

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1777.

L O N D O N, April 10.

Extra of a letter from Bourdeaux, May 13.

**T**HE disputes between England and America occasioned a very tragic scene in this town. A few sailors belonging to a ship from Bolton happened to come into company with some sailors of an English ship in this port: Their conversation naturally turned on the present contest, and the justice of the cause was strongly insisted upon by each party. The argument at last became so violent that the dispute ended in a battle, in which the Americans got the better of their antagonists.

The next day the English sailors, or Scotch, for they were mostly North-Frisons, to revenge this affront, came in great numbers to the place where the dispute had happened, and the Americans, having heard of their design, also appeared, though much inferior in number. A general battle soon ensued, and lasted some time without any material advantage on either side; but another troop of English sailors arriving, and falling on the Americans, forced the latter to retreat. A party of labourers, and other failors, seeing that the match was unequal, the English being much superior in number, joined the Americans, by which they made both parties of equal strength, on which another engagement ensued, which lasted for near two hours. In the mean time the report of this quarrel being spread about the town, many English merchants and artificers fled to the assistance of their countrymen, but were opposed by another body of labourers, which put a stop to their joining the fighting parties. The English had 6 killed, and 9 dangerously wounded; 1 American was killed, and 4 wounded, and labourers 2 killed and 6 wounded. The commandant of this town sent a company of infantry to disperse the sailors, and parties are continually passing along the port to prevent any future engagements.

CHARLES-TOWN (S. C.) Sept. 23.

A fortnight ago, there was a small king's tender at New-Province, which had seized three vessels belonging to that island, upon suspicion of having carried fruit to some of the United States.

We are informed, and we believe upon good grounds, that a snow, belonging to the king of France, failed from Martinique, on the 21st ult. for New-York, with mons. de Kerle on board, ordered to demand, from lord Howe, the restitution of all the vessels and property under a french colours, that have been seized and carried into that or any other port on this continent, possessed by the forces of the British king. That frigates have been sent to make a like demand of the British commanders and governors in the West-Indies. That the trade of France having lately suffered great interruption, by all vessels to and from its ports being stopped, searched, and often seized, by British cruisers, that court at the same time remonstrating thereon in very spirited terms, had determined no longer patiently to bear such insults, and resolved not only to protect all vessels sailing under its colours, but also to insure to the adventurers such national ships as shall be employed in extending the commerce of France to the United States of America. And that Le Protéte, of 74 guns, commanded by the chevalier Dampierre, together with the frigates La Renommée, La Blanche, La Diligente, and L'Amphitrite, conveying three armed ships, loaded on the continental account, had arrived on the 18th ult. after a very short passage, from France, at Martinique, and sailed again from thence on the 26th, with orders, which were not to be opened till they should reach a certain latitude; but that it was confidently believed their next arrival would be in Delaware Bay, or some other harbour of the United States. Indeed these, and some other advices, strongly indicate that the insatuated court of Great-Britain cannot much longer avoid a war with the united courts of France and Spain.

Some late deserters from East-Florida represent the garrison there as increased to 1500, and seem to think, that some expedition will be attempted from that quarter, as they are turning all the hides of the cattle they steal from Georgia into boats, capable of carrying about ten men each, and from some other circumstances.

A French schooner from Hispaniola for this port, having about four months since met with a large English lumberer, in the government's service, of 26 guns, loaded with arms, ammunition, a profusion of presents for Indians, and Indian trading goods, and carrying 150 soldiers for Pensacola, was obliged to proceed with her as the master had pretended he was bound for Mississippi. He proceeded accordingly, two days after his departure from thence, left the 26 gun ship above mentioned at the mouth of the river, having been sent to demand restitution of the British ships not long since seized there by the Spanish governor, who had either ordered restitution, nor suffered the ships to be taken.

KINGS-TOWN (New-York) Oct. 13.

A gentleman who was in Fort-Montgomery when it was taken by the enemy, has favoured us with the following particular account of that unfortunate event, viz. "On Saturday night the 5th instant, we had advice, that a large number of ships, brigs, armed vessels, &c. had arrived at Tarry-Town, where they had landed a considerable body of men, supposed to be about 3000, and had advanced towards the plains; col. Livingston being posted there with about 300 militia, they sent in a flag to him, requiring him to lay down his arms, and surrender himself and men prisoners of war; whilst he was parleying with the flag, they endeavoured to surround him, which he perceiving, ordered his men

to retreat, whereupon they retreated to their stopping, and next morning we had advice of their being under sail, and coming up as far as King's ferry; in the afternoon they landed a large body of men on the east side of the river, to draw our attention that way, but they re-embarked in the night, and next morning landed on the west side.

On Sunday night his excellency governor Clinton, who then commanded at Fort-Montgomery, sent out a party of about 100 men, under the command of major Logan, across the Dunderbergh, to watch the motions of the enemy. This party returned in the morning, and reported they had seen about 40 boats full of men land below the Dunderbergh. The governor sent out another small party of about 28 men, under the command of lieutenant Jackson, on the road that leads to Haverstraw, two or three miles below Fort-Clinton, they fell in with a concealed party of the enemy, who ordered them to club their muskets, and surrender themselves prisoners; they made no answer, but fired upon the enemy, and hastily retreated; they returned the fire, and pursued our people half a mile, but they all got back to the fort without losing a man, though within five rods of the enemy before they were discovered. Upon this intelligence, one hundred men were immediately sent off under col. Brown, who fell in with them two miles from the fort, about two o'clock in the afternoon, when a smart engagement ensued, but the enemy being of much superior force, our people were forced to retreat.

At the same time, it was thought proper to send some of the artillery with a field-piece, to occupy an eminence, commanding the road that leads to Orange-Furnace, with a party of men to defend it; they were attacked soon after, and our field-piece did great execution. The field-piece bursting, our men retreated, an engagement of small arms was kept up a good while. Most of our men got within the breast-work, and the attack became general on both forts. At the same time the enemy's shipping came in sight, but the wind being light, and the tide against them, none of their vessels could come up, except the galleys and armed boats, which fired upon us, but did no execution; we, in return, fired upon them, and believe did them some damage.

The enemy continued a vigorous and incessant attack upon the forts; but, notwithstanding their utmost efforts, they were many times repulsed, and beaten back from our breast-works, with great slaughter. But the smallness of our number (being in both forts but about five hundred) which required every man to be upon continual duty, and obliged him to unremitting exertions, fatigued our people greatly, while the enemy, whose number was supposed to be at least four thousand, continued to press us with fresh troops.

About four o'clock they sent in a flag, demanding, in five minutes, a surrender of the forts, and our lives prisoners of war—or that they would put us all to the sword. An answer was returned by col Livingston, acquainting them, that we were determined to defend the forts to the last extremity. The garrison was renewed with fresh vigour on both sides, and continued till the dusk of the evening, when they stormed our upper redoubt which commanded the fort, which, after a severe struggle, and overpowering us with numbers, they got possession of, and we were obliged to give way. At the same time they stormed and got possession of Fort-Clinton, in which were none but militia, who nobly defended it, till they, like the garrison at Fort-Montgomery, were obliged to give way to superior force.

The darkness of the evening much favoured the escape of our people, the greatest part of whom, with almost all the officers, by some means or other, got off, and have since joined our army, or returned to their places of residence. Few those who were so unfortunate as to fall into the hands of the enemy were treated by them, we have not heard, but have reason to think it was with a cruelty suitable to the wickedness of the cause in which they are engaged.

As soon as the enemy's motions upon the North-River were known, reinforcements of the garrison at this important post were solicited, and preparing both from the militia and the army at Peek's-Kill; but, by some means or other, were delayed till too late.—We are told that the reinforcement from Peek's-Kill, which had been twice urged on the day of attack, arrived only in time, on the opposite side of the river, to fire the fort to en, but could give it no manner of assistance, and that even a small reinforcement would have enabled the garrison to maintain it till effectual succours should arrive. Under this misfortune, we have the satisfaction to be assured, that all the officers in the garrison fought like heroes, distinguished themselves both by their courage and conduct, and that all the private soldiers, as well militia as continental, fought with the utmost bravery: the quantity of provisions in the fort was not great, but the ammunition and military stores which have fallen into the enemy's hands, were considerable; and as our two frigates were not in a condition for defence, they were destroyed by our own people.

As soon as possible after the misfortune, at a council of war, a plan of operations, between his excellency our governor and general Putnam was formed; each of them commanding an army on opposite sides of the river, and doubt not, with the blessing of Heaven, on which we rely as our cause is just, that we shall soon give our enemies cause to repent of their undertaking. We are now assured that the principal object of this army of the enemy, which is commanded by sir Henry Clinton, was to join and facilitate the operations of general Burgoyne; but it is more than probable that the news of his defeat will prevent sir Harry's endeavours to execute his part of the plan.

ANNAPOLIS, Nov. 13.

On Monday last the General Assembly of this state proceeded to the choice of a governor, agreeable to our constitution, and unanimously rechose his excellency Thomas Johnson, Esq; And,

On the day following, the hon. Josiah Polk, Edward Lloyd, John Rogers, Thomas Sim Lee, and Joseph Sim, Esqrs. were likewise rechole the council to the governor.

IN CONGRESS, November 1, 1777.

FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to him for benefits received, and to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of: And it having pleased him, in his abundant mercy, not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence, but also to smile upon us, in the prosecution of a just and necessary war, for the defence and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a measure, to prosper the means used for the support of our troops, and to crown our arms with most signal success:

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these United States to set apart Thursday the 18th day of December next, for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that at one time, and with one voice, the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor; and that, together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favour, and their humble and earnest supplication, that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the governments of these states respectively, and prosper the public council of the whole; and to inspire our commanders, both by land and sea, and all under them, with that wisdom and fortitude which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these United States the greatest of all human blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade and manufactures of the people, and the labour of the husbandman, that our land may yet yield its increase; to take schools and seminaries of education, to necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue, and piety, under his nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom, which consisteth "in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

And it is further recommended, that servile labour, and such recreations, as, though at other times innocent, may be unbecoming the purpose of this appointment, may be omitted on so solemn an occasion.

Extra from the minutes,  
CHARLES THOMSON, sec'y.

## OF SALT BOILERS.

HAMMERED iron pans, such as are used in England, are very dear, difficult to make, and unwieldy. Cast iron pans were therefore introduced: but they cannot be made in one entire piece large enough for the most advantageous sizes. Cast plates were then invented, so that the size of the pans might be enlarged at pleasure, according to the number of plates, you would join together; but these too had their inconvenience, especially respecting their iron sides, which were objected to and thought to be unnecessary, as were the rabbeted slips on which the plates were fixed. At Mr. Wallace's works, near Annapolis, it is to be seen a very good improvement on salt boilers. The bottoms alone of his pans are of cast iron, and instead of rabbeted slips of iron for the butts of the plates to lay on, he has plain slips, on which the butts lay and meet together, so as to form but one seam or joint, instead of two that the rabbets, one on each edge, would occasion. These plates are fixed to the slips with screw pins and nuts (12 or 15 inches distance between the pins are near enough). The seams are chinked with tow. Instead of iron sides, he has pine plank two inches thick, square jointed; set upon the iron bottom near its edge, and screwed down close, with screw pins and nuts, set at a foot distance (20 or 24 inches are sufficiently near each other): the pins or bolts are half an inch thick and eleven inches long; the wooden side of the boiler being 10 inches deep, and the plates about five eighths of an inch thick. Before the plank is set on, its under edge is laid with a very thin water proof clay, to defend the plank from the heat of the iron plates. A thin mortar of fine lime or chalk, mixed with a solution or brine of common salt as strong as can be made, first wetting the edge of the plank with the solution, and drying it several times, would probably answer well; or rather a strong solution of alum, or allum and salt, which are great resistors of fire. Wood long soaked, or often much soaked, in a strong brine of common salt, so that the pores and interstices of the wood, from whence the sap had been driven out, are filled with salt, and then dried, will not burn very readily. Bittern, it is to be suspected, will not do for this, because of its nitre and oil, which are combustible. But Mr. Wallace's pans answer so well in the way he has made them, that it is scarce worth thinking of any other defensive than clay; nor, it may be, is any at all necessary, the plates and the plank being always wet. He fits all joints, seams, or cracks, with a paste of fine lime and blood.