

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1782.

L O N D O N.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, May 18, 1782.

ORD Cranston, captain of his majesty's ship the Formidable, and captain Byron of the Andromache, on board of which his lordship took his passage, arrived this morning with dispatches from Sir George Bridges Rodney, baronet, knight of the bath, and commander of his majesty's ships on the Leeward Island Station, to Mr. Stephens, copy of which follow: On board the Formidable, at sea, April 14.

S I R, It has pleased God, in his Divine Providence, to grant to the arms of his majesty, a complete victory over the enemy's fleet commanded by the count de Grasse, who is himself taken with the City of Paris and four other ships of the line, besides another which foundered in the action.

This important victory was gained the 12th instant, after an action which lasted with unabated fury from seven o'clock in the forenoon till half an hour after six in the evening, and which was terminated only by the setting of the sun.

Both fleets have greatly suffered, but it is with great satisfaction that I can assure your lordships, that although the masts, sails, rigging, and even the hulls of the English ships are damaged, the loss of men has been inconsiderable, considering the length, and especially the closeness of the action, in which each of the fleets considered the event as most essentially interesting to the honour of their king and country.

The landing out large quantities of stores for the navy which have lately arrived in the West Indies, will further enable me to repair, in a short time, the damages to his majesty's fleet as it has suffered.

The excellent conduct of the officers and crews of the fleet have the honour to command, ought to render them forever dear to every lover of his king and country.

The noble and intrepid conduct of Sir Samuel Hood, the second in command, who in this action has behaved in the most distinguished manner, calls for my greatest eulogiums and thanks: vice admiral Drake, the third in command, who with his division, on the 12th instant, led the van of the fleet, merits the greatest encomiums; and commodore Boscawen is not less deserving for the bravery he exhibited in the conduct of the center division.

But my own captain Sir Charles Douglas, merits all that is possible of expressing, his great activity, and unremitting attention, have been of the greatest assistance to me, and lessened the great unavoidable fatigues of this day.

In a word, I want words to express how much I am indebted to all the captains, officers, and seamen, who have contributed to this glorious victory by their united efforts.

The enemy's army, consisting of 5500 men were on board of their men of war, their loss must have been prodigious, as during the great part of the engagement, every discharge took effect; and their lordships may form an opinion of the execution that must have necessarily ensued, when they are informed that the Formidable alone has fired eighty broadsides.

I have the honour of adding for the information of your lordships, a list of the lines of battle of English and French, with the number of the killed and wounded on board of his majesty's fleet, as well as the particulars of the damage it has sustained.

Lord Cranston, who in the two engagements served as one of the captains of the Formidable, and whose brave conduct merits applause, will have the honour of presenting these dispatches, I must refer to him for a more circumstantial account; he is fully instructed of every thing that has passed on this occasion.

That the English flag may flourish for ever in all parts of the world, is the most ardent wish of him who has the honour to be, &c.

G. B. RODNEY.

List of the French Ships taken.

Table with 3 columns: Ship Name, Guns, Crew/Officers. Includes La Ville de Paris (110 guns, 1300 men), Le Glorieux (74 guns, 750 men), Le Cesar (74 guns, 750 men), Le Hector (74 guns, 750 men), L'Ardent (64 guns, 650 men).

The English fleet had 230 killed and 759 wounded. Officers killed and wounded: Three captains killed, viz. M. Bayne, of the Alfred, Blair, of the Anson, and Lord Robert Manners, of the Resolution, and 20 wounded; 5 captains of marines wounded; 1 lieutenant of marines killed, 4 wounded; 1 master killed, 6 wounded.

May 16. A considerable body of the merchants interested in the New-York trade, within a few days past, waited on the secretary of state, to know if it was the intention of government to keep the important post of New-York open in case of its evacuation would be the fate of their property there; and whether further supplies of merchandise and provisions might be sent thither with safety. The minister received them politely, and assured them that government would take every possible care of their property, but advised them not to send any further supplies of merchandise to that place.

May 18. Opinions are divided, as to the effect which our successes in India will produce upon the Hollanders. Some think, that worried with the war (in which they bear the heaviest expence) they will lower their tone, supplicate humbly for peace, which they have lately rejected with haughtiness. Others, more numerous, answer, that their conduct proves quite the contrary: that still's irritate them; that they have never been so active, so unanimous in their determinations to carry on the war with vigour, as since they have lost part of the means of doing it. It arms then do not bring them to reason, we have still less to expect from negotiations. These promise little, as appears by the following letter from Mr. Fox, minister and secretary of state, to M. de Benouin, minister plenipotentiary of the emperors of Russia at the court of London, dated St. James's, May 4, 1782.

S I R, I MADE no delay to lay before the king the communication which you did me the honour to make me on the first instant. His majesty has received it as a new proof of the warm and sincere part which your royal mistress takes in the re-establishment of peace, between Great-Britain and her ancient ally. I think it needless to express to you, Sir, that his majesty has learned the sentiments of her imperial majesty with the highest satisfaction, as meeting at all points the steps that his majesty has already taken to promote the good offices of the court of Peterburgh. The king promises himself beforehand, that her imperial majesty will hear with pleasure, that he has for a long time anticipated her wise councils, by offering to the Hollanders the full freedom of navigation, according to the treaty of 1674, between England and the republic; by which the principles of the armed neutrality would be established, as to the contracting powers, in their utmost extent. His majesty has therefore made no difficulty of declaring, that he accepts as the ground-work of a separate peace between him and the States-Generals, the freedom of navigation, claimed by her imperial majesty in her declaration of February 28, 1780.

Permit me, Sir, however, in communicating to you the king's sentiments, to remark, that I believe that I only repeat what I had the honour to write to you, by his order, on the 29th of March. It that letter did not produce the effects which his majesty expected from these offers tending towards a reconciliation, and upon the establishment of which, according to the information of her imperial majesty's ministers at the Hague, the republic had unanimously agreed to suspend the negotiation of a peace with Great-Britain, but it notwithstanding the moderation which his majesty has expressed on this subject in the most unequivocal terms, the republic will persist in rejecting every idea of a separate peace, the king will always possess the satisfaction of having acted in a manner as to demonstrate the value he set upon the friendship of her imperial majesty, and the deterrance which he pays to her advice.

I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) C. J. FOX.

Letters from Leghorn advise, that the Russian Squadron, which has lain in that port for several months past, under admiral Suchotin, sailed thence on Monday the 22d of April, to escort some merchant ships of their nation.

EDINBURGH, May 11. The ship of war Alemeley, sent as an express from Yarmouth road, by captain Patton, of the Belle Poule, is arrived this morning from Leith road: we are informed by it, that the Dutch fleet sailed from the Texel the 4th instant. Other expresses arrived here this morning by land, confirm this news. By this account the Dutch have eight days start of lord Howe, who was dispatched with twelve sail of the line to intercept them.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20. Last evening the ship St. Helena, captain Stillwell, and the brigantine General Gift, captain Sharpe, arrived here from the Orient, which they left about the beginning of June. The principal news brought by these vessels is contained in the following extracts of letters, which confirm the intelligence given in our paper of Tuesday last, respecting the recognition of the independence of the United States of America, by the seven United Provinces of Holland.

Extract of a letter from l'Orient, dated June 3, 1782. "You have, no doubt, long since received the particulars of Mr. Adams's reception at the Hague, as minister of the United States of North-America. "The states of Holland have rejected all the terms for a separate peace, offered them by the new ministry of Britain."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Nantes, to his friend in this city, dated May 15. "The part that the Dutch have taken, in acknowledging your independence, has given a turn to affairs in Europe. Their purse strings are opened in your favour, inasmuch as to let on foot a loan of five millions of florins for America. "There is no longer a rumour of peace, at least this campaign, as the British ministry seem determined to prosecute the war."

Extract of a letter, dat. d Nantes, May 6, 1782. "I congratulate you on the acknowledgment of American independency by Holland. This will pre-

clude every idea of a separate peace, and produce a general and honourable one."

It is remarkable (says a correspondent) that the lightning becomes every year more and more destructive on this continent. Of late there is scarce a week but affords from one state or another melancholy narrations of lives lost and damages done by this dangerous element. About a fortnight ago, in the thunder storm that was attended here with such an unusual fall of rain, a number of ladies sitting in a house a mile or two out of this city, had their caps set on fire by a flash that was instantly followed by very loud and tremendous thunder. Fortunately, however, the flame was extinguished without doing any farther considerable damage. It was conjectured that the multiplicity of wires and pins used in the construction of these very complicated machines attracted the lightning, to the great danger and terror of the owners. It is seriously recommended to all ladies amongst whom this kind of caps are in vogue, to provide themselves with conducting wires which may carry off the electrical fire into a basin of water without endangering the lives of those who are already universally acknowledged to be the most attractive objects in the lower creation.

An ORDINANCE, more effectually to prevent illicit trade with the enemy.

WHEREAS a pernicious commerce is carried on by some of the inhabitants of these United States with the enemy, by means of collusive captures on the water: for remedy thereof, be it enacted by the United States in Congress assembled, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that where ever such collusion shall appear in evidence on the trial of any capture, the vessel and her cargo shall be adjudged and condemned as lawful prize, to the use of the state in which such trial shall be had; except in such cases, wherein any person or persons shall before sentence or judgment given, interpose his or their answer and claim, charging the capture to have been collusive, and shall support such answer and claim by sufficient proof. In which case the property captured shall be sentenced and adjudged as lawful prize one moiety thereof to the use and behoof of such claimant or claimants, and the other moiety thereof to the use and behoof of the state into which the prize shall be carried for condemnation. Provided always, that in every cause of prize wherein no such answer and claim shall be interposed, or being interposed shall not be supported by sufficient proof, if the court shall, in their opinion, have cause to suspect the capture to have been collusive, it shall demand of the captors sufficient proof, that the same was bona fide, and not collusively made; and on failure of such proof, to the satisfaction of the court, such captures shall be deemed collusive and the property to captured shall be adjudged and condemned as lawful prize, to the use and behoof of such state as aforesaid.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled, the 17th day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, and in the seventh year of our independence.

JOHN HANCOCK, president. CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Attest. RICHMOND, July 20.

Reports respecting colonel Crawford's defeat vary, though not materially. By the best accounts, however, it appears, that he set out on the 25th or 26th of May last from the Mingo Bottom, with a body of about 400 militia on an expedition against Sandusky. In his first engagement with the Indians, he is said to have been successful, killing about fifty of them; the enemy receiving a reinforcement over night, the action was renewed the next day, and was fought with various success, till a body of mounted infantry, supposed to be from Detroit, attacked our troops in rear, and finally defeated them. All of them, however, have come in, it is said, except about forty, who are still missing, and among them colonel Crawford himself, who was last seen attempting to escape by swimming the river.

We are informed that several of the American vessels that were embargoed at the Havanna, whether they had been sent for bullion, have safely arrived to the southward in consequence of orders for that purpose from Philadelphia.

We hear of no alterations in the face of affairs to the southward; both armies remain quiet, nor do we hear of any reinforcements to either side.

ANNAPOLIS, August 1.

On Sunday morning last arrived at Baltimore, in 24 days from Cape Francois, the ship Audacious, captain Robinson, and schooner —, captain Wilson of Philadelphia. Also the brig Ranger, captain Bull, and the brig Richmond, captain Hughes, of that port. The vessels sailed from the Cape in company with 13 sail of French ships of the line, all copper-bottomed, and three frigates, under the command of M. de Vaudouville, bound for Boston, or Rhode-Island, and an equal number of Spanish line of battle ships commanded by Don Soano. The Spanish squadron parted company in the old straits of Bahama, and proceeded for Havana. The French squadron, with the above and other American vessels, under convoy, then stood for the southern coast of the United States, and arrived safe off our capes, a few days ago, whence they have, undoubtedly, sailed eastward, for the port of their destination. The remainder of the French fleet, that

Vertical text on the left margin containing various notices and advertisements, including mentions of public auctions, land sales, and legal notices.