

most Parts of England on Friday Night last, proved fatal to several Persons here. William Smith, John Brundred, and their Wives, together with the Master of a Coal River Flat, were drowned, happening unluckily to be on board two Flats which were sunk on the Bank opposite the North Dock. A Number of smaller Craft were driven on Shore, and several Boats dashed to Pieces on the Strand; the Height of the Gale being in the Night, prevented Assistance: Several Persons saved themselves by climbing up the Shrouds, and holding fast by the Vessels and Mast-heads.

DUBLIN-CASTLE, February 25, 1760.

INTELLIGENCE has been received this Day, that on the 14th Instant the French remained in the Town and Castle of Carrickfergus, in Number about 700 of regular Troops, with 300 Marines, who are said to be on board the 3 Frigates: That the Officer who commands their Troops is a Major-General, and had a Dispute with Monsieur Thurot, about the Manner and Place of their being to land, the former insisting upon disembarking their People five Miles below Carrickfergus, which he effected, the latter insisting upon landing at White-house, in order to attack the Town of Belfast. That by some Accident the Gunpowder which they found in the Castle of Carrickfergus, is all, or a great Part of it, lost or damaged. That they have hauled the two smallest of their Ships as near the Castle as they can float. That there is in the River a Letter of Marque Ship of 16 Guns, and 100 Men, as also a small Tender of 8 Guns, and 40 Men; and that the former had stopp'd the Supplies sending to them from Belfast, and still detained them. That there are about 300 of his Majesty's Troops in the Town of Belfast, and that the Number of armed Protestants assembled there, amounted to near 4000, all in great Spirits, and under no Kind of Apprehension for the Safety of that Town.

Dublin, February 26. Upon the Reduction of the Garrison of Carrickfergus, a French Officer arrived at Belfast with a Flag of Truce, demanding 50 Hogheads of Claret, 30 Pipes of Brandy, 25 Tons of Bread, 2 Tons of Onions; and if they did not immediately comply with these Terms, they would first lay the Town of Carrickfergus in Ashes, and afterwards proceed directly to Belfast. The principal Inhabitants of Belfast agreed to these Propositions, and furnished most of the Materials as fast as they could be collected: However, not placing an implicit Confidence in Gallic Faith, they wisely exerted the best Means in their Power to fortify their Town, and themselves, against an Attack. There is a most glorious Spirit at this Time displayed in the Northern Militia; 11 or 1200 fine Fellows under Arms by Six o'Clock Yesterday Evening at Belfast. Impatient for Engagement, above 300 proceeded this Morning from our Town and Neighbourhood; and upon the lowest Calculation I can make, there will not be less than 3000 Militia Men this Evening at Belfast. We have the Pleasure also of hearing, that Lord Drogheda's Light Horse passed through Lisburn about Two o'Clock this Morning, who, from their Alacrity and Expedition, well deserve the Title of Hunters. The last Intelligence received from Belfast is, that the French are now entrenched about Mid-way between Belfast and Carrickfergus; that they made a new Demand this Morning of 1000 Pounds Worth of Provisions; that the Town answered, Their Demands were so extravagant they were obliged to reject them; that if they expected further Supplies from Belfast, they must come and take them. Mons. Thurot's Undertaking has, from the very Beginning, appeared a most desperate one, and should he persevere in the Enterprize, and risk an Engagement, we have little Reason to doubt of Success; for, when we consider that three Frigates, one of 40, and two of 32 Guns each, could not well contain 1000 Soldiers; 3000 Militia Men fighting (*pro Aris & Focis*) aided also by some Troops of the Standing Army, cannot fail of Conquest. The most probable Opinion is, that the French will, in a very short Time, secure their Retreat. As they are now Masters of Carrickfergus, it is not possible for us to intercept their Return to their Ships.

Never did a greater Spirit of Unanimity, Loyalty, and Courage, appear in any Country, than what there is now in this Kingdom; the Parliament having voted 300,000 l. more, last Monday, for his Majesty's Service, by a Vote of Credit at five per Cent. and one more upon the 150,000 l. before granted; the People in all Parts of the Kingdom arraying themselves in Defence of their Country, to oppose an Invasion; and such is the Eagerness of the common People in the North, that Numbers of them who cannot get Arms, are providing themselves with Daggers, Cutteaus,

Pickaxes, Shovels, Pitchforks, &c. to attack the French at Carrickfergus, &c.

March 4. Private Letters advise, that the two inferior Frigates of Thurot, struck immediately upon the Surrender of the Marshal de Belleisle. The English Ships took each their Vessel to combat with. The Pallas was commanded by Capt. Clements, and the Brilliant by Capt. Logie. The Trade of this Kingdom, particularly the Baltic, is hereby relieved from a troublesome flying Squadron, and France has not only sustained a fresh Loss by this Event in her little Navy, but more so in the Death of an active and experienced Naval Partizan.

We hear that some Officers are suspended, for being absent from their Posts when the French landed in Ireland.

Several Regiments have Orders to be in Readiness against the 9th Instant, when they will be assembled together, and soon after embark on board the Transports prepared for that Purpose, attended by a formidable Fleet, in order to set out on a grand Expedition.

It is asured that the Army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick next Campaign will consist of 100,000 Men.

March 6. By an Officer, who arrived with the Express from Captain Elliot, we are informed, that M. Thurot was killed by the second Broadside. He received his Death's Wound from a Ball which entered his Throat close to the Windpipe; and when the Belleisle struck, he was found among a great Number of dead Bodies, on the Quarter-deck, which were all thrown overboard. He had given Orders, that in case he fell, he might be served to himself; but Captain Elliot distinguished him from the Rest, and ordered his Corpse to be brought on Shore on the Isle of Man.

An Augmentation is ordered to be made forthwith of ten Men per Company, to each of the three Regiments of Foot-guards.

Orders are given for near twenty independent Companies of Foot to be raised with the greatest Expedition.

We hear Orders will be given for building some Forts in the North of Ireland, and repairing others, which are to be garrisoned, and supplied with Necessaries, to prevent any Surprize in those Parts.

March 8. It is rumoured that the Norfolk Man of War, which sailed from Portsmouth the 6th of January, in Company with the Panther Man of War, for the Brazils, is lost off the Island of Madeira.

We hear that eleven Ships of the Line, and 4 Frigates, with a considerable Number of Land Forces on board, sailed from the Island of Mauritius the 4th of August, upon an Expedition against Bombay; those Land Forces consisted mostly of Indians, disciplined by the French as well as they could. We are likewise told, that the Dutch being at a Loss how to assist the French in the East-Indies without coming to an open Rupture with Great-Britain, have hit upon an Expedient, which they imagine will pass Muster; and that was to declare War against the Nabob in the English Interest; in Consequence of which, eight Men of War have sailed from Batavia with a good Number of Land Forces on board.

Thursday Orders were issued out at the War-Office for 8000 Men, under the Command of ten Field Officers, to hold themselves in Readiness to march at a Minute's Warning to the Isle of Wight, to encamp till further Orders.

According to Letters from Versailles, by the Way of Holland, the Preparations making by the French Court for the Reduction of Hanover are carried on with the utmost Diligence; and we are told, that immediately after the Tenth of this Month, 17 Battalions were to begin their March through the Austrian Low Countries for the King's Army in Germany.

Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth, March 9.

Early on Friday the Fleets from Spithead fell down to St. Helens, in order to proceed to their several Destinations. The Fleet bound for the East-Indies got clear off that Evening, as did that for the Downs; but that for the West-Indies, which is very large, brought to at St. Helens, the Wind coming about to W. N. W.

This Morning, at Ten o'Clock, Admiral Holmes fired a Gun at St. Helens, and bawled home his Sheets, on which the whole Fleet began to get under Way, and, if the Wind does not oppose them, they will get into the Offing at near East.

We hear a Number of Engineers, Miners, &c. will soon set out for Louisbourg, in order to blow up the Fortifications, and otherwise destroy that Place, so as to render it useless to any Power.

'Tis now again said that a powerful Fleet will be sent into the Baltic.

Extract of a Letter from Portsmouth, March 10.

This Morning Admiral Holmes, in the Cambridge with the Vanguard and Dublin, sailed from St. Helens, with all the Ships under their Convoy for America and the West-Indies.

We find, by our last Accounts from the East-Indies, that seven Dutch Men of War, who had 500 Troops on board, had put into Bengall, and upon their not giving a satisfactory Account of themselves, Admiral Pocock signified to them, that if they went any farther up the Country, or landed any of their Troops, he should look upon them as Enemies to our King and Country, and should take Methods accordingly.

Admiral Broderick, with the Fleet under his Command, was cruising off Gibraltar the 10th ult.

We hear that the French King has settled a Pension of 400 Livres per Annum on M. Thurot's Father.

Orders are given for conveying the French Prisoners taken on board Captain Thurot's Squadron, at Ramsay, in the Isle of Man, by the *Æolus*, Brilliant and Pallas Men of War, to Plymouth; where they are to be secured in the several Hospitals and other Places appointed for that Purpose, till a general Cartel is granted for an Exchange of Prisoners of War.

March 8. The Mayor of Carrickfergus was on board the Marshal Belleisle, when taken off the Isle of Man by the gallant Captain Elliot. M. Thurot had brought him from thence as an Hostage, that an equal Number of French Prisoners, with those taken at the above Place, should be sent to France.

By a Letter from on board the Pallas Frigate, in Ramsay Bay, dated February 29, we are informed, that M. Thurot intended to have landed on the Isle of Man, and raised Contributions there, and also to have attempted taking the Shipping at Liverpool and Whitehaven, before he returned to France.

They write from Cumberland, that as soon as they heard of Thurot's being at Carrickfergus, they assembled together, well armed, as expecting a Visit from him, and formed themselves into ten independent Companies, giving each other their Words, to defend their Properties at the utmost Hazard of their Lives.—A laudable Example on any future Occasion.

Captain Elliot, of the *Æolus*, who had the Honour of conquering the celebrated Thurot, is Brother to Gilbert Elliot, of Minto, Esq; one of the Lords of the Admiralty, and not more than 26 Years of Age.—Happy *Æra!* when Britain can boast a List of Heroes at an Age seldom known (and then but as a Prodigy) in the Times of ancient Greece and Rome.

The following is a List of the Provisions which were demanded by the French from the Town of Belfast, viz. 40 Hogheads of Wine, 20 Hogheads of Brandy, 30 Barrels of Pease, 3 Bags of Onions & Garlic, 60 Beeves, 4 Barrels of Vinegar, 4000 Weight of Biscuit, 1000 Weight of Tobacco, 600 Weight of Candles, 400 Weight of Rice, and 100 Weight of Sugar.

The Castle of Carrickfergus is an old Fortification, now out of Repair, and almost incapable of making Defence; a Circumstance the more extraordinary, as it is the only Magazine in the North of Ireland, from which all the Troops in that Part of the Country are supplied with Powder, &c. 'Tis probable the weak Situation of this Place was not unknown to the French Commander; which, with the Prospect of being able to release the Prisoners, and to make himself Master of the opulent City of Belfast, only eight Miles distant, was no inconsiderable Incentive to his daring Attempt.

By a private Letter from Germany, of good Credit, by last Mail, we learn that the King of Prussia will take the Field this Spring with not less than 180,000 Men.

March 13. Ten Ships of the Line, and four Frigates, are ordered to be victualled immediately, with six Months Provisions, at full Allowance, to proceed on foreign Service.

The grand Fleet, now equipping for Sea, will be the most formidable of any that has sailed during the War; we hear it is to consist of 28 Capital Ships of the Line, besides Frigates, Sloops, Fire-ships, Bomb-ketches, and Transports. This Fleet, it is said, is to be accompanied by about 14,000 Land Forces, including a Draught of Engineers, Bombardiers, and Matrosses, to the Amount of 500 Men: Its Destination is kept a Secret.

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