

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1782.

H A G U E, August 18.

THEIR high mightiness have appointed Mr. Gerard Brantton, burgomaster of the town of Arnheim, and deputy in the States General from the province of Guelders, to go to France, as plenipotentiary of this republic, to act in concert with our ambassador, Mr. Levezeou de Berkenrode, in the work of peace.

PARIS, July 26. After the decision of this famous siege of Gibraltar, thirty ships of the combined fleet will sail for St. Domingo. It is thought that they will be commanded by count d'Estaing.

According to letters from the camp before Gibraltar, the duc de Crillon had made an offer to governor Elliot of some fresh provisions for his table; the English governor returned thanks to the duke for his offer, but that he ought to confine himself to sharing the lot of his brave garrison, and be as temperate as them. The prince of Asturias never speaks but with respect to the courageous defender of the pillars of Hercules. We are assured that the king of Morocco hath signified his desire of assisting at the siege of Gibraltar, and that his Catholic Majesty has most willingly given his consent; in return the African monarch hath made a present to the besiegers of 8000 oxen.

CLEVELAND, August 7. It is now asserted, that the late revolution in the British ministry was in consequence of his Britannic majesty's own private opinion with respect to his colonies, to which he is resolved never to renounce his pretensions. The firm determination of this monarch will appear by the language which he expressed to lord Shelburne after the death of the marquis of Rockingham.

"I will be sincere with you (said he to this minister) the point which I have most at heart and which I am determined, whatever may be the consequences, never to relinquish but with my crown and my life, is to prevent a total and unequivocal acknowledgment of the independence of America. Support me on this head, and I will leave you free and quiet on every other, with the full power of prime minister of this kingdom."

The minister easily consented, and the arrangement was settled.

After this formal declaration, we may judge that peace is not very near, and that the only dependence is to be placed on the negotiations, which are said to be still continued, for effecting it. On one side no peace without the acknowledgment of the independence of America; on the other, no peace on to hard a condition. What will be the end of the misfortunes in which America has involved our continent?

L O N D O N, August 1.

A morning paper says, the lord chancellor labours incessantly for a coalition of parties; if he succeeds, Mr. Fox certainly comes to the admiralty as president of that board.

Extract of a letter from Algiers, July 27.

"Activity seemed to be a stranger in our camp before Gibraltar, till the duke de Crillon assumed the command: since that period the whole camp is daily in motion; the general is on horseback at six in the morning, and passes his time between the workmen and the troops under arms, directing the former and exercising the latter in those evolutions which he foresees may be necessary in forming the grand attack, for which he cannot be ready, alter all his care, before the 20th of August. The oldest soldier in the world never beheld such an immense train of artillery at any siege as we have there; there are at present three batteries in forwardness, of nine guns each, 54 pounders, for battering one particular part of the fortrefs, and the fire to be angular, to prevent the besieged from having a spot to stand on in safety in that quarter. There are vast evens also for heating balls, which are to be sent red hot into the garrison, in hopes of setting fire to the powder brought out of the magazines for the supply of the different batteries of the besieged. It is the intention of our general, as soon as every thing is ready for commencing the most dreadful fire that ever was directed against any fortrefs, to send a flag to governor Elliot, to offer him the most honourable terms if he will surrender the place; but it is not expected that the English commander will listen to any terms, till he is reduced to the last extremity; his past conduct makes us look for a desperate resistance on his part; and we are all ready to do him the justice to think, that when he does surrender it will be after having made the most gallant defence.

"The duke, though he expects a refusal to his summons, is nevertheless determined to send it, that he may not be answerable for the damage that must ensue if Gibraltar should be stormed. Strong as the fortrefs are at present, there is a moral certainty that it must fall, though the garrison should be even twice as numerous as it is; it is impossible that any garrison could long bear the fatigue consequent upon an incessant firing, day and night, from some hundreds of cannons and mortars; we therefore look for the fall of Gibraltar, not more from the execution of our artillery than from the state of exhaustion into which the garrison must be thrown by continual watching, and endless labours in endeavouring to restore their demolished works. So certain are we of success, that the government of Gibraltar is already promised to the duke of Modina Sidonia. The old idea of undermining the

rock, and blowing it up, is renounced as impracticable."

Aug. 5. It is generally believed in Holland, that if peace is not shortly agreed upon, the king of Prussia will certainly take the field in opposition to the emperor, whose preparations indicate an approaching rupture.

Aug. 7. No negotiators are at this time thought of by any of the belligerent powers; neither is there any one of the neutral powers except the empress, inclined to afford a mediation towards a peace.

Extract of a letter from Paris, August 3.

"A few days since the eldest son of admiral count de Graffe, an amiable character, and an officer in the king's guards, who, in the course of eight days, fought as many duels with the traducers of his father's honour, unable to bear up any longer against the popular indignation that increased against him, put an end to his existence by a coup de pistolet."

Aug. 20. It is currently reported that the brave earl Cornwallis is to go to the East Indies to succeed Sir Eyre Coote, and it must give great pleasure to all who know the noble disinterested zeal of that worthy peer and excellent officer, to think that no man is so likely to restore the name of his country to credit in the east, and to put an end to that oppression and speculation, which has brought the name of Britain to disgrace all over India.

A letter from Paris mentions, that count de Graffe speaks very highly of the conduct of lord Hood, and of the great delicacy with which he was treated by governor Campbell while he remained in the island of Jamaica, of whom he talks in language of great esteem and respect.

Aug. 31. Yesterday an express arrived at the admiralty from admiral lord Howe at Portsmouth, informing the board of the melancholy disaster of his majesty's ship the Royal George of 100 guns, with most of her crew, being lost at Spithead about half past ten o'clock in the morning of the preceding day.

This unfortunate accident happened while the ship was hove upon a careen, in order to have the water pipe to her cistern repaired, at which juncture, a strong squall at N. N. W. came on, and her keel lying across the tide current, she fell suddenly on her beam ends, and before they could right ship, she filled, and went down, her two masts only appearing at the water's edge. At the time of this calamitous event, 848 officers and seamen were on board, 331 only of which were saved by the boats of the fleet.

Among the officers who perished, it is with the utmost concern we mention that brave and experienced commander rear-admiral Kempenteit, who was writing in his cabin when the ship went down. Mr. Saunders, his first lieutenant, the fifth lieutenant, together with major Graham, and two lieutenants of the marines, the surgeon and carpenter, shared the same fate. The rest of the officers were fortunately saved. What adds to the national loss on this occasion is, that the crew of the Royal George principally consisted of the best seamen of the whole fleet.

We have been favoured with the following account of the whole force employed to reduce Gibraltar, the regular siege and firings against which are supposed to have commenced on Sunday last, for the honour of St. Louis and the catholic faith:

Officers, French and Spanish, 5675; men, 34,217. Artillery. Br's ordnance, Spanish, 12 eighty-four, 23 sixty-three, 39 forty-eight, 47 thirty-six, 9 forty-eight, 48 twenty four, 12 eighteen, and 16 twelve pounders. Iron ordnance, Spanish, 53 thirty-two, and 14 twenty-four pounders. French ordnance from Toulon, 20 fifty-two, 14 thirty-six, 10 thirty-two; 9 forty-eight, 12 thirty-six, and 15 twenty-three pounders. Besides mortars, howitzers, &c.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, October 31.

Yesterday morning some of the people late belonging to the Venus cutter, captain Pope, arrived here. They inform that she sailed from Orlend about 8 weeks since, bound to Baltimore, and was taken last Thursday, and afterwards ran ashore near Barnegat, where the vessel and cargo were lost, but the people saved. In the English channel they spoke a vessel which informed them that the best ship in the British fleet (supposed the Royal George) was lost and 700 of her people perished.

The people on board the Virginia privateer said, that Charles-town was evacuated, and general Greene had taken possession. This appears very probable, from all the accounts we have had, especially the arrival of two persons from that place, which they left the latter end of September, when three corps of refugees had failed from thence for St. Augustine, all the heavy artillery, &c. was shipped, the rest works on the point of being left; and it was given out, they only waited for transports to take them off, which our informants say, had just hove in sight when they left the town.

Extract of a letter from New-Hampshire, September 23.

"We have here a most extraordinary dry season: two or three small showers are all the rain we have had since July. The pastures are dry as in December, the woods and swamps are on fire in many places, and have been for a month past. Yesterday morning the smoke was as thick as the thickest fog I ever saw, and there is more or less of the cloud of smoke, sometimes over the head, and sometimes near the earth, every day. The air is sometimes almost suffocating. I heard one thing

yesterday that is remarkable; in a swamp that is on fire at Barrington, there is a small hillock which the fire surrounded, and on it was a collection of toads, frogs, and snakes, who had taken refuge there, and were all croaking and hissing at once in the utmost distress."

Nov. 2. On Thursday evening two gentlemen belonging to the ship Carolina, captain Newell, came to town from Baltimore, where that vessel arrived last Tuesday, after a passage of 40 days from l'Orient. Neither the letters nor papers have come to hand; but the principal accounts brought by her are, that the combined fleet of France and Spain, consisting of about 60 sail of the line, had sailed for Gibraltar to second the grand attack on that fortrefs, which it was thought would be made about the middle of September: it was uncertain whether the British fleet would attempt the relief against this very formidable armament. That the late action in the East-Indies had proved favourable to the fleet of our ally, and it was asserted three British men of war were taken in it. An English officer was heard to say that their affairs were ruined in the east, and that nothing could retrieve them from destruction. That although Sir Joseph Yorke and Mr. Fitzherbert were at Paris, yet a peace seemed very doubtful, and no decisive opinion could be made on it; and that the Dutch fleet, of 20 sail of the line, had protected their trade in the North Sea, and prevented the Baltic fleet from reaching England.

The McCleughan, captain Houston, is taken on her passage from France, and carried in England.

Nov. 5. Yesterday morning the honourable Elias Boudinot, Esq; was elected president of the United States in congress assembled.

Letters of a late date from Europe, received by the Carolina, captain Newell, arrived at Baltimore from l'Orient, do not speak of peace as an event likely to take place quickly.

A N N A P O L I S, November 14.

The United States in Congress assembled have recommended to the inhabitants of the several States, to set apart Thursday the twenty-eighth of November instant, as a day of SOLEMN THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies.

From the SHADES, October 29, 1782.

T O T H E P E O P L E O F U T O P I A.

ALTHOUGH your form of government is said to be the best in the universe, yet some reports, that you are not without several causes of complaint. It is said that legislation, the foundation of civil liberty, among you is held in contempt, while the office of hangman is sought after by numbers with the greatest degree of anxiety; that self-interest prevails through all ranks, while patriotism is buried in oblivion. It is also further said, that many get chosen into your legislative body, under a promise of lessening the amount of your civil list, and conducting your state affairs with the greatest economy; that notwithstanding such promises, they have constantly failed, and your taxes are increased every year. In order to remedy this abuse, I beg leave to submit to your mightiness the following plan of economy, which, if agreeable, may be much improved by your wisdoms in general council assembled. It consists shortly, in this general rule: Pay every man liberally, but not profusely, according to the services he renders the public. I shall only apply this rule, by way of illustration, to one single department, and leave your wisdoms to apply it generally, if you approve of my proposition. It is said that you pay your legislative body during the time of their sitting, that every member thereof, receives the same daily allowance while attending, whether he works or plays. This is not just. A man that does nothing, ought not to be paid as much as a man that does something; and therefore I would propose, that the journal of accounts be stated as follows:

To every member who is barely a yea or nay—nothing—unless they will black the shoes of the working members; if they agree to do this, to be allowed shoe-blacks pay.

To every member who is swayed by private pique against a brother member, in the manner as to obstruct the public good—an iron collar to be worn as a mark of intamy.

To every member who is capable of doing something, and neglects through idleness, or because he cannot carry every thing his own way—nothing.

To every member who does not attend precisely on the day appointed for meeting, without being prevented by sickness or other lawful excuse—such pay as he may be justly entitled to under the general classes, deducting thereout his proportion of the expences of the attending members; and if the balance of the account should happen to be against him—execution to issue immediately.

To every member well qualified for his place, and who does his duty as he ought—all his reasonable expences.

The allowance to each member to be ascertained by a majority of the house, as also the claim he is to be rated in.

This mode of proceeding might prevent your state from being burthened with a vast expence of live lumber; as it is said, that too many of those fruges conparati infest your public bodies, you would by this method get clear of them in a short time, for it is further said, that they do not like to eat and drink at their own expence, while from home.