

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A U G U S T 21, 1783.

L O N D O N, M a y 21.

DURING the late war there has been a remarkable contrast between some of the French officers, many of whom have acted with the most consummate wisdom and bravery, while others have behaved in a mean and cowardly manner, for which they have been condemned to die.

By all the most authentic accounts which have arrived from the East Indies, there is no account whatever of the Dutch fleet which sailed from the Texel in September last; whatever route they took is not known, but it is hardly probable they will arrive at Batavia till June.

May 22. Dr. Franklin is still greatly caressed by the French ministry. The philosopher is frequently honoured with private conferences, on the subject of a commercial treaty, from an opinion entertained by count Vergennes, that no man is better acquainted with the genius and disposition of his countrymen, the nature of the American trade, the general produce of their lands, and their wants of different commodities from Europe.

There will be no general exchange of prisoners, taken during the war, until the definitive treaties are signed.

Spain is using her influence towards bringing about a peace between Turkey and the northern powers. For above three months past, a Spanish minister has been at Constantinople, charged with commercial affairs.

The Dutch make up their expenses to the winding up of the war at nineteen millions; their losses are near twenty millions more, the greatest part of which falls on their East-India company; so that in three years they have sustained damage to the amount of near forty millions; all which might have been prevented by a little good faith.

On Saturday the court-martial sat at the Horse-guards, and passed the following sentence on lieutenant-colonel Cockburne:

"The court-martial, having duly considered and weighed the evidence given in support of the first charge against the prisoner, lieutenant-colonel James Cockburne, with that produced in his defence, is of opinion, that he is guilty of the whole of the said charge; namely, of culpable neglect while commanding in chief his majesty's forces in the island of St. Eustatius, in not taking the necessary precautions for the defence of the said island, notwithstanding he had received the fullest intelligence of an attack intended by the enemy upon the same; and of having, on the 26th day of November, suffered himself to be surprised by an inferior body of French troops, which landed on the said island without an opposition; and did most shamefully abandon and give up the garrisons, ports, and troops, which were under his command; and this court do adjudge, that he, the said lieutenant-colonel James Cockburne, be therefore cashiered, and declared unworthy of serving his majesty in any military capacity whatever, and that the same be notified to him publicly at the head of the 13th and 15th regiments of foot, who were under his command at the time of the said surprize, if that may be convenient; and the court doth, for the sake of example, further adjudge, that the charge of which the prisoner has been so fully convicted, together with the sentence pronounced against him, be declared in public orders, and circulated to every corp in his majesty's service."

May 24. Yesterday letters were received from Hanover, mentioning that, pursuant to orders from England, the troops of that electorate had been reduced to the usual complement of men in times of peace.

May 26. Letters are received at the East-India house, which mention that a treaty is concluded between governor Hastings and the Marhattas. By the above letters intelligence is likewise received, that four ships had received sailing orders for England, and four more were to sail soon after.

The above letters further say, that governor Hastings had sent 200,000 bags of rice to Madras, as also a great quantity of money to that place and Bombay.

We further learn from the same letters, that general Sir Eyre Coote was extremely ill when the above intelligence left India.

Extract of a letter from Mr. John Sibbit, commander of a vessel taken on her passage from Boston to France, by the Britishians, captain Graves, dated the 9th of March, 1783, to a friend in London.

"On the 26th of November, 1782, being in company with the Jupiter, in lat. 23, 10, N. long. 82, 20, W. at six A. M. discovered a sail in the south west quarter; chased per signal from the Jupiter, continuing the chase till five P. M. the 27th, when we discovered a fleet of 29 sail coming out of Havana; left off chasing the brig, and hauled our wind for the land, to prevent our being discovered by the said fleet. As soon as it was dark we made sail and stood for them, and the same evening captured two ships, the one a French and the other an American; Jupiter in com-

pany. At four A. M. came up with and engaged an American ship of 20 guns, called the St. Helena, of Philadelphia, the Jupiter not being in sight, after an action of two hours captured said ship. I being sent on board to take charge of her, found her rigging much cut, and mizen top-mast disabled; having only six men on board, were not sufficient, without more assistance, to get the top-mast down and a new one up, I therefore employed the people in knotting and splicing the rigging. At five P. M. the 29th, captain Stanhope sent his boat with an additional number of men to assist in getting up the top-mast, who were employed during the night. At nine A. M. having kept to the number of 11 to work the ship, by order of the captain sent the boat with the remainder to the people on board the Lively, being in as good a condition as I could fit her at that time, except some of the running rigging to splice, which kept the men I had on board employed during that day. The 30th, at eight P. M. I divided the people into two watches; ordered the watch below to get a spare sail on the quarter deck, that they might sleep thereon, being so much fatigued through hard duty and want of rest, I could scarce keep them from falling asleep in the day; according to orders from captain Stanhope (who hailed me that day) I made sail up, and hoisted on the Jupiter's quarter, the Lively likewise on my bow, two of the prizes a-stern, and two on my larboard quarter. At nine, one Palmer, the second mate, seized me by the throat, clapped a pistol to my breast, and told me if I spoke a word I was a dead man; having to the number of 11 prisoners on board, and they to my great surprize under arms, threw me into the light-room, placed a sentinel over me, and in a few minutes the rest of my people were brought down and confined in the same place with me; here we remained till the ship was out of sight of the fleet; I was then ordered up and confined in the cockpit, with a sentinel over me, and the people soon after ordered up and put in irons. At half past eleven, A. M. I was permitted to go on deck for the benefit of the air, being then about six leagues distant from the Moro Cattle. On the 30th, at one P. M. the people were ordered on deck, seated in a row, with a rope reeved through their arms and fastened at both ends; neither was I permitted to come on the same side the people were on. In this situation I remained till we were within pistol shot of the Moro, and preparing to come to anchor, when this same Palmer, being the only American then on the quarter deck, except the man at the helm, the others being forward clearing the anchor, I immediately embraced the opportunity and seized Palmer, who was the ringleader, with his cutliss and pistol, and called on my people to arise, which they did beyond expectation, and then a scuffle ensued, in which I received several blows with a cutliss, but Providence ordered it so that I received no material damage; when fortunately the fourth mate making a lunge at me, ran Palmer through the body, who expired in a few minutes afterwards, with whole pistol I knocked down the fourth mate; by this time my people got off their irons, confined the remainder of the prisoners, and hauled our wind to the northward, then in sight of 14 sail of the line, lying at anchor in the harbour, and made all the sail I could. The 2d of December, Cape Florida being north, distant four leagues, fell in with a cartel from Jamaica, bound to Cape Francois, into which I sent the prisoners, and made the best of my way for St. Augustine, at which place I arrived the 5th inst. and delivered the ship into the hands of Messrs. Moss, merchants, to act for the benefit of the captors."

May 28. According to letters from the East-Indies, the storm which proved so fatal at Madras, had been equally violent all along the coast to the southward; at Tranquebar 24 sail of shipping were lost, with every person on board.

A letter from Fontainebleau says, that on the first instant, one Alexander Macdonald died there, aged 113; he was in the grand rebellion in the year 1715, and escaped in a vessel from Dunkel, with several rebel officers.

On Thursday afternoon an account was received by the French mail, of Mons. Suffrein's squadron in the East Indies having met with some accidents, in their way from Trincomale to Sumatra, which it was conjectured would prevent their appearance in the Oriental seas any more. The circumstances are thus related:

Commodore Suffrein set sail with his fleet, consisting of thirteen men of war of the line, from the port of Trincomale, on the 16th of November last, in order to make the port of Acheen (on the island of Sumatra, which was appointed for the rendezvous of a Dutch squadron from Europe, which had under its convoy some ships with naval stores) where he intended to rest his squadron. On or about the 29th of the same month, having stretched across the bay of Benga, they fell in with the Nicobar islands, where they were surprised by a storm, which was so sudden as to lay several of the ships on their beam ends. When this squall was over, it was succeeded by a storm that lasted near a week, in which several of the ships were entirely dismasted, and some of them flung their guns over. On the 12th of December they arrived at Acheen, but only 11 of the line entered that port; two others le Vengeur, of 64 guns, and le Hannibal of 50 were missing, and it was not known what had become of them; neither had there been any news of them on the 23th of the same month, when the accounts came away.

To add to their misfortune, the Dutch fleet had not arrived, nor any part thereof; so that they must either remain there or go to Batavia, which is further to the south-east, and from whence, in the condition of their squadron, there is no likelihood of their being able to return till May or June.

A letter from Cassel says, "We have received letters from America, which say, that many of the Hessians, both officers and common men, intend to continue there, as they have great encouragement from the congress to do so; the climate agrees with them, and provisions are very plentiful."

June 5. The messenger who arrived yesterday in fifty-two hours from Paris, did not come from the duke of Manchester, but from the gentlemen who are negotiating a treaty of commerce with the American commissioner.

Parliament have no business to keep them sitting more than three weeks or a month; but it is said from authority the session will not end till the definitive treaties are signed.

It has long been remarked, that every Englishman is a politician. Those who have visited France know that Frenchmen are so too (as far as they dare). The difference is scarcely any in times of success, but in disastrous seasons the Briton is allowed to speak of what he cannot help, while the Gallic subject, with his mouth shut, is obliged to "grin, and endure it."

The fortifications of Dunkirk are constantly repairing and enlarging.—It might indeed, at first view, seem rather strange to dictate to a neighbouring power how she should act with regard to her own territories, but when the situation of the place in question is considered, the reason will be evident. If Dunkirk harbour is in as good a state as our neighbours can put it in, it is likely that in another war we shall not be able to "laugh at the French, and their flat-bottomed boats."

Honour is said to be the principle that generally actuates an absolute monarchy, while virtue distinguishes a republic. Ought not then a mixture of these terms to partake of both principles? If so, might we not reasonably expect to find both nice honour and real virtue prevailing over the British constitution?

Rochoucault's maxims tended to prove that the one half of mankind were knaves, the other half fools. Were he now alive, and in Britain, query, which would he determine was here predominant?

D U B L I N, M a y 21.

Farmers from all parts agree, that they have never known a more favourable prospect than the present season affords, of a most abundant produce of all the fruits of the earth.

Yesterday morning an English messenger, with dispatches to his excellency the lord lieutenant, arrived in the Besborough packet, Goddard, from Holyhead.

Letters from Paris advise, that the reduction of the army has already taken place throughout France, in consequence of which, 30,000 land forces will be disbanded. Government, however, has taken care that this great number of men shall not be thrown idly on the public, by providing full employment for such as are able to labour, at Loulon, Havre, and Dunkirk, on the new works constructing there. The lawmen rated able, that served in the royal navy last war, are to have a pension of 16 livres each, until called upon again. The commissaries of the several departments have a fund provided for that purpose to pay them with.

CHARLES-TOWN, (South-Carolina) July 12.

Thursday evening a considerable number of the people assembled for the purpose of punishing persons who were thought obnoxious to the state, and four or five underwent that discipline; but it being considered that such proceedings were disgraceful to good government, that ill impressions may be made on the minds of the numerous foreigners amongst us, prejudicial to our rising commerce; that in any case complaining of, a legal remedy is at hand; and knowing the extreme wish of the executive to administer equal justice—the honourable the president of the senate, and the honourable the speaker of the house of representatives, with such members of both as are in town, yesterday waited on his excellency the governor with an offer of their support in any measure he might adopt for the preservation of the dignity of government, and the peace of the city. Accordingly, yesterday afternoon the following proclamation was made in different parts of the town by Mr. Sheriff Stevens; after which the honourable privy council, with an attention to the peace of the city that does them great honour, intermixed with a number of persons yesterday evening who were assembling, and by soothing and remonstrating, enforced such attention to the proclamation, as restored perfect order and quiet in the city.

Tumult is the last resource of a desponding people under a subverted government—where their just complaints are the subject of mockery, and when themselves or their dearest interests are treated with neglect.

State of South-Carolina. By his Excellency BENJAMIN GUERARD, Esquire, governor and commander in chief in and over the said state.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

W H E R E A S from a certain Thomas Barron's (a British subject) imprudently and grossly insulting a citizen as he was passing by on Tuesday evening last,