

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, M A Y 14, 1779.

P A R I S, January 3.

LETTERS from Brest advise, that the Engagement frigate has had a severe battle with an English frigate, named the Role, and that on putting into that port to rest the funk, and only saved forty of her crew.

Jan. 22. They write from Lisbon, that the Pendant, of 74 guns, commanded by Mr. Vaucreuil, had been obliged in a storm to run ashore on the coast of Portugal, and is wrecked.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 12. Ten ships of the line and 6 frigates are fitting out against the spring, one of 74 guns, 3 of 70, two of 64, two of 60, and two of 50, two frigates of 36 guns, one of 34, two of 30, and one of 20 guns.

HAGUE, Jan. 17. Our last letters from Berlin mention positively, that prince Henry of Prussia will quit the command of the Saxon army, at the opening of the next campaign, and that the hereditary prince of Brunswick will succeed him.

HANOVER, Feb. 5. The king of England, our elector, has demanded from the regency of this electorate, two tons of gold, to enable him to put the electorate in a proper state of defence in these critical times. This demand was readily complied with by the states, at an assembly held for that purpose the 21st ultimo.

L O N D O N, January 5.

Yesterday fifty sail of transport ships were taken into service by the commissioners of the navy.

On Saturday last four companies of the 75th, or prince of Wales's regiment, under the command of a head officer, embarked at Chatham on board lighters, in which they proceeded to Black Stakes, where transports were ready to receive them. They are destined for Africa.

Jan. 12. Yesterday Sir Edward Hughes hoisted his flag on board the Superb man of war, of 74 guns, at Portsmouth.

Yesterday arrived at Portsmouth his Majesty's armed ship the Fortune, from the South Seas, which was sent some time ago to make some new discoveries.

This morning accounts were sent from the Admiralty to Plymouth, for the Foudroyant man of war, and the rest of the men of war in that harbour, immediately to sail for Spithead, to join the fleet there, which is to sail on some secret expedition.

Yesterday evening, the Tyger, Cap. Qualtrough, a privateer belonging to Douglas in the Isle of Man, returned to that port with a Dutch galliot loaded with 289 hogheads of tobacco, bound from Bourdeaux to Dieppe, which they took on Sunday evening about ten leagues to the southward of Scilly.

Yesterday the Hunter, Cap. Grey, arrived in the Downs with dispatches from New-York, which were handed at Deal, and immediately sent, by express, to Lord Germaine's office.

Yesterday advice was received from Cork, that a large American privateer is taken and carried into that place, said to be the General Sullivan, which took the Weymouth packet.

A letter from Toulon by the last mail confirms the account of the sailing of three men of war and three frigates, with a body of land forces on board for the East Indies.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for the transports lying there to take in their provisions, &c. as soon as possible, that they may be ready to take the troops on board which are ordered for Jamaica.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, February 5.

"Sir Edward Hughes made a signal this morning for the East India fleet to drop down to St. Helen's."

"The American prisoners at Fort Mifflin were once more nearly effected their escape, but were prevented by the vigilance of the guards."

"The Liverpool Blues are here, and in a few days will embark on board the transports for America."

PUBLISHED by AUTHORITY.

The sentence of a court-martial held on the honourable admiral Keppel, from the 7th of January to the 11th of February, 1779.

THE court, pursuant to an order from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, dated December 11, 1778, directed to Sir Thomas Pyle, proceeded to enquire into a charge exhibited by Sir Hugh Palliser against the honourable admiral Keppel, for misconduct and neglect of duty on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, in sundry instances, as mentioned in a paper, which accompanies this said order, and to try him for the same.

And the court having heard the evidence and the prisoner's defence, and maturely and seriously having considered the whole, are of opinion, that the charge is malicious and unfounded, it having appeared that the said admiral, so far from having by misconduct and neglect of duty on the day herein mentioned, lost an opportunity of rendering essential service to the state, and thereby tarnishing the honour of the British navy, behaved as became a judicious, brave, and experienced officer.

The court do therefore, unanimously and honourably acquit the said admiral of the articles and charge laid against him, and he is hereby fully and honourably acquitted.

Thomas Pyle, President, Matthew Becke, Ababrac, Milbank, Prang, Hunt, Boteler, John Montague, Reddam, Drake, Mowat, Duncan, Glasgow.

Upon which the president addressed the admiral as follows:

Admiral Keppel, It is my small pleasure to me to receive the commands of the court I have the honour to preside at, that on delivering you your sword I am to congratulate you on its being restored to you with so much honour, hoping ere long you will be called forth by your sovereign to draw it once more in defence of your country.

B O S T O N, April 19.

Extract of a letter from Allen Hallis, Esq; commander of the armed brig Tyrannicide, directed to the hon. board of war, dated in latitude 28, 30: N. long. 68, 25: west, March 31, 1779.

"I have the pleasure of sending this by Mr. John Blanch, who goes prize master of the prize brig Revenge, a privateer lately commanded by capt. Robert Kendall, belonging to Grenada, but last from Jamaica, mounting fourteen carriage guns, 6 and 4 pounders, four twivels and two colorns, and sixty six bodied men, which I discovered on the 29th instant at four o'clock, P. M. about four leagues to windward coming down upon us. Upon which I cleared ship and got all hands to their quarters ready for action, then stood close upon the wind, waiting for her till about half past six, P. M. when she came up and hailing me, asked where I was from? I told them, from Bolton—I asked them, where they were from? and was answered, they were a British cruiser from Jamaica—I immediately replied, that I was an American cruiser; upon which they ordered me to strike; but finding me not disposed to gratify their desires, they run up under my lee and saluted me with a broad side; without loss of time I returned the compliment, and dropping a stern got under her lee, where our fires were so warm from below and from our tops, and the shots so well directed, we dismounted two of their guns, drove the men from their quarters, and compelled them to strike to the American flag. The engagement, lasted one hour and a quarter, during which we were not half pistol shot distant, and some part of the time our yards were locked in with theirs. I had eight men wounded; only two of which are bad, among them my first lieutenant and master. On board the prize were killed the first lieutenant, one quarter master, and six men; and the captain, second lieutenant, gunner, and eleven men were wounded."

The prize Revenge above mentioned, arrived safe in port the 14th instant.

Thursday last three persons were committed to gaol on proof of having been concerned in trading with the enemy at Newport.

April 22. Saturday last arrived here, a packet-boat, in 39 days from Brest; she sailed a few hours after receiving her orders and dispatches from the court; she brought very few private letters, but large dispatches for congress, and the minister of France at Philadelphia, which will probably determine the arrangements of Europe for the ensuing summer, and the issue of the negotiations of the marquis d'Almodavar, the Spanish ambassador at London. These dispatches were immediately forwarded, with a proper guard to Philadelphia. By this packet, which left Brest the beginning of March, we learn, that the armaments of France, our good ally, were going on still with great rapidity and success; that the spirit of the nation was high, and their cruises against the British successful; particularly that two men of war of the line, lately meeting with two British cruisers, of 28 and 20 guns, had taken one and sunk the other; that the navigation of the French and Americans, was much more safe and unmolested in the European seas than it had been, by the capture of many British armed vessels; particularly that the bay of Biscay had for some time been free, in a manner, from their cruises; that the armaments of Spain were continued with equal earnestness with those of France, so that should no accommodation take place, the whole Spanish naval power would be in a condition to act the ensuing summer.

Two days before the above packet left Brest, five ships of the line, and a number of frigates, with some troops, sailed for the West-Indies, as an additional reinforcement to the count d'Estaing; and some time before, seven sail of the line, with transports, and a proportion of frigates, and 6000 troops, had gone from France to the East-Indies.

A letter from a gentleman in France, received by the packet, mentions, that count d'Estaing may probably, by the summer, make his appearance again in these seas.

An article from the London paper, of the 16th December, mentions great precautions having been taken against French spies. This is not without good reason, for France has the best intelligence from every quarter in Europe, and is well acquainted with the plans and transactions of the court of London. This court, we are told, was lately not a little surpris'd and confound'd, at finding that the substance of a conference must have been, by some means, conveyed to M. Sartine, the minister of France, at which only the king, lord George Germaine, lord North, and Charles Jenkinson, were present.

Late advices from the West-Indies mention, that some cruisers of the count d'Estaing had not long since taken two British frigates.

Thursday last Benjamin Procter, David Hatch, John Jones, and John Butler, were apprehended and committed to gaol, on suspicion of having supplied the enemy, at Rhode-Island, with naval stores.

N E W - Y O R K, April 14.

Genuine copy of a letter from Mr. Livingston, titular governor of New-Jersey, to his excellency Sir Henry Clinton, K. B. &c.

"Sir, Elizabeth-town, 29th March, 1779.

"After having apologized for my delaying your and Mr. Franklin's dinner, by being accidentally abroad when you did me the honour a few days ago to send col. Stirling to wait upon me to New-York, I beg leave to acquaint you, that I am possessed of the most authentic proofs of a general officer under your command having offered a large sum of money to an inhabitant of this state to assassinate me, in case he could not take me alive; this, Sir, is so repugnant to the character which I have hitherto formed of Sir Henry Clinton, that I think it highly improbable you should either countenance, connive at, or be privy to, a design so sanguinary and disgraceful. Taking it however for granted that you are a gentleman of too much spirit to disown any thing that you think proper to abet; I give you this opportunity for disavowing such dark proceedings, if undertaken without your approbation, assuring you at the same time that if countenanced by you, your person is more in my power than I have reason to think you imagine. I have the honour to be, with all due respect, your excellency's most humble servant,

(Signed) WIL. LIVINGSTON. General Sir Henry Clinton."

His excellency's answer.

"Sir, New-York, April 10, 1779.

"As you address me on a grave subject, no less than life and death, and your own person concerned, I condescend to answer you, but must not be troubled with any farther correspondence with Mr. Livingston.

"Had I a soul capable of harbouring so infamous an idea as assassination, you Sir, at least, would have nothing to fear; for be assured, I should not blacken myself with so foul a crime to obtain so trifling an end.

"Sensible of the power you boast of being able to dispose of my life by means of intimates of yours, ready to murder at your command, I can only congratulate you on your amiable connections, and acknowledge myself your most humble servant,

(Signed) H. CLINTON. William Livingston, Esq; New-Jersey."

To which his excellency the governor of the Jerseys returned the following answer.

"Sir, Elizabeth-town, 13th April, 1779.

"I received your excellency's letter of the tenth inst. this afternoon, and had an opportunity about an hour thereafter to see a copy of it in the New-York American Gazette, together with mine of the twenty-ninth of March, which occasioned it. Your excellency by these publications, compared with a certain passage in your letter, seems determined to close our correspondence, by precluding me from a reply. But by the laws of England, Sir (the best of which we intend to adopt, leaving the rest to our old friends of the realm) he who opens a cause, hath the privilege of concluding it.

"It is the observation of foreigners, that America has shewn her superiority to Great-Britain no less in the decency of her writings than in the success of her arms. I have too great a respect for my native country, whatever I ought to have for Sir Henry Clinton, to furnish an instance in contradiction of so honourable a remark.

"Perhaps, Sir, you entertain too exalted an opinion of your own importance, in deeming it a *condescension* in you, to answer a letter informing you, in the most inoffensive terms, of an overture made by one of your general officers to have me assassinated. Alas, how many a hopeful gentleman has been made giddy by a star and garter! It had doubtless redounded more to your honour, and afforded a stronger argument of your abhorring such infamous measures, to have called upon me for the proofs, and manifested a proper resentment against the criminal, than to flourish about 'the capability of your soul,' and to betray a want of politeness, so unusual in persons of your rank and breeding; and that without any other provocation than my complaining to you of the conduct of one under your command, so repugnant to the law of arms, and the sentiments of humanity."

"That 'you have a soul capable of harbouring so infamous an idea as assassination,' I was so far from intimating, that I told you, 'I thought it highly improbable you should either countenance, connive at, or be privy to, a design so sanguinary and disgraceful.' And I remember, that when I used the word *improbable*, I had like to have said *impossible*; but that I was deterred, on recollecting numerous instances, by the extreme difficulty of precisely ascertaining the utmost possibility of British cruelty. Whatever your soul may be capable of, I should have ventured, before the receipt of your letter, to have pronounced it impossible for you to be capable of opprobrious language. How far, Sir, I am now to believe this impossibility, I leave you, in your cooler moments, to determine.

"How trifling an end for ever you may suppose would be obtained by my assassination, you certainly thought my capture, not long since, important enough to make me a principle object of what was, in a literal sense, a very dirty expedition.

"What could induce you to say, that 'I boasted of the power of being able to dispose of your life, by means of intimates of mine, ready to murder at my command.' I am at a loss to guess. Is there a word in my letter either about your life, or about murder? Or is your excellency so haunted with the thoughts of murder, that a consciousness of British barbarity, that you cannot write three paragraphs, without being started at the shocking spectre? And if there are any intimates in the case, how do you know but that they are intimates of your own? I told you, that your person 'was more in my power than I had reason to think you imagined.' But is there no such thing as one person's being in the