great difficulty they got into Cronstadt, where they are now refitting.

The Swedish fleet was lying at Helsingfors on the 25th ultimo, and would be ready to put to sea in about three weeks.

By letters received per the above ship, we are informed, that it was lately determined in the Russian cabinet to call on Great-Britain to assist her in her present very critical situation, with ten ships of the line and fifteen frigates, the expences of which were to be defrayed by her imperial majesty; and in order to induce the court at St. James's to accede to her request, it was to be accompanied by certain overtures highly advantageous to the commercial and manufacturing interests of Great-Britain.

The following method of extinguishing fire without any danger of its breaking out afresh, has been very successfully practised in Germany and France:—As soon as an engine is in readiness to work, stir into the water, which is immediately to be discharged, seven or eight pounds of pearl-ash in powder, and continue to add it in this proportion as occasion requires, taking care that the engine so prepared be directed against the timber, or wainscot, &c. just beginning to burn, and not against the brick work. Or, whenever time will admit, dissolve any quantity of pearl-ash in a copper with water, and as fast as it dissolves, which will be in a very few minutes, mix a paleful with the water in the engine every now and then, and whatever burning wood it is played upon will be extinguished as if it were dipped in water, and will never burn afresh in that part so extinguished. The above was the discovery of the late celebrated professor Hoffman.

BOSTON, *November* 3.

Extract of a letter from France, to a gentleman in Newport, dated August 29, 1788.

"There has been some confusion in some parts of this kingdom; but Mr. Neckar has got in prime minister, which gives general satisfaction.—With regard to the powers in the north which are at war, it is yet impossible to say what part France and England will take.

"I hope by this time you have got some kind of government, that honest men may live with you."

A spontaneous kernel of corn in New-London the last season, grew to such perfection, that without hilling, it bore 2051 good kernels of the large white Long-Island corn, on 10 ears.

One day last week a man in the market place in his town, eat 3 pounds of cheese and 8 pence worth of gingerbread, which excited risibility from a great number of spectators.

We are informed that a fatal disease is now prevalent in North-Carolina, of which, when a person is attacked with it he seldom survives a longer period than 24 hours.

HARTFORD, *November* 3.

Last Thursday night, about half after ten o'clock, the dwelling house of Mr. John Howe, jun. of Glastenbury, east society, unaccountably took fire.—Mrs. Howe, a daughter, three sons, and a young lady on a visit, were in bed in the house. Mr. Howe was sitting with two or three other men at his brother's house, about fifty rods distant: on discovering an unusual light, he ran out and perceived it to be his house on fire. They made all possible speed to the place, where they found all, excepting one, of the above-mentioned persons, in the greatest terror and distress, having with the utmost difficulty escaped the flames.

The eldest son was missing. The father attempted to enter the bed-room to rescue the boy, but was repulsed by a violent current of smoke that issued out, on knocking in the window; had he entered he must inevtiably have perished. Mrs. Howe being much burnt in attempting to extricate her son, was conducted to a neighbouring house, where she lies dangerously ill of her burns. Although a number of people were soon collected, yet so rapid and outrageous were the flames, that nothing more could be done than to prevent their catching the barn. After the building had fallen in, and the heat a little abated, the body of the boy was discovered, and by means of long poles got out of the fire. A painful and melancholy sight! nearly one half the scull, one hand, both legs, and part of the thighs were burnt off; the lower bowels burnt out, and the whole body burnt to blackness. Besides the loss of their son, of about eight years old, the unhappy sufferers are turned out of house and home, without cloathing to secure them from the inclemency of the season, or food to satisfy the demands of nature. How quick the transition from prosperity to nakedness and want!—It is hoped that charity will open her liberal hands for the relief of the distressed.

PHILADELPHIA, *November* 12.

A letter from Paris, of August 23, says—"We have this day received the disagreeable intelligence that the Marechal de Castries, one of the most valuable East-India ships, is lost in coming out of the port of Sierra-Leon, in Africa, where she had anchored in her passage from Mocha. No part of her cargo has been recovered, but the crew are all saved. She was chiefly laden with coffee, and the loss is said to exceed 1,200,000 livres, for which she has been insured, partly in Paris, partly in Holland, and partly in London."

AUGUSTA, *October* 25.

We hear by way of general Joseph Martin, lately from the Western waters, that about the 10th instant, John Sevier, late governor of Franklin, with a party of his adherents, rode up to a store in that country, purchased and drank rum till they were very much intoxicated. The merchant making the discovery, very prudently told them they should have no more. This conduct exasperated Sevier; he immediately drew his pistol, and advanced towards the merchant, who by this time had prepared himself for the attack. An unfortunate bye-stander, who dreaded the consequences of the rencountre, stepped in between them, and was shot through the body by Sevier. He, Sevier, rode off with great precipitation, but was in a few hours pursued and overtaken by colonel Tipton, who confined and conducted him to Burke gaol in North-Carolina, where he is now in irons.

RICHMOND, *November* 12.

Extract of a letter dated Greene county, (North-Carolina) October 25, 1788.

"On the 17th instant, Gallespy's Fort (below the mouth of Little River) on Holstein, a little after sunrise was furiously attacked by about 300 Indians, under the command of John Watts. The few men in the Fort made a gallant resistance; but being overpowered by numbers, and their ammunition being expended, the Indians rushed over the walls, or rather the roofs of the cabins, which made part of the Fort; great was the horror of the scene that then ensued.—The best accounts say our loss is 28 persons, mostly women and children, as several of the men belonging to the Fort, were abroad at the time.

"This body we are told, is a part of a much larger one now encamped at Chota, composed of both Creeks and Cherokees, said to be under the direction of Alexander M'Gillivray. And I am just now informed, that one thousand Indians have crossed the Tenasee, in two divisions, and that one of them had attacked major Houston's Fort, and the other was near captain White's, on the north side of Holstein. The whole of our militia are under marching orders, and colonel Kennedy has already set out with those that were first ready; resolving to defend the country to the last extremity. So you may shortly expect to hear of a bloody scene indeed.

"Major King is returned from the Middle Settlements, and gives but little encouragement of a prospect of peace; he went by the way of Swannanno, and proceeded through several towns, and returned down the Tenasee, until he met with a party of Indians returning from Gallespy's Fort. They dissuaded him from proceeding to Chota, saying the Indians in the main camp were angry and might kill him. This party of Indians gave the major a relation of what passed at the attack on our Fort, and said the Indians had several prisoners.

"Colonel Martin since his unsuccessful expedition is become unpopular—Sevier is yet in confinement—North-Carolina, notwithstanding the encouragement given by her executive in July last, supports us but feebly; and it will be our hard lot, singly and alone, to contend with the combined forces of two numerous tribes, well supplied by a neighbouring state, and it is said countenanced by congress. It is a hard case to condemn an individual unheard, but far worse a whole people, and the more so when barbarians are to be the executioners, and the innocent to suffer with the guilty.——The humanity and justice of the rulers of the nation, will surely revolt at such consequences, when they are fully and rightly informed."

Nov. 15. A correspondent has communicated the following ludicrous occurrence: An old maiden lady in England, having taken it into her head that she should die in a few days, gave directions to the sexton of the parish to which she belonged, to dig out a handsome deep grave to receive her body; but before the much apprehended time arrived, she met with a jolly young farmer, who wanted her money, and she was prevailed upon to accompany him to church upon a different occasion. The honest sexton happened to be at work on her intended grave as she passed by, when she very generously put a guinea into his hand, and requested him to fill it up again as expeditiously as possible.

On the manner of destroying insects which attack fruit trees.

[*From the Paris Memoirs of Agriculture.*]

M. de Thossee having found that oil of turpentine, when applied to animals which were covered with vermin, destroyed those vermin without hurting the animal; the author of this memoir tried it on several kinds of tree lice, and other insects, all of which it killed, without hurting the trees. He then mixed some oil of turpentine with fine earth, so as to make it incorporate well; and then added water, stirring it carefully till the whole was brought to a considerable degree of fluidity. In this mixture he dipped branches of fruit trees covered with insects, which were entirely destroyed by it, eggs and all, without hurting the fruit, branch or leaves.

The composition may be got off with artificial watering, or left to be washed away by the first shower. From those experiments, he thinks that oil of turpentine may well be employed for killing various kinds of lice that infest domestic animals, and sometimes produce diseases on fruit trees. Experiments will ascertain how far this remedy will prove efficacious in different cases.

WINCHESTER, *(Virginia) November* 15.

By a person who past through this town on Saturday last, from Kentucky, we are informed, that he with some others, coming down the Ohio, discovered something on the banks, which they supposed to be flour; on going on shore it proved to be heaps of feathers, and appeared to have been emptied from beds; upon further search, to their great surprise they found at a little distance, three fresh scalps, a ploughshare, &c. It being evident that the savages had lately perpetrated a murder on some unfortunate persons going down the river, and our informant with his companions, not being in a situation to stand a contest with the enemy, thought it most prudent to come off. No certain information could be obtained who the above devoted victims to savage barbarity were, but it was conjectured they belonged to a boat which had left Red Stone about three weeks since, loaded with arms, &c. and was not afterwards heard of.

FREDERICKSBURG, *November* 20.

By a gentleman who left Kentucky the 18th of September, we are informed, that he met on his way 1004 people in one party, bound to Kentucky. He also informs, that tobacco had lately taken a rise, from twelve to twenty-five shillings per hundred, and that wheat was selling at one dollar per bushel. An ox of five years old, that weighed 900wt. sold for a guinea, and all kinds of provision were in proportion. Best hyson tea sold at fifteen shillings.

Annapolis, November 27.

The honourable John Eager Howard, Esquire, is chosen governor of this state for the ensuing year, in the room of Thomas Johnson, Esquire, who declined accepting his appointment.

Translation of the duke of Sudermania's letter to the king of Sweden, giving an account of the engagement between the Swedish and Russian fleets, extracted from the Stockholm Gazette of July 31, 1788.

Your majesty's fleet under my command, consisting of 15 ships of the line, and 5 frigates, was on the 17th inst. cruising in the narrows off Kalkboden and Ekholmen, with the wind easterly, and very foggy weather, when early in the morning we heard several guns fired to windward. This was unexpected, as by information received from different ships, I had reason to believe the Russian fleet were still at anchor at Seasker. I ordered the fleet, however, to form in a line on the starboard tack, a disposition the most likely to gain the weather gage of the enemy; but there being little wind, and a very strong current running near the lee side of Ekholmen, the van were not able to accomplish that manœuvre, which obliged me, at 6 A. M. to form the fleet in a line of battle on the larboard tack, and I at the same time made the signal to prepare for action. Before this order of battle could be formed a few Russian ships of war were discovered through the fog, and various reports came in as to their number and force. Notwithstanding this uncertainty, and the dangers of a lee shore, I thought it dishonourable for your majesty's fleet to decline coming to action, and therefore made a signal to tack, and advance in columns to meet the enemy, who at 10 A. M. could be evidently discerned, ranged in line of battle, and steering towards us with the wind large; from which disposition I then conceived hopes of getting to windward of them. Their close order of sailing, added to the haziness of the weather, rendered it impossible for some time to determine their exact force; but we at last made out 33 sail, of which one was a three decker, eight of 74, and eight of 66 guns, with seven frigates carrying heavy metal. Both fleets having advanced within about two gun-shot of each other, the van of the Russian being opposed to our centre, I made a signal for your majesty's fleet to form the line a-head on the starboard tack, but the enemy still continued on the other tack, carrying all their strength against our van. This manœuvre would have rendered the engagement indecisive, and as by approaching the shoals and other dangerous places, I should at any rate have been under the necessity of soon changing the disposition of the fleet, and that in the time of action, I resolved to tack, and form the line on the larboard, a disposition which was not only the most proper to gain the enemy's weather gage, by our line stretching on towards their left wing, but also to profit by a mistake they seemed to commit in bearing up and opening different ways in the centre. This, however, was soon corrected by admiral Greig, who altered the disposition of his rear, and cautiously bore down under an easy sail, at the same time endeavouring to take his station opposite to my ship, and his fleet afterwards bore down courageously within musket shot; upon which, at 4 P. M. I made the signal for action, which soon became general throughout our line, and with such fury, that in the space of an hour the leading ship of the enemy's squadron was totally disabled, and obliged to be towed out of the line, and brought round on the other tack, under the cover of some of their ships.

The smoke from the Russian fleet settling down upon us, and our own being but little dispersed from the lightness of the breeze, it was not possible to make or answer any signals, or even to distinguish our own line. This gave opportunity for small divisions of the enemy to station themselves on my quarter, and keep up a very heavy fire, being frequently relieved by others; and the same method of fighting seemed also to prevail in their van. But when the smoke had in some measure subsided, several Russian ships were seen disabled, and towing away to windward of their fleet. Afterwards they collected a considerable force in the van, and admiral Greig was also there, when the wind failing, and the smoke again settling on our fleet, which now, as in the morning, felt great inconvenience from the strength of the current off Ekholmen, and to such a degree, that notwithstanding all possible manœuvres, and the greatest exertion of our boats in towing, it was totally impracticable to prevent our ships sailing round, and suffering exceedingly by being raked fore and aft by the enemy.

It was in this critical situation, that the Wasa, commanded by the gallant count Horn (since dead of the wounds he then received) very seasonably covered me by a vigourous and well supported fire; and I sent lieutenant Ekholm to inform the van that the fleet was to veer, as the setting of the current did not allow us to come near the wind on this tack, but was in our favour on the other. At 8 o'clock P. M. our line was again formed, and the action renewed with uncommon vigour on both sides, but with great advantage to your majesty's fleet, the enemy being obliged to veer, while exposed to the hottest of our fire, in order to cover