

of the United States will immediately forward four more heavy pieces, ready mounted, together with ammunition, &c. and as soon as the corps of artillery are raised, a lieutenant with an establishment, is to be stationed here.

BOSTON, June 8.

We are happy to learn, that the recruiting for the frigate Constitution goes on well. Near 150 are already enlisted. Recruiting officers are at different seaports; and we have every reason to believe, that in a very short time, she will have completed her complement. Much credit is due to captain Nicholson for his unremitting exertions in equipping and manning his ship; and we have no doubt but that his ability and experience in naval matters, seconded by his officers and a good crew, will cause the constitution to be respected wherever she may float.

June 9.

AUTHENTIC.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman in London, to his friend here.

London, April 9, 1798.

Our envoys will probably remain at Paris until they hear from Philadelphia—this seems to be extraordinary, since it is well ascertained that France will not be diverted from her hostile designs, long since formed against the United States, and will accept of no concessions short of the independence of our country; every vile artifice has been employed to divide the American envoys, with a view to divide more effectually the American people; and finally, a design is formed by the Directory, to send away two of the envoys, and if possible, to retain one who may be used as the medium of communication of the will and pleasure of France, respecting our country; but the good sense of the envoys will not permit them to be the dupes of these villainous intrigues.

Spain and Portugal, it is thought, will be soon overthrown, and South-America will of course become subject to the direction of the Parisian despots—if a number of nominal republics dependent on France, should be established in South-America, it is easy to see that our tranquillity cannot be long maintained.

France, it is to be believed, upon having access to our territory, will easily perform an operation at Philadelphia, similar to that which took place at Paris, on the 4th of September. Such it is certain, is the opinion of a person lately returned from the United States, where he had been intrusted with the secret business of the Directory.

I tremble for the fate of our country, when I see so much indecision and weakness at a moment of so much danger. The liberty and independence of the Swiss was a long time threatened like our own, like us they postponed the preparation for defence, and finally they were overtaken by a ruin, which might have been prevented. It is not possible to doubt that France is fully determined to, and will revolutionize the United States, unless she is prevented by force, and it is certain she relies greatly upon the assistance of her partisans among us, to facilitate her success.

Notwithstanding the well known superiority of the British fleet, the French are making immense preparations to invade this island. The public opinion still remains perfectly calm, but the nation is in arms, and I firmly believe would in less than a month, destroy any army France could land in England.

June 11.

Extract of a letter from Gloucester, (Cape Anne) dated the 6th June, instant.

Last evening arrived here, a schooner, in 49 days from Nantes. Some passengers came in her, whose vessels were condemned there; one of them, (a Portsmouth captain) informed me, that every American vessel lately carried in there (except one) had been condemned—her cargo was taken, but the vessel was not thought worth the trouble of a trial.—27 Americans were fraternized out of their vessels and cargoes while those passengers were there. After going through their ceremony, they tell the captains, that justice has been done them, and they have no cause to complain. Captain Wharf, the late master of this schooner, bought a ship there and staid behind—He was bound from there to Alexandria. The present master of the schooner and passengers inform me, that Mr. Marshall, one of our envoys, had certainly engaged his passage with capt. Wharf, and the consul at Nantes told them he supposed Mr. Pinckney would also come with him.

This schooner spoke on the Grand banks, a French privateer ship of 18 guns, from Bourdeaux, on a cruise.

PHILADELPHIA, June 13.

Extract of a letter from the canton of Bern, the 10th March, translated for this Gazette, from that of Leyden.

The catastrophe which has drawn along, like a torrent, our canton, and all Switzerland with it, into the turbid whirlpool of modern revolutions, merits a more minute attention in its last details. These confirm, in a melancholy manner, and observation, which the example of Venice, and perhaps of others, particularly within the short period last past, had already verified, and which, although deeply founded in experience, is nevertheless rarely placed amongst the reproaches which have lain against "aristocracy." It is the spirit of indecision, of irresolution, which is natural to it, and which almost always destroys it. Deliberating when it should act, that prudent circumspection which characterizes it, then degenerates into timidity: A diversity of opinions shackles its vigour and paralyzes its means of defence, inspires distrust into the citizens, emboldens the malcontents, and encourages the enemy. They

give ground; and the first retrograde step which they make, is the pledge of a prompt defeat. Twelve days since, the state of Bern held a sitting, perhaps the most august, the most interesting which has been seen in this age: There had been convoked, with the deputies of the cities and the country, those members of the Council of Two Hundred employed in the army. It was there decided, "that the conditions exacted by the citizen Mengaud were humiliating and inadmissible; that, by consequence they must refuse them." Conformably to such a decision, military preparations were made, and orders given to attack the French at all points. The general D'Erlach, made the dispositions; the military found them good; the troops were fired with ardour; they thought themselves able to promise some success. Wednesday, the 28th February, the deputies who had been sent to Basle, returned to Bern; the next day, 1st March, the Two Hundred assembled. This sitting is among the most stormy: The deputies, whom those of a contrary opinion declare to have been tampered with, display in glaring colours the dangers, the desolation, the miseries of every kind, ready to thunder upon Switzerland—The senate takes fire; its courage fails; those members the most susceptible of fear, unite in the opinions of the deputies, and by a most feeble majority, it is decreed, that they shall endeavour to enter anew into negotiation with the general Brune. The orders given for attacking upon all points, are revoked; and, whilst the same deputies are sent back to Payerne, the French attack Fruburg, and render themselves masters of it the same day. The next day, their troops, which were all descended from Erguel, canton themselves at Bienne and its environs. In the interim, the fatal order given the evening before, had absolutely paralyzed the Bernoise forces; there reigned amongst them a disorder, an indignation which was complete—The wavering conduct of the government is attributed to treason. Upon these transactions, the division commanded by general Schauenburg, attacks the Swiss before Bienne. These, notwithstanding the orders of the senate, repel their hostilities; they defend themselves vigorously, and sell dear their lives; but they at last fall, after having destroyed an immense number of the French; the field of battle is covered with the dead and the dying, and amongst the number many women, who were seen combating along side their husbands. The Swiss, put to flight, fly to Bern, while the French proceed to render themselves masters of Soleure.

Meanwhile the general D'Erlach, incensed at the counter-orders which had been given to him, and still more at the fatal effects which they had produced upon the people and army, quits his head quarters at Arberg to come to Bern, with the view of representing to the senate the disastrous result of the sitting of Thursday the first of March; they conclude by announcing to him, that he is dismissed from his command.—In the interim, the French advance upon Bern, on the side of Gummnen: The Bernois, who defend that post and that of Saingile, are forced, not without the loss of a vast number of men; the French do not suffer by it less; but nothing can stop their impetuosity and their ardour; they had on their side, experience in war, perfect order, and generals trained to the art; whilst the Swiss were strong in nothing but their courage, and their zeal for the independence of their country.—But the fatal progress of Thursday the first of March, had absolutely deranged every thing.—The soldiers boldly and openly declared that the greater part of the officers were traitors; they even carried their insubordination so far as to refuse all obedience to them; in fine they left themselves so far as even to shoot some of them. In this confusion, it may be easily perceived that all was lost. The brave avoyer, Steiguer, withstood not to survive the catastrophe; at the age of 79 years, he died, as he lived: on the approach of the French quite to the gates of Bern, seeing that there remained no other resource, he sallies from the city, places himself on horseback, advances at the head of the troops, and, seeking death soon meets it from the fire and the bayonets of the French. Whatever system of politics we embrace, one cannot but admire a trait which will certainly be enregistered in the Fasti of Switzerland. He did not perish thus, without carrying the regret even of the enemy themselves.

Extract of a letter from a merchant of New-London, Connecticut, dated June 4, 1798, to a member of congress from that state.

On Saturday last captain Francis Bulkly arrived here in a schooner from Martinico, with molasses, who was brought to about six days before, by a ship direct from France, mounting 20 guns, to cruise on our coast, and four or five more were destined on the same errand. They had taken a vessel from Tobago, bound to Portsmouth, with a cargo of rum, and sunk a vessel from the southward with a load of corn, bound to Antigua, as not valuable enough to send to France, where they were directed to send all prizes. Molasses not being worth sending to France, and expecting to get much more valuable vessels, he dismissed captain Bulkly.

In addition to the above, several privateers from Guadaloupe, Puerto Rico and St. Domingo, are known to be now upon the coast, one of which has had the audacity to make a plundering descent upon Edifoo Island, another to capture vessels off Sandy Hook, and a third to pursue her piracies ten miles within the Capes of Delaware. If they have hitherto suffered our coasting trade to pass without an embrace, it must have been because the part which has fallen within their power was not worth sending to French ports. Our citizens will therefore do well to attend to the danger in which they are in this respect really exposed. They will call to mind; that the unrestrained rapacity of these modern buccanniers is encouraged and protected by a set of decrees, calculated for all circumstances and situations in which our pro-

perty can be found at sea, and as effectual to insure its condemnation as if general letters of marque and reprisal were in actual operation.

Extract of a letter from Rufus King, Esq; minister of the United States in London, to T. Pickering, secretary of state, dated April 6, 1798.

The court of appeals have reversed the decree of the high court of admiralty which condemned the arms claimed by general Allen, have decreed that the arms be delivered to the general on bail; and that he give further proof respecting the purchase of them, particularly respecting the 100,000 livres which the contract states to have been paid by him to the French government.

June 14.

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, above the age prescribed by law for the performance of militia duty, convened in consequence of previous advertisements, at Mr. Dunwoody's in Market Street, the last evening, to take in consideration the present critical situation of public affairs and deliberate on the method by which they may best contribute to the public defence, col. James Read was appointed chairman, and Jared Ingersoll, Esq; secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by Mr. Ingersoll, who concluded by reading the following proposals, which some of the gentleman present had previously prepared.

To protect our country from insult, outrage and dishonour, to preserve her from a foreign yoke, and to maintain our freedom and independence, the citizens and the executive of the United States, are adopting the most vigorous and energetic measures;—the governor of our state has issued his proclamation for enrolling, organizing and equipping the great body of the militia; our sons have already associated in arms:—At so awful a crisis, we, the subscribers, citizens of the United States, and inhabitants of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, above the age prescribed by law for the performance of militia duty, holding ourselves indispensably obliged to contribute to the public safety to the utmost of our ability, do agree

1. That we will as early as possible provide ourselves each with a good musket, bayonet, cartridge box, and twenty-four charges of powder and ball, and keep the same in good order at our respective houses, or such other place as may be hereafter agreed upon.

2. That when any company have associated together to a sufficient number, we will proceed to choose one suitable person as captain, one lieutenant and one second lieutenant, by ballot or otherwise, as shall be agreed upon, and such other officers as may be found expedient.

3. That when the company or companies are completed, the officers shall apply to the executive for such commissions as it may be deemed proper to grant them, and make a tender of this application for the defence and preservation of the city and liberties, to be formed into companies, regiments or otherwise, as may best answer the purpose of order, discipline and military preparation.

4. That such of us as hath health and constitution to undergo the fatigues of a camp, will voluntarily offer ourselves, for seeing, under the direction of the executive, any invasion of this state, and for the support of the civil authority.

5. That if the militia and volunteers of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, be drafted or ordered to actual service, at a distance from home, we will make diligent inquiry in our respective wards and townships, into the state of their families, and administer to their comfort and relief in the best manner in our power.

After the proposals had been read a second time, the chairman inquired if any person had any objection to the proposals—Several persons expressing their approbation and no one disapproving, the chairman put the question, whether the citizens present approved the proposals—and it was thereupon voted unanimously in the affirmative.

It was next moved by Mr. Hollingsworth, and seconded by Mr. Tighman, that a committee be appointed in each ward in the city, and liberties, for the purpose of handing the association round to the citizens; and committees were nominated accordingly.

CHARLESTON, May 26.

Captain Eves, who arrived yesterday from Tombs was carried in there by an English privateer, which took him on his passage from Grenada; after a detention of eight days he was released. He informs, that the ship Fox, captain Lincoln, had been libelled in the court of admiralty of Grenada, as Dutch property, and the trial came on the 28th of April; the ship was cleared; but the trial of the cargo was put off to the 7th inst. the captors were in hopes, in that time, to procure evidence to condemn it. Captain Lincoln and his crew were forbid going on shore for one week after he was carried in, during which time a fast sailing vessel was dispatched to the neighbouring islands, to endeavour to obtain proof of the cargo being enemy's property.

Captain Eves says, that a steer, with two battalions of troops, had arrived at Barbadoes, a packet had arrived from England, but the letters had not been given out of the office when he sailed.

BALTIMORE, June 16.

Agreeably to notification in the public papers a number of merchants met at the Exchange, in the city of Baltimore, this day.

Therowgood Smith, Esq; in the chair. Resolved; That a committee be appointed to receive subscriptions for the purpose of building a