

PROVIDENCE, December 2.

A letter has been received here from Mr. William Magee, of this town, dated at sea about 25 days since, which informs, that the ship, Bliza, captain William Page, of this port, had been attacked in the straits of Banca by a prow, when captain Page, Thomas Page (seaman) and a Dutch linguist, were unfortunately killed. By the bravery of the crew, the natives were beat off, and the Bliza had sailed for Manilla.

NEW-YORK, December 8.

We lately gave an account of the suppression of the inquisition in Spain. Reformation, it appears, is not intended to stop there.

From Madrid it is reported, that a bull will very soon be issued relative to the monks. The principal articles of this bull it is said, are,

- 1. That for the future there shall be but one monastery, or community of the same order, in each town.
2. That the monastic vows shall not be taken before the age of twenty-one years.
3. That the monks shall not go out of their convents to preach or confess, and that they shall depend immediately on the bishops.
4. That the number of monks in each convent shall be limited.
5. That the revenues of each convent shall be fixed, and the surplus of its property be at the disposal of the king.
6. That the monks shall be obliged to learn, practise, and teach some science, art, or trade.

The British frigate L'Oiseau, captain Brisbane, had arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, from the South-America station, where she had engaged, and beat off, two Spanish 40 gun ships, in which action she had received considerable damage.

The army of the prince of Conde is stated in the last English prints, as being absolutely taken into the pay of the emperor of Russia. If so, the probability of the emperor's taking a further part, in case hostilities are renewed, increases.

The British captain, Sir Sydney Smith, is mentioned as having been offered by the French government in exchange for a captain and 400 seamen. We can scarcely believe in the degradation attending such an offer.

The escape of a number of the deputies, sentenced for transportation from France, is a circumstance of much curiosity. General Duterre, who was suspected of having been remiss in his charge of them, and arrested, has been acquitted and appointed to command on the Rhine. In Paris, the seals had been taken off the house of Boissy D'Anglois, and his wife enjoyed the free use of it; although his escape and arrival in Switzerland was then known.

The circumstance of the Directory, who have hitherto preserved the strictest secrecy on the proceedings at Lille, giving publicity to their late arrest on that subject, leads us to consider them as having given up all probability of the negotiation ending in peace.

A new expedition against England or Ireland, it appears, again is talked of at Brest.

The British troops in and near Lisbon have taken possession of and garrisoned Fort St. Julian, which commands the harbour, and also of all the other ports; and it is reported to have been hinted to the court of Lisbon, that earl St. Vincent, notwithstanding the French treaty with Portugal, means to refit his fleet, during the winter, at Lisbon; and, if not molested, will certainly not attempt to molest the Portuguese, who appear rather jealous on the occasion.

December 11.

Extract from the Journal General of the commune of Nantes.

NANTES, September 15.

Tobacco becomes every day more and more scarce. Virginia manufactured sells for 125 to 130 livres, and Maryland tobacco, for 105 to 110 livres, per C.

The other articles that are raising, are Carolina rice, that fetches from 19 to 20 livres per cut.

Married—In England, Mr. Edward Blaney, musician, aged 30, to Miss S. Ingram, musician, aged 39, both blind. What renders this union more singular is, that the bridegroom is her fifth husband, and she is his fourth wife.

Extract of a letter from an American in France, dated Havre, the 22d of September.

About 3 days ago, the Council of Five Hundred declared the arrest of the 13th Vendémiaire against American vessels, a good one; and the reporter took upon himself to say two thirds of our ships and cargoes were English property and that the passports of the president were publicly sold in England for English ships. How he got the information, or how well founded, you, at the distance you are from French power, can conjecture as well as myself—for my own part, though I respect French affairs I never give an opinion; yet, when our own country is concerned, I see no reason to be so very delicate—it is thus that I venture to say that I much doubt whether the reception of the Commissioners will be more favourable than that of Mr. Pinckney. Had they arrived two months ago, perhaps matters respecting America, might have gone right—but I now fear they have passed the Rubicon. The cargo of the Juliana was publicly sold here a few days ago; all her papers were signed by the French consul at Baltimore, before her departure, but the owners had no time to equip her and judged sufficient to condemn her to the chain and crew were committed to close prison for many days. Many American vessels have been condemned towards Nantz, and will, for the same reason, those which have been acquitted will all be lost on the appeal.

LANCASTER, December 2.

The ingenious Mr. Peter Getz, of this borough, has completed an engine for the Active Fire company. This is the second that he has made, and we may venture to assert that for nicety of workmanship and power of action it is equal, if not superior to anything of the kind in Europe or America.

Mr. Getz has made several improvements on the plan heretofore in practice. The use of metal instead of leather, valves, has been found expedient, on account of their firmness and durability. The Active Engine contains 200 gallons and will empty itself in one minute, throwing the water to the immense height of 90 or 100 feet. By removing the mouth piece from the branch or pipe it will throw double the quantity of water in the same time, over a common 3 story house.

PHILADELPHIA, December 12.

There is no foundation for the report of the arrival of Mr. Hammond at New-York, for the purpose of superseding Mr. Liston.

A gentleman coming to town on Saturday evening last, was stopped on the Gray's ferry road, by two persons, one of whom presented a pistol to his breast, and demanded his money. After having received the contents of the gentleman's pockets (about five dollars) they made strict inquiry respecting his name, place of abode, &c. and promised to return the money in a very short time—adding, that necessity obliged them to take these measures.

COLUMBIA, November 21.

A gentleman from Pendleton, who arrived here on the 16th instant, informs us that a horrid attempt was made the 9th instant on the life of Robert Maxwell, Esquire, sheriff of Washington district, as he was proceeding on his way to court; about half a mile from his house three guns were fired at him, by which he was wounded and thrown from his horse, when two more were fired; notwithstanding his wounds he got up and proceeded home. The assassins made off, but were immediately pursued by a number of persons (who had assembled on Mr. Maxwell's return home) who, at a small distance, found where they were encamped, and followed their track till they entered Saluda river; where having lost the track, they returned to the camp and found oats strewed on the ground, as if it had been carried by some person in a bag and run out, which they traced to a barn of a Mr. Kennedy, on which they apprehended and examined two of his negroes, one of whom had confessed that their master had promised him his freedom and a horse and saddle on condition that he would assassinate Mr. Maxwell, and burn his mills and barn, which he attempted, but the fire being discovered early, was easily extinguished. The negro received sentence of death, and was to have been executed on the 13th instant.

Mr. Maxwell had three fingers shot off his left hand, and several wounds in his back, legs and thighs; but the most dangerous one is by a ball lodged in his side, which it is thought will prove mortal.

NORFOLK, November 29.

Counterfeit Bank Notes 1

Yesterday was taken into custody, and examined before Messrs. Reed and Foster, aldermen, a man who called himself captain Robinson, charged with having passed several counterfeit ten dollar notes of the United States branch bank at New-York. On examining his trunk forged notes of 10 dollars each, to the amount of 300 dollars, were found. The copperplate seems well executed, but the paper is much thicker and whiter than the true notes, and the writing badly executed. The notes are all drawn in favour of Cornelius Ray, and endorsed with the same name on the back.

He was to have been again examined before the court at the town hall this morning at ten o'clock; but being apprehensive he would be furnished with the lodgings with Mr. Branan, he took himself off from the borough last night.

On Tuesday arrived here the ship Juno, captain Hookes, from St. Ubes; which place she left on the 4th of October. Spoke in lat. 33, 45, long. 65, 50, the 14th instant; the brig Swallow, captain Stoddard, six days out from New-York bound to Hispaniola; had two feet water in the hold, and was obliged to throw his deck load overboard.

Captain Hookes informs, that a cutter had arrived at Lisbon with dispatches from the British government to the queen of Portugal; the purport of which was to notify, that the ratification of the treaty between France and Portugal would be considered as a declaration of war against Great-Britain; that the English troops some time since sent out to Lisbon had taken possession of the forts of that city; that an English regiment was momentarily expected at St. Ubes when he sailed; and that they had threatened to take possession of the Brazils. The French cruisers continue to take the Portuguese vessels in sight of their harbours.

BALTIMORE, December 12.

Good News, but not to be trusted. By an arrival at Charleston from Porto-Rico, we learn as follows:—That the French consul at that port, had, in consequence of a late decree, received from France, taken away the commissions of a number of French barge and small privateers, which were in their hands; (this decree was said to limit the giving commissions to no vessels carrying less than 16 guns, and likewise to prohibit the future capture of American and other neutral vessels from British or any other ports, excepting those which were formerly French, and have been termed rebel ports by the decree of the

French Directory. Some American vessels from British ports, captured and carried into Porto-Rico, had been cleared in consequence of late orders.

[It is very probable that orders to the above effect, were sent by the Directory to the consul at Porto-Rico, and other Spanish and French ports; but we know that another Directory have taken the reins of government in France, that they have annulled many of the acts of their predecessors, and that they have sanctioned, more firmly than ever, the capture of our vessels. From the following paragraph, it will appear that our information from Europe is later and more accurate than what they had at Porto-Rico, and that the above is good news—but not to be trusted.]

At Porto-Rico and St. Domingo, they were in great expectations of a general peace, but the ground upon which their hopes were built, was a bad foundation—as the report of their latest accounts from France was, that a majority of the Directory were in favour of peace, and a revolution had been the consequence of the opposition of the minority.

On the 14th ult. a little to the northward of Caracas, captain Smith, who has arrived at Charleston, spoke the two French frigates Medusa and Insurgente, under commodore Barney, from Port-de-Paix, bound to France. He was requested to take on board the pilot, who had conducted the two frigates through the Bahama passage, as the privateer that came out with them to take him back, had given them the slip.

December 16.

Wilmington, (N. C.) Nov. 30.

We are authorized to say, and, from pretty good authority, that the French republicans are in quiet possession of Louisiana.—Particulars, if any, in our next.

[From the Journal de Paris.]

A robber who was confined in one of the prisons of Brion, in Moravia, a few days before sentence of death was to be passed upon him, threw to one who had interested himself in his favour a STRAW WATCH of his own contrivance, which went very well, with being wound up every two hours.—The matter was soon noised about, and attracted the visits of several of the nobility who were curious to know how he could invent such a wonderful watch in the gloom of a prison, and without instruments of any sort. The ingenious artist replied, that the straw which had served him for a bed had furnished the principal material; that he had drawn the necessary threads from his shirt, and that with a needle and a small bit of iron which he had sharpened into a sort of penknife, by continual friction against a stone, he had made out to get his work put in motion. He added, that if his life might be spared, he would give proofs of his far superior powers. In consequence of which, such representations were made by persons of interest and influence, as to procure him to be transferred to the fortress of Spielberg, to discover whether he could make good his promises or not.

December 18.

A captain of this port, in 26 days from Arquin informs that a proclamation had been received at that place, prohibiting the condemnation of neutral property, not contraband, bound to a British island, but the privateers were ordered to bring them into French ports, where they would be obliged to sell their cargoes at the market prices.—Property found going or coming from ports originally French, but now in possession of the British, will as usual, be captured and condemned. The above-mentioned captain was overhauled by the Rader, sloop of war; his letters examined, and after they were returned to him he missed a letter from Mr. Yates, directed to James M'Henry, Esq; which was supposed to contain the above-mentioned proclamation.

Captain Cushman of the brig Sally, of this port, from Jaemel, was left clear of the keys, bound home. He is expected up this day, and by him it is probable that the intelligence will be confirmed.

Annapolis, December 21.

APPOINTMENTS—BY AUTHORITY.

- Otway Byrd, of Virginia, collector of Norfolk and Portsmouth.
Ebenezer Storer, of Massachusetts, inspector of the revenue for Surrey No. 3, in that district.
John Read, of Pennsylvania, agent to assist the attorney-general in relation to the 6th article of the British treaty, agreeable to an act of congress.
David Leonard Harris, of Rhode Island, district attorney.
Samuel Williams, of Massachusetts, at present consul at Hamburg, appointed consul at London.
Thomas Craft, of Massachusetts, consul at Bourdeaux.
Richard Yates, of Maryland, consul at Ant. Cayes.
Chauncey Whittelsey, of Connecticut, collector for Middletown.

THE HERB is at the subscriber's plantation, near Annapolis, taken up as a stray, a large red and white COW, marked with a crop, and an under cut in the right ear. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges. MARY WATSON, December 18, 1797.

THE HERB is at the subscriber's plantation in Calvert county, near Chesapeake Bay, a drifted BOAT, she is eleven feet long, and four feet across midships; has a white bottom, black gunwales, and four oar-locks. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying the toll of this advertisement. JAMES WOOLFE, December 8, 1797.