

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A Y 3, 1781.

ST. P I E R R E, (Martinique)
February 15, 1781.

THE privateer Holker, of Philadelphia, of 16 six pounders, sailed last week on a cruise, and returned into this port on the 12th instant, with an English cutter, the Hypocrite, of 12 nine and 4 twelve pounders, which she took the day before, between Grand Terre and Antigua, after an action of three quarters of an hour. The cutter chased the Holker, who effected to run from her till the cutter came up within close shot. The cutter had sailed from St. Kitts on the 8th, had 7 men wounded and 4 killed, among the latter is the captain; the Holker had 3 killed and 1 wounded.

A cutter lately arrived from England at St. Lucia, and sailed immediately to join admiral Rodney, and brought an account that a Corke fleet destined for the islands, under convoy of three ships of war, fell in with a French fleet, about 400 leagues from the islands, from which the cutter escaped with difficulty.

Two American frigates, one of 26 guns, from New-Orleans, and another of 30 guns, from Boston, have just arrived at this port. The captain of a vessel from Holland, which they retook off this island, and sent to New-England, informed them, that 43 days ago he met a large French fleet, and 2 days after an English fleet of transports, convoyed by one ship of the line and three frigates. The captain thinks they must have met each other.

Feb. 22. By a Holland vessel lately arrived at Amsterdum from the East-Indies, we are informed, that some French men of war have taken and carried into the Cape of Good-Hope, three of the English India ships.

The privateer Holker, of Philadelphia, left this harbour on Sunday last, and has taken an English brig, which left St. Lucia that day, and sent her in here. By persons on board the brig we learn, there were 13 ships of the line at St. Lucia ready for sea, and three others laid up. Rodney left 600 men at St. Eustatia.

March 1. The noted privateer Holker, commanded by capt. Kean, came in here on Monday last, with a ship of 16 guns, the cargo of which is valued at between 2 and 300,000 livres. This rich prize having sailed from Glasgow, touched at Corke, and has been about 6 weeks from the last mentioned port. Captain Kean met her to windward of Antigua, and took her after a single discharge of his musquetry, without the loss of a single man. According to the report of the captain of this prize a large fleet had sailed from the Thames 3 weeks before he left Europe, and a report prevailed in Ireland that it had fallen in with the fleet commanded by our vice-admiral, count d'Estaing, who had suffered very few of them to escape.

A small force was lately sent to surprise Desiderada, but their stratagem failed and they were taken prisoners and sent to Guadaloupe.

We are informed that 25 sail of merchantmen and transports are arrived at Lucia, which left Europe under convoy of two frigates. We know not whether they were part of the great fleet which sailed from the Thames; but it is taken for granted in the English islands, that count d'Estaing has made a rich capture. It is asserted that he took the ships of war which convoyed the fleet. Passengers lately arrived in a flag of truce from Montserrat confirm this account.

By a vessel which left Bayonne, Jan. 7, and arrived here yesterday, we hear, that on the 16th of December, the prince of Nassau had executed his project of a descent on the islands of Jersey and Guernsey with 12,000 men.

B O S T O N, April 12.

Since our last arrived at Marblehead, capt. Ross from Cadiz, in a passage of 3 weeks; he brings the following intelligence: that admirals Digby and Derby, had sailed for Gibraltar with 27 sail of the line: that in consequence of which count d'Estaing immediately sailed from Brest, with a large fleet, in order to intercept the British; and that a Spanish fleet, consisting of 32 sail of the line sailed from Cadiz bay, in pursuit of the above British fleet.

Capt. Ross likewise informs, that there had been a manifesto published in Cadiz, authorising all the subjects of the states of Holland to make reprisals of all British vessels that may fall in their hands: that their high mightinesses had entered into a state of alliance with France and Spain; and that they had hauled up nearly all the ships in Holland, in order, it is supposed, with a determination of fitting out a powerful fleet.

Last Sunday arrived at Newbury the privateer ship Thorn, captain Tucker, having captured a second prize, viz. a ship from Liverpool bound to Charlestown, mounting 16 six pounders, her cargo consists of wine brandy, dry goods, &c.

Captain Ross, from Cadiz, assures us, that the Dutch had declared war against Great-Britain the 12th of January: that immediately upon their receiving the British declaration, they laid an embargo through all the states, and applied themselves with the greatest expedition to the fitting out their men of war, and would have 25 sail of the line ready to put to sea by the first of April.

Before the Spanish fleet sailed from Cadiz, they were assured that the British fleet was not arrived near Gibraltar; as Cadiz is about 20 leagues from that place, and they had advice boats and other intelligence every day.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, April 21.

Accounts were yesterday received from Martinico, that 14 sail of French and Spanish ships of the line fell in with a fleet from Corke, consisting of about 130 sail, and that the greatest part of them were taken. A cutter which left the Corke fleet, and arrived at St. Lucia about the 12th of February, brought this news.

Tuesday last arrived here the ship Chatham, captain Smith, from Hispaniola.

Same day arrived a prize sloop, the Northampton, Moses Venris, late commander, from Charles-town bound to New-York, laden with tar, rice, &c. She was taken by the Fair American privateer, captain Jackways.

Yesterday arrived the brig Neptune, captain Burrows, from Cape Francois.

We hear from Fish-Kill, in the state of New-York, that on Sunday night, the 8th instant, a party of the enemy, of 30 men, plundered the house of Peter Jay, Esq; within five miles of that place. They arrived between nine and ten o'clock, and immediately planted sentinels round the house. They then searched every room in it, broke open all the closets, drawers, trunks, &c. took out what they liked, packed up the plunder, and continued thus employed, and in regaling themselves; till two o'clock in the morning, when they went away; having robbed

the family of all their clothing, except what they had on, linen, plate, and every thing else that was valuable and could be conveniently carried off.

April 24. Since our last arrived in the Delaware, the Martinico and Havannah fleets, consisting of about 20 sail of armed trading vessels, the greatest part of which have entered our harbour.

Saturday last arrived here the Fair American privateer, from a successful cruise.

A fleet of between 20 and 30 sail of men of war, was seen to windward of Martinico, when our vessels left that island. These ships are supposed to be from Old France, and are said to have on board between 10 and 15,000 men, which will make the forces of our allies equal, if not superior to that of the British in those parts.

Extract of a letter from St. Pierre, (Martinique) March 18, 1781.

"Arrived here the 5th instant, from Brest, in 44 days, a lugger with dispatches from the minister to the general the marquis de Bouillie, advising him of an approaching arrival of a large fleet, consisting of 400 sail, or thereabouts, among which he expects 30 sail of the line. I hope soon to be able to give you a more particular account of this piece of news."

Extract of a letter from Martinique, dated March 4.

"The states general are making the greatest preparations to fit out a formidable fleet: it is expected they will have 50 sail of the line ready by the beginning of the campaign. They have sent great reinforcements to their East-India possessions.

"Portugal has acceded to the armed neutrality; has 8 ships of the line already fit for sea, in the Tagus, and it is expected will have 18 by the beginning of April.

"The death of the empress queen will not at all derange the political system of the northern powers.

"It is confidently reported and believed, that count d'Estaing, in his passage from Cadiz to Brest, where he arrived the 8th of January, captured 40 sail of English transports and some ships of the line that escorted them, destined for the windward islands and Jamaica, on board of which was a considerable number of troops. The long passage of this fleet will prevent the reinforcement sailing for America as soon as was expected."

The last vessels from the Havannah bring the following interesting intelligence: on the 4th of January the important fort of San Juan de Nicaragua, on the Spanish main, was re-taken by his Catholic Majesty's forces; part of the garrison were taken, and the rest escaped in boats the preceding night, or else they would have shared the same fate. On the 18th ult. general Galvez forced the post on Rose's island, at the entrance of Pensacola bay; the 19th he entered the harbour with the convoy from the Havannah; the 23d arrived another convoy from New-Orleans, and on the 26th both divisions and the army, with another body of troops from Mobile, commanded by colonel Don Joseph Ezpeleta, were joined at Pensacola camp, preparing to begin the attack of that place. A fleet of 8 sail of British ships of the line having been, as it was said, dispatched to the succour of Pensacola, the Spanish fleet, under admiral Solano, having a body of troops on board, and some French ships under M. Montieull, making together 18 ships of the line, were immediately ordered to sea with a design to intercept the enemy.

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