

Last week the court martial ended at Deptford, on the several captains accused by rear admiral Knowles, and sentence was passed on capt. Digby Dent as follows viz.

The court, pursuant to an order from the right hon. the lords commissioners of the admiralty, to sir Edward Hawke, dated the 16th of February, 1749 proceeded to enquire into the conduct and behaviour of capt. Digby Dent, in an intended attack upon the port of St. Jago de Cuba, on the 22d of March 1748; and having heard the witnesses produced, and maturely considered their evidence, the court are unanimously of opinion, that capt. Dent is not blameable for his conduct in not attempting to force the port of St. Jago, considering the unexpected obstacle that presented itself upon his drawing near the mouth of the harbour; and the court do therefore hereby unanimously acquit him of any blame upon that account.

BOSTON, May 7.

On the 29th past capt. Crowningfield, in a schooner, bound hither from Bristol, was drove ashore at Cape Ann, and bilged, by which accident the goods were much damaged, but 'tis thought the vessel may be got off.

Yesterday a vessel arrived here in 4 days from Halifax, by which we have letters informing, that the armed vessels and troops sent to drive the French and Indians from their post at Carleton, had appeared there, and that upon their approach, the French set fire to all their houses and church, and retired to a village at some distance, where they posted themselves, and set our people at defiance. 'Tis said they were about a thousand strong, and had orders from the governor of Canada, not to quit the place while they had a man left. That our people not being strong enough to attack them, were gone to Minas, there to wait for further orders, and a reinforcement of men.

ANNAPOLIS.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Cecil County.

"Between 2 and 3 o' Clock, P. M. on the 15th of May last, the Wind Westerly, and the Clouds driving from the East, a most surprizing Torado happened in this Neighbourhood which (in the few Minutes the Wind, Rain, Lightning and Thunder lasted) destroyed very many Tobacco Houfe and other Buildings, &c. The terrible Force of this violent Tempest may be in part conceived, from the Instance of the Ruin it brought to Mr. John Hayes's Plantation; who, perceiving a Gull arising, sent his Son to fasten the Chamber Shutters, whilst he attempted to shut the back Door of his Houfe; when, in a Moment the Houfe, (all but some of the Bricks, and lower Floor,) with the Furniture, Apparel, &c. and the Kitchen, and a strong Outnouse, were all carried away into an adjoining Branch, in a Chaos of numberless Pieces and Shivers; every Thing being torn, twisted, and dispersed in an inexpressible Manner. The Outnouse was made of massy Logs; and the Dwelling-Houfe was also saw'd Logs, 32 by 17, with a Partition of Dove-tail Logs, all strong and lately built, with a Stack of Brick Chimneys at each End.

Mr. Hayes was blown thro' the Houfe, and was found without the fore Door with a Piece of Timber on his Neck; but the Door ne went to shut was carried over the Branch (whilst the Houfe was hoisted over him in 10,000 Fragments) above 100 Yards; and his second Son was found amongst the Rubbish of the Chimneys; but his eldest went with the Roof into the Branch.

In the Kitchen were his Wife and 5 young Children: She attempting to shut the Door, was blown down, with an Infant in her Arms; whilst the Kitchen was taken away, with the Pot over the Fire, &c. but a great Cupboard that fell upon a Pail saved two Children under it, and the other two received no Hurt. Some of the Oak Logs, 10 Inches deep, and 5 or 6 thick, were whirl'd above 100 Yards; and his new Barn, 22 by 32, built very strong, was lifted off the Blocks, but was accidentally stopp'd by a firm Prize Post.

Some of the numberless Pieces of the Houfe, &c. were carried above a Mile; some of the Bacon was found in the Tops of Trees anse elsewhere, but the greatest Part cannot be met with. All the Goods, Apparel, &c. that has been discovered, is much twisted, shattered, and damaged; but nothing is to be found of a Tub with 4 Bushels of Salt, but some of the staves locked up here and there at a great distance. All the Fencing was blown about in a confused Manner, in all Directions, and a great deal of it lifted above 100 Yards; and the Fowls were taken away with the Blast and Rain, and mashed to

But notwithstanding all this Havock, thro' God's wonderful Providence, no Person was mortally hurt; Mr. Hayes and his Wife, and five of his Sons, being only much bruised and cut, without any appearance of Danger of Death; and all the rest got being touch'd.

This Hurricane began at the Glebe, where it drove down the Fences, and did some other Damage; and hurrying thence to the North Eastward, it demolished Mr. Hayes's, which was the next Plantation; and spreading about two Miles wide, carried Destruction with it to the Plantations of Mr. Samuel Beetle, Mr. Michael Earle, Mr. Robert Pinnington, Col. John Baldwin, Mrs. Thompson, &c. &c. but how far it went to that Courie is as yet unknown in this Neighbourhood.

It's immediate Cause appears to be the great Struggle between the opposite East and West Winds, and a Southerly Breeze, which at *Sassifras* blew pretty fresh; by which means the Hemisphere was soon fill'd with heavy Clouds piled upon one another; except towards the North East, where it darted forth into the thinnest and lightest Part of the Atmosphere, by reason of the overponderating Pressure of the accumulated Clouds which likewise forced the Southerly Wind at *Sassifras* very violently into a contrary Direction; some of the Explosion venting that Way with great Fury, as from the Cascabel of a burnt Cannon.

There is frequently greater Thunder and Lightning than what attended this Storm; but the Elasticity and Velocity of the Wind was so prodigious, that the largest and soundest Oaks, Poplars, and Hickories were twisted, snapp'd off, or blown up by the Roots; and the Rain was driven at a very acute Angle with the Horizon."

On Saturday last his Excellency our Governor put an End to the Session of Assembly, and prorogued it to the Second Tuesday in October next, after giving his Assent to the following Laws; viz.

An Act continuing an Act entitled, An Act to prevent the ill Practices of Sheriffs in the collecting and Payment of the Publick and County Levies;

An Act continuing an Act entitled, An Act for relieving the Inhabitants of this Province from some Aggrievances in the Prosecution of Suits at Law, and for continuing the Supplementary Act thereto;

An Act continuing an Act entitled, An Act for the Advancement of Justice;

An Act to remedy some Evils relating to Servants;

An Act to enable the Justices of Kent County Court, for the Time being, to levy on the taxable Inhabitants of the said County a Quantity of Tobacco for the Uses therein mentioned;

An Act to enable the Justices of Baltimore County Court to assess and levy on the taxable Inhabitants of St. George's Parish in that County a Sum of Money for the Uses therein mentioned;

An Act empowering the Justices of Charles County Court to assess and levy a Quantity of Tobacco, and for other Purposes therein mentioned;

An Act empowering the Justices of Prince George's County, to levy on the taxable Inhabitants of Queen Anne Parish in the said County Fifty Pounds Current Money for the Uses therein mentioned;

An Act continuing an Act entitled, An Act for the Gauge of Barrels for Pork, Beef, Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and Tars of Barrels for Flour or Bread;

An Act for the further Enlargement of Baltimore-Town in Baltimore County;

An Additional Supplementary Act to the Act entitled, An Act for laying out and erecting a Town at a place called Long-Point, on the West Side of North-East River in Cecil County;

An Act to settle the Divisions between Frederick and Baltimore Counties, and also between Dorchester and Worcester Counties;

An Act to oblige Owners, Overseers, and Managers, of New Works to assist in repairing Publick Roads;

An Act to empower the Justices of Prince George's County Court, for the Time being, to treat and agree with an Undertaker or Undertakers to stop a Breach now made from the North-West Branch of Patuxent River in said County, across the main Road in Queen Anne Town in said County, and to levy on the taxable Inhabitants thereof a Sum of Money for the Purposes therein mentioned;

A Supplement to an Act to the Act entitled, An Act to empower