

The Oracle for W A R Declares,

B R I

The Naval Preparations, in every Branch are carried on with the utmost Vigour, and the Persons concerned in them do their Duty with Alacrity and Cheerfulness.

H A L I F A X, June 12.

On Wednesday a French Dogger, taken by His Majesty's Ship Fougex, Commodore Spry, off Louisburg, arrived here; she was taken the 29th of May, bound to Louisburg from Rochefort, her Cargo consisting chiefly of King's Provisions. On their Passage hither, the French Captain endeavoured twice to rise upon the English, but was happily prevented; and presently after her coming to Anchor in this Harbour, he attempted to fire a Gun, a 4 Pounder, charged with Grape Shot, at the Governor's House, but the Gun missing Fire, altho' the Priming was burnt, it was happily prevented. The Captain is closely confined.

The next Day a Prize Schooner, taken by His Majesty's Ship Succes, Capt. Rous, arrived here; Capt. Rous first saw her off Louisburg, and gave Chase to her, which they discerning, stood thro' the Gut of Canso into the Bay Vert, and running into a small Bay they run the Schooner ashore, which Capt. Rous perceiving, he immediately manned out his Barge with armed Men, and sent them in after her, but when they came to her they found the People had all deserted her, after heaving overboard her Guns all except one, and setting Fire to a Barrel of Tar that stood near some Hogheads of Rum, which they happily extinguished, and brought her safe off; they left Capt. Rous on Sunday last returning to join the Fleet. Her Cargo also consists of Provisions, but as no Papers were found on board, they cannot tell who she was, where from, or where bound: She is an English built Vessel of about 90 Tons.

B O S T O N, July 5.

Yesterday arrived here Capt. Dommet, in 8 Days from Halifax, and says, the Afternoon before he failed Captain Rous arrived there from off Louisburg, and reported to the Governor, that the Fleet under Commodore Spry, then consisting of 7 Sail, observing a 36 Gun French Frigate, gave her Chase, and 5 of them being prime Sailers, left the Norwich of 50 Guns, and a 60 Gun Ship to Leeward, which the Morning after discovered a large Ship between them, that proved to be a 54 Gun French Man of War, when they immediately began to engage her, and after exchanging a few Broadfides, she struck to the Norwich. She had on board 480 Men, and was bound to Louisburg. Capt. Rous also took a French Storeship of 400 Tons, and 80 Men, laden with Ammunition, Stores, &c. &c. likewise bound to Louisburg, which, with the Man of War, he was conveying to Halifax, but in a Fog the Thursday Night before parted with them; and as the Wind was fair when Capt. Dommet failed, he doubts not of their being arrived. The two above Ships were Part of 13 Sail which failed from different Ports in France for Cape-Breton; and we hope in our next to give a further Account of the Remainder, as the Fleet cruising off Louisburg, now consists of 13 Sail, having, since the taking of the above Prizes, been reinforced with six Ships, viz. a 40, a 20, and a 16 Gun Ship from hence, a 20 Gun Ship from Virginia, the Grafton of 74, and Nottingham of 60, from New-York.

N E W - Y O R K, July 5.

Commodore Spry, who is now cruising off Louisburg, has with him, the Fougex, of 64 Guns, himself Commander; the Centurion of 54, Capt. Mantel; the Norwich of 50, Capt. Barrington; the Litchfield of 50, Capt. Barton; the Succes of 20, Capt. Rous; the Vulture Sloop, Capt. Scaffé; and one other Sloop;—all of which when joined by Commodore Holmes, (who commands in Chief upon his Arrival), in the Grafton of 70; and Capt. Marshal, in the Nottingham of 60; both of whom left the Hook about two Weeks since; together with the Syren of 20, Capt. Proby; with the Lynn of 40, Capt. Kirk; and Mermaid of 20, Capt. Shirley; who left Halifax about the 18th of June for the Fleet;—as also the Garland of 20, Capt. Arbuthnot, who pass'd this Harbour a few Days ago from Virginia; and the Jamaica Sloop, Capt. Hood from South-Carolina;—will form a Fleet of Fourteen Sail, sufficient, it is thought, with a good Look-out, to keep any French Fleet from entering Louisburg Harbour;—and the rather, as it is likewise thought the Situation of the Admirals Hawke, Byng, Moflyn, and Holbourne, in the European Seas, will cause such a Diversion among the Fleets of France in that Part of the World, as to prevent their coming in any great Body to disturb us much

in this.—In the West-Indies, indeed, it is said, That five Sail of French Men of War have lately arrived in some of their Islands, and have taken some few of our Vessels;—but Admiral Townsend at Jamaica, with his Fleet, and Commodore Frankland, at Antigua, with his, (which latter was last Month joined by 3 Men of War from England), it is not doubted but that a Stop will soon be put to their Career there. Mean while, we are to trust for Success to our Forces to the Northward, under the experienced Abercrombie.

July 12. Capt. Morris, from Falmouth, informs us, That as soon as his Catholick Majesty had Advice of the French having landed their Troops on the Island of Minorca, he immediately made the same known to Sir Benjamin Keene, the British Minister at his Court, who transmitted the same in the Groyne Packet Boat directly for England; the Master of which acquainted Capt. Morris, that War was declared in France against England, much about the Time the French Fleet left Toulon for Minorca; and that a Gentleman who bore a Commission of Importance under his Majesty at Falmouth, told him he was ordered up to London, where he expected War would be declared against France before his Arrival.

The above News gains such Credit here, that our Merchants are beginning to fit out Privateers; and a Brig that lay at the Watering-place, ready to put to Sea, commanded by Capt. Waynman, has Orders to lay some Time to know the Event.

Extract of a Letter from Oswego, dated June 20.

"We are all in general well and hearty in this Place, tho' we had a disagreeable Visit 3 Days ago, from about 2 or 300 French and Indians. At Day Dawn they attacked a Sergeant's Guard a little Way from Fort Ontario, just after they came out of the Fort, and were putting up their Tents; they killed and scalped 5 of the Guard, one they carried off Prisoner, and two they wounded, notwithstanding the Fire of our Cannon, and some Muskets, they kept in the Bushes, and behind Logs, continually firing on the Town, for two Hours; however, I am pretty sure we have done them some Mischief by the Quantity of Blood we found in different Parts. I saw one of them fall by a Shot from this Side. We have Plenty of Provisions, but few Men, and fewer Officers; so that I imagine if we keep our own, we shall do very well."

By the Sloop that brought his Excellency General SHIRLEY from Albany, and others that have arrived since, we have the following Advices, viz. That on the 26th of June there were 6775 of the Provincial Troops, encamped at the Half-Moon, Saratoga, Fort Edward, and Fort William Henry; and that it was not doubted, but that by the latter End of last Week, at farthest, they would be increased to 7000 Men, Officers included, with their Provisions and Stores in such Forwardness, as to enable them forthwith to march for Ticonderoga or Crown-Point.

That a considerable Magazine of Provisions was laid in at Saratoga for his Majesty's Regular Forces, to be ready in case any of them should march that Way.

That the French had lately destroyed their Works at their most advanced Post upon Lake George, and abandoned it; and were judged to have about 3000 Troops (Part Regulars) at Ticonderoga.

That Captain Rogers went, about 3 Weeks ago, with his whole Company, and has taken with him four light Whaleboats, with which he purposes to proceed into Lake-Champlain, there to harass the Enemy's Convoys of Provisions and Stores, in their Passage from Montreal to Crown Point; that a Company of about 50 Stockbridge Indians are also gone towards Canada, on the scalping Design, and that several Parties of the Provincial Troops are kept constantly employed in scouting towards South-bay, Ticonderoga and Crown-Point; so that we have Hopes that not only our own Frontiers will be free from the frequent Incurfions and Alarms of the Enemies Parties, but that they will be paid in their own Coin, by having their own Frontiers invested.

That Major General Shirley's, and Major General Sir William Pepperrell's Regiments with the New-Jersey Regiment, commanded by Col. Peter Schuyler, his Majesty's four Independent Companies of North-Carolina, were posted at Oswego, and the several Forts and Carrying-places between that Place and Schenectady.

That notwithstanding the Road thro' the Country of the five Nations, and the whole Navigation to Oswego, had been greatly infested with Incur-

sions in the Winter and Spring, of large Parties of French Indians, employed to cut off our Convoys of Provisions and Stores for Oswego; yet by Means of our large Squadrons of Whale-boats and Batoes, a Quantity of Provisions has been thrown into our Magazine there, sufficient for the Support of 5000 Men, for several Months, with all the Cannon and Naval Stores for the several Vessels building there.

That the Return of the Batoes to Schenectady, from Oswego, was expected in a very few Days; when they would be ready to take on board another Cargo of Provisions and Stores, with such Troops for Oswego, as are destined to act on Lake Ontario, in any Attempt which shall be carried on in that Quarter against the French this Year.

That by the latter End of this Month, we shall have upon the said Lake, a Naval Force consisting of one large Snow of 18 six Pounders, and 20 Swivels; one Brig of 4 six, and 6 four Pounders, and 10 Swivels; one Schooner of 10 four Pounders, and 10 Swivels; two Sloops of 8 four Pounders and ten Swivels each; and two small Schooners of 10 Swivels each; as also upwards of 230 Whale-Boats, capable of holding 16 Men each.

That at the Desire of the Indians of the Six Nations, Forts are now building at some of their Castles, for their Protection against the French, and their Indians to be mounted with Cannon, and garrisoned with English Soldiers.

That on the 27th of June, a Party of Provincials, under the Command of a Lieutenant, were sent to a small Fort near Number 4; but were surprised by a Number of the Enemy about 8 Miles from Half-Moon, when the Lieutenant, and twelve of the Men were killed. An Indian that escaped and brought the Account, said, there was 200 of the Enemy, as he saw them very plainly going over a Field.

Extract of a Letter from Oswego, dated June 25.

"On the Evening of the 23d Instant, two Schooners and 6 Whale-Boats were sent out on the Lake in order to reconnoitre the Enemy; next Day they discovered a large Body of them on a small Island, about 8 or 9 Miles long, and a half Mile over: Our People stood for the N. E. End of it, in order to cut off their Communication with Quadraque, and in rowing close up along the Shore, the foremost Whale-boat, commanded by Capt. Bickers of Col. Schuyler's Regiment, was fired upon about 3 o'Clock, P. M. and every Man in the Boat but two, was either killed or taken Prisoner. The People in the other Whale-Boats observing a great Number of Craft coming off, scuttled three of them, and went on board the Schooner, in order to attack the Enemy. Mr. Lowe, a Voluntier, and Capt. Bickers, are both killed, and are much lamented. One of the Schooners are arrived, and the other, with two Whale-Boats, are in Sight."

Thursday Evening last six 18 Pounders were taken off our Battery, and shipped on board a Sloop for Albany: We hear they are to be employed in the Crown-Point Expedition.

Saturday last, Capt. Sears arrived here in two Weeks from Halifax, where his Majesty's Ship the Grafton, Commodore Holmes, of 70 Guns, and the Nottingham of 60, were safe arrived, and intended to sail from that Place in a few Days, in order to join our Fleet that is cruising off Louisburg.

Capt. Sears informs us, That the Night before he failed, his Majesty's Ship Succes, Capt. Rous, and the Baltimore Snow, arrived there with 700 French Prisoners belonging to a French 50 Gun Ship, and a Store Ship, that some Days before were taken by our Fleet off Cape Breton; and they were hourly expected into Port. N. B. There was six Brass Mortars of 13 Inches Diameter, on board the Store Ship.

Yesterday his Excellency our Governor set out from hence for Albany.

We can assure the Public, Sir William Johnson is returned safe to Mount-Johnson.

Jamaica, on Long-Island, July 7, 1756.

About 6 o'Clock last Sunday Afternoon, we had the most violent Hurricane, that perhaps was ever seen in this Part of North-America: It began near Hell-Gate on the North Side, and run in a straight Course a-cross the Island to the South, being about 15 Miles in Length, and not exceeding 80 Rods in Breadth, making incredible Havock, destroying almost every Thing in its Way: The largest Oak and Hickory Trees were not able to withstand its Violence, but were surprizingly torn up by the Roots, split into innumerable Pieces, and many large Limbs of several Hundred Weight, carried into open Fields near Half a Mile Distance from the

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Upon your Hearts and Spears.

Fight, Fight, and Record yourselves in Drum Songs

the Woods. Several Houses are damaged destroyed, upwards of 800 bearing Apple blown down, near 80 Acres of excellent (a scarce Article of late among us), entire and several Lengths of Fence blown down broken. A Grind Stone near Capt. Lang New-Town, of upwards of 150 lb. Weight removed by the Force of the Wind, with it was fixed on 12 or 15 Feet, and thrown in Garden: An Iron Chimney Back was also several Feet from the Place it stood on. Langdon's Barn was shatter'd into innumerable Pieces; many large Timbers and Boards carried to an incredible Distance; the Iron of the Doors weighing several Pounds, were a Quarter of a Mile from the Place where they had stood. Large Showers of Limbs of Shingles, Leaves, &c. fell in some Places Mile from the Course of the Wind; two Trees were remov'd whole, with a great deal of Earth sticking to their Roots, upward of 10 Rods. The utmost Extent of the Hurricane, did not exceed Half a Minute. Betts at Jamaica, is thought to be the Sufferer, having lost near 200 choice Apple one Barn entirely gone, and another of near 15 Acres of good Timber Land laid besides Fences, &c. computed at 300 l. whose Damage at a moderate Computation mounts to between 2 and 3000 l.

Doubleless some Persons will be surpris'd others ridicule this Relation, especially the of the Grind Stone and Chimney Back, to be hoped, such will suspend their Judgment until they are certified of the Truth the Persons of the greatest Veracity, who were Witnesses to the above Facts, and many surprizing, but too tedious to be here enumerated.

A N N A P O L I S, July 2.

Sunday last arrived here Capt. Henry the Schooner Anson, of this Province, from Barbados, which Place he left the 28th of June, informs us, that the Day before he fail'd the antine arrived there after a short Passage from the Master of which made Oath before the President of the Island, That WAR was declared in London the 18th of May. The Vessel from Bristol was confign'd to Shephard and Cooper in Barbados, and all the Merchants gave the same Account WAR was actually declared.

The Day Capt. Coffin left Barbados, seeking out for Men to Man a Privateer, ready for sailing on a Cruize, and would have as War should be declared in Barbados, within every Day expected.

Monday, by the Post, the Publisher of the Gazette, received a Letter from Mr. Dorr of Philadelphia, inclosing a Copy of a Copy of Benjamin Franklin, Esq; and Himself, from Barbados, June 24th from Messieurs Wil Richard Moore, which follows,

"Gentlemen,
"We embrace this Opportunity of advising you, that War was Declared at London against France the 18th of May: A Brigantine is this Morning ved from Bristol in 30 Days, and has a Copy of the Declaration. A Packet is presently expected with Orders for it to be claimed here. We thought it proper to give this Advice, lest the Express that might be ordered from England to inform the Colonies, should miscarry. We are, &c."
"Since which we have several Letters from Barbados, all giving the same Account; one (a Copy) to a Gentleman at West-River, Correspondent at Barbados, mentions, That he inclosed him a Copy of His Britannic Majesty's Declaration of War against the French King, which was Declared in London on the 18th of May."

The Printer of this Gazette, has just received a Letter of the 17th Instant, from Bradford, at the London-Coffee-House in Philadelphia, which follows; "Sir, I embrace the opportunity of sending you a Copy of a Copy of the Declaration, from New-York the 17th Morning Capt. Scroggins arrived from Portsmouth, which Place he left the 22d of May, in Company with the New-Man of War, having Lord London on board, but left him about 2 Weeks ago on the 10th of Newfoundland. Two other Ships were ordered to come in at the same Time. There are now coming with Lord London; but it is thought the Highlanders were to leave Glasgow the 10th of June, and go on for Oswego, where they were to leave England about the same

Success depends Success depends