

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 22, 1784.

L O N D O N, January 19.

THE following is an extract of a letter received from Paris:

"A decree of the inquisition of Lisbon has positively forbid the construction of the aerostatic globes in the kingdom of Portugal, and what is still more severe, they command the Portugueze not even to speak of them under pain of incurring the indignation of that tribunal, and of experiencing the most rigorous exertion of its authority, as they consider that French invention to be the result of some commerce with the devil."

Jan. 21. Authentic letters from the factory at Senegal advise, that some English gentlemen have been near 150 leagues up the country, in search of natural curiosities, and that they had brought specimens of several valuable plants, among others that called the Vereck, or white gum tree, which the Moors and Arabs, who know neither how to sow or reap, live upon during their long journies. This gum is likely to prove a valuable article of commerce, being of great use in giving a body to silks, cottons, &c. The French have lately imported great quantities of it, and it has been calculated to be an object of £. 262,555 per annum to Europe, and therefore of more consequence than either the negro or gold trade.

Jan. 23. Letters from Antigua declare, that the Carribbes at St. Vincent, being joined by a large body of savages from the neighbouring islands, had on the 17th of November last risen upon the European inhabitants, and destroyed several plantations on the south of the island; but that the militia having been immediately embodied, put a stop to the ravages of the insurgents, who had retired to the woods.

The emperor of Russia has offered the king of Spain the vast sum of a million and a half sterling for the island of Minorca, and 5000 tons of hemp, per annum, for ten years, for the Spanish navy; the ministry of Madrid are all for accepting the offer, but the king is against it; however, he has not given a positive negative. The French ambassador was highly alarmed at the offer.

Extract of a letter from Bath, January 14.

"I have just been to see a young Irish giant, just arrived here from that kingdom. He says he is seventeen years of age, and being quite beardless, I suppose he cannot be more; but he is full eight feet high, and has a sister of fourteen, who is six feet seven inches, yet his elder brother is much under six feet, but his grandfather was nine feet high. Considering his height, he is rather thin and narrow over the chest, but his legs, feet, and hands, are of an astonishing magnitude. I did not see him measured; but when a gentleman 6 feet three inches high held his arm straight up, and his fingers pointed, they seemed on a level with the giant's head. He proposes to pass through London, in his way to Paris. What is singular is, that I who have seen many giants in this and other kingdoms, have observed that they have all a strong face resemblance."

Letters from Paris say, that monsieur Pelatre du Rozier, the first aerial navigator, is gone to Lyons, in order to sail up above the clouds with monsieur de Montgolfier, who is about taking his flight for Paris, distant 300 miles from the above city. They are to be accompanied by two noblemen of the first distinction. Their travelling machine, which is to be launched up in a few days, measures 100 feet in diameter, and upon an average will be able to carry ten passengers, with their necessary provisions.

Vault preparations are making at Petersburg in the balloon way, for celebrating the empress's birth day. Twenty large balloons, in different shapes, are to be suspended in the air, at a certain height from the ground, all illuminated with various colours, and having festoons of fire-works from one to the other. The spectacle is expected to be the most striking and magnificent that ever was exhibited in the world. Artists are engaged at Paris for the executing some, and instructing Russians for others.

The East-India gazette, which apprises us of the state of the army in that part of our dominions, is too melancholy to be long dwelt upon—fatigue and disease in their most poignant degree, seem to have infected the whole, and with equal joy the English and the French commanders seem to have received the news of the peace by the readiness with which they concurred in the exchange of prisoners, even before any official notice of it had arrived.

Upon making up the war account, it appears France is indebted to this nation for the maintenance of 33,600 prisoners, taken during the war.

S A L E M, March 18.

By the arrival of captain Grafton, from the Havana, mentioned in our last, we are informed, that the Spanish government is extremely rigorous in executing its commercial edicts; several persons (among whom are one or two Americans) detected in the breach of them, having been sentenced to three years slavery in Vera Cruz.

Among the prohibited articles, at the Havanas, the produce of the United States is included. Several vessels, with flour, which arrived there some time ago, were neither allowed to sell their cargoes nor to carry them away, till it should be known that a sufficient supply was received, or like to be received from Spain. On Tuesday last, the ship Grand Turk, captain S. Williams, arrived here from the West-Indies, but left

from Martha's Vineyard, which he left on Saturday last, in company with about fourteen sail, four of which were of this port, and the rest for Boston, Newbury-Port, and Portsmouth. A great part of them have been detained at the Vineyard, by the late severe frost, for upwards of two months. Captain Simpson died about three or four weeks ago. He belonged to Portsmouth, and his corpse was kept on board the ship, agreeable to his desire, till her arrival at that port, which was the beginning of this week.

B O S T O N, March 21.

Wednesday last being assigned by the honourable house of representatives, to take into consideration the recommendation of congress respecting the admission of refugees, a person unknown delivered into the hands of the messenger of the house, a number of hand bills, containing the resolutions of the town of New-Haven, in the State of Connecticut, to be by him brought into the house. The representatives of the people of this state had too much sensibility not to feel themselves affronted at an indecency of this nature, and therefore ordered the hand bills to be burnt, and directed the messenger to take the person who offered them, that he might be committed for the contempt; but he absconded.

March 27. His excellency the governor, has been pleased to prorogue the honourable the general court of this commonwealth. Before the prorogation a committee of both houses were appointed, to enquire into the existence, nature, object, and probable tendency or effect of an order or society, called the Cincinnati. After mature deliberation, and for divers reasons, set forth in nine articles,—the committee have reported it as their opinion, "That the said society, called the Cincinnati, is unjustifiable, and if not properly discontinued, may be dangerous to the peace, liberty, and safety of the United States in general, and the commonwealth in particular. The committee also report as their opinion, that it is proper the further consideration of measures suitable and necessary to be taken, with respect to the society of the Cincinnati, be referred to the next sitting of the general court." The above report was read and accepted by the two houses, the 23d instant.

H A R T F O R D, March 29.

Hebron, February 15.

"This day departed this life, Mrs. Lydia Peters, wife of colonel John Peters, and second daughter of Joseph Phelps, Esq; she was married at the age of 15, and lived with her consort three times 15 years, and had 15 living children, 13 now alive, and the youngest 15 years old; she hath had three times 15 grand children; she was sick 15 months, and died the 15th day of the month, aged four times 15 years.

N E W - Y O R K, April 8.

The legislature of South-Carolina at their present session, have passed an act vesting Congress with power to levy the five per cent. duty. Also, to regulate the West-India trade; to take off duties on American produce. They have revised their confiscation act, and agreed to grant

- 29 estates, free;
69 ditto on the amendment of twelve per cent. on the value of the estates;
33 ditto on the amendment of twelve per cent. The proprietors being disqualified for seven years, from holding any office civil or military.
They have passed a tax bill, providing funds for raising

£. 35,441 sterling, their quota to Congress;

£. 9,808 ditto, their civil list;

£. 71,632 ditto, to pay the debt of their state debt; the two first payable in gold or silver, the last to be paid by the interest of their treasury indents to sink the same.

Last Monday the British packet Shelburne, captain Bull, arrived here in 9 days from Charleston, with the British November mail, destined for this city, but prevented by extreme bad weather from arrival, and put into Charleston harbour, South-Carolina.

T R E N T O N, April 6.

On Monday the 21d of March the ice in the Susquehanna, opposite Wyoming, broke up: on the night following it jammed below the inhabitants, and by the back water overflowed a very considerable extent of country. It rose not less than 20 feet higher than was ever known before. The torrent swept away at Lathawane, Wintermouth, Jacob and George's Plains, Kingston, Shawane and Nantuxon, about the dwelling houses, with the greater part of the stock, grain, household furniture and implements of husbandry. No lives were lost except one young man of the name of Jackson. By this terrible disaster about 400 persons have been reduced to poverty and wretchedness, many of whom must, unless speedily relieved, perish by famine. The gentleman who gave us this account saw some of the miserable inhabitants digging dead hogs from among the ruins for their subsistence.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, April 10.

Extract of a letter from London, dated November 14, 1783.

"Your envoys, Messieurs Adams and Jay, arrived here two or three days ago, for the purpose of entering into a commercial treaty with Great-Britain—they are treated with great respect and attention, which

affords a striking picture of the fall of pride and oppression, and the change of all human affairs."

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Boston, legally assembled the 15th of March, a letter from the chairman of the committee of the town of Wrentham and Medway was read, proposing a meeting of the county, to take into consideration the act of commutation, and the power granted by the state of Massachusetts to congress to levy the five per cent. impost; which those towns consider as grievances.

The selectmen of Boston, in answer, after expressing their disapprobation of these measures, conclude as follows:

"With respect to the subject of your letter, commutation, and the act of the state on the impost, we must take the liberty to express our entire disapprobation of your intended endeavours, as they seem clearly to us, to be not only vain but very unjust. Why should we wish to keep from the officers of our army the hard earned reward they may receive from the commutation? It was promised most solemnly by congress in the hour of danger. It was then approved of by the people, and ought on every equitable principal to be made good in this day of peace, a peace obtained by the perilous exertions of these very men (in conjunction with our magnanimous allies) who are to receive the pittance, and a pittance it is, when we consider the money they realize from this mighty boon, will not make good their arrearages of their pay; and although your towns, and the towns of the selectmen whose advice you follow, may be averse to the commutation, yet we presume they will not deny the justice of pay for the time they were in actual service; if they will then raise immediately as much money as will pay their proportion of only two thirds of the arrearages due to the officers,—with this money they may purchase the amount of the whole, and the commutation into the bargain. This we think the only way for those who say they are aggrieved to settle the matter. For if the states were able to prevent paying it (and could be once so lost to a sense of justice and honour as to desire it) the commutation is so wisely blended with the national debt, that all the county conventions upon the face of the earth could not make the distinctions. If therefore there are any who have the ability, but want the honesty to contribute their proportion, they must set down contented, for in our opinion it is out of their power to prevent it.

With respect to the impost, we are of opinion that if we ever mean to be a nation we must give power to congress, and funds too; for without them we can never pay our debts, and without a just payment of our debts, in what other light can we possibly be viewed by the world in general, and every honest man in particular, than that of bankruptcy or knavery? The former is by no means the case, for we are rich in resources, and want only the will to bring them out; and we trust the latter will never be justly charged to the United States.

We therefore desire, as far as this town has a voice in the county, that the proposed convention may never meet; but if they should, we hope they will so far consider the justice and propriety of submitting to those acts which they now complain of as a grievance, as cheerfully to acquiesce in them; and that they will then separate, without taking any step that may eventually tend to bring this country into contempt; for if they should we shall be constrained, as in duty bound, solemnly to protest against them.

By order and in behalf of the town, Wm. COOPER, town clerk.

April 13. A letter from Dublin, dated the 1st of January, says, that the river Liffey was frozen over so hard, as to admit boys skating on it; the like has not been seen for a long time.

The general court of the commonwealth of Massachusetts bay, at their last sitting, passed an act for the appointing and empowering commissioners, on the part of that state, in conjunction with such as are or may be appointed by the state of New-York, to ascertain the boundary line between the two states, eastward of Hudson's river.

By a vessel arrived here on Sunday last from the Havanna, we learn, that an order was issued on the 23d of February, requiring all Americans and vessels belonging to Americans to leave the island before the 1st of April: It is also added that no vessels from the United States, will be admitted till further notice.

Extract of a letter from a merchant in Jamaica to his correspondent in Boston, dated February 20.

"You cannot conceive, my friend, the embarrassments we labour under from the want of the produce of your country. The people here are continually cursing first the king, then the ministry, and lastly the governor. The madness and folly of England, tho' conspicuous for several years past, never appeared so openly as in the present prohibition. What the consequences will be, God only knows."

C H A R L E S T O N, (S. Carolina.) March 23.

Saturday afternoon a most uncommon but melancholy accident happened at Ashly-Ferry. As Mr. Frazier, with 72 negroes belonging to Mr. Thomas Elliot, and a negro and horse, the owner not known, and a negro boy belonging to Mr. Frazier, were crossing the river, nearly in the middle, the boat separated in two, by which 48 of Mr. Elliot's negroes, the negro and