

## MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1798.

LONDON, January 12.

## SANGUINARY CONFLICT.

Extract of a letter from Leghorn, dated Dec. 12.

HE latter end of last month, as a Maltese fleet, consisting of two frigates, one xebecque, and a bark, was cruising between the islands of Sardinia and Sicily, they fell in with three Algerine rovers of equal force. The former was commanded by a noble knight of Malta, and the latter by a fellow called Aza, both men of undaunted courage and great resolution, well known in these seas for their enmity to each other's cause—Aza, the chief of the pirates, run his ship along side of that which the noble knight of Malta, himself commanded, and poured in a broadside, which carried away the mizen-mast, and did considerable damage to the after rigging; the charge was returned with the greatest spirit, and then began one of the most desperate and resolute battles ever fought in these parts. The two commodores engaged each other yard-arm and yard-arm for upwards of three hours, which caused a horrid carnage on both sides.

The Barbarians attempted to board several times, sword in hand, but were as often beat off with great slaughter. The valiant knight was slain by a lance in the midst of the action, as he was firing off a blunderbuss; and Aza, his daring antagonist, was shot through the head by a musket ball soon after.

Notwithstanding the destruction of these champions, the battle continued with the utmost fury, until they both were reduced to mere wrecks, their masts, sails, yards, rigging, being all gone, the rudders shot away, and not a yard of canvas left in either. In this disabled state, did they keep up a constant fire with grape and partridge shot, and with the great guns battering each other, and swearing bitterly never to strike. At last the Maltese blew up, with a most tremendous explosion, and five minutes after the chief of the pirates sunk, and not a man saved during the conflict between the two commodores; the other part of the fleets were engaged all the time with the same obstinacy, until reduced to near the same condition. The xebecque was sunk, and one of the pirate's ships, which the robbers had lashed to one of the frigates, after a furious contest both went down together. The bark escaped in a very shattered condition, and the other rover sunk the next morning, and what few remained of her crew were taken up from a raft two days after by a Tunisian corsair, and carried into Tunis.

P. S. Aza, the chief of the pirates, was the man, who with a ship of 30 guns, beat off two Portuguese frigates in the Straits' mouth last summer, of 36 guns each, and a cutter, after a sharp and bloody contest of 9 glasses, and then sailed away in triumph.

In this action he lost one of his arms, and was wounded in three places besides; yet this sanguinary ruffian would not quit the deck till the conflict was subdued, nor did he then return into port until his cruise was out, during which he took two rich prizes; one was a large ship under French colours, armed en flute, well manned and loaded with naval stores. This fought bravely, and stood a severe tug of one hour and twenty minutes, at last was obliged to strike, in spite of all resistance, to that daring infidel, who brought her safe into Algiers."

NEW-YORK, March 26.

On Saturday morning came on and continued through the day, one of the most tremendous gushes from east, ever remembered here; which has done considerable damage to the shipping in the harbour, as well as houses in the suburbs.

Several small vessels dragged their anchors, and went on shore—and we are informed several unfinished houses in the suburbs were blown down—and others had their roofs taken off.

It is reasonably conjectured that much damage is done to vessels on our coast—a schooner is said to have gone ashore on Staten-Island, below the Narrows.

March 28.

Yesterday arrived brig James, captain Fitch, from Havre-de-Grace, which place she left 5th February. By this vessel Rouen newspapers are received to the 4th ult.

A gentleman passenger, arrived in the above vessel, informs, that he saw a letter from Mr. Gerry, dated Paris, February 2, which stated, "that the affairs between the republic and the United States remained in statu quo, and that all the American commissioners were in Paris."

This gentleman likewise adds, that very active preparations were still carried on in all the ports of the republic for an invasion of England, that he did not learn any American vessels had been carried in under the new orders of the Directory; and that it was pretty generally thought, were Mr. Gerry the only negotiator, matters between the two republics might be settled amicably. Thus far report.

[Dall. Adver.]

By this arrival we are verbally informed, that the French still shew a serious design of invading England, as gun boats, to the number of about one hundred, have been built at Havre, and more building, which are to be manned and manœuvred agreeably to Tom Paine's plan, each carrying 100 men, and a cannon, which cannon, by some machinery, is to be launched on shore in a moment—The experiment has been made, and, we are told, answers so well, that the Frenchmen say they are "sure of England!"

Besides these boats, there were in the port of Havre, two frigates with their sails bent, and four more in great forwardness, to aid in the expedition.

We hear nothing of Buonaparte's disaffection—but, it is said, "he is the only one capable of introducing the Army of England to his Britannic majesty."

On the 6th of March captain Fitch spoke an English brig, which, a day or two before parted the homeward bound Jamaica fleet—all well.

A few day out, and capt. F. was boarded by three French privateers, one of which was the Buonaparte, from Bourdeaux—his papers strictly examined, and suffered to proceed—telling him, that if he had been from an English port he would have been a good prize, as their late orders were to capture all vessels from those ports.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.

The following resolutions were moved by Mr. Marshall on Monday last.

"Resolved, That it is expedient to lay an embargo, for a limited time, on all ships and vessels owned wholly or in any part by citizens of the United States, other than ships or vessels employed solely in the fisheries, or coasting trade; and that these be regulated in their safety and a state of neutrality.

"Resolved, That it is expedient to complete the fortifications of the ports and harbours of the United States, and effectually to garrison the same.

"Resolved, That it is expedient to raise a provisional army, to be employed when necessary for internal security and defence.

"Resolved, That it is expedient to provide for supplying any deficiency existing or arising in the arms and military stores of the United States.

"And Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions, be referred to the committee to whom was referred the president's message of the 19th inst. with instructions to the said committee to prepare and report bills corresponding with the said resolutions, and in the same order which they stand."

The first of these resolutions came under consideration yesterday—and was negatived 22 to 5.

The YEAS were

Messrs. Anderson, Bloodworth, Jackson, Marshall, and Tazewell.

The NAYS were

Messrs. Bingham, Brown, Chipman, Clayton, Foster, Goodhue, Greene, Hillhouse, Hobart, Hunter, Langdon, Latimer, Laurance, Lloyd, Martin, Paine, Read, Rofs, Sedgwick, Stockton, Tattall, and Tracy.

A gentleman from the Havana informs that a short time previous to his leaving that place, the following unfortunate accident happened.

A person who dealt in gunpowder, being engaged serving out a quantity of that article to a customer, (it is supposed with a lighted segar in his mouth, a spark from which must have dropt into the gunpowder of which there was more than 1,000 wt.) the house was blown up in an instant, with every person in it; considerable damage was done to the adjoining buildings, and about twenty persons lost their lives: two young ladies who were riding in a carriage by the house at the moment the misfortune occurred, were blown into the air, and not a vestige of them, their horses, or carriage, were afterwards to be found.

March 29.

The senate yesterday had before them a bill to authorize the executive to procure ships for the protection of our trade. The blank was filled up with twelve ships of 22 guns each.

The following bill to enable the president of the United States to purchase or lease one or more founderies, is now before the senate.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c. That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized and required to purchase or lease for the use United States, one or more founderies with such quantity of land as he may judge necessary to be connected therewith, and all other necessary materials for the casting of cannon, shot, and such other iron castings as may be wanted for the use of the United States, and to cause to be employed all such persons as may be necessary under his direction, for carrying on the business thereof.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That there be appropriated for the above purposes, the sum of — to be paid out of the unappropriated monies in the treasury of the United States.

March 30.

In the house of representatives this morning, Mr. Allen proposed the following resolution, viz.

"Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house the dispatches from the envoys extraordinary to the French republic, referred to in his message of the 19th February, or such parts thereof, as considerations of public safety, in his opinion, may permit.

Mr. Giles conceived that the call for papers, if made at all, should be general, and therefore suggested the propriety of amending the motion by adding to it a call for the instructions to our envoys.

Mr. Livingston concurred with the gentleman from Virginia, and after some observations on the subject, moved that the words "instructions to," should be inserted in the former part of the motion, and that the latter part, beginning with, "or such parts thereof," be omitted.

Extract of a letter from Havre, dated February 5, received by the arrival at New-York.

"The law relative to neutrals was no sooner known in England than the British vessels of war commenced stopping all vessels going to any of the French ports; even the fishermen and pilot boats are arrested by them."

[N. Y. Gaz.]

CHARLESTON, March 15.

Extract of a letter from a merchant of respectability in Bourdeaux, to his friend in this city, dated the 11th of January, received on Tuesday, by the brig Aurora, captain Woodman.

"Although a coolness still continues between our governments, we here persist in believing that there will be no rupture; but be assured, that American vessels will be molested, unless they are cleared in the most satisfactory manner. However, we hope the Americans will shortly correct the mistakes in their mode of clearing vessels, which has occasioned so many captures and confiscations.

"That there may be nothing to dread, (while there is not a declaration of war) every American captain before he sails ought to be provided with—

1st. A certificate of the property on board being American.

2d. A passport conformable to the model annexed to the treaty of commerce of 1778.

3d. A role d'equipage, signed by the marine officers of the place from whence the vessel departs, containing the names, surnames, places of birth and residence, ages, &c. of the crew.

4th. A declaration from the marine officers, which shall set forth that the captain has delivered a duplicate on the foregoing list, or role d'equipage, to them.

5th. Bills of lading, signed by the captain on which there ought to be specified "for the account of —, merchant and citizen of the United States."

6th. The invoice, signed by the shipper.

7th. The charter party.

"An American captain, furnished with these vouchers, has nothing to apprehend from our cruisers.

"It ought also to be known, that all these vouchers are to be produced, if required, at sea; and in case of capture, the captain ought to insert in his journal, that he had produced them, and they are to be left on board in his trunk, under seal, and he is to be careful not to take them with him in his pockets: for the papers found on board are the only one's acknowledged. Should the captain land with them in his pocket, they will not be taken as evidence.

"With these precautions, which may be depended upon, and which you may impart to your friends, that their property may be preserved from seizure you may with safety send vessels to France, as long as there is no declaration of war; and we do not think that such an event will take place, more particularly at a moment when all our wishes are for a general peace."

March 16.

In Wednesday's paper it was said, that the Directory of France had declared Great Britain to be in a state of blockade. From a perusal of the latest papers brought by the Aurora, and from the information received from an intelligent gentleman who came passenger in the brig, there is no reason to believe that such a decree has passed. The message of the Directory, respecting the capturing of vessels with British merchandise on board, most probably gave rise to the mistake.

Annapolis, April 5.

Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, March 17.

Mr. Baldwin hoped the house would now resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

\* This etc. may mean, bright and complexion.