

[XXXVith Year.]

T H E

[No. 1779.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, F E B R U A R Y 1 5, 1 7 8 1.

L O N D O N.

T H E number of ships built by three belligerent powers from the peace in 1762 to the present time, are on a moderate calculation: England 114, Spain 27. No vessels under the fifth rate are included in this list.

Two vessels are now fitting out in the navy, are very obvious: the sailors in a body, the most useful people which this, as a marine and commercial state, but if there was to be any relaxation in the discipline, British sailors would no longer carry away the palm from those of every other country on the globe.

If it be true that decisive success against the French in the West-Indies, was prevented by the disobedience and perverseness of some of Sir George Rodney's officers, it is to be hoped an exemplary punishment will be inflicted on the delinquents, since discipline is the life and soul of military service; and from late public events, discipline in the navy seems to have been most fatally relaxed.

Though it is the occasional cant of ministers to plume themselves on appeasing the Irish, and bringing them to a satisfied acquiescence on the friendship of England, the reverse is notoriously the case, as appears from the general spirit and declaration of the associated corps, as well as from their periodical writers. The following is a proof of the opinion of the writer in a letter to the people, speaking of the absolute necessity for an independency in the Irish parliament.

"Instead of being allied, or inseparably united to the interest of an old empire, entering under a decay of nature, and hurried on by her vices, we should enjoy our own renewed constitution all the soundness, virtue and vigour of youth; that worst of all corruptions introduced by the worst of all tyrannies, that of the corrupt parliament of a superior and degenerated nation, would be removed. The interest of the governors and of the people, now so opposite, would be reconciled. We should be our own masters, and the nation would be more free to improve her. Public spirit would shake off the despair of centuries; public virtue would have an object, and be at once the spring, the effect, and the cement of government."

"As this once glorious empire has been brought so rapidly from the high elevation to which it was raised, to the very brink of destruction; is it wise, is it prudent to imagine, the same identical councils and measures, if pursued, can extricate the thought is absurd, the wish would be folly."

There is not, in the world, a more generally admitted fact, than the extreme lavish waste of the public treasure in England, which has risen in the present century to a height hardly credible, if the most authentic vouchers, and parliamentary proofs were not every moment in view before the eyes of all mankind. We shall not speak of the extravagance of ministers, because it may be, and we believe is, greatly for their interest, but the con-

duct of a sovereign who permits it must be perfectly unaccountable, as it is to the full as much against his interest as that of his people. What is the interest of a king, shewn in by the most able ones; wealth, power, armies, navies, victories, &c. and can any man of common sense imagine that there might not have been saved in the four last years expenditure, a sum of ten or twelve millions! would not this have given us 20 sail of the line more last year? would it not have conquered a rebellious colony? This public and extravagant waste of treasure, therefore, gives a deeper wound to the royal interests than to any other in the state. As to securing a majority in parliament, other ministers have always done it, when the national expences were not half so great, so that pretence is only proving the present men to be greater bunglers than all their predecessors. If all these circumstances, and an hundred others which might be added, are considered, it will certainly be expected by the world; by his reputation; by the kings, his brethren in the world; by all mankind, that his majesty should be as ready to detect his ministers in their corrupt extravagances as his people can be; to meet them half way; to examine into the fact, with that efficient scrutiny so fully in his power, but not in theirs; and by so doing he will probably double his real power, regain the advantages of the war, and be the sovereign of his people's minds, as well as their persons.

An artist, of great eminence in the ordnance branch, has made great improvements on a piece on the construction of a howitzer, formed with a double bore, in such a manner, that it carries two grenades, which, when chained together, have been found to be of the greatest utility, much more so than any thing hitherto invented for the destruction of not only rigging, but, when properly directed, has an equal effect on the decks of the enemy's ships, as when fired from the tops, or any commanding height. It answers in proportion to its size the purpose of a grenade and chain shot.

B O S T O N, Jan. 25.

Last week arrived at Salem, capt. Forrester from Cape Francois, but last from the Havannah in 11 days, and informs that he left the first mentioned port the 15th of December; that 2 or 3 days before he left it, a brigantine arrived there from Marfeilles, which brought with it a count d'Estaing, commander in chief of the combined fleets, consisting of 72 sail of the line, was pursuing his operations against Gibraltar; that he had completely cut off all supplies by sea; that he attacked a certain battery on the dock with 4 or 5 ships, battered the walls down, which killed a great many men in the fort, the ships receiving little or no damage; that the British refused to receive any prisoners in Gibraltar; that a company of British troops, that was on shore but post, deserted to a man to the Spaniards; that the garrison of Gibraltar requested supplies from the Turks, who told them, that they would sell them as much as they wanted, if they would send for it, but they would not carry it to them. The above in part was confirmed, by a captain of a ship from Corunna, which he saw in Havanna. Capt. Forrester sailed from Cape Francois in company with three 74 and one 64, two frigates and two tenders, and arrived at Havanna the 28th of December, in company with the above ships: three Spanish ships of 74, with some frigates, and 20 gun ships were

masted, and two of 74 and 1 frigate dismantled.

Extra of a letter from Guadaloupe, Dec. 2.

"A few days ago arrived at Martinique, from Old France, 60 merchantmen and transports, under convoy of 3 ships of the line, and 4 frigates. The king's ships had 4000 troops on board, which were not admitted to land; the governor ordered them to proceed directly to the Havannah, there to join the fleet which went from Cape Francois. The Spanish fleet are now preparing to go on some private expedition. Most of the English fleet on these seas are either drove on shore, dismantled, or foundered, in the late hurricane."

A letter from l'Orient of the 8th of November mentions, that the British fleet at Torbay had received a great deal of damage in a gale of wind, which obliged them to put back to Portsmouth to refit, where it was thought they would remain all winter.

P R O V I D E N C E, Jan. 17.

A sloop, laden with wheat, was captured on Sunday last near Long-Island, by two whale-boats, and carried into New-London.

We learn that large quantities of English goods, brought from Long-Island by the enemy's emissaries, have been lately seized in Connecticut, as also considerable quantities of provisions, which were supposed to be destined for the enemy; and that a person from New-York, by the name of Goldsmith, is apprehended and secured in gaol. It is hoped that decisive measures will be taken to put a stop to this dangerous species of illicit trade.

T R E N T O N, Jan. 31.

On Saturday evening the 20th instant, about 150 privates of the New-Jersey brigade, which were quartered at Pompton, left their huts, and, under conduct of some of their sergeants, marched towards Chatham. The proceedings of the legislature, at their last sitting, constituting commissioners, to enquire into the claims of such soldiers of the brigade, as conceived themselves entitled to a discharge, on account of the expiration of their enlistments, had not then been communicated to these. The commissioners went to Chatham on Monday, and having read and explained to them the resolutions of the legislature, they immediately agreed to return to their duty. The commandant of the brigade, in consideration of their being unacquainted with the measures taken in their behalf, and of their acknowledgments of the offence, granted their request for a general pardon. The commissioners having appointed a time for settling their claims, they returned to the orders of their officers. A small part only of the brigade were engaged in this matter, the greater part disapproved of it, and all regret that it happened. To the honour however of these brave men we mention it with pleasure, that when they left their quarters, they adopted a solemn resolution to put to death any one who should attempt or even propose to go to the enemy's lines, and hang up without ceremony every tory who should presume to say a word, tending to induce any of them so to do.

A N N A P O L I S, Feb. 15.

The king of Great-Britain's S P E E C H at the opening of the new parliament, Nov. 2, 1780.

My lords and gentlemen,

I T is with more than ordinary satisfaction that I meet you in parliament at a

of the

Spain the emi- nally, humane to put further with of a ge- all points powers; entary pericaz; more or post lord extraor- obtained unders to our ately are rea- almost intelli- ble the to his tunity- ble) to of the ch are alliance his ill- guage fishing es; w 507. n p. at n natic of the

mouth ellency lefty's aid on in the ardies bels in

is the uriday stinca- g-here french weeks by ph n- 25. of h the cap- One 1 300 pages

that eived frisk is h- h- in th- in th-

frisk is h- h- in th- in th-

frisk is h- h- in th- in th-

frisk is h- h- in th- in th-

frisk is h- h- in th- in th-