

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, JUNE 30, 1780.

POUGHKEEPSIE, June 5.

His excellency the governor, being at Kingston, when intelligence was received, that a party of the enemy, consisting chiefly of Tories with some Indians and British soldiers, to the number of 400, under the command of Sir John Johnson, had, on the 23d ult. made an attack on the frontier inhabitants of Conawaga, Conajohary, &c. near Johnstown, in Tryon county, where they murdered and scalped 11 persons, among whom were Mr. Fonda, senior, colonel Fisher and two sons, the latter of whom they barbarously tortured to death, took about a dozen prisoners, and got about 150, chiefly of Sir John's tenants, to join them. They plundered the inhabitants of the most valuable cloaths and effects, with which they loaded 70 horses, and burnt the rest with the houses, destroyed all the cattle and stock they could find, except the horses, which they carried off with them, together with the negroes belonging to the inhabitants.

His excellency, on receiving the intelligence, on Thursday the 25th ult. immediately set out from Kingston, and proceeded to Albany; whence with a considerable body of militia, hastily assembled, he set out for Lake George, the militia continuing to join him by the way. From Lake George with his troops, he crossed the lake on Tuesday last, and was proceeding to Ticonderoga, where he was to be joined by a body of the militia from the Grants. And as it is reported and believed, he has taken most of the batteries of the enemy, and got beyond them, it is hoped he may cut off their retreat, and be able to give a good account of them.

PHILADELPHIA, June 20.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of veracity in Madrid, to another in this town, dated January 27, 1780.

"Our sea and land forces have besieged Gibraltar from the month of July, and reduced that garrison to such a pitch, that exhausted of provisions, weary of fatigue, full of sickness, and only sustained with the hopes of succour, which the court of London had promised since the beginning of the war, and not coming, it was probable, that it would have surrendered in a short time, and that we would acquire without the spilling of blood to our dominions; that important place, the only one which art has hitherto looked upon as inexpugnable.

"The measures taken were the most adequate and proper to that intent, an army of 15,000 men formed the siege by the land side, Sar Roquel lines were garrisoned with numerous batteries of guns and mortars, to hinder the sallies of the enemy, disturb them when good openings offered, and to permit as far as their fires reached, no vessel which could by bad weather evade the vigilance of our fleets; in the bay of Algeciras opposite Gibraltar, was Don Antonio Barcelo, with two ships of the line, some frigates, the herbacks, galleys, and other very swift sailing vessels, distributed in the most convenient places, to intercept any enemy or neutral vessel which could intend to get near the place; another fleet of 11 ships of the line and some frigates, under the command of Don Juan de Langara, was on the Streight's mouth, to impede any suspicious vessel going into the Mediterranean sea.

"Whilst the Spanish and French fleet could keep the seas, England being of inferior naval force, was limited to the defence of her own island, every moment feeling a powerful invasion, when the winter made the seas insupportable, Don Louis de Cordova came to Cadix, with 17 ships of the line, leaving three at Corunna for the defence of those coasts, and the rest of the fleet, composed of 30 ships of the line and a good many frigates, went into Brest harbour, in readiness to sail again, at the first warning.

"In this situation it appeared impossible, that the English intended to send naval forces that could succour Gibraltar, if small, they would fall in the hands of the fleet which kept the Streight's mouth; if numerous, a party of the fleet at Brest could come out in their pursuit, and at least if blockaded in Brest, and if not, would make them useless for next campaign the furious hurricanes and bad weather

which for the space of two months had reigned in all the seas, favoured very much the combination of this plan.

"Against a situation which left so few resources—the British ministry knowing the situation of Gibraltar, and fearing the clamours of the people, for the loss of a place so well accommodated for trade, resolved upon an obstinate plan, against natural reason and policy, and only could have good issue by one of the most extraordinary chances of luck;—they sent a fleet of 23 ships of the line and a good many frigates, escorting a large number of provision loaded ships and transports with troops to the succour of Gibraltar, consequently there were circumstantial advices of the preparations of this enterprise, the most active orders were dispatched, to Don Miguel Gascon, to sail immediately with 24 ships of the line in, their pursuit, but sundry unforeseen accidents, and the boisterousness of the weather, retarded for some days his sailing, the same accidents hindered the fleet under Don Louis de Cordova to join that on the entrance of the Streights, which after doing their most active endeavours, were obliged to go into Cadiz bay, much damaged by the weather.

"The English fleet, commanded by admiral Rodney, appeared the 16th instant near that of Don Juan de Langara, that on account of the bad weather having separated three of his ships from the squadron, he had only 8 of the line and two frigates, a thick fog which rose before day light, hindered him the sight of the English forces until they were under gun ship, the sight in these circumstances, was impracticable, altho' Langara not to expose his people to an evident sacrifice, intended it at the beginning, but seeing that he could not save all his ships, intended to take the most glorious part, and sell dear to the enemy a victory which assured them the terrible number of forces; an engagement ensued, the most cruel and bloody that has happened in an age, each Spanish ship was attacked by three or four English, all at once, which met a heroic opposition, the Santo Domingo after two hours engagement had the bad luck of blowing up; the San Lorenzo that came to her assistance after having done great damage to the enemy got into Cadiz, at which place had already entered the frigates and the ships which had separated from the squadron; two ships the enemy had captured favoured by a storm which rose almost at the same time, although disabled, and with part of an English crew on board, likewise arrived at the port of Cadiz: the three remaining ships of which we have no tidings as yet, amongst them is the commodore, who was still engaging the day after with all the English fleet.

"The damage that the last has sustained from the storms and engagement, the affect shows it, and it is believed to be greater than what is yet known. Two English ships got into Lisbon disabled, and so much shattered by the bad weather, that it thought will be unfit for service. Three more have been rowing at the waves off Cadiz, disabled near Cadiz; and it is visible that our vessels may have made prizes of them, or have stranded against the rocks; some have got into Gibraltar very much disabled, it is said that one was sunk in the action; the rest carried away by the strength of the currents and hurricanes, have got into the Mediterranean sea, with all the numerous convoy which they escorted; and at present, there are no advices of any succour of provisions or troops arrived at that place.

"It is much to be believed, that before the enemy can get again to the Gulf, Don Gascon's fleet will get there, as according to advices, had already passed the coast of Galicia. Should this be the case, the English vessels dispersed by the engagement, may easily be defeated, as they have not had the good luck of getting into port, or perhaps they may be shut up in some of them, which will make them useless for the next campaign, and frustrate the dangerous intentions of the court of London against those dominions, as this fleet was composed of the best of the British forces in Europe, which never were above forty ships of the line.

CONGRESS May 19, 1780.

RESOLVED, That if any person or persons shall take and procure to counterfeit, any person who shall prepare, engrave, stamp, forge, or print, or cause or procure to be prepared, engraved, stamped, forged, or printed, the counterfeit resemblance of any paper bills of credit, issued, emitted or made by congress, or who shall counterfeit or sign the name or names of the signers to any true bills to such counterfeit paper, with the intention that such counterfeit paper shall be passed in payments or received as genuine and good bills, whether the same be so passed or received or not; or who shall pay or tender in payment any such counterfeit money, or deliver the same to any other person or persons, with an intention that such counterfeit paper be passed, paid, or received, as and for good and genuine, knowing the same to be forged or counterfeited, upon every such conviction, and procuring a certificate thereof, under the hands of the judges before whom such conviction shall be had, or either of them, such person or persons shall receive of the continental loan officer of the State, where such conviction shall be had, the sum of two thousand dollars in the present continental currency, which the said loan officer is hereby directed and required to pay out of any public money in his hands, and to charge the same to the United States.

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Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

The barracks of Charles-town, as extensive and commodious as those in Philadelphia, have been fixed upon by the commissioners for the residence of our continental troops during their captivity. Commissaries and quarter-masters of our own have been appointed to procure provisions and other necessaries from the British commissary-general, and issue them to our soldiers.—Three field officers are to remain constantly in town to superintend the prisoners, &c. and are to be relieved as often as they please.—The other officers are also at liberty to visit their men at any time, by giving notice of the day and hour to the commissary of prisoners.—The general officers and some of the field officers were allowed to take up quarters, &c. any where within the limits of Christ Church parish; and the enemy seemed to be disposed to grant any reasonable request in consideration of the brave defence made by the troops.

The fourth day after the surrender of the town, the arsenal in which had been deposited all the stands of arms, taken by the enemy, was blown up by a few barrels of powder imprudently left there, and which accidentally took fire. Upwards of 40 British soldiers, and some Hessians perished in the explosion, and six troults were totally burnt.

Thirty six ladies of this city, have undertaken to solicit contributions from their sex, as an extraordinary bounty for our soldiery, and dividing the city into ten wards, have made their applications from house to house with great success, almost every one concurring with the greatest cheerfulness, their proportion, according to their circumstances and their ability.

ANNAPOLIS, June 30.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in St. Elizabeth, to his friend at West-River, dated June 12, 1780, per the ship Lincoln.

"We are much elated here by the arrival of 12 Spanish and 4 French ships of the line, with a number of transports, and about 12,000 troops, to reinforce the French fleet in these seas, which makes them now far superior to the English.—They all rendezvous at Martinique, and we have great reason to think a heavy blow will soon be made against most of the English islands; it has alarmed the inhabitants very much indeed.

"We have three French ships of the line come down here last night, they are waiting the result of some plan in agitation, but every thing seems to be kept a profound secret; at all events we presume they must soon have possession of most of these islands, for if they command the sea they must fall. God send it may soon put an end to the war, and restore us a prosperous, lasting, and happy peace."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Morris-town, dated June 25; 1780; 2 o'clock; p. m.

"The commander in chief has for several days past been extending the left wing of our