

MARYLAND GAZETTE

T H U R S D A Y, O C T O B E R 3, 1 7 8 2 .

P A R I S, J u n e 2 5 .

THE four companies of the king's guards having supplicated his majesty to permit them to offer him a ship of 24 guns...

July 1. The marquis de Bouille came to Versailles on Friday last. The king gave him a very gracious reception; he conversed for above an hour and a quarter with his majesty, who has raised him to the rank of lieutenant-general.

Extract of a letter from count de Guichen, to the marquis de Castries, secretary of state for the marine department, dated at sea, on board the Terrible, June 27.

I have the honour to inform you, that the combined fleet has had very little wind since its departure from Cadix, which, however, would not have retarded us much, had it not become contrary at the entrance of the bay.

This fleet, composed of 18 sail, was escorted by the Portland of 50 guns, the Orion of 32, the Danae of 24, and the Merion sloop: it was destined for Canada and Newfoundland.

July 9. It is not doubted but that on the arrival of this interesting news (the taking a fleet of transports, bound to Canada or Newfoundland, and the ships of war that conveyed them) M. de la Motte Piquet, who was ready, would sail with his division to rejoin the combined fleet...

L O N D O N, J u l y 6 .

The savings in the pay office as regulated by Mr. Burke, will alone exceed a gain to the nation of £100,000 sterling a year.

If there is one happy word in the English language of such powerful efficacy, as to operate like a charm, and reconcile two nations once happily connected, but who have by the bale artifices of insidious and treacherous men, been too long divided: if North-America can be reconnected with Great-Britain, it must be by the force of the word independence.

July 12. Yesterday at 11 o'clock, an express arrived at the admiralty from Portsmouth, with the alarming information that the combined fleet was under sail, and actually coming up the channel; in consequence of which a council was immediately summoned, in order to consider the necessary measures to be taken on the occasion.

The above intelligence was received from a most respectable quarter, but at too late an hour for us to make any enquiry into the particulars of the express.

We are sorry there does not appear the most distant hope of a reconciliation with America, unless we first either acknowledge their independency, or withdraw our fleet and troops. The messenger sent to congress by general Carleton, had been treated with great coolness, and a refusal to enter upon any treaty, unless the above preliminaries were agreed to. This was their fixed determination.

The independence of America alluded to by Mr. Fox and that of the present premier are widely different: the latter insists on the sovereignty of the crown; while the former was for making America an independent sovereignty, the only terms on which they will treat.

The debate in the house of commons on Tuesday last is universally admitted to have been the most important ever heard, as it not only involved in it the cause of Mr. Fox's resignation, and the great question of American independency, but completely untied the system upon which the present Quixotic minister is to act.

Notwithstanding all the parade made about the arrangement of the present ministry, every one knows that it is meant for nothing more than just to fill up the gap till the new minister feels himself bold enough to introduce the members of lord North's administration, which are meant to be brought in by degrees.

The present fair faced first lord of the treasury, and his motley groupe, are a precious set to make peace with America, the earl of Shelburne having more than once pronounced the man a traitor, who would wish the independence of that country, and Mr. Dunning (who is now lord Ashburton) having declared in his

place in the house of commons, that he would impeach the minister who would dare to move such a thing!

July 13. Authentic letters from Ireland mention, that the people there are every where dissatisfied with the resignation of Mr. Fox, and unable to bear even the name of Shelburne!

Lord Howe does not get out of the channel very speedily (and the wind is at present very much against him; especially as with a force so inferior to the enemy, he dare not extend his squadron, for fear of dilating) the lots of great part of our Jamaica and Leeward island fleets, is reduced almost to a certainty; as the French well know the dependence placed on them for sailors to man our ships of war, and therefore have a double view in intercepting them.

When the combined fleet sailed from Cadix, it consisted of 28 sail of the line Spanish, and five French, making 33 sail of the line; there were at Breit with Motte Piquet, 10 sail of the line; so that their squadron must be 43 sail of the line, instead of 37, as has been mentioned.

N E W - Y O R K, S e p t e m b e r 1 8 .

Extract of a letter from London, dated July 2, 1782.

Peace seems to be at as great a distance now as ever. We flattered ourselves that lord Rodney's success over de Grasse would have been productive of it, but notwithstanding that, and our victories in the East-Indies, both Dutch and French seem as obstinately bent on the prosecution of war as ever.

This country seems, were we to judge from appearances, to be indifferent to all those animating motives that rai'd her to her envied greatness. Two factions divide this nation, the Rockingham and Bedford interest, as it is called, the first seems governed by republican principles, and in an more than they are willing should meet the eye, are indeed for giving the Americans independency and indeed everything they shall ask, which the latter as strenuously oppose. From the divisions of the ministry who are composed of the above factions, it is thought they will not hold their places long; parliament itself does not seem inclined to support them, but a few days ago (such are the changes here) the minister was set in the minority, a proof of the shortness of their reign. For this reason it is thought a new parliament will be summoned, on whom they may have more influence than on the present. Though the public is poor, individuals are rich, the elegance of their equipages, dresses, and living, exceeds all description, and Hyde-Park for horse carriages, and show, exceeds the splendour of the world; every thing, not excepting independency, will be granted America; the war with her never was popular, and the ill success attending it makes it execrated. The republicans mourn over any advantages obtained, and their brethren, and the nation at large never sincerely rejoiced in them. Re-union and advantages arising from commerce by mutual intercourse of interest and good offices are the wish of all, so that unless our countrymen are infatuated, peace is not far off.

The marquis of Rockingham's death is a great blow to the new ministry, and how far it may effect the interest of America, time alone will discover, but I am persuaded America may now have every thing she can wish; but in her hour of success, and puffed up with insolence, and the counsels of violent and interested men, she may reject them, and make this nation desperate, who routed from her situation, and in desperation, may yet adopt such a system as to make the true lovers of America for ever lament her present alienation from the parent state.

F I S H - K I L L, S e p t e m b e r 1 2 .

The encampment now formed at Verplank's-point is said (and with great propriety) to be the most regular and uniform of any since the war. The whole is decorated with a bowery of interwoven verdure, equally useful and elegant, which extends from right to left of the line; in the execution of which the different regiments have discovered a variety of tastes, interspersed in such a manner as cannot fail to impress the beholder at the same time with admiration and applause.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, S e p t e m b e r 2 1 .

A friend of humanity and generosity has communicated to us the following letters, written after the taking of the frigate of his Most Christian Majesty, l'Aigle; though they have not been transmitted to us officially, the public may rely upon their authenticity.

Letter from the baron de VIOMENIL, to his excellency the commander of the English squadron in the Delaware, dated September 15, 1782.

S I R,

THE count de la Touche, commanding the Eagle frigate, whose fortune has just now thrown into the hands of your excellency, is to such a degree my friend, and is so particularly dear to the duc de Lauzun, the marquis de Lava, and all the other French officers who were on board of his frigate, that I flatter myself you would not disapprove of my tending to your excellency a flag, in order to intreat you to inform me if that officer is still in good health. In this case we shall have no farther uneasiness, being all perfectly persuaded, that there is no nation that honours more than your excellency, the merit and distinction of an unfortunate officer. All the attentions M. de la Touche will meet with in his present situation, will be looked upon by us as if they were personal to every one of us; and I beg your excellency may be per-

suaded, that we shall remember them for ever with the warmest acknowledgments.

We are also particularly interested in the fate of M. du Queine, who is in every respect dear to us, and your excellency will afford me the greatest pleasure, by informing me of his situation.

M. de la Touche had likewise on board of his ship a younger brother, of whose safety we wish to be informed, as well as of the other officers who were under his command; they deserve all, by their gallantry and their zeal for the king's service, that your excellency may honour them by your attention.

If you find no inconveniency to return to the officers, who were passengers in this frigate, all the servants belonging to them, you will render them a service they will never forget.

I beg your excellency to receive with kindness, the assurances of the most perfect consideration, &c.

Signed, BARON DE VIOMENIL.

Answer of commodore ELPHINSTONE, to the baron de VIOMENIL, dated September 15, 1782.

S I R,

I AM this instant honoured by your letter, which is the effect of tender feelings and an excellent heart. I have sent your note to M. la Touche, and I hope you will receive his answer by the officer. I let me assure you that I have studied to render the situation of that brave and distinguished officer as comfortable as the situation of my situation would permit; the greatest attention is due to his merit and good conduct; and if I may presume to offer an opinion, no officer could have exhibited more courage or address in the conducting of his master's ship. M. la Touche has been as attentive to the interest of the land officers as they could have wished; some things have been saved, but much will be lost, owing to the great number of men on board, and their being of different nations, left the whole night by themselves as my men were all employed to save our frigates, which were both aground; since which time a variety of things have been thrown over-board in attempting to get off l'Aigle. Permit me to assure you, that my orders have been express to save every thing for the owners, excepting public money and merchandise; and I hope the chevalier de la Touche is satisfied with my conduct, as well as with that of the officers I have the honour to command. M. de la Touche, M. Soffiere, and M. du Queine have their paroles; and the necessity of getting upon my station prevents me from permitting all the other officers to depart on the same terms. As I am well convinced you must be anxious for the fate of your friend, I do not detain your boat a moment, but beg that you will believe me to be, with great esteem, your's, &c.

KEITH ELPHINSTONE.

Extract of a letter from Providence, September 2, 1782.

Yesterday captain Coffin, in a brig, arrived here from Nantes, after a passage of 42 days; some mercantile letters by him mention, that the negotiation for a peace is at an end; but a very intelligent gentleman, who came passing in the brig, assures me, that Mess. Grenville and Oswald were still at Paris, when he took his departure from thence, which was two or three days previous to the sailing of this vessel. He further advises, that no official accounts had been received from the East Indies, but that the intelligence of admiral Hughes's disaster, as mentioned in the papers, was general in France; that the Quebec and Newfoundland fleets, lately captured in the European seas, had arrived at Breit, with a frigate and a cutter, part of their convoy; that the siege of Gibraltar was vigorously carrying on, the British unable to succour it, their fleet being blocked up in their own ports; and that it was supposed the garrisons of New-York and Charles-town would be with drawn, whatever might be the event of the negotiation for peace.

Sept 24. Yesterday morning captain John Earle, late of the schooner Harlequin, came to town after a passage of ten days; he arrived last Thursday morning at Bombay Hook from the Havana, and at seven o'clock in the evening was attacked by three refugee galleys, each carrying a brass six pounder in her bow, and 10 cohorts and swivels, with 30 men, under command of Kidd, Jones, and —. The action lasted two hours, when the schooner was captured. After the most distinguished proofs of valour being exhibited by captain Earle and his brave crew.

The refugees, after the surrender of the schooner, inhumanly murdered, in cold blood, Mr. Bennet, mate, and wounded captain Earle in three places with lances; and Mr. Patchall, a passenger on board, was run through the body, and cut and abused about the head with cutlasses. The Harlequin mounted 4 three pounders and had 18 men, one of whom was killed and 5 wounded. Of the enemy Jones was shot through the body and Kidd through the thigh, 2 lieutenants and 6 men killed, and 14 or 15 badly wounded.

Last evening 12 or 15 persons were brought to town, and safely lodged in gaol. They were taken up in different parts of the country, on suspicion of assisting British prisoners to desert into New-York.

Extract of a letter, dated Camp, Verplank's point, September 19, 1782.

AS TO news, we have nothing very material in this quarter, except that Sir Guy Carleton has requested a cessation of arms of general Washington. The general returned, in answer to Sir Guy, that he was surpris'd