

Venerable, off Orfordness, October 15.

In addition to my letter of the 13th inst. containing the particulars of the action of the 11th, and which I have not been able to send away until this day, I have to acquaint you, for the information of the lords commissioners of the admiralty, that, from the wind continuing to blow on the Dutch coast, the ships have had great difficulty in keeping off the shore, and that we have unavoidably been separated. On Friday last the wind blew strong from the W. S. W. to the W. N. W. and continued to do so until Saturday morning; it then shifted to the north when I made a signal to wear, stood to the westward, and fortunately anchored here last evening, the Venerable being so leaky that with all her pumps going we could but just keep her free. This morning I observed the ships named in the margin \* at anchor near us, 3 near the Kentish Rock, and 3 near Holfley Bay. The wind is at N. W. and much against the disabled ships: I have, therefore, sent the Lancaster and Beaulieu out to render them assistance.

Sir Thomas Williams, in the Endymion, who joined me the day after the action, I also sent in shore, to keep by and assist the disabled ships; and, I am informed, that in the course of the night, he fell in with a Dutch ship of the line off the Texel and had engaged her, and I have not heard the particulars.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
ADAM DUNCAN.

Evan Nepean, Esq;  
\* Monarch, Powerful, Lancaster, Beaulieu.

October 15.

Paris papers were yesterday received to the 12th instant. There appear to be no official advices of hostilities having recommenced in Italy; but we much fear that by this time the horrid scene of blood is renewed. The army of Buonaparte, from the statements in the official journal is in the most perfect state of preparation. The Austrians on their side have spared no pains to reinforce their armies. Whenever the campaign shall open, therefore the result must be distressing to every friend of humanity. A curious paper has appeared in the Redacteur of the 6th inst. purporting to be a letter written by lord Malmesbury to a noble lord in England, and left behind him at Lille, previous to his departure from that city on the rupture of the negotiation. The letter is evidently supposititious, merely calculated to burlesque the talents of his lordship as a negotiator, and the progress of the negotiation which he conducted. We can only look on it as an unimportant attempt to retaliate on his lordship for the able and pointed manner in which on a former occasion, he exposed and ridiculed the empty verbiage of Charles de la Croix.

It is a remarkable instance in the history of admiral Duncan, that he has lived himself to illustrate the truth of a doctrine which he was the first to patronize, and to recommend to the British navy. The great principle of this system is to break the line of the enemy, and to this system we are indebted for all our late most glorious victories, from that of the 12th of April to the present.

From the Sun, October 16.

This morning, a little after six o'clock, captain Fairfax, of his majesty's ship Venerable, arrived at the admiralty office with the official details of the victory gained by admiral Duncan over the fleet of Holland.

The two fleets were equal in numbers, each having sixteen two decked ships.—Admiral Winter came out expressly for the purpose of fighting the English fleet by order of the convention. They talked of having him tried by a court-martial if he did not fail.

The Dutch vice-admiral did not stand the fire of the Venerable above ten minutes, but dropping her fore-sail lost a head. The Venerable then ranged up to admiral Winter's ship, when a very warmly contested action took place which lasted above two hours, when the Dutch were obliged to yield to the superiority of British skill and courage.

At the conclusion of the action, the British fleet found themselves in the possession of nine ships of the line and two frigates.—A Dutch brig and schooner were sunk in the action.

The following are the names and force of the Dutch ships captured:

Vryheid,	74—Admiral De Winter.
Jupiter,	74—Vice-admiral Reynties.
Haerlem,	68—Delf, 56
Adm. Devries,	68—Alkmer, 56
Gelyheid,	68—Moennickendam, 44
Wassenaar,	64—Ambuscade, 32
Hercules,	64—Another line of battle ship is reported to be taken, name unknown.

The quarter-deck of the Dutch admiral's ship was completely cleared of every man, the admiral himself excepted. He escaped without a wound. The day after the action the remnant of the Dutch fleet gained the Texel, the wind having favoured them by coming round to the westward. Admiral Winter himself was taken, as was the vice-admiral's ship, on board of which were two admirals.

Admiral Duncan yesterday anchored with some of his ships and prizes off Orfordness, and they were expected to reach Holfley Bay last night. Several of the ships are not yet arrived, from having the Dutch prizes to tow home.

The killed and wounded on board the British fleet, as far as it has been ascertained is—killed 173—wounded 504.

From the Hibernian Chronicle, dated Cork, Oct. 12.

DUBLIN, October 2.

More families have left this country within the last three months than have been remembered within the

same period. The packets to Holyhead, Parkgate and Liverpool, have never had so many passengers. The state of the country has induced many timid persons to prefer the sister kingdom.—The loss of such characters would not itself be a matter of much moment; but as every thing which tends to diminish the supply of the working community is a matter of serious concern, and as the consumption of manufactures is likely to be affected in a considerable degree, it is much to be regretted.

An armed boat belonging to Crosie, has sent into Minden an English brig laden with wine, and an American three masted vessel bound from England to Lisbon.

The privateer le Sauvage, captain Poutet, out of Boulogne, has carried into Calais the Wilmington, captain Campbell, an American vessel of 250 tons, laden with with rations, drying-wood, &c.

The privateer l'Intrepide, belonging to Nantes, has captured a pretended American vessel from Liverpool bound to Philadelphia, laden with salt, coals, eight cases of tin, and copper sheathing for three frigates.

The privateer Le Dragon, has sent into Paimpol, a vessel calling herself American, laden with sugar, coffee and tobacco, and an English brig in ballast.

The privateer l'Oiseau, belonging to Nantes, has captured the Joseph, an English vessel, from Hudson's bay, bound to Pool, and laden with fish, oil, seal-skins, and castor skins. She has also sent into Minden, a three masted ship of 300 tons, calling herself American, and bound from New-York to Hamburg, with a cargo of sugar, coffee, tobacco and doe skins.

The republican packet boat, la Ryante, commanded by citizen Dolabarats, lieutenant de Vaisseau, has captured and sent into Bourdeaux the American brig Washington, of 200 tons burden, laden with coals, and bound from Cork to New York, with 35 passengers, escaping from the calamities of their country, Ireland.

Citizen Papin's division has sent into Bourdeaux, the Venus, a three masted vessel of 250 tons burthen, bound from Liverpool to New-York, under an American flag, and laden with free stone and slate. The same division has sunk an English brig.

The privateer sloop le Hardy, captain Sarrauble, has carried into Bayonne an American ship named the Mary, for Bolton, commanded by captain Rofs, and laden with salt fish, whale oil, &c.

NORFOLK, December 14.

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR MERCHANTS,  
WHICH, WE HOPE TO BE TRUE.

On Tuesday arrived in Hampton roads, the brig Amelia, Houlton, 23 days from Port-au Prince. Captain H. gave us the following pleasing information: that commodore Barney was appointed judge of the admiralty in the island of St. Domingo; and that ten days previous, to captain H's sailing the commodore issued a proclamation (which was passed up in all the towns under the French government) ordering, that all American vessels bound to and from real English ports in the West-Indies, and particularly the island of Jamaica, should pass unmolested; and that all such vessels captured after the date of the above proclamation, should recover damages. Captain H. also states, that no American vessel had been condemned, since the commodore had taken the appointment.

BALTIMORE, December 22.

On Wednesday evening arrived, the sloop Friendship, captain Thomas Manning, Bermuda, 21 days, in ballast: the captain brings no verbal information; he has favoured us with a few Bermuda papers; extracts as follow:

BERMUDA, October 21.

For several days last and this week, the weather forbode the approach of a storm, and on Wednesday it came on gradually until night, when it blew almost a hurricane, which continued until the next morning, and as gradually abated. It came on with the wind at east, but it got round to the north, and terminated with that wind. About 8 in the evening, his majesty's ship the Driver got ashore, but as soon as the wind changed to the N. W. she drifted off again, when she was brought up by her anchors: she has received no material damage. As she drifted off, she got foul of the Hunter's bowsprit and carried it away: they are again ready for sailing.

The vegetation in general has suffered much by the gale, and many trees torn up by the roots. Several houses have received considerable damage by the wind unflating them.

October 28.

Sunday last sailed for Halifax, his majesty's ships Hunter, captain Tudor Tucker, and Driver, captain John Seater:—they are both Bermuda built entirely of cedar, carry 16 24-pounders and two long nines, &c. each, and are intended to scour the American coast of the French privateers:—the Driver, of the same force, will be launched in a few weeks, from Messrs. Outerbridge and McCallan's yard.

Annapolis, December 28.

LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

An act to postpone for a limited time, the commencement of the duties imposed by the act, entitled, "An act laying duties on stamped vellum, parchment and paper."

Be it enacted, &c. That so much of the act, entitled, "An act laying duties on stamped vellum, parchment and paper," as directs, that the duties imposed by that act, shall be levied, collected and paid, from and after the thirty-first day of December next, shall be, and the same hereby is repealed, and that the duties

foresaid shall be levied, collected and paid, from and after the thirtieth day of January next, and not sooner; to which last mentioned day, all notices, certificates, and other matters of things, directed by the said act, and being referred to the commencement or collection of the said duties, or any of them shall relate.  
Approved December 15, 1797.

From a LONDON PAPER.

Account of a Bee-hunter.

We had in this village (Selburne), more than twenty years ago, an idiot boy, who, from a child, shewed a strong propensity to bees: they were his food, his amusement, his sole object. As people of this cast have seldom more than one point in view, so this lad exerted all his few faculties on this one pursuit. In the winter he dosed away his time in his father's house, by the fire side, in a kind of torpid state, seldom departing from the chimney-corner; but in the summer he was all alertness, in quest of his game in the fields and on lunny banks: Honey-bees, humble-bees, and wasps, were his prey whenever he found them.—He had no apprehensions from their stings, but would seize them *nudi manibus*, and at once disarm them of their weapons, and tuck their bodies for the sake of their honey-bags. Sometimes he would fill his bosom, between his shirt and his skin, with a number of these captives; and sometimes would confine them in bottles. He was a very meagre spawster, or bee-bird, and very injurious to men that kept bees; for he would slide into their gardens, and sitting down before their stools, would rap with his fingers on their hives; and so take the bees as they come out.—He has been known to overturn hives for the sake of honey, of which he was passionately fond. Where metheglin was making he would linger about the tubs and vessels, begging a draught of what he called bee wine. As he ran about he used to make a humming noise with his lips, like the buzzing of bees. This lad was lean and fallow, and of a cadaverous complexion; and, except in his favourite pursuit, in which he was wonderfully adroit, discovered no manner of understanding. When a tall youth, he was removed to a distant village, and died before he arrived at manhood.

\*\* This GAZETTE, No. 2659, completes the year with all our customers.

Agreeably to an order of the orphans court of Charles county, will be SOLD, on Thursday the 25th of January next, at Harwood, near Port-Tobacco, the late residence of HOSKINS HANSON, Esq; deceased, ALL the PERSONAL PROPERTY of said deceased, for the purpose of discharging the debts, consisting of a number of likely country born NEGROES, viz. men, women and children, amongst which are several valuable house servants and a good thremaker, also horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, household furniture, &c. &c. A reasonable credit will be given the purchasers, on giving bond with approved security. Those who have not exhibited their claims are requested to do it, on or before the day of sale, legally attested, to

CATY HANSON, Administratrix.  
Harwood, December 18, 1797.

In CHANCERY, December 26, 1797.  
ORDERED, That the sales made by RICHARD BOND, trustee of part of the real estate of JAMES EDEN, deceased, as stated in his report, shall be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shewn on or before the first Tuesday in March next, provided a copy of this order be inserted in the Maryland Gazette before the end of January next.

It appears that 465 acres of the said estate have been sold for £.2565.1 6s, and 213 acres for £.383 18 0.

Test. SAMUEL HARVEY HOWARD,  
w 4 Reg. Cur. Can.

WENT away on the 9th inst. from the subscriber, living in the city of Annapolis, a negro man named JEM, a lively, brisk, active fellow when he pleases, 28 years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches high, slender made, rather a thin face, has a great hesitation in his speech, and when he laughs shews his gums very much, takes snuff, one of his legs is sore; he is very artful and can turn his hand to any thing; he has been used to waiting, to taking care of horses, and driving a carriage, is something of a gardener, carpenter and bricklayer; is or pretends to be of the society of Methodists, he constantly attended the meetings, and at times exhorted himself; he took with him a watch of his own, a fine hat, new drab coloured turbot coat, lined about the body with greens, light cloth waistcoat, buckskin breeches; a black coat lapped is missing from the house; it is probable he may change his dress; he had some time in the summer from me a pass for a limited time (three or four days) to go to Baltimore, it is not improbable but he may get the gate altered and make use of it; Whoever takes him up and delivers him to me, or secures him in any goal so that I get him again, shall receive TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

JAMES BRICE.  
December 16, 1797.

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