

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1783.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 1783.

His Most Christian Majesty's Cutter the Triumph, commanded by the Chevalier Duquesne, arrived this morning, in thirty-six days from Cadiz. By her we have the following very agreeable and important intelligence.

WE, Cesar Anne de la Luzerne, Chevalier of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, marshal des camps and arms of the king, minister plenipotentiary of his Most Christian Majesty to the United States of North America, &c. MAKE KNOWN to all those whom it may concern, that the Chevalier Duquesne, lieutenant commanding his majesty's cutter the Triumph, who arrived this day at this port, has communicated to us orders, in form of a passport, which he received from the Count d'Estaing, vice-admiral of France, of which the following is a copy.

"CHARLES HENRY COUNT D'ESTAING, vice-admiral of France, lieutenant-general of his majesty's forces, knight of his orders, &c.

"IT is ordered that Monsieur the Chevalier Duquesne, lieutenant commanding his majesty's cutter Triumph, do sail as soon as possible from the bay of Cadiz, and inform all vessels that he may meet of the happy re-union of the belligerent powers. It is ordered, in the name of his majesty, and by me, to all ships of the line, frigates, and other vessels belonging to his majesty, that he may meet, that they abstain from all hostilities against the ships of war and merchant vessels of his Britannic majesty; but, on the contrary, that they give them all necessary aid and succour, and every testimony of a union re-established under the most happy auspices, by the preliminaries which were signed the 20th of the month of January, in the present year. It is ordered also, in his majesty's name, that all vessels armed for war and on a cruise, do return into port. After having given them a copy of this order, he shall take their names, likewise the date of the day that he shall have furnished it, and shall notify to them that they shall answer personally for every deed which they may commit contrary thereto.

"Monsieur the Chevalier Duquesne, in virtue of the present order, which serves him for a passport, shall carry a flag of truce; he shall particularly visit in those latitudes where he presumes he may meet the greatest number of French privateers, and shall endeavour to overtake them. If the events of the sea shall conduct him to any of the French colonies, or upon the coasts of the United States of America, he shall communicate the present orders, to the governor of the place, and to the armed vessels of the different nations that may be then there; he will likewise shew the present passport to all vessels of war belonging to his Britannic majesty with whom he shall speak, and give them a copy signed by him, if they should desire it. He shall likewise pay them every respect, which the first moments of a re-union demands; the object of his mission, (for the good of humanity, and as much as is in my power) being to hasten its happy effects.

Cadiz, the 10th of February, 1783.

Signed 'D'ESTAING."

By order, MARTIN.

And desiring to give all necessary authenticity and notoriety to these orders, We certify by these presents, that the above is a true copy.

We likewise certify, that M. le Chevalier Duquesne has informed us, that M. le Comte d'Estaing directed him to desire all vessels that he should find ready to sail in the different ports where he should have occasion to go, to delay their departure from said ports, until the arrival of official accounts of the signing the preliminaries, the news of which cannot fail to arrive soon on this continent.

Given at Philadelphia, in our Hotel, this 24th of March, 1783.

LE CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE.

ANNAPOLIS, March 27.

It is with inexpressible pleasure we assure our readers, that, on the 20th of January last, the preliminaries of peace were signed, at Paris, by the minister plenipotentiary of all the belligerent powers. The principal heads of those articles are,

- 1. Great-Britain acknowledges the sovereignty and independence of the Thirteen United States of America; and their limits are agreed upon as in the articles signed the 30th of November, except only, that they shall not extend further down the Mississippi than the 32d degree of north latitude, from whence a line is to be drawn to the head of the river St. Mary, and along the middle of that river to its mouth.
2. Great-Britain to restore to France, Goree, St. Lucia, St. Pierre, and Miquelon.
3. France to restore to Great-Britain Grenada, St. Vincent's, Dominique, and St. Christopher's.
4. France to retain Tobago and Senegal.
5. France to be re-established in the East-Indies, as well in Bengal, as on the east and west coast of the peninsula, as regulated by the treaty of 1763.
6. The fishery of France and England on the coast of Newfoundland to remain on the same footing as they were left by the treaty of 1763, except that part of the coast from Cape Bonavitta to Cape St. John's which shall belong to the English.
7. The articles of the preceding treaties, concerning the demolition of Dunkirk, to be suppressed.

- 8. Spain to retain Minorca and West-Florida.
9. Great-Britain cedes East-Florida to Spain.
10. Great-Britain to restore Trinqueemale to the Dutch, if not retaken.
11. Great-Britain to retain the Dutch settlement of Negapatam, in the East-Indies.
12. St. Eustatia, Demerara, Berbice, and Ilesquibo, to be restored to the Dutch.
13. An agreement to be entered into between Spain and Great-Britain, about cutting wood in the Bay of Honduras.

This important intelligence was brought to Philadelphia, last Sunday, by his Most Christian Majesty's cutter, the triumph, commanded by the Chevalier Duquesne, in thirty six days from Cadiz, from whence he was dispatched, on the 10th of February, by Count d'Estaing, "to inform all vessels of the happy re-union of the belligerent powers, and to order all French cutters to return into port." We cannot but remark the moderation and magnanimity of France, in this treaty; she has obtained nothing for herself, but the immortal honour of securing independence and peace to America. Can such unexampled and disinterested conduct be effaced from the minds of our people? Every sentiment of virtue, honour, and gratitude, must be eradicated, before we forget, that, under the Divine Providence, we owe the blessings of freedom and independence to the illustrious monarch of France. We are well assured that hostilities were to cease in America the 20th of this month.

The distresses of the American prisoners, at New-York, have for several years claimed the attention of Congress, and the legislatures of the several states. Numbers of these unfortunate people perished, and many were compelled, by the extremity of their sufferings, from hunger, nakedness, and disease, to enter into the service of the enemy. It was not in the power of Congress to liberate them from their captivity, or alleviate their wants. The calamity for the last four years was chiefly confined to those of our citizens, who were captured on board of our merchant-vessels; a brave and most useful set of men. It being represented to our governor and council, that a number of naval prisoners belonging to this state (many of them the sons and brothers of gentlemen of respectable characters, fortune, and influence) were suffering all the horrors of captivity, on board the prison ship, at New-York, they resolved to send, under sanction of flags of truce, a small quantity of corn and flour to that place, for sale, to relieve their distresses. It was previously known, that the enemy would receive flags with those articles. On the 12th of this month, a small bay sloop, with one hundred barrels of flour, and about eight hundred bushels of corn, was sent from this port, with a flag, to admiral Digby; and on the 17th, off Little Egg Harbour, she was boarded, under British colours, by a small schooner of six guns, belonging to Newport, in the state of Rhode-Island, one Oliver Reed commander; who, after taking out the mate and four sailors, and several articles belonging to the flag (leaving the vessel, Commodore, the mate, on board) sent her to Rhode-Island, under pretence, that this government was trading with the enemy. On the same morning the sloop was boarded by a British barge, her papers and cargo examined, and permitted to prosecute her voyage. There was no other cargo on board but corn and flour, for the benefit of our prisoners, and necessary provisions for the people; and no other papers, but the passport and letters from his Excellency our governor to admiral Digby, and a gentleman in New-York to sell the cargo, and procure clothing and necessaries for our prisoners. The mate of the flag writes, "that the commander of the privateer (or pirate) proposed, on the next day after seizing the flag, to let him and the people on shore on a Beach-Island (near Barnegate-Inlet) and observed, that no inhabitants lived within five or six miles from the main land." It cannot escape notice, that more respect was shewn to this government by a refugee barge, than by a vessel of a sister state, under a commission from Congress. It is well known, that several of the eastern states have frequently exchanged their prisoners, without any application to, or consent of Congress; and it is confidently asserted, that they have often sent provisions to New-York for their support; the news-papers acquaint us, that his Excellency President Dickinson informed the assembly of Pennsylvania, that a flag sent by him, a few weeks ago, with flour, for the naval prisoners of that state in New-York, had been received there. If this sovereign and independent republic patiently submits to this disgraceful insult, it will be deservedly repeated. "Public honour is security."

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated Feb. 23, 1783.

"I conceive the impatience you have for news from this city, and you expect, perhaps, that I will put an end to your anxiety about the cessation of war, and the conclusion of a final treaty of peace; but I can only communicate to you meer conjectures on this subject; however, having here a better opportunity of getting true informations, because we are nearer to the centre of official correspondence, I shall tell you sincerely what I think of the present situation of affairs.

"The acknowledgment of our independence by England, has always been considered as the greatest obstacle to a peace; it seems that, in the course of the negotiations, and since the beginning of the mediation of the two empresses, until the month of October last, this difficulty has continually put a stop to their progress;

but the parliament of England has at last removed it, and the king of Great-Britain thought himself sufficiently authorized to stipulate our independence, and would have wished even (as well as the whole nation) to grant it definitively, by concluding a separate treaty with us. This was the object of the commission of the secretary of general Carleton; this commander, disappointed by the refusal of congress; discouraged by the successive resolutions of the different legislatures, relative to a separate peace, has undoubtedly informed his court of these circumstances, and probably told her, that we are so obdurate, that nothing can be expected from us until the acknowledgment of our independence. These informations at last determined the king of England to surmount his aversion, and to give, on the first of October last, to Mr. Fitzherbert, his minister at Paris, full powers to negotiate with our ministers, as with the plenipotentiaries of an independent nation; in consequence of which they have, on the 30th of November, signed some provisional articles, which will have their effect only when a peace with France is signed.

"His Britannic majesty must gain great advantages by having taken this step, even in case the war should continue; 1st. he will lessen, by the evacuation of Charles-town, and by the probable evacuation of New-York, the enormous expence incurred by the war against the United States; 2d. he will turn against France all the resources formerly employed against us, render serviceable in the West-Indies the useless garrison of New-York, and apply to his navy the immense sums of money formerly buried in New-York and Charles-town; 3d. lastly, he makes no sacrifice, by acknowledging an independence which we already possess in the most extensive manner.

"I allow these advantages to be real; but the king of England probably may expect to procure still another one, which it will not be so easy for him to acquire; I suppose that France would not think proper to make peace on the terms proposed by England; in this case the emissaries of the latter would tell us, it is the ambition of France which prevents the conclusion of a definitive treaty; we have granted you all you requested; conclude a particular and separate peace with us, for the longer you will keep to your alliance with France; the more uncertain will be your independence, and the further you will remove the termination of the war. Would to God that the British emissaries would address us in that stile; it will not be difficult for us to reply, and to prove ourselves in the eyes of all nations to be as religiously attached to our engagements, as we have been prudent and firm in the efforts we have made for our independence. We shall first oppose to these emissaries the eighth article of the treaty of alliance, stating that "neither of the two parties shall conclude either truce or peace without the formal consent of the other first obtained." This article removes every difficulty but if it even did not exist, we would answer them; "the artifice you make use of is too gross; you began by proposing to France great advantages, provided she should abandon us, and make a separate peace; she rejected your offers with disdain, it is now our province to follow her example; our honour, our interest, and our duty, leave us no alternative; our honour, because we should stain it with an eternal blemish, if we betrayed a nation, to whom we are so greatly indebted; our interest, because by admitting you again amongst us, we would expose ourselves to your intrigues, render the former influence to your partisans, and run the risk of seeing you obtain, by your artifices, what your arms were unable to procure; our duty, because the first obligation of nations, as well as of individuals, is to fulfil and to keep inviolably their engagements."

"These sentiments are here generally prevailing, they are the dictates of honesty and of virtue, and I am happy to see that, notwithstanding the deprivation so generally complained of, the number of virtuous citizens is by far the greatest. It may be asked, however, why did France consent to our ministers concluding even a provisional treaty with England? and why did she not feel that by that measure she would expose us to the temptation of making a separate peace? Because our generous ally knows our faithful attachment to our obligations; because he is persuaded that he has no reason to fear our defection; because a virtuous prince and a friend to humanity is always ready to facilitate, as much as lies in his power, the measures he thinks adapted to procure a peace; lastly, because our independence is the object this monarch had chiefly in view during this war, and because he knows that the king of England, after having consented to it by a provisional treaty, cannot change his resolution, and that this great point is to be considered as entirely settled with respect to England, from the very time this prince declared it to his parliament, and pronounced a word, which during seven years had appeared to him so horrid, that he preferred to spill the blood of thousands rather than to utter it.

"I cannot forbear, Sir, on this occasion, to recommend to your notice the prayers this humane, generous, peaceable, and religious monarch, addresses to the Almighty, for our prosperity and our happiness. What punishment has he then prepared for a Howe, a Cornwallis, a Rawdon, and for all the other executioners and incendiaries he has sent against us? What will be the treatment of the commissioners, Carleton, Clinton, Eden, for having declared that Great-Britain would, by every means in her power, destroy or render useless a con-