

For some time there have arrived here every day fugitives from the communes of La Vendee, which have been given up.

In the cantons under the influence of Stofflet all is tranquil, and persons travel more in safety than in Vendee.

PARIS, December 2.
Council of Five Hundred.

In the sitting of the 25th, the council declared that the customs shall henceforth be paid either in specie, or in assignats of the lawful course.

In the sitting of the 26th, the following articles, concerning the new plan for the arrangements of the finances were adopted. First, no note is to exceed the metallic value of 1000 livres, as it stood in 1790; nor to be less than 300 livres of the same value; but it shall be lawful for every citizen to have as many of them as he chooses.—2dly, Assignats shall be received at the appointed offices at the 30th part of their nominal value, in exchange for notes.—3dly, The notes shall be payable to bearer, and may of course be transferred and negotiated, but shall never obtain a forced circulation. 4thly, The notes are to bear 3 per cent. interest. 5thly, Taxes, duties, &c. shall be paid either in specie or in assignats, at the legal course. 6thly, The rents for the fourth year shall be paid in assignats, at the rate of the 30th part of their nominal value, viz. that for instance, a rent of 1000 livres is to be paid with 30,000 livres, in assignats, according to their nominal value. 7thly, Notes shall be issued to the amount of 1000 millions, of the value of national estates, as it stood in 1790, and equally distributed amongst all the departments. The notes shall be put in a chest, out of which they shall not be taken but at the conclusion of peace, and in virtue of a decree of the legislative body, in order to be distributed among the defenders of the country. 8thly, The decree, by which the duties were raised to a sum exceeding by six livres their former amount, is abolished. 9thly, The executive directory shall be ordered to cause immediately to be sold, all the furniture and other moveable property appertaining to the republic, such effects alone excepted, as are necessary for the operations of the armies and the march of the troops. 10thly, The whole value of national real estates shall be presented, and one thousand millions of these notes, serving as a security for the assignats, and another thousand millions being reserved for the rewarding of the defenders of the country, the remainder shall be destined for the extraordinary expences of the war. 11thly, The executive directory may mortgage a part of the national forests for sums advanced either by private individuals or corporations; and creditors of this description shall receive assignments of the produce of the said forests.

Robbers are increasing at Paris in a most alarming degree, and gangs of them strip whole houses and shops. The greatest warehouse of broad-clothes in this city, and a watch-maker's shop, were lately broke open, and the thieves got clear off with every article they contained. Bread sells at 60 livres a pound, and even at that enormous price it is extremely difficult to get any, since the markets have been pillaged by the mob. The distributions of bread in the sections are now only made every second day.

The national institute, which is destined to replace our universities, is now organized by the executive directory, and among the members appointed, we find the names of Bernardin de St. Pierre, Lagrange, Sieyes, Daunou, Volney, Picardet, Garat, &c.

TORBAY, November 19.

In my last I informed you we were uneasy for the safety of that part of the fleet that had not been able to fetch this place, the wind then beginning to blow very fresh. At midnight it increased, and blew a most tremendous gale, accompanied with showers and hail.

At day break yesterday morning, only nine sail of the whole fleet, which amounted to upwards of two hundred sail, were to be seen riding in the Bay. The rest were forced out by the violence of the gale, and blown to sea.

The gale continued till four o'clock P. M. when it moderated. It is conjectured the fleet are returned to St. Helen's. We are fearful that they suffered very considerable damage, from the difficulty they must have had to encounter in clearing Portland. The following are part of the nine ships that have rode out the gale, and remain here:—The Jamaica, the Simon Taylor, the Foster Earham, the Boddington, and a large ship, No. 79; with four more, whose names and numbers I cannot learn.—A collier is just come in disabled; and reports to have seen at sea seven large ships, considerably damaged, steering for Portsmouth.

WEYMOUTH, November 19.

The fleet destined for the West-Indies, passed proudly by this port on Tuesday last, with a fair wind, and exhibited a grand and beautiful spectacle; but alas! the scene has been changed to horror and dismay. In the course of the night the wind changed to the westward, and blew a perfect hurricane. Many of the transports, unable to stretch out far enough to clear Portland Head, were drove on shore on the Pebbly beach, where the most tremendous surf ran that has been known in the memory of man; and consequently dashed to pieces.

One ship with 200 soldiers, and their officers on board, sunk within 20 fathoms of the shore, and notwithstanding their piteous cries, and the efforts they made to swim, there was a tardiness in offering them assistance; and only ten were able to save themselves.

In the course of an hour, three other ships went to pieces, and all on board perished, except fifteen, among whom is an officer's wife of the 26th dragoons,

her husband was drowned, and she was sick in bed when the ship struck. She was miraculously forced through a port-hole, carried naked on shore, and has been ever since in a state of delirium.

Several vessels were lost along the coast, and we fear those on board shared a similar fate. Among the survivors are lieutenant-colonel Ross, and a surgeon. It is impossible for me to ascertain the number that perished; but I counted 275 dead bodies drove ashore, many of them women, and others are hourly appearing.

Nov. 20. I am very sorry to inform you, that on Tuesday evening about eight or nine o'clock, it began blowing from the S. W. and S. S. W. and increased all night in a most dreadful manner. The gale continued rather increasing all Wednesday morning, when it began to rain, and moderated about three or four o'clock; in the evening quite calm. Many of the West-India fleet, that had passed the day before, came to anchor in Portland road, among them a 74 and a frigate; several more in Weymouth road. One large ship, loaded with gunpowder and stores, lays off the North shore, entirely dismantled; another with only the fore-mast standing; and another lays on shore near the mills.

In West-Bay, near Portland, a large ship with timber frames, lays on the beach upright, with all her masts standing; another ship lost near her, name, I believe, the Golden Grove—the captain and most of the crew are drowned; two more ships lost higher up in the bay, one had 140 soldiers on board, only ten saved out of the whole.—Only one man, one woman, and a child, saved out of another; two more are lost off Abbotsbury.

The Eolus, transport, Isaac Duck.
The Golden Grove, Bock, for St. Kitt's.
The Venus, transport, with troops.
The Thomas, Brown, for Oporto.
The Hannah, Hickman, transport.
The Piedmont, transport, only ten men saved.

LONDON, November 28.

A captain of one of the Mediterranean fleet, captured by the squadron under the command of Richery, arrived in town yesterday from Cadiz; who states, that only two of the ships belonging to that squadron were permitted to enter the harbour with the prizes, and that an application had been made by admiral Richery to the Spanish court, for permission to dispose of the cargoes in that port, but that his request had been peremptorily refused. He also states that admiral Mann had arrived at that place with six sail of the line, and had anchored, with springs on his cables, along side of the French.

In the course of the conversation which took place between the executive directory and the foreign ministers, on the 22d instant, when the former gave the first solemn audience, the following compliments were paid to some of the foreign ministers by the members of the directory. To the Swedish ambassador—"The chiefs of the French republic shall never forget that the representative of your nation took up arms, when the convention was in the utmost danger." To count Carietti—"Your philosophy, known all over Italy, makes the new Romans (the French) forget, that Tuscany once attempted to give Rome a master (Porsenna). To the American minister—"The friendship of the directory for the great Washington, keeps pace with its hatred against the English government." To the Prussian charge d'affaires—"The French government hopes, that the Prussians, by reading over and over again the works of the great Frederick, will learn once more to love the French." There is a wonderful resemblance between their diplomatic bombast, and the pedantic jargon of a school-master, who harrangues his boys.

Nov. 30. Admiral Duncan's sudden departure with so large a fleet to the North Seas, is occasioned by intelligence that the French squadron from Bergen, augmented with several Dutch men of war, was on the point of sailing from Norway with a pretty large and valuable convoy, among which are four or five sail of Dutch East-Indiamen.

Dec. 2. Accounts from Madrid mention, that the queen of Spain had recovered from an indisposition. The gratitude of the people towards his majesty, for the blessings of peace, is described as beyond all bounds. Don Vallego, the president of the council, having finished his visits to the prisons, had liberated 80 men, and 344 women, confined for small debts, and relieved many others.

It is reported this morning, that admiral Christian's squadron will not sail in divisions, the plan being changed; and he waits until the whole of the merchant ships and transports are refitted. [This the West-India fleet so many times arrested there!]

Dec. 3. The last dispatches to the admiralty from the Mediterranean, bring the unwelcome news that admiral Hotham, as well as admiral Goodall, have been obliged to strike their flags on account of ill health. Sir Hyde Parker is the commander in chief on that station, until Sir John Jervis arrives out there.

Dec. 4. We most anxiously expect the receipt of further advices from Paris, in order to be better informed than we yet are of the plan which the new government of France proposes to adopt for the restoration of its finances. The value of assignats not being now worth the expence of their engraving, the committee of finances has already pronounced, that the plates of them are to be broken up.

HORSE GUARDS, November 20.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been this day received by the right hon. Henry Dundas, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state,

from major-general Leigh, commanding his majesty's troops in the Leeward Islands, dated Martinico, October 5, 1795.

Sir, I have the honour to enclose, for your information, the copy of a letter I have received from major-general Irving, dated at St. Vincent's, October 3, and to congratulate you on the good behaviour of the troops, and on the success of his majesty's arms by the possession of the important post of the Vigie on that island.

I have the honour to be, &c.

C. LEIGH.

Copy of a letter from major-general Irving, to major-general Leigh, dated Kingstown, St. Vincent's, October 3, 1795.

Sir, I have the honour to report to your excellency, that finding this town extremely streightened by the enemy having possession of the Vigie, I judged it expedient to drive them from it, as the only means to relieve it. I informed myself, from those best acquainted with the country, that a height, called Fairbairne's Hill, commanded the Vigie; upon this I formed my plan of attack. The grenadiers and light infantry, with four companies of the 40th regiment, were to gain the hill on one quarter, while the 59th regiment, supported by two three pounders, were to force it on another; the whole marched at three o'clock yesterday morning, so as to be at the object at day break. The first division gained the height early in the morning, with considerable loss; the 59th regiment was early within fifty paces of the enemy, and made several attempts to gain the post, but the natural strength of the ground, and the heavy rain that unluckily fell at day-break, rendered the place inaccessible. The troops having been exposed the whole of the day to great fatigues, and the weather being very unfavourable, from violent showers during the day, and having no possibility of providing the least shelter for them, I thought it most advisable to return to our former quarters for the night. Having sufficient reason to suppose the enemy had abandoned their post during the night, I ordered out early this morning a strong detachment of the St. Vincent's rangers to take possession of it; and I have to inform your excellency, that the British flag now displays itself there. We found all the cannon and ammunition there undestroyed. Brigadier-general Myers, by his able conduct the whole day, afforded me the most essential service; and the highest praise is due to this army, both officers and men, for the perseverance, discipline and bravery, they manifested in sustaining an action from day break until night, in this climate.

I have the honour to be, &c.

P. IRVING, Major-General.

St. Vincent's, October 3, 1795.

Return of killed and wounded on the 2d inst.

40th regiment—1 officer, 2 sergeants, 8 rank and file killed; 13 rank and file wounded.
54th regiment—1 officer, 1 sergeant, 8 rank and file killed; 1 officer, 3 sergeants, 2 drummers, and 24 rank and file wounded; 1 rank and file missing.
59th regiment—1 officer, 1 sergeant, 22 rank and file killed; 2 officers, 3 sergeants, 1 drummer, and 56 rank and file wounded.

Martinique rangers—1 rank and file killed; 2 ditto wounded.

Names of officers killed and wounded.

KILLED.

Capt. Patrick Blair, of the 59th regiment.
Lieut. Alexander Scipion, of the 40th do.
Lieut. Samuel Warren, of the 54th ditto.

WOUNDED.

Capt. Christopher Seton, of the 54th do.
Capt. Robert Vaughan, of the 59th do.
Ensign Hannah, of the 59th do.

(Signed)

THOMAS HILL, Aid-de-Camp.

PROVIDENCE, February 8.

A Curious Inscription.

On the banks of a rivulet in the north of Ireland is a stone with the following inscription, which was no doubt intended for the information of strangers travelling that road.

"Take Notice, that when this stone is out of sight, it is not safe to ford the river!"

The above inscription is something similar to the famous finger post which was erected by order of the surveyor of the roads some years ago in Kent (Eng.)

"This is a bridle path to Fevertham; if you can't read this, you had better keep the main road."

NEW-YORK, February 17.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman, now residing in Bourdeaux, to the editor of this paper, dated

"Bourdeaux, October 18, 1795.

"Many are of opinion that the people of France are not calculated to live happily under a republican government; but I think differently—though the peasants of this country are uncivilized and ignorant, and the inhabitants of the great cities immerse in vice and extravagance, which, in my opinion, are only monuments of the errors of their former government; and prove the justice and propriety of a change. I dare say, when a government is established, the French nation will be as remarkable for their attachment to it as they were for ages to their monarchs; and when information is diffused through every part of the state, the arts, sciences, and industry will flourish, and every advantage and happiness secured to this great and powerful people, which their natural situation makes them capable of enjoying."