

MARYLAND GAZETTE

F R I D A Y, MAY 12, 1780.

PARIS, Dec. 23. YESTERDAY about 10 o'clock in the morning count d'Estaing arrived at Versailles. He went immediately to the house of the minister of the marine, where he stayed about two hours. M. de Sartine then conducted him to the king's palace, and presented him to his majesty, who expressed his extreme satisfaction at his conduct in the most gracious manner. M. d'Estaing, in speaking afterwards to one of his friends of the reception the king had given him, said, "I met with a reception infinitely beyond my merits." This modest remark shows how greatly he was affected by the king's goodness.

Messrs. de Vaudreuil and de Bougainville, captains of ships in count d'Estaing's fleet, are just appointed admirals.

From the MADRID GAZETTE of January 11, 1780. "Notwithstanding the authenticity of the account pretended to be given in England, in the Gazette, under the title of letters addressed to lord George Germaine, and to the secretary of the admiralty, dated St. Fernando de Omoa, our doubts of the facts therein mentioned are justified by advices come to our hands, and which facts are known to every one. "There was little occasion for surprise at the reduction of the fort of St. Fernando de Omoa, it being but a short time since it began to be built, and had been retarded by many accidents. It is not probable that in a fort so little advanced there should have been found any artillery of consequence, nor a sufficient number of troops to withstand a regular attack. In consideration of the above, the court of Spain had long since sent orders to carry up into the interior parts all the merchandises and effects which should arrive in that port. As to the king's funds, it is known he had none; it was, therefore, impossible for the governor to offer to ransom the fort. The funds which are intended for Europe are not ordinarily sent to Omoa; nor, in fine, no vessel with quicksilver has been sent to this province for years, it not being wanted there. From all which it results, that the English could not possibly have taken the rich prizes their Gazette pretends; and should be careful, in future, to let their relations be attended with more precision and truth."

LONDON, Jan. 6. This morning the Dutch ambassador held a long conference with lord Hillsborough, at his office in Cleveland-row. Some say, that orders are gone down to Portsmouth for the Dutch ships to be brought round to the river, where they are to remain till the affair is determined in doctors-council, whether they are legal prizes.

On Tuesday orders were sent to Portsmouth for another fleet of ships to be got ready as soon as possible for channel service, and to guard our coasts, and it is said Sir Charles Hardy is to have the command of it.

It is confidently asserted that one, if not two of our admirals, by the particular desire of the empress of Russia, will, or have obtained leave to take on them the command of a part of the Russian navy.

The French ambassador at the Hague has notified the king his master's intention of marching an army to the relief of Holland, in case of any attack from Hanover. It is confidently said that a commission has passed the great seal, and is gone to Sir Joseph Yorke, to enable him to open a treaty with any agents, commissioners, or ambassadors, from the American congress.

The king of Prussia, it is confidently asserted, has given his final answer to the court of London, which is, that "he cannot think seriously of taking any part in the contest between Great-Britain and the house of Bourbon, unless the peace of the empire be disturbed by some one of the belligerent powers." The answer of the empress of Russia is nearly conceived in the same terms, but not quite so explicit. The business of Ireland in parliament is drawing to a very critical state, either to unite the two kingdoms heartily, or to cause greater dif-

contents than ever: a little time will disclose the scene. Yesterday a commission passed the great seal, authorising Sir Henry Clinton, and Marriot Arbuthnot, Esq; or either of them, or in case of their death or removal, to the commander in chief in America, and the admiral on that station, to grant full and free pardon to any person or persons, or collective bodies of men, which form of pardon is inserted in the commission, and is as full as words can make it.

PHILADELPHIA, May 3. By a gentleman who arrived yesterday afternoon from Northampton county, we have the following disagreeable intelligence, viz.—On Tuesday morning, the 25th ult. Mr. Benjamin Gilbert's house and mill, on the Mahony; about 4 miles above Gnaden Hutten; 28 miles from Bethlehem, were burnt, and the whole family, viz. Benjamin Gilbert and his wife, with two daughters and a boy, Jesse Gilbert and his wife, lately married, Andrew Huger, a day-labourer, and two or three persons going to the mill, are either killed or carried off. Another son of Mr. Gilbert, with his wife and a child, who lived half a mile higher up on the creek, are also missing, and his house burnt. Samuel Dodson's daughter, going that morning to fetch some meal, has not returned, and it is supposed she fell into the hands of the murderers likewise. The families around them were ignorant of the whole, until all was over; they saw the smoke, but as they knew Mr. Gilbert was cleaning some land, they supposed the fire was from that; the barn was left, the horses gone, one bull and one cow stab'd and half burnt, the other cattle running in the fields; the report of but one gun was heard, which was in the house and discharged itself in the fire. Daily reports of mischief done by the Indians.

Sunday last arrived from Martinico, the continental frigate confederacy, captain Harding, with whom came passenger William Bingham, Esq; Same day arrived a French brig from Martinico, loaded with salt, brandy, dry goods, &c.

From the intelligence brought by the above vessels, it plainly appears, that France is making the greatest preparations imaginable for an invasion of Britain early in the spring; that their finances are in the most prosperous train, while those of Britain are at the lowest ebb, and become the subject of common derision; that the attention of our grand ally and of the Spaniards to America is very great; and that Jamaica will be attacked this summer with a great force; which will certainly fall, if the intelligence we have received by a vessel arrived here, in 17 days from Port-au-Prince, be confirmed, viz. that the French fleet have taken St. Lucia; and 8 or 9 English ships of the line.

By a gentleman who arrived here last Sunday from Charles-town, which place he left the 10th ult. we have the following intelligence.

Some time before the enemy crossed Ashley river, colonel Washington with a party of horse reconnoitering, came up with a light party of the enemy, on which an engagement ensued, when our people took a colonel Hamilton of the North-Carolina refugees, a doctor Smith, and seven privates, and it is said they had seven killed. On our side we had only one man badly wounded. This action happened within one hundred yards of their flying army, consisting of light-infantry and grenadiers, whole marching across the field to get in our rear, obliged colonel Washington to order a retreat otherwise their whole party would have been cut to pieces.

The day that the enemy approached the lines on Charles-town neck, colonel Laurens with a small party had a brush with the advance body of the enemy, in which captain Boman of the North-Carolina forces fell, much lamented, major Herne, and two privates were wounded, the enemy's loss was reported to be from twelve to sixteen killed. A French gentleman, who was volunteer in the action, says he counted eight, and a highland deserter said a colonial St. Clair was mortally wounded.

On Friday the 7th ult. about three o'clock in the afternoon, general Woodford and his brigade arrived in town, after a most rapid march of

500 miles in thirty days, in perfect health and high spirits.

On Saturday the 8th, between 5 and 5 o'clock, the enemy's fleet passed fort Moultrie, in a heavy gale, and anchored between fort Johnston and the town, just out of reach of our guns from the town, where they continued when he let off. They were so covered with the thunder storm as to be invisible near half the time of their passing. One of their frigates had a fore-top-mast shot away by the fort, and a store ship was so injured in her rudder, as to be incapable of working, and the gale being fresh she went on shore, under the guns of our half-moon battery on the point of the island, which obliged them to burn her, to prevent her falling into our hands; after burning a while she blew up. We had not a man hurt in the fort, though they kept up a brisk fire as they passed.

Our garrison in good health and high spirits, the town well fortified and defended by a numerous artillery, Sir Henry approaching very slowly, and our men longing for the hour in which he may afford them the opportunity of teaching the temerity of his present expedition. He reports that we shall soon have a respectable force in his rear.

Extract of a letter from Ireland, dated February 7, 1780.

"Ireland did not suffer remarkably by the American war till about a year since, when the manufacturers being almost totally unemployed, and going about the streets of Dublin, in parties of 30 or 40, begging, Ireland began to exhibit a scene of the greatest poverty and distress. A long embargo on provisions, implicitly continued adieu not a little to the mischief. The value of lands fell one third at least. The revenue diminished near one half, by which the civil officers were unpaid, and the influence of the crown was reduced; the court favours were less thought of and sought after. In the mean time, volunteers to the number of 40,000, being formed into military corps to protect the kingdom, in the absence of most of our usual guards of soldiers, these began to threaten the ministry, and talk of independence. When the parliament met, a very extraordinary scene was opened, patriots, placemen, courtiers, and pensioners, joined in petitions for the freedom of commerce; and the liberties of Ireland became the public scheme. The men who possessed lucrative offices seemed disposed to sacrifice all for the good of their country. The virtuous struggle has already met with deserved success. We have obtained liberty to export all kinds of woollens, linens, cottons, and glass, manufactured, together with haberdashery wares, to all parts except the East-Indies; and to import all the produce of the West-Indies and America, subject to the same duties as in England; besides some other advantages.

"The English ministry seem determined to conquer North-America, if they beggar the nation. They talk of sending out 10,000 fresh troops in the spring; but they chiefly depend on divisions to happen among the Americans. Many ministerial pamphlets are publishing, to show the immense value and importance of North-America to Britain, and how absolutely necessary the reduction thereof is to her very existence. His present year will cost 32 millions, and encrease the national debt to 200 millions."

The following is a translation of a letter, from admiral Parker to Mr. de Motte Piquet, which does honour to the character of the English commander; as well as to the great merits of the French admiral.

SIR, I HAVE received the letter which your excellency did me the honour to address to me, by the little St. Michael. Although you have taken from me, very lately, a frigate and many other vessels, I yet cannot forbear to esteem and admire you. The conduct your excellency displayed in the action of the 25th of the month, fully justifies the high reputation you enjoy among us; and I must acknowledge that I could not, without some share of envy, be a witness of the abilities you displayed on that occasion. Our enmities are transient; they depend upon