

We are equally desirous with yourselves to afford all reasonable Relief to the People of this Province in general, and the Land-Holders in particular, upon whom a very heavy Tax, by the great Deficiency of the Funds for sinking the 20,000,000, must in a short Time be laid, unless by some Bill to be passed this Session, including a larger Number of Contributors, that Inconvenience may be obviated; but at the same Time that we are strongly inclined to relieve Individuals, we think it incumbent upon us to pay all the Regard to Public Faith, and consequently to Public Credit, which these very important Points deserve, and our present Circumstances will allow.

In these Respects, as well as in some other, the Bill herewith returned with a Negative appears to us to be defective; but we are not without Hope of receiving another upon a Plan more consistent, and less liable to Objections, and have therefore taken the Liberty of recommending to your Consideration a Tax long experienced in this Province, and more equal, and less grievous to the People than a Land-Tax, together with the Appropriation, and Continuance of the Funds, mentioned in the Bill to have answered, or almost answered, the Ends for which they were created: The annual Produce whereof in future may be nearly estimated on a Review of the annual Income they have hitherto produced; and as we are informed that the Deficiency, which by the Law as it now stands, may be made good by a Land-Tax only, has been calculated at about 25,000,000, we conceive this Sum may be discharged by these Means in Two Years from this Time, without any considerable Inconvenience, or just Cause of Complaint. The Public Faith and Credit must be preserved at all Events, and should you therefore not be inclined to fall upon some Method, for the Ease of the Landed Interest, less exceptionable than that proposed by the Bill we have rejected, rather than expose these to any Hazard, we shall be obliged to suffer the unequal Burthen on Land, imposed by the original Bill, to take Place.

Signed per Order,
J. Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

Captain STACEY, arrived at MARBLEHEAD on 29 Days from LISBON, we have the following ADVICES, viz.

H A G U E, January 8, 1760.
We have Letters from Munder which import, that Prince Ferdinand has reinforced the Garrison of Munder with 200 Men, and that the French Garrison at Guffin had offered to capitulate. All Accounts from Saxony agree, that a decisive Battle is shortly expected between the Prussians and the Austrians near Dresden.

Prince Ferdinand's Head-Quarters at Marbourg, Jan. 8.
Upon Advice being received here, that the Post at Dillenburg was attacked, and closely pressed by the Enemy, his Serene Highness set out from hence at One o'Clock Yesterday Morning, in order to relieve it. And To-day we received Information, that the Relief was most happily effected last Night by M. de Derenthal, one of his Serene Highness's Aids de Camp. Seven Hundred of the French were taken on this Occasion, with about 40 Officers, among whom is M. Patavichini; as also seven Pair of Colours, and two Pieces of Cannon.

Vienna, January 10. From M. Daun's Head Quarters in Saxony, we have Advice, that the Prussian Troops were advancing from Wildau, in order to approach Dresden; but that the Severity of the Frost had proved very detrimental, not only among the said Troops, but also to the Austrians. In the mean Time both Armies are within a League of each other; so that an Action is speedily expected.

Ratisbon, Jan. 8. By the Position of the two Armies in Saxony, we every Instant expect to receive, from those Quarters, News of the last Importance; especially since we know that the Hereditary Prince of Brunfwick has joined the Prussian Army with his Corps, and a very considerable Train of heavy Artillery; and that M. Daun, who is extremely embarrassed in receiving Subsistence, would be obliged either to risk a Battle, or resolve to pass, with his whole Army, into Bohemia, and so abandon Dresden, and the whole Electorate of Saxony, to the King of Prussia.

Berlin, Jan. 3. We expect every Instant News of the utmost Importance; for the King, being joined by the Corps under the Hereditary Prince, detached from the Allied Army, was preparing in good Earnest to attack M. Daun, before he can be reinforced by several small Corps, which he had caused to file off towards Bohemia.

Hannover, Jan. 4. According to the last Advices from our Army, they had no Thoughts of entering into Winter Quarters; and Prince Ferdinand, very far from apprehending an Attack from the French, seemed desirous of an Opportunity to engage them. His Serene Highness has again caused a large Corps of Troops to advance towards Giffen, and that Place is so closely blocked up on every Side, that as nothing can go in or out, they did not doubt but that in a few Days it would be obliged to surrender.

L O N D O N, January 8.
Orders are given for getting ready as soon as possible, a sufficient Reinforcement of Troops, Stores and other Necessaries, for the Garrison of Quebec; at which Place several new Forts are to be erected, with strong Batteries of Cannon, &c. and also other Fortifications on the Banks of the River St. Lawrence; in order to frustrate all Designs of the French to recover that Place.

There are at great Preparations making now, in the Equipments of our Fleets, as ever were known in the Memory of Man: It is confidently asserted, that a grand Fleet, of 25 Ships of the Line, and three strong Squadrons, each having with them a proportionable Number of Land Forces, will be ready to sail the latter End of March at farthest.

By private Letters which arrived with Yesterday's Mail, it is positively asserted, that Count Daun had received Orders from his Court, to give Battle to the Prussians the first favourable Opportunity.

Such a Number of Ships are now fitting out, that the Workmen are obliged to work double Times, Sundays not excepted. Several Men of War are soon to sail for the East-Indies. There is a very great Price for Seamen.

The Troops which the Hereditary Prince of Brunfwick has led into Saxony, have with them a Train of 60 Pieces of Cannon, besides the Artillery belonging to the Regiments.

There is not any Likelihood of a Peace; Great Preparations are making for carrying on the War with Vigour the ensuing Campaign.

The last Letters from Paris say, that they continue to send Plate to the Mint, and they were then coming with the twelfth Million; by which it is thought they will push on the War with the greatest Vigour, as (say they) we can do nothing by Sea.

Private Letters from France say, that 100,000 Rekruits will be necessary to complete the several Regiments; and that 26,000 Militia are to be raised, to fill up the Vacancies in the Regiments occasioned by the Draughts daily made to complete the Regiments.

It is affirmed that the Court has sent Orders for raising 60,000 Militia, and that we shall have two Armies in Germany next Campaign.

By Yesterday's Mail the Court has received Advice, that the Marshal Duke of Beuglio, having received Advice, that in the Town of Dillenburg, and its Castle, there was but a feeble Garrison (about 100 Men, under a Hanoverian Capt.) resolved to take that Place if possible, and for this End, detached a Corps of about 3000 Men, under the Command of the Marquis de Voyer. The Captain being apprized of it, gave Notice to Prince Ferdinand, and desired proper Succours. Mean while the Captain was summoned, and upon declaring his Resolution to defend the Place to the last Drop of Blood, he was attacked very furiously. He made a gallant Defence until the Succours came up, and attacked the French in the Rear, who were put to the Rout. On this Occasion, the Enemy's Loss is reckoned at 2000 Men, among which are 700 Prisoners, which the Hanoverians have taken, besides seven Pair of Colours, and two Pieces of Cannon.

Colonel de Luckner was, at the same Time, very successful in another Place, having attacked a large Body of the French, and cut most of them to Pieces. He had sent in 157 Men Prisoners, and 354 Horses, and other valuable Things.

Baron de Scheitler has likewise given the French a great Blow near Weffel, where he attacked a large Body of them, which he defeated, and sent in 279 Prisoners.

The following Declaration of the Empress of all the Russias is handed about at Hamburgh, by Way of Answer to the Proposals made relative to a general Peace, &c.

THAT a Peace seemed yet to be at a great Distance, as there was no other Foundation for it than the pacific Disposition of his Britannic Majesty; that her Imperial Majesty is determined to fulfil her Engagements, and to perform most religiously in the Treaty entered into with her Allies, and to procure, as far as lies in her Power, full Satisfaction for the Unfortunate. But notwithstanding, in order to put a Stop to the Effusion of Christian Blood, if Means could be found to establish an honourable and lasting Peace, with the Consent and Approbation of her Allies, the Empress of Russia would be one of the first to put her Hand to so salutary a Work.

January 22. 'Tis affirmed, that as the French Court remain peremptory in their Stipulations for a general Peace, proper Preparations are making for a powerful Fleet to sail for America, and attempt the Reduction of Martinico; and that a proper Number of Men of War are to remain all the Winter on the French Coast, and to be powerfully reinforced in the Spring with a Body of Land Forces and Marines, to make a powerful Descent on the French Coast.

Two Expeditions are now preparing, in order to set out early in the Spring; the one is said to be against a Settlement of the French in the East-Indies, and the other in the West; in both of which it is hoped we shall succeed, as the Persons who had the Plans were well acquainted with both the Places.

On Sunday Evening Admiral Hawke arrived in Town from Plymouth, and Yesterday waited on his Majesty, and was most graciously received.

It is reported, that 12 Men of War of the Line are to be fitted out by the Month of April, to sail for Martinico, with 6000 Land Forces on board Transports, to make a vigorous Attempt to reduce that Island to the Subjection of Great-Britain.

Jan. 25. Letters from Paris, dated Jan. 8, say, "We are credibly informed that the Court of Madrid has assured our Court, that if the Proposals of Peace made by England, should be unreasonable, his Catholic Majesty would give the King 30,000 Men, and Twenty-four Ships of the Line, which should be entirely at the Disposal of France. This News makes the more agreeable Impression, as we always questioned the Catholic King's Disposition to favour us."

The Halifax Packet Boat is arrived at Falmouth from New-York with the Mail, in 30 Days.

The Prussians have penetrated into Bohemia in several Places; and though there are a great many Troops in that Kingdom, yet they are most of them raw and undisciplined, and as the Destruction of the Magazines they cover would have the most terrible Consequences, it is generally thought that Count Daun will speedily return into that Kingdom with his Army.

A Letter has been received from on board one of his Majesty's Ships in Quiberon-Bay, dated Dec. 28, which says, "that three of our Frigates have taken the Isle of Dieu, which Town was ransomed for 1000 l."

The Hon. House of Commons have voted their Thanks to Sir Edward Hawke, Admiral Saunders, Admiral Holmes, and General Townshend, for their gallant Behaviour on all Occasions.

It is said an Expedition will soon be set on Foot against the French Settlements on the Mississippi. The Empress of Russia is resolved to fulfil her Engagements with her Allies. There are now at Quiberon Bay 13 Ships of the Line, and several Frigates. They lie within Sight of more than 100 French Transports, and several Frigates at Moubain.

ST. JOHN'S, in ANTIGUA, February 23.
The Julius Caesar, Captain Potts, arrived here the 17 before Yesterday, in five Weeks from Plymouth.

A great Number of Ships were sheathing for the East and West-Indies, and it is expected Admiral Holmes and Mr. Keppel will be sent to the West-Indies; and that the West-India Fleet would sail the Beginning of March.

His Majesty's Ships *Naxos* and *Emerald* have taken four Dutch Vessels, bound from Martinico to St. Eustatia, and a French Letter of Marque Schoop, of 10 Guns.

March 12. The *Snow Fox*, James Drew Master, arrived here last Sunday from Bristol, Waterford, and Malaga, having been taken by the Enemy, and retaken by the *Sturdy Beggar Privateer*, of New-York, Robert Troup Commander. The *Fox* had eight Guns, three Pounders, and 17 Men and Boys, besides two Men and three Women Passengers; when, on the 7th Instant, about 25 Leagues to Windward of Antigua, she was attacked by the *Captiveux*, a French Privateer of 14 Guns, and 104 Men, Anthony Marie Commander. The Action began about Half an Hour past Six in the Morning, and continued till Half an Hour after Eight, when the Enemy had received so much Damage, that they were obliged to drop anchor and retreat, which gave Captain Drew an Opportunity of repairing his Rigging in the best Manner his Situation would permit; and at the same Time he cruised all Day, hoping to get clear; but tho' the Enemy at one Time appeared near three Leagues ahead, yet the *Fox*, being a heavy Sailer, was again overtaken about Four in the Afternoon; and a second Engagement ensued, at half Past Six o'Clock, and several Times almost close aboard.

The little *Perce* Captain Drew had employed to the best Advantage, and his great Guns were fired with a much better Direction than those of the Enemy, whose small Arms only did him much Hurt; but this unfortunately proved the Ruin of the former; for by Six o'Clock the Enemy found their Vessel sinking, and Necessity obliged them to board the *Snow* suddenly, and together, as the only Means of preserving their own Lives; a Measure which their Country had never suggested.

The People belonging to the *Snow* were still ignorant of the Condition the Privateer was in (tho' she went to the Bottom a few Minutes afterwards) and finding all further Resistance in vain, they submitted, and called for Quarter. Amongst Men not totally left to all Sense of Honour, and the Regard due to Merit, even in an Enemy, the Defence those People had made would have entitled them to particular Marks of Favour and Distinction; but how opposite to this was the Conduct of the French? Dear to all Intreaties for Quarter, they tore up the Decks, threw down Combs, and kept firing Balls amongst the People for a considerable Time: At last however some of the Frenchmen being below, and having promised Quarter to those who had insisted themselves in the Gun-room, Mr. Bull, late of Waterford, Merchant, ventured to climb up into the Cabin, where he presently received a Blow with a Cut-throat, designed at his Skull, but happily the Weapon glanced, and only cut off his left Ear, close to the Head, and occasioned him to fall backwards into the Gun-room again, having also received several other Wounds from different People.

In the mean Time Captain Drew having been seized and stripped of every Thing valuable, a Pistol was presented to his Head, and fired; yet the Ball as it were providentially, missed him. They then began to stab him with Knives, in the most barbarous Manner, aiming chiefly at his Head, and made several Thrusts at him with a Sword, which he avoided, by getting behind the Mast.

The Enemy had now been Masters of the Vessel a considerable Time, and the People in the Gun-room began to hope the Rage of their Cruelty might be subdued. It was therefore resolved, on further Promises of Quarter, to venture up again, and to excite their Compassion, if any Spark remained, the Women went up first, led by Mrs. Bull, expressing her tender Infant, born but 4 Days before, and bathed in the Tears of its Mother; a Scene which might have moved the most obdurate Savage. But no sooner were the Women followed by a hopeful Boy of about 15, Brother-in-Law of Capt. Drew, than he was dragged away, shot, then wounded with Swords, and afterwards thrown overboard whilst yet alive: This was also the Case of Mr. Broughton, a Passenger, who being badly wounded in the Action, was afterwards stabbed by the French, and then thrown overboard, still breathing, and not dead; and this too would certainly have been the Fate of Mr. Bull, had he not thrust himself under a Gun, from whence he could not be easily disengaged; yet whilst in this Situation two Attempts were made to run him through the Body, but on both Occasions he received the Wound in his Thighs, Hands, &c. The Gunner, whilst yet on his Knees, and begging for Mercy, was shot through the Thigh; but this not being mortal, they attempted to split his Skull, whilst he parried the Blows only with his Hands and Arms, and received the Wounds there.

This horrid Massacre was all the while countenanced and encouraged, if not expressly commanded, by the French Captain, Anthony Marie, and by his Officers; and it is hard to say where the Scene would have ended at last, had not a Thief of Plunder succeeded that of Blood. But Providence never designed such brutal Murderers should go unpunished. Capt. Troup saw the *Snow* early the next Morning, and in less than two Hours had all those shameful Wretches in his Power. They are now in the common Goal of this Island, and we hear, will be sent to England. Capt. Drew, Mr. Bull, and Gunner, are recovering, and now out of Danger.

To this Account it is with Concern we add, that the *Sturdy Beggar*, in coming down the North Side with the Prize, ran ashore upon the Tail of the Reef; and though she was got off in about 3 Hours, yet she was so much damaged

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