down is broke up, and the South Devon militia are encamped in a field adjoining the lines, between this place and the dock; the royal scotch at Maker, the highlanders near Cauland, and the Hampshire near Peulce Point; upwards of 200 men, mostly sailors, belonging to Kingston and Cauland have taken arms as volunteers, and joined the camps. A battery is erecting at Mount Edgcombe, where, by permission of his lordship a number of trees have been felled to raise a breast-work; another is erected at Cauland and a third on the opposite shore, near the north corner. A very considerable number of volunteers are also raised in this town, who are paid by a subscription of the inhabitants which already amounts to 1000l. and two independent companies, under the command of gentlemen who have served in the army, and now reside here, are formed. In short, the old English spirit has shewn itself here in so peculiar a manner, that we are well prepared to meet the Monarchs and Dons, should they attempt a landing on our shore.

Admiralty-Office, August 31, 1779.

Extract of a letter from vice admiral Duff, commander in chief of his majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean. Dated on board his majesty's ship Panther, at Gibraltar, the 20th of July, 1779, to Mr. Stephens.

On the 10th of this month I received intelligence that five xebecs, with a number of Spanish vessels supposed to be under their convoy, lay in the road of Malaga, and might soon put to sea on their voyage to the westward; I therefore immediately ordered the Childers sloop to proceed a few leagues to the eastward, but to cruise in sight of this place, in order to look out for the said convoy, and upon discovering the same to throw out a signal appointed to convey such information; which being observed to have been made the next day after her sailing on this service at about four P. M. determined me to order the cables of the Panther and Enterprize (the only ships here) to be shipped; about which time two of the xebecs had approached near to this bay in chase of three cutter privateers, who, having taken possession of one of their convoy, a Sætic, were towing her under the batteries of Europa, which they effected. But the moment the xebecs discovered the ships to be in motion, they hauled their wind, and made sail for Ceuta, and in their progress thither one of them was fired upon by, and exchanged a few shot with the Childers. I hastened with the ships to the sloop's support, but there being little wind, and the xebecs having the weather gage, they soon got out of reach, and the night closing fast upon us, these xebecs with a few of the convoy escaped to Ceuta, the others, being three in number, (all which, as well as the former, mounted from 26 to 32 guns each) with some other armed vessels made off to the eastward, by which means their convoy was effectually dispersed.

The cutters above mentioned, in course of the night, took three more Sætics, the Childers destroyed another nearly under the batteries of Ceuta, and at day-break in the morning, I gave chase with the ships, came up with and took two other Sætics, of the above convoy; and after this, seeing that the two xebecs (one wearing a broad pennant, said to be commanded by commodore Barcello, son to the present admiral) had secured themselves under the fortress of Ceuta,

and that the others had also escaped us, I proceeded with the Panther, Enterprize, and Childers, to this bay, and again anchored here in the afternoon of the 12th instant.

The prizes are all laden with useful articles for this garrison, their cargoes consisting chiefly of wines, brandies, and some small quantities of bread and other like provisions; of which commodities are also the cargoes of eight other Spanish prizes taken by his majesty's vessels, and the privateers from this port, that have been furnished with letters of reprisal by governor Elliot.

GLASGOW, Aug. 2. This day all the West India ships belonging to this place arrived safe at Greenock. Admiral Byron with 22 sail of the line convoyed them some leagues off the American coast.

PORTSMOUTH, Aug. 3. Yesterday morning passed by this port the Jamaica fleet, for the Downs, which was convoyed home by the Winchester, the Camel, the Lynx, and Druid men of war. The Lynx and Druid were left to protect the trade to Bristol, and the other two are passed by in the fleet. The above fleet off the banks of Newfoundland were parted in a fog, but soon collected, except 12 sail, one of which arrived on Friday at Spithead, called the Green River, captain Annis.

12th. The Earl of Bute is now raising at Harrowgate 600 men, by giving an additional bounty of three guineas to such men who shall enter into the regulars or marines with the recruiting officers there.

14th. We hear that the noble offer of Sir Watkin Williams Wynne to raise 3000 men at his own expence has been most graciously accepted by the king. They are to be one regiment of three battalions, and the whole to be commanded by his royal highness the prince of Wales.

16th. Orders are given for all his majesty's ships and vessels of war, from frigates of 16 guns down to small cutters, to be immediately provided with boarding nets, hand grenades, stink pots, close quarters, &c.

Aug. 18. It is calculated, that including the regulars, militia, new raised corps, volunteer companies and adlocutions, upwards of four score thousand men are now in arms, in England alone.

By the latest advices from Gibraltar we hear, the Moorish admiral has entered the Mediterranean in a ship of 54 guns, with 12 ships of similar force, under his command; and that it was expected the first object of his cruise would be the Spanish trade.

COX-HEATH, August 31. Yesterday the troops under order of march paraded in front of their lines, and marched for their respective destinations, which are on the continent near this place, the light-infantry grandier companies excepted; who marched for Lewis in Suffolk.

The king's marquee, &c. is all ready for his reception; it is noble; but very plain; it contains twelve different apartments in a very small space of ground.

It is amazing to see with what great agility the troops have thrown up different entrenchments, and as they are only for practice, we can with safety inform our readers, that on the right of the line a breast-work of 174 feet in length, and 14 in height, on which is mounted 62 pieces of artillery, was begun and very completely finished in 48 hours, under the sole direction of colonel Montreuil.

On the left of the line another of the same construction, but with only embrasures for 10 pieces of artillery.

In the front, about two miles from the line, upon a demi-circle, intrenchments of 18 feet high are thrown up; batteries of fascines and gabions are made, and the whole line cuts a very martial appearance.

Amispolis, October 22, 1779.

FOR SALE. THE UNITED STATES LOTTERY TICKETS in the third class. They go off very rapidly, from the advantage to the adventurer in this class compared with the preceding ones: the holders therefore of tickets in the second class, who purchased of the subscribers, being entitled to pre-emption in this, are requested to be speedy in their application to renew, otherwise they will be disposed of to others. JOHN DAVIDSON.

ALMANACKS, for the year of our Lord 1780, to be sold at the Printing Office.