

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1782.

H A G U E, March 2.

It is known for a certainty, that Friesland has determined that the Americans should be acknowledged as forming a free and independent state, and Mr. Adams admitted in quality of minister from this new republic.

March 7. The states of Friesland have come to the following resolution, and have sent it by their deputies to the assembly of their high mightinesses.

The demand of Mr. Adams having been carried to the assembly for delivering his credential letters from the United States of North-America to their high mightinesses, as also the ulterior address for the like purpose, praying a categorical answer by the same, and more amply mentioned in the notes of their high mightinesses of the 4th of May, 1782, and on the 9th of January, 1782; upon which it having been taken into consideration that the said Mr. Adams had probably some proposals to make to their high mightinesses, and to lay before them the principal articles and fundamentals on which the congress, on their part, are willing to enter into a treaty of commerce and friendship, or other affairs to propose, with regard to which dispatch is requisite.

It hath been thought proper to authorize the deputies of the province to the generality, and to charge them to manage the matters at the board of their high mightinesses, in such a manner that the said Mr. Adams be administered as soon as possible as minister from the congress of North America, with further orders to the said deputies, that if any other proposition be made by the same, to inform their noble mightinesses of it as soon as possible. And an extract of this present shall be sent for their information, and to conduct themselves accordingly.

So resolved at the state house the 26th of February, 1782.

Signed, A. J. V. SMINTA.

Which having been deliberated upon, the deputies of the provinces of Guelders, Zealand, Utrecht, and Groningen, have taken a copy of this resolution, to be communicated more amply to their respective provinces.

A M S T E R D A M, March 25.

The regency of this city have determined, it is said, for the acknowledgement of American independence. We are assured, that in the states of Holland the majority have already declared in favour of that measure. The states of Holland are not singular in demanding that proclamation. In the provinces of Guelders, Utrecht, and Overysel, the citizens and regents appear equally zealous in terminating so salutary an affair as soon as possible. The advantages which will result from it are amply set forth in their petitions.

L O N D O N, April 3.

It was decided in council, held at St. James's on Thursday evening last, that overtures of peace should be made immediately to the states general, and that the marquis of Cornwallis was to be appointed negotiator, and to repair on that business to the Hague.

If the new ministry should fail of success in their endeavours to restore the political and commercial dignity and importance of Great Britain, their situation will be extremely disagreeable; for no excuses can be admitted in favour of men who have unremittingly opposed the measures of their predecessors in office, and uniformly persevered in the declaration, that the projects they had suggested were the only possible means which the nation could be rescued from impending ruin.

Admiral Digby continues to command on the American station till an accommodation shall take place.

The last Irish papers contain the resolutions of delegates from 59 military corps met at Ballinasloe, and deputed from the different military corps of the province of Connaught. These resolutions exactly coincide with those entered into at Dungannon by the delegates for Ulster; and have the additional resolution, "As we are determined to share in the liberties of England, so we are determined to share in her fate."

S A L E B O R O, May 2.

The following, from Marblehead, is related as fact: On Friday last a small vessel entered that harbour, and stood to the upper end of it; and though she was not known, yet, appearing as a coaster, she remained unnoticed. Late in the ensuing night, a person, who had occasion to be out, saw 16 men, in a body, walking the streets; and one of them he observed, had a hanger, and though no weapons were seen about the others, yet as each of them had on a great coat, it is probable that they carried arms concealed. They all wore surtouts. These circumstances being related in the morning, occasioned a look out for the strange vessel, which arrived the preceding day, but she was not to be found. A sloop, owned in the town, was also missing, and it is supposed was carried off by her.

It is much feared, by many, that this and other sea-

port towns will not attend to the danger they are exposed to, till they are aroused by suffering some capital losses.

B O S T O N, May 6.

Last Saturday the privateer ship Grand Turk of Salem, returned from a successful cruise, having captured several valuable prizes—she brought in with her a schooner from Antigua, bound to England, and commanded by Mowat, loaded with West-India goods.

One of the prisoners taken in the above prize, we are told, gives the following account, "I was on the 10th and 11th of April, there happened two several engagements between the French and English fleets in the West-Indies (off Martinico) that the former lost the La Ville de Paris, of 110 guns; La Hector, 74, La Gloriosa, 84, La Ardent, 64, taken; La Capar, 74, burnt; and the La Zodique, 84, sunk; but the Antigua paper of the 13th ult. does not mention either of the engagements, we presume the account is premature.

Yesterday arrived here a letter of marque brig of 14 carriage guns, copper bottomed, loaded with coffee and cotton, prize to the letter of marque ship Robin Hood, captain Smith, of 10 guns. She was from St. Lucia, bound to England, and was taken without opposition.

The above prize sailed the 2d ult. under convoy of the British fleet, bound for Jamaica; but as the French fleet sailed 24 hours before, it is supposed they arrived time enough to lay siege to Jamaica.

Extra of a letter dated on board the prison ship Jersey, at New-York, April 26, 1782.

"I am sorry to write you from this miserable place: I can assure you since I have been here, we have had only 20 men exchanged, although, we are in number upwards of 700, exclusive of the sick in the hospital ships, who die like sheep; therefore my intention is, if possible, to enter on board some merchant or transport ship, as it is impossible for so many men to keep alive in one vessel."

N E W - L O N D O N, May 10.

Friday last was sent into port, a sloop laden with flour from New-York bound to the West Indies, captured by the sloop Randolph, captain Fouldick.

Last Monday the galley Black sloven, sent into port a schooner laden with boards, which she captured at Fire-Island inlet. And the same day was brought in a galley with 17 men, captured by the John and Fair America galleys, which they captured at the back of Long-Island.

Wednesday arrived the brig Allegator, — Stutton, late commander, from St. Croix, bound to Boston, with 130 hogheads of rum, taken by the Centurion, and retaken by the sloop Randolph, captain Fouldick.

Same day was brought into this port by the brig Sampson, captain Brooks, a privateer brig called the Jolly Tar, of 12 guns and 40 men; she sailed from New-York on Sunday last. She was formerly called the La Impromteu, captain Peo, who arrived at this port from Norway, in October last.

A few days ago, a flag arrived at Newport, Rhode-Island, from Bermuda, in which came, the captains William Wates, William Loring, and Egleiton.

They left at Bermuda the following captains, whose vessels have likewise been taken, viz. Coffin, brig, from Boston; Coffin, schooner, Baltimore; Furnes, brig, Marblehead; Pole, brig, Boston; Sayer, ship, Boston; Cooledge, brig, Newbury; Newman, do. do. Belham, schooner, North-Carolina; Denison, do. do. Waters, brig, Salem; Miners, brig, Virginia; Baker, do. do. Grove, sloop, Boston; Athhead, ship, Philadelphia; Gardner, brig, Newbury; Briggs, brig, Salem; Buckingham, sloop, Virginia; Darling, from Nantucket; Richenton, sloop, Rhode-Island, (the captain lost.)

Captain Wates says, the American prisoners at Bermuda, are well supplied with provisions, and in every respect treated with great humanity.

N E W - Y O R K, May 15.

It is reported that on admiral Rodney's first despatching the French transports, a signal was made for all his frigates to chase, and we are assured there was a prospect of securing the greatest part of 60 sail, with 6000 land forces on board.

Further particulars of the brilliant victory gained by the British fleet in the West-Indies, under the command of admiral Sir George B. Rodney, over the French squadron commanded by count de Grasse, obtained from a gentleman arrived in a Spanish flag of truce ship from Jamaica.

In the engagement which happened on the 9th ult. three French ships of the line were so much disabled as rendered it absolutely necessary to tow them into Guadaloupe, to which island the transports with the troops that sailed from Martinico, under convoy of admiral de Grasse, had been ordered upon the first appearance of the British fleet. Two days after the arrival of the transports there, a frigate brought orders for them to come out; in complying with which, they were obstructed by some British frigates stationed to

watch their motions; they communicated intelligence of the movement by signals to our fleet, which on the 12th bore down upon the French transports, and reduced count de Grasse to the alternative of suffering them to be captured or risk another action with admiral Rodney; he chose the latter, and Sir George having a favourable wind, intercepted the French line, by which manœuvre one half of the ships were prevented from coming to action.

The object of the count de Grasse was to form a junction with twelve line of battle ships, commanded by admiral Solano, which were to sail from Monto Christi with a number of transports, having 8000 troops on board, under orders of general Don Galvez, and then with the combined armament to attack Jamaica.

Extra of a letter, dated Antigua, April 17, 1782.

"We yesterday had the agreeable confirmation of admiral Rodney's capturing the Ville de Paris, and four others of the line, sunk two, burnt one, of the squadron, near Guadaloupe, the whole of the French fleet routed, our's in pursuit of the remainder, we expect a few more."

By a vessel in seven days from Providence, we learn, that a force from the Hayanna, consisting of about 60 sail, with troops, had arrived there, and was preparing to attack that island; this advice boat ran through the Spanish fleet, which consisted chiefly of small vessels. The works were strong, and in good condition, and the garrison lately reinforced with 120 men.

A N N A P O L I S, May 30.

The following account of a sea engagement between the French fleet, under the command of his excellency the count de Grasse, and the British fleet, under the orders of Sir George B. Rodney, is translated from the Martinico gazette of April 18, brought by captain Goodhue, who arrived at Newbury on Thursday the 9th inst, in 20 days from Martinico.

M. de Grasse having held the English fleet at bay during the night, between the 8th and 9th in the channel of Dominique, covered the merchant ships by his grand manœuvres, and by that means gave them time enough to make their escape. The 9th in the morning the two van guards were engaged, 15 French against 18 English ships, the main body of the two fleets being not near enough to engage. The Cato, commanded by M. Frammond, sustained, with the greatest firmness, the fire from three English ships; near 50 men were killed and wounded, and she was soon disengaged by the Triumphant and Pluto. The English lost us the field of battle, and appeared infinitely more damaged than we were. The Cato proceeded to Guadaloupe to repair, and the next day was followed by the Jason, who had suffered by the Zele's running on board her; this last ship having also run on board the Ville de Paris in the night between the 11th and 12th, her mizen-mast and bowsprit were carried away, and not being able to manœuvre, would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, if count de Grasse had not ordered the frigate Astrea to go and take her in tow.

The English in that moment crowded all their sails towards the damaged ships: but general to save them, made a signal for the whole fleet to bear down upon the enemy, and to attack them at pistol shot: that judicious manœuvre, at the time when he had but 30 ships against 37, was immediately executed with the greatest intrepidity; the count de Grasse at the example, he cut off the English line, and carried every thing before him, that lay exposed to the fire of his artillery. The two fleets being becalmed, were mixed together, and fought with unexampled bravery, from 7 o'clock in the morning till 7 in the evening; the ships were engaged, the greatest part of the time, yard-arm and yard-arm. The ship of war le Glorieux, engaged by 3 of the enemy, two of which were three-deckers, was taken, being entirely dismantled, and just ready to sink; the English after taking her out of the line, set fire to her, and she blew up.

It shall go no further in lamenting the sad effects of war, but wait for the well authenticated account of this memorable and bloody day. We have but this moment the certainty of the deplorable situation in which the two fleets were left at the end of the action, and we know only that during this bloody engagement, a number of English ships were seen in a bad condition going before the wind; that on the 13th, the two fleets were seen off Guadaloupe, 13 leagues distant from each other; that the convoy passed by Basseterre for St. Domingo in the night between the 9th and 10th, under the escort of the Sagittarie and the Experiment, and except the loss of the Glorieux, the English ships have suffered much more damage than ours.

P. S. It appears by the last letters from Guadaloupe, that our fleet stood for St. Domingo; and that the English were endeavouring, on Monday last, to gain Antigua; they add, that the Richmond, after having towed the Glorieux for some time, saved her crew, and then set her on fire.

Sunday arrived a schooner bound from Jamaica to Barbados, with dispatches, prize to the Deane. The Deane has also taken another prize and sent her