

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1782.

L O N D O N, September 27.

Commodore Elliot has left his station off the French coast, the French transports may now put to sea; but it is thought the fear of the equinoctial winds will keep them in harbour for some time to come.

We hear that government are determined in future to stop the sailing of all ships at the time the grand fleet puts to sea, that the enemy may not receive such early intelligence as they do at present.

It is generally agreed that lord Howe must have reached Gibraltar before now; we may, therefore, reasonably expect dispatches from his lordship, in the course of ten or twelve days at farthest.

A gentleman lately arrived from Lisbon says, accounts had been received there before he came away, of great preparations being making at Cadiz for the reception of the English fleet, in case they should attempt to bombard that town; that 8000 men had been drawn from different garrisons, and encamped near the place, and more were daily expected to reinforce them. All thoughts of the Dutch visiting our coasts during the absence of lord Howe, are now deemed chimerical, as it is well known the Dutch feel themselves fully employed at this time to equip a fleet sufficient to protect their own trade.

The late proposals offered to congress by Sir Guy Carleton, and admiral Digby (which are evidently the terms of the Rockingham administration) have thrown the whole body of loyalists in America, and in England, into the utmost consternation. Many applications have already been made to people in admissions by these unfortunate gentlemen, to know particularly what they and their friends in America are in future to expect.

Nothing can more thoroughly exhaust the inexhaustible resources of this country, than to take a retrospective view of the increase of its naval strength for these few years past; we having now a navy that is fully equal, if not superior, to the combined exertions of the house of Bourbon, Holland, and America.

The facility with which the king of Denmark has equipped and almost completed for sea, a formidable squadron of ships of war, has caused various speculations in Holland for these few weeks past.

If we seriously consider the inferiority of the French fleet now on the American coast, and the bad state of many of their ships since the glorious action of the 1st of April, little is to be apprehended for the safety of New-York, as Vaudreuil's squadron, instead of attempting an attack upon that place, must try for safety from the British fleet.

The arrival of the homeward bound fleet from Jamaica is most anxiously looked for by the merchants, as no certain accounts have been received about them since the arrival of the Montague.

The arrival of the Baltic fleet has brought a supply of timber for the use of government, that will amply replenish our naval arsenals, and fully enable them to carry on business in the several dock-yards, in a manner that must strike our enemies with terror and amazement.

Yesterday morning some dispatches were received from New-York, which were brought over in a letter of marque, arrived at the Clyde. They are dated the beginning of this month.

Lord Howe will stay at Gibraltar no longer than to debark the troops, and to unload the transports and store ships; as, besides the protection of our homeward bound fleets, and the interception of those of the enemy, the squadron has some secret object in view.

No distinction whatever is now observed in the secretaries of states offices; the prefects secretaries do the business equally in either department.

A commission under the royal sign manual has passed the great seal of the court of chancery, appointing Mr. Oswald, of Philpot lane, commissioner to treat for peace with the Thirteen United States of America.

The Spaniards, it is said, intend a second attempt on Jamaica.

A negotiation lies on the carpet between the courts of Great-Britain, Russia, and Denmark, whereby the latter are to sell to government 14 ships of the line, completely fitted for sea. The empress has likewise issued an edict, whereby she gives permission to the Cossacks to enter on board the ships as volunteers.

If it be true, as some intelligent people pretend to insinuate, that the loyal Americans, in the event of our abandoning the war in that country, are resolved to act for themselves, we may soon expect to see a new face of affairs in the colonies. The several provincial corps, which have been formed some years ago, and are as well disciplined as any regulars can be, amount alone to about 20,000 men. Besides these, there are at New-York no less than 10,000 refugees, most of whom would cheerfully take a part in such an attempt; and other parts of the continent abound with loyalists, who would repair to the standard of liberty, as soon as erected.

It is a lucky circumstance that the French fleet are now divided; part being with Vaudreuil in the Chesapeake, and the other at Boston with du Barras; it will be no difficult matter to prevent their joining.

A vessel is arrived at Morlaix with tobacco from Virginia, which left Cape Henry the 12th of August; as she sailed down Chesapeake bay, she saw 14 sail of French men of war of the line, and several frigates,

and other vessels who had taken shelter under their protection. This fleet was bound to Rhode-Island. The whole force that sailed from Cape Francois, was 23 sail of the line, one 50, eight frigates, &c. Seven of the ships that wanted masts went on to Bolton, and there were appointed to an expedition northward, said to be against Newfoundland.

A very extensive trade, during the spring and summer, had been carried on from the French islands, St. Thomas's, Havannah, &c. into Chesapeake bay; and the crops of grain, tobacco, and fruit, being greater than had been known for many years, would afford the most ample returns, as well as the supplies to the French fleet then in the bay. Several ships, under imperial and Danish colours, have found their way to Virginia to procure cargoes of tobacco, which sold remarkably cheap, in exchange for European goods. The people in general, to the southward looked upon the war as over; that New-York and Charles-town would be soon evacuated; that their independence would be avowed by England, and that the restrictions on admission of British manufactures would soon be taken off.

The dissolution of the present Irish parliament is to be declared by proclamation in March next, earl Temple having orders from the minister for that purpose.

An exchange of the English prisoners was expected when the last accounts came from Virginia; but it was imagined very few of the privates of the guards would return, numbers, in the length of time they had remained prisoners, having formed connections by marriage, and intending to settle in America, when opportunity admitted of it.

Extract of a letter from the Hague, Sept. 17.

"In a conference with the duke de la Vauguion, the French ambassador, held with the members of government, he said he should be very glad if they would, by their authority, put a stop to the many scandalous libels and prints which have been published against the prince stadtholder, who had been made very uneasy by them; and if they continued, it might even oblige his serene highness to show less zeal in the affairs of a people who so openly affront him; that the king, his master, was very well satisfied with the conduct of his serene highness, and would be much pleased to see an end put to the before mentioned infamous publications. The Prussian minister also spoke in the same assembly nearly in similar terms. These representations will, it is thought, have some effect, and government will no doubt endeavour to put a stop to the publications complained of; but in the mean time people are rather surprised at these ministers interfering in such a matter, and various are the conjectures on the subject."

DUBLIN, Sept. 21. His excellency the earl Temple ordered one English sailing to be paid to every private in the garrison that attended him on the morning of his arrival.

The following noblemen and gentlemen are made privy counsellors, earl of Charlemont and Mornington, Robert Stewart, Esq; George Ogle, Esq; James Cuffe, Esq; and Henry Grattan, Esq;

It was yesterday very confidently asserted, that a neutral vessel was arrived at Waterford from Leghorn, which passed through the Straits the 27th ult. at which time the master declares the Spanish flag was flying on the fortifications of Gibraltar.

P O R T S M O U T H, November 9.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the northern army.

"The following may be depended on as fact: a man by the name of John Cayenough, 91 years of age, is now a soldier in the New York levies, and is possessed of all the activity and military spirit of a young soldier: his captain prefers him to any man for celerity of marching, and difficult enterprises, such as marching on the banks in a rough country, carrying dispatches and the like. He personally gave me the following account of himself: that he was born in Ireland, in the year 1691, and was for some years of his minority a servant to an officer of the army; at seventeen enlisted a soldier, and became a footman to the duke of Marlborough for seven years; was at the siege of Carthagen and Porto-Bello, afterwards seven years in the navy; was at the battle of Fontenoy, in Flanders, and with the duke of Cumberland against the rebels in Scotland; at the taking of Cape Breton, Quebec, the Havannah, &c. besides (while with Rogers) being repeatedly tomahawked, of which he shewed me a sufficient receipt. In 1762, was, at his own request, discharged, came to this continent and settled at Lebanon, near Salutory spring, which he thinks tended to prolong his life and abilities. In 1775, went with the immortal Montgomery to Quebec, and bore all the fatigue of a winter campaign. In 1777, was with general Harkamer in his bloody battle; afterwards on a campaign at the White Plains, and is now a soldier for the present campaign."

B O S T O N, November 21.

Accounts are received from Port-au-Prince, that the Scipion French man of war, of 74 guns, which was conveying a fleet from the West-Indies to France, fell in with the London, of 90 guns, admiral Graves, which was separated from the Jamaica fleet, and had a smart engagement with her. The French ship finding the London was rather weak of men, attempted to board her, and got ten or twelve men on board; but another large ship heaving in sight, she attended to the safety of her convoy, and quitted the combat.

P R O V I D E N C E, November 16.

Since our last the French army, commanded by his excellency count Rochambeau, arrived here from the westward.

On Wednesday arrived in the river a ship from Totola, prize to a small galley belonging at the eastward. Her cargo consists of about 100 puncheons of rum, a quantity of brandy, &c.

The same evening arrived in the river a large sloop, captured by a galley from Connecticut. She was bound from Halifax for New-York.

N E W - Y O R K, November 20.

Copy of an order of congress, releasing captain Agill.

By the United States in Congress assembled, November 7, 1782.

On the report of a committee to whom was referred a letter of the 19th of August from the commander in chief, a report of a committee thereon, and motion of Mr. Williamson and Mr. Rutledge relative thereto, and also another letter of the 5th of October from the commander in chief, with a copy of a letter from the count de Vergennes, dated the 29th of July last, interceding for captain Agill,

Resolved, That the commander in chief be directed, and he is hereby directed to set captain Agill at liberty.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secy.

Copy of a letter from General Washington to captain Agill, covering the above resolve.

S I R, Head Quarters, Nov. 13.

IT affords me singular pleasure to have it in my power to transmit you the enclosed copy of an act of congress of the 7th instant, by which you are released from the disagreeable circumstances in which you have so long been. Supposing you would wish to go into New-York as soon as possible, I also enclose a passport for that purpose.

Your letter of the 18th of October, came regularly to my hands. I beg you to believe that my not answering it sooner, did not proceed from inattention to you, or a want of feeling for your situation. I daily expected a determination of your case, and I thought it better to await that, than to feed you with hopes that might in the end prove fruitless. You will attribute my detention of the enclosed letters, which have been in my hands about a fortnight, to the same cause.

I cannot take leave of you, Sir, without assuring you, that in whatever light my agency in this unpleasant affair may be received, I never was influenced through the whole of it by languinary motives, but by what I conceived a sense of my duty, which loudly called upon me to take measures, however disagreeable, to prevent a repetition of those enormities which have been the subject of discussion, and that this important end is likely to be answered without the effusion of the blood of an innocent person, is not a greater relief to you, than it is to, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, December 3.

For three weeks past it has been currently reported in New-York that Gibraltar had surrendered to the combined forces of France and Spain. But yesterday three gentlemen arrived here from that place who left it on Wednesday last, when a vessel had arrived in seven weeks from London; and it was soon after given out that she brought an account that lord Howe had relieved Gibraltar; and in consequence the city of London was illuminated. Whether this was told to deceive our informants, a little time will ascertain. Other accounts from Jersey say, that the October packet arrived at the Hook on Thursday afternoon, and that it was reported in New-York that the bank of England had stopped payment. A few days will decide as to the truth of these reports.

It is reported that the packet with the October mail, arrived on Thursday last at New-York from England; that a second fleet, or rather division of transports, had also arrived there from Halifax; and that the Quebec fleet was taking in lumber when the commanding officer at that place received an express, and ordered them to proceed immediately for New York, where, it appears by the late New-York papers, they have arrived.

The idea of the enemy's being about to leave New-York, is again revived, and indeed their late and present movements justify this opinion.

It is now positively asserted, that the last division of the British fleet sailed from New-York a few days ago.

No authentic accounts have yet been received of the evacuation of Charles Town, though it is an event which hath long been expected.

The additional number of transports which has lately arrived at New-York, from Halifax and Quebec, it is judged will be amply sufficient to take off the remainder of that garrison.

We learn from the state of Georgia, that some very shocking barbarities have lately been committed on the inhabitants by a number of the king's royal murderers, who secret themselves in the woods and swamps of that country, and fall out, when they find opportunity, on the unguarded peasants, and perpetrate their diabolical projects; projects which originate in the minds of, and can only be executed by, infernals.

A N N A P O L I S, December 11.

His Excellency Benjamin Harrison, Esq; is re-elected Governor of the commonwealth of Virginia, for the ensuing year.