

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1782.

L O N D O N, September 9.

in safety, be obliged to remain there for some months to come.

It is the general opinion of the loyalists, that Mr. Washington will come over to reside in France, as soon as a general peace is concluded.

Never did a fleet sail from port better equipped or more completely arranged for fighting than lord Howe's. We are well informed the most perfect unanimity prevailed amongst the officers and sailors, all of whom expressed the strongest wishes that an engagement might take place off Gibraltar, but we are assured from a quarter, whose information is generally well founded, that the enemy will not interpose to prevent the relief intended to be thrown in, the French being sick of close engagements since their last defeat in the West-Indies.

The grand fleet is in three divisions; the van is commanded by vice-admiral Barrington and rear admiral Hughes; the centre by admiral lord Howe and rear-admiral A. Hood; and the rear by vice admiral Milbank and commodore Hotham.

It is generally said that Russia has offered Great-Britain her whole naval force, if an invasion should be attempted by her enemies during the absence of her fleets.

By advices from Corsica, we have intelligence that the natives are very troublesome, and have given great disturbance to the French troops there. We are further informed, that several of the principal men in the island have been confined in the castle at Ajaccio, charged with a treasonable correspondence with Great-Britain, which had excited the indignation of the Corsicans to such a degree, that they were privately buying up arms and ammunition, in order to make another effort towards regaining their ancient liberties.

By advices from Vienna, we learn, that it having been hinted to the emperor, that the French had an intention to make an attack upon Hanover, his imperial majesty made a public declaration, in the presence of the French ambassador, that if any attack was made upon the king of Great-Britain's German dominions, by any power whatever, he should consider it as a design to disturb the peace of the empire; and in order to counteract such intentions, he would, upon the most early intelligence, order a body of 80,000 men, to march to the Hanoverian frontiers.

Sept. 24. Governor Franklin, whose steady loyalty has secured him the respect and esteem of government, arrived in the last packet from New-York. This gentleman, alarmed at the instructions sent to Sir Guy Carleton and admiral Digby respecting the independence of the colonies, and fearing that our ministry were not truly informed respecting the present distressed and disaffected state of the provinces, determined to visit England, and to lay the whole fully and faithfully before government. As lord Shelburne is now premier, we may expect the best consequences from governor Franklin's information.

Letters from Hungary advise, that some misunderstandings still subsist between the Porte and her imperial majesty, relative to the navigation of the Black Sea.

Letters from Amsterdam, dated the 7th of this month, mention, that as soon as the wind shall shift into the eastern quarter, their fleet will sail directly for the British channel.

The Dutch fleet, after protecting their merchant ships to a certain latitude, will certainly insult our coast at least, if they do not attempt any thing further.

Before the conclusion of the present year, England will augment her navy six ships of the line, which are now in the greatest state of forwardness at Portsmouth, Plymouth, &c.

A squadron of men of war is ordered to rendezvous in the Downs as fast as possible, for the purpose of looking after the Dutch fleet at the Meuse, which are hourly expected out, and are said to be bound down the Channel.

The Dutch fleet in the Meuse consists of four sail of the line; if these join the squadron at the Texel, it will amount to very little short of 20 sail of the line.

Sept. 25. Yesterday evening about 9 o'clock (and not before) arrived at his house in Hertford-street, May-fair, that great and deserved favourite of his country, the right honourable lord Rodney. His lordship set out from Bristol on Sunday morning, and arrived at his seat near Alesford, in Hampshire, the same evening. The fatigue of the journey obliged his lordship to remain at his country residence the whole of Monday; yesterday morning he set out for London, and arrived, we have the satisfaction to inform the public, in perfect health, about 9 o'clock.

It was reported yesterday evening, that Mr. Laurens and his son lay on Monday night at the George at Sittingbourn, in their way to London from France. Mr. Laurens is said to be invested with full powers from congress to treat with this country.

It is generally believed, that a congressional assembly of deputies from the different belligerent powers, will meet before the conclusion of the present year, to treat for a general pacification.

It is generally credited, that lord Howe has instructions to take a peep into Cadiz, after the relief of Gibraltar is accomplished. Should this be the case, it is to be hoped the Dons will not find his lordship quite so polite as they appeared to be when they indignantly paraded before Plymouth without firing a gun.

Several members of both houses who are attached to the Bedford party, have declared their determination of opposing any motion that may be brought into parliament, for acknowledging the unconditional independence of America.

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The Danes are equipping a fleet of ships with all possible expedition; nine are already fit for sea, three more in a forward state of repair, and five are building on the stocks, some of which will be launched in the course of the present year.

We hear that a commission, empowering Sir Guy Carleton to treat separately with the colonies, went on Monday morning to the chancellor to have the great seal affixed to it.

It is said, that the fleet under the command of lord Howe was spoke with by a neutral ship on Wednesday last, within two days of Lisbon, all well.

It is confidently reported, that the last mails from France bring an account of an express being arrived there over land from India, with news that the soldiers carried to the coast of Coromandel by M. Suffrein, had joined Heider Ally, and had jointly attacked the entrenchments of Sir Eyre Coote, but were repulsed with incredible slaughter, and the loss of some artillery. It is added, however, that the English did not think proper to pursue them in their retreat.

Sept. 26. The resignation of the first lord of the admiralty is now spoke of as an event that will certainly take place in a short time, and that lord Rodney will succeed to that very important office.

If governor Franklin is properly attended to by the ministers, he can lay such a state of American politics open, as will induce our rulers to prosecute with vigour the American war, rather than pursue the pusillanimous system, seemingly adopted for withdrawing our armies, and granting independence to the thirteen united colonies.

A gentleman of the Smyrna offered to take an hundred guineas to return a thousand, if the combined fleet opposed lord Howe in his passage to Gibraltar.

It has been reported that a new plan has been adopted for carrying on the American war. It is said to be thus, that we are to withdraw our troops from the continent, at the request of the loyalists; that they are to be left with full liberty to recover their own rights; and that we are only to assist them with such shipping as may be deemed necessary, and to furnish ammunition and other implements of war. This, however odd it may appear at first sight, is thought by no means impracticable; there being 16,000 of those men already, and upwards of as many more ready to join them. General Arnold is talked of as the commander of the new army.

Last Friday a council was held, when it was determined to prepare a commission to be sent under the great seal of Great-Britain, to Sir Guy Carleton and admiral Digby, giving them full powers to act towards concluding peace with America, on the footing of independence; or with separate provinces, or different bodies of men; which commission was sent to the lord chancellor, and returned last night to town, and will be forwarded to New-York with the utmost dispatch.

The proposition for granting independence to America in limine, previous to any treaty with France, was an act of the Rockingham administration. It is a question whether Mr. Fitzherbert has the same instructions with Mr. Grenville, as the great cause which was given for the splitting of the late administration, was a cabinet discussion relative to making this independence conditionally or unconditionally, the basis of a treaty.

We are assured that the loyalists are, by the above instructions, not to be given up to the power of congress, but if not reinstated in their former possessions, will be treated with as a separate body and supported in their pretensions, so that fresh obstacles may still arise to the much and long wished for accommodation.

There are 230 sail of merchant ships now upon the seas from Jamaica.

Advice is received from the north, that a fleet of Dutch men of war was hovering about those seas, and making soundings, which had greatly alarmed the people; for they apprehend they had some design to make a descent on some parts of the coast, and therefore the inhabitants have drove off their cattle into the interior parts of the country.

When all the ships which have sailed from the different French ports shall have arrived at Cadiz, the combined fleet will consist of 42 sail, among which there are four three deckers.

Sept. 27. An express was received by government, in the forenoon of yesterday, from Gibraltar. The contents are substantially as follow: That the governor had expected the grand attack, by sea and land, to commence on the 9th instant, and that he had made such preparations for receiving the enemy, as would, in all human probability, defeat their utmost endeavours to reduce the garrison by storm. These advices add, that the combined fleets, to the number of 30 sail of the line, had arrived in Gibraltar bay, and were moored head and stern, fully determined to oppose lord Howe's throwing succours into the fortress. As a ship is arrived which spoke with the grand fleet on the 16th instant, in lat. 42. 54. all well, it is probable the fate of Gibraltar has been determined before this day.

Sept. 28. As the combined fleets were in Gibraltar bay when the last advices came away, an action of the most decisive nature to this country must have taken place before now. Lord Howe's instructions at sailing were, to give the enemy battle at all events, wherever he might meet them.

ALMOST all the neutral powers have instructed their ambassadors to forward pacific measures at the court of Versailles, except the emperor: this consummate politician foresees, that the Dutch will inevitably deprive him of great part of the trade now carrying on to Oitend, as soon as there is an end of the war; and therefore has given the strongest assurances to the French court, of his resolution to assist the arms of France, in case any other upon the continent shall openly declare in favour of Great-Britain.

Mr. Fitzherbert has not returned to Brussels, but continues at Paris at this time, under the character of a negotiator for Great-Britain.

A correspondent of the first information assures us, that soon after lord Shelburne came into office, expresses were forwarded to Berlin, on the subject of a defensive alliance, or such a friendly interdependence as might tend to terminate the war. And from the same authority we venture to inform the public, that some instructions were soon after sent to the Prussian minister at Paris, supposed to signify the wishes of that northern potentate, to be the means of a general reconciliation.

Sept. 10. The grand fleet had not sailed from Spithead yesterday forenoon; nor was lord Howe expected to make his departure before Friday.

No certain accounts have yet been received of the combined fleets of France and Spain making any movement towards Gibraltar.

A gentleman of good intelligence at the west end of the town assures us, that government has lately discovered a correspondence of a strange nature between some people lately in office and Dr. Franklin. These letters have all passed by the way of Oitend, and were directed to a merchant in that city.

It is calculated there are at this time near half a million of military men among the northern powers in Europe, all of whom are likely to be in the field in the course of the next year, if a general peace should not in the mean time take place between England and the other powers at war.

There were some very disagreeable circumstances in the last intelligence received from India, which were supposed for prudential reasons: we sincerely hope the next dispatches will dispel the gloom, as our Asiatic settlements are now almost the only valuable stake that is worth contending for.

Sept. 14. Very serious apprehensions are entertained on many parts of the northern coast, of a visit from the Dutch in the absence of the grand fleet, as it has been long publicly talked of at Amsterdam, that an expedition would be undertaken against Hull as soon as the fleet sailed for Gibraltar.

Many people are under apprehensions for the success of lord Howe in his present expedition to Gibraltar, from the disparity of his fleet to the combined forces of our enemies. But when we reflect on the known intrepidity of the commander, the bravery of his men, and the magnitude of the object which they have in view, our fears for the event ought to vanish. Inequality of numbers, is not always inequality of strength. We ought never to forget that memorable engagement, when three English men of war, under the command of commodore Forrest, defeated a squadron of seven French men of war off Cape Francois, in October 1757.

It is not yet known what admiral takes the command of the detachment of lord Howe's fleet destined for the West-Indies; some speak of admiral Hughes, but the general opinion is, that this service is destined for that very able and gallant officer, admiral Alexander Hood.

A gentleman lately returned from Barbados declares, that since the action with the French fleet, there were more frigates and American armed ships cruising in the neighbouring latitudes of the British islands than at any former period of the war.

The Dutch give out that they shall have 20 sail of the line ready to join their allies the next summer.

They write from Portsmouth, that several small vessels which had been purchased at that place, and cleared out for Oitend, put to sea with the grand fleet; these, beyond a doubt, were designed to convey intelligence to the enemy, particularly the Dutch, whose intentions, it is well known, were to put to sea as soon as lord Howe had cleared the Channel.

If the Jamaica fleet, which is shortly expected, should approach our coast before the return of lord Howe, there is great reason to apprehend they may fall into the hands of the Dutch, notwithstanding the very strong convoy which accompanies them to Europe.

It should seem that administration have reason to expect a very strenuous opposition to the attempt for the relief of Gibraltar; otherwise they would hardly send thither so immense a fleet, under five of the best admirals in the navy.

Sept. 16. We have it from the first authority, that the Spaniards have been repulsed in their first grand attempt upon Gibraltar, with very great slaughter.

The Lisbon letters which were brought by Friday's mail mention, that most people there were of opinion, a negotiation for peace would commence as soon as Gibraltar should either be relieved or taken.

The last intelligence from Brazil is at this time most particularly important; as we learn that Cordova's fleet has been terribly shattered in a variety of storms; and must, if all his ships should be able to make their port