

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1782.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica,) May 11.

SINCE our last certain advice has been received of the loss of the St. Esprit, a French 34 gun ship, which was so wounded and shattered in the engagement of the 12th ult. that she sunk the day after the action, in sight of the Cato and Jason, which were so disabled as to be incapable of affording her the least assistance.

Certain information has been received of four French ships of the line having arrived at Curazoa, in a most shattered condition, after the late engagement, and from whence, not being able to procure the necessary assistance, they proceeded for the Cape the second inst. viz. Le Hercule of 74 guns, le Marilliot 74, l'Evenie 64, and le Pluton 64; the masts of the three former being in such a state that they could hardly be kept standing.

ST. JAGO DE LA VEGA, April 18. It is whispered, that the expedition from Hispaniola will be delayed until the arrival of 2500 troops from the army of general Washington, which may be expected in the course of this month.

PARKER'S FERRY, (S. Carolina) April 17.

We have just heard that capt. W. not of the Maryland line, has taken three officers and nine privates of the enemy on John's Island. The particulars have not come to hand, but should there be any thing interesting in them, the public will have them in our next.

In nothing is the cruelty of the British more apparent, than in their conduct to those unhappy Americans, who have given implicit faith to all the falsehoods which have with industry been propagated by them. When lord Cornwallis and his whole army were taken prisoners, admiral Graves beaten off Chesapeake bay by the French fleet, and most of the English islands in the West-Indies lost, it might reasonably be imagined, that the commander of the British troops in Charles town would have been happy to have encouraged the Tories to have thrown themselves on the mercy of their country, and if possible, to have made their peace. General Leslie, on the contrary, in his proclamation, orders them to stay in Charles-town, accompanies his orders with the severest menaces, and promises them speedy protection.

Many persons now in that garrison, lament their credulity, and curse the author of their misfortunes.

May 1. Last Tuesday week, a party of 200 refugees from James's Island, crossed at Wappoo, and plundred all the inhabitants on Ashley river, as high up as Mr. Thomas Farr's: one of their lieutenants fell into our hands, who, upon enquiry, we find to be a deserter from the North-Carolina line. The next morning another party came off, and took Mr. John Lanning prisoner, carried him to the island, and after detaining him some hours released him, with orders to go home; but two refugees who were stationed near the Cut, shot him dead as soon as he landed on the main: the people in a galley stationed for the security of the pals, seeing the body lay on the ground, sent a boat on shore, wrapt it up in a blanket, and threw it into the creek.

The many acts of cruelties committed by the Tories, and the numberless barbarities exercised by the British upon our innocent friends in the country, are too shocking for the powers of description: turn where you will, the distressed widow, and fatherless infant pour out their melancholy tales to wound the feelings of humanity.

Americans resent the insult! Call up the spirit of Hamilear, lead your sons to the altar, and make them swear eternal enmity to Tories and the British nation.

Extra from general orders.

Head-Quarters, Ebenezer, April 16, 1782.

Five of col. Jackson's dragoons, and a young snider, were surrounded and fired upon, a little before daylight on Sunday morning, at old Snider's house, near Knox's, by a party of the enemy, thirty in number, under the conduct of a major Dill, but without effect: the fire was returned by Snider, with to good a direction, as to leave the major dead upon the spot, a pistol fired by one of the dragoons wounded two more of the party, which were all the arms made use of by our people on this occasion, the enemy flying with such precipitation to their boats as to escape the swords of their brave pursuers.

General Wayne requests Mr. Snider and those five gallant dragoons, to accept of his best thanks for their fortitude and brilliant conduct, in defeating five times their number, although backed by surprise.

Two deserters from James's Island say, that the regular troops are prohibited from any intercourse with the refugees or provincials, on pain of corporal punishment: may we not conclude from hence, that the enemy will at last leave these deluded people to the clemency of their injured countrymen.

NEWPORT, May 25.

Yesterday morning came to town from Block-Island fifteen prisoners on parole, who were landed out of the Rufus British frigate, the day before, on the above island; they inform that about six days ago they discovered a fleet of near 80 sail of large ships, frigates, &c. steering for Sandy-Hook, that the captain of the frigate, after running within two leagues of them, and making signals, without having them answered, judged them to be French, and made from them, when they were chased a considerable distance by two frigates out of said fleet. The Rufus had two prizes with her, which she left behind, and are supposed to be taken.

NEW-LONDON, May 7.

At dusk of the evening on Saturday last, about 70 masters and mates of vessels, who were prisoners in the Retaliation prison-ship, being allowed to be on the ship's deck, they took an opportunity when the door in the bulk head was opened for some purpose, to push through the door and disarm the guards, 17 or 18 in number, whom they immediately secured below deck: having entire possession of the ship, between 8 and 9 o'clock they began to land prisoners; and having landed about 80, nine of the principal actors in the enterprise armed themselves with the muskets which they had writed from the centry, and got out of the harbour undiscovered, in the ship's boat, leaving about 30 of their comrades on board. As the ship lay about two miles above the town the inhabitants were unapprised of the transaction till 12 o'clock, when the Brit information they had was from one of the prisoners who did not choose to go off. The inhabitants and officers immediately went in pursuit of the prisoners, and several boats were sent out to prevent their escape by water; during the next day about 40 who were scattered in the outskirts of the town were took up and returned to the ship; since which about 20 more have been taken; but the boat with the nine above mentioned got off. A court of enquiry with regard to the conduct of the officers of the ship, was immediately ordered by the commanding officer at this port, the result of which is not yet made public.

The following letter was received by col. McClellan, commandant at this port, at 12 o'clock, Wednesday night, by express.

S I R,

There is a fleet of the enemy's ships now in the Sound, they are 24 in number; they appeared at 4 this afternoon, about 12 miles to the westward. They are standing eastward in a regular line, and are now opposite to my house, with a fair but very light breeze. A tri-gate leads and another in the rear, the rest consists of bigs, top-sail sloops and schooners, principally large. I am of opinion that they have on board 1500 or 2000 troops. They intend mischief somewhere. New-Haven is as likely to be their object as any place. I have thought it my duty to give you this notice by express, that you may be on your guard. I have to entreat you to forward this intelligence immediately to his excellency at Hartford by express, and also to New-London, and the other towns on the sea coast between that and New-Haven, that they may not be surpris'd for want of intelligence. You will excuse this letter coming open, as I have not time otherwise to give the intelligence to Milford and Stratford. I am, sir, your humble servant,

G. S. SILLIMAN.

Wednesday afternoon 4 or 5 frigates were seen off Watch-point, standing into the Sound, supposed with a design to join the fleet mentioned in general Silliman's letter; but there having been a thick fog with light winds till 10 o'clock yesterday, their movements could not well be discovered; at 10 o'clock the above 4 frigates were seen over the west point of Fisher's Island, at 1 o'clock most of the fleet from the westward joined them. At 2 o'clock the whole fleet, between 20 and 30 sail, had collected near the west point of Fisher's Island, and stood to the eastward; and at 3 o'clock (when this paper went to press) the whole were out of sight.

NEW-HAVEN, June 6.

Tuesday a fleet of the enemy was discovered off Fairfield, consisting of two frigates, their convoy, ships, bigs, and sloops, 20 sail in all; they are supposed to have passed this harbour yesterday morning, in the thick weather, standing to the eastward; their destination was not known, nor whether they have any troops on board or not.

NORWICH, June 6.

On Tuesday last a fleet of ships and transports were seen in the Sound off Fairfield, steering eastward; where they are destined is uncertain. In consequence, however, of their appearance, the artillery, militia, &c. of this town, are ordered to be in readiness to march at a moment's warning; and it is said notice has been sent to the several towns on and near the shore, to be on their guard in case of an attack.

FISH-KILL, June 13.

On Thursday the 6th inst. at 5 o'clock P. M. we had a severe thunder gulf here. The lightning struck the house of Mr. Peter Van Rants, sailmaker. His sail loft was on the second story, on the side of which was fixed a lofty flag-pole, which, with the wet hal-yards proved a conductor to the lightning. Mr. Van

Rants's son Barney, a hopeful youth of about 13 years, stood at a window near it with a gun in his hand, which it is supposed attracted the lightning, which instantly struck him dead, broke the stock of the gun, and split a post of the house; it then descended to the lower room, and split the stock of another gun and two posts; the fiery stream apparently came down the chimney rapidly, set in on fire, and threw some stones out of the jamb, one of which flew into a cradle where an infant lay, and greatly alarmed the people, but by the good providence of God, no other damage was done: during this gulf, the intervals were short between the lightning's very flash and the thunder's tremendous roar. How dreadful is the artillery of Heaven!

The fleet that sailed up the Sound last week, which it was supposed intended mischief to some part of Connecticut, we learn, have made no stop, but sailed to Halifax or Penobscot, where it is said a number of Tories are gone to settle a new colony under the auspices of their gracious sovereign.

We hear from Albany, that the Indians have lately carried off some people from the back settlements; the particulars are not come to hand.

CHATHAM, June 11.

Friday passed through this place under guard seven tattered-mansions, taken the preceding day on Bergen, by a party under the command of capt. Hendriks.

Sunday night four deserters came over from Staten-Island, who report that disaffection pervades the whole of the provincial corps.

The following, however adulating and consonant to our wishes, we give to our readers as a report, though the paragraph under the Newport head gives it a semblance of truth, viz. That six ships of the line and several frigates are arrived at Rhode-Island, with a body of land forces to co-operate with the American army.

NEW-YORK, June 11.

The British and combined fleets now in the West-Indies, are supposed to amount to more than 100 sail of the line.

Monday arrived the privateer sloop Tryal, captain Parker in 12 days from Bermuda; on her passage she took the rebel brig Phoenix, — Scheidon, master, from St. Croix, bound for Providence, with 120 puncheons of rum, and sent her to Bermuda.

The day before the Tryal sailed from Bermuda, a schooner arrived from the island of St. Thomas's, the master of which asserted, that a French ship of the line, in attempting to get into Curazoa, run ashore, and was lost.

We beg leave to produce the following particulars, brought hither last Saturday, by a gentleman of character, from the island of Providence.

Previous to the departure for England of lieutenant-colonel Maxwell, late governor of New-Province, a dispatch vessel arrived at that island, from the Cape, requiring the immediate return of Don Cargalla (commander of the expedition which had succeeded in taking possession of the island) with the main body of the forces employed in it, together with this information, that in an action between the admirals Rodney and de Grafe, the French fleet had sustained a loss of twelve line of battle ships taken or destroyed, on which account the enterprise against Jamaica must be laid aside. These orders were obeyed, and the Spaniard set off for Havana, before the vessel which brought the above account left Providence.

PHILADELPHIA, June 23.

It was yesterday morning reported, that capt. Ligonnet was last Friday sent out of the British lines, by way of Staten-Island, previous to which all the refugees were ordered into New-York.

ANNAPOLIS, June 2.

On Tuesday the 25th instant (his excellency the governor having previously announced, by his proclamation, the birth of a dauphin, and appointed that day for the celebration of the auspicious event) an elegant entertainment was provided in the Stadt-house, at which were present a number of civil and military characters of the first distinction in the State, and many gentlemen from the city and country, forming a numerous and most respectable assembly.

Dinner was served up at half past two, and after the covers were removed, the following toasts were drank to repeated discharges from the artillery:

1. The dauphin.
2. The United States in congress.
3. His Most Christian Majesty.
4. The queen and royal family of France.
5. The friendly powers of Europe.
6. General Washington.
7. The American army.
8. Count Kochambeau and the French army.
9. The allied fleets.
10. The chevalier de la Luzerne.
11. The American ministers at home and abroad.
12. Duration to the alliance.
13. May the independence of America give freedom to the world.