

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.

The following important letter has just come to hand.

From a thorough knowledge of the character of the gentleman who writes this letter, of his caution in communicating political intelligence, and his practice of noticing no reports in his letters, which has not been perfectly well authenticated, as well as from a review of the uniform correctness of all former information from the same source, I am enabled to assert, that the following may be relied on minutely true.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon to a respectable mercantile house in this city, dated 5th January last.

"The French have lately met a severe check in Italy. The king of Naples, at the head of his army, has taken possession of the Pope's dominions, and every where beat the French army most severely. On the Neapolitans entering the city of Rome, general Mack, the commander in chief, summoned the castle of St. Angelo, which was still in possession of the French, to surrender, which they refused. He then sent them a message declaring that if they fired on the city, that for every gun, he would deliver a Frenchman to the populace. This did not intimidate the French—they fired several guns, and general Mack, as good as his word, delivered as many Frenchmen to the mob, who murdered them in the most cruel manner—he then sent them another message relating what he had done, and what had happened to the poor Frenchmen, who had fallen victims to their folly, on which they ceased firing and delivered up the castle. A few days after that, a severe engagement took place between 25,000 French, and about 35,000 Neapolitans, in which the latter were victorious—they took about 4000 prisoners, and killed in battle about 5000.

"The loss of the Neapolitans was very trivial compared with that of the French. The son of the king of Naples was arrived with a division of the army of Civita Vecchia, and had taken possession of that city and port. The Romans were every where flocking in great numbers to enter the Neapolitan army. I have no doubt but the French will be more rapidly driven out of Italy than they entered it. Buonaparte, all accounts agree, was shot at a council of war, by an Egyptian soldier, and his whole army by this time destroyed—so much for that expedition.

"Malta is also taken, and the Neapolitan flag hoisted on the fortifications. Minorca is also taken by the English, which is of great consequence to their Mediterranean fleet, as Port Mahon is very convenient and commodious for repairing their men of war and cruisers in those seas.

"This year will, in my opinion, be a year of the greatest events that have ever happened in Europe; and if the talked of coalition takes place, which no doubt must for its own internal defence of the combined nations, I should not be surprised to see a king on the throne of France again, or Europe become one barbarous banditti."

The president of the United States left town yesterday, for his seat in Massachusetts.

By further private accounts from Northampton, we learn that the insurrection gathers head there.

The Marshal, with a few mounted followers, set off again on Monday for the scene of insurrection, with a view of arresting some of the leading rebels.

Several outrages have been recently committed upon the persons of the most respectable characters, by the Northampton rebels.

Extract of a letter from captain Thomas Truxton, to the secretary of the navy, dated on board the United States ship Constellation, in sight of the island of St. Christopher's, February 10, 1799.

DEAR SIR,
I WROTE you the 4th instant, to which I must beg leave to refer, and soon after weighed from Basseterre road, St. Christopher's, and proceeded to sea, having made the necessary arrangements with the merchants and masters of vessels for a convoy, to sail this day for the United States, under charge of the Norfolk and Richmond, which vessels I directed to cruise, in the mean time, near St. Bartholomews and St. Martins, so as to be at hand to proceed with the convoy at the time appointed. As soon as I left the road of Basseterre (which I did with the Constellation alone) I stretched under Montserrat and towards Guadalupe by the wind, and from thence under the lee of Antigua and Barbuda. In this route I only met two merchant vessels, and a British frigate. I therefore thought it best to change my ground, which I did, and run down towards the island of Nevis, and on the 9th instant, at noon, that island bearing W. S. W. five leagues distance, discovered a large ship to southward, on which I bore down; she hoisted the American colours, and I made our private signals for the day, as well as that of the British, but finding she answered neither, I immediately suspected her to be an enemy, and in a short time after found, that my suspicions were well founded, for she hoisted the French national colours, and fired a gun to windward (which is a signal of an enemy). I continued bearing down on her, and at a quarter past 3 P. M. she hailed me several times; and as soon as I got in a position for every shot to do execution, I answered by commencing a close and successful engagement, which lasted until about half past four P. M. when she struck her colours to the United States ship Constellation, and I immediately took possession of her. She proved to be the celebrated French national frigate Insurgente, of 40 guns and 407 men, lately out from France, commanded by Monsieur Bureau, and is esteemed one of the fastest sailing ships in the French navy. I have been much shattered in my rigging and sails, and my fore-top-mast rendered, from wounds, useless; you may depend the enemy is not left to

I intend to get into Basseterre road, St. Christopher's; if possible with my prize; but the wind being adverse and blowing hard, & much doubt, in the crippled state of both ships, whether I shall effect it, and if not, I must make a port to leeward. The high state of our discipline, with the gallant conduct of my officers and men, would have enabled me to have compelled a more formidable enemy to have yielded, had the fortune of war thrown one in my way; as it is, I hope the president and my country will, for the present, be content with a very fine frigate being added to our infant navy, and that too with the loss of only one man killed, and two wounded, while the enemy had (the French surgeon reports) 52 or 53 killed and wounded. Several were found dead in the tops, &c. and thrown overboard 18 hours after we had possession. I must not omit, in this hasty detail, to do justice to Monsieur Bureau, for he defended his ship manfully, and from raking him several times fore and aft, and being athwart his stern ready with every gun to fire when he struck his colours, we may impute the conflict not being more bloody on our side, for had not these advantages been taken, the engagement would not have ended so soon, for the Insurgente was completely officered and manned.

Insurgente's weight of metal.

4 Cannon,	36 Pounds.
2 ditto,	24 ditto.
2 ditto,	18 ditto.
24 ditto,	12 ditto.
8 ditto,	6 ditto.
—	—
40 Guns.	—

Extract from captain Thomas Truxton to the secretary of the navy, dated 14th February.

"On the 13th, after the greatest exertions having been made, we gained these roads with both ships, and anchored them safe about noon. It is impossible for me to state to you the joy demonstrated by the inhabitants on this occasion; the ship was filled with gentlemen of the first dignities in the island, and a salute requested, in order that it might be returned, which was complied with on my part, particularly as it came from a member of the king's council, Mr. Tylon, an old friend of mine of many years standing.

I have just received a polite letter of congratulation from the commander in chief, who offers me every service in his power; and I have directed all the wounded from the Insurgente to be immediately landed, and sent to the hospital.

The following is an accurate return made me this morning by lieutenant Rogers, commanding the prize, taken from the examining officers, of the killed and wounded on board the Insurgente, viz.

killed,	29
badly wounded,	22
wounded more slightly,	19

Total killed and wounded, 70

"We had, as I wrote you before, only one man killed, and two badly wounded, one of which is since dead, the other is a midshipman, Mr. McDonough, who lost his foot; an ordinary seaman was afterwards discovered to be slightly wounded: this is the whole number lost and injured on board the Constellation.

"I shall proceed to repair the damages sustained to both ships as speedily as possible, and until the pleasure of the president of the United States is known, I intend to give lieutenant John Rogers an order to command the Insurgente. He was one of the first lieutenants appointed, has a claim of being among the first promotions, but a very strong one, for behaving well, and being the first lieutenant of the Constellation, at the capture of the first governmental ship of any consequence, ever made by the arms of the United States at sea since our being known as a nation; the other officers I shall appoint in the same way.

"My gun deck is divided into three divisions, the first of five guns and opposite, superintended by the first lieutenant, Mr. Rogers. The second of five guns and opposite, by the second lieutenant, Mr. Cowper. The third of four guns and opposite, by the third lieutenant, Mr. Sterett. The zeal of these three officers in performing their duty, and complying strictly with my orders, cannot be surpassed, but I must not, in praise of them, be silent as to the good conduct of Mr. Shirly, the master, and Mr. Atcher, the fourth lieutenant, who acted their part near my person on the quarter deck, and who are also deserving of notice; but for the honour of our nation, I must declare that it is impossible for officers and men in any service to have behaved better than my people did generally on this occasion; it must therefore not be understood, because I have mentioned the names of a few of the principal gentlemen, that those of an inferior grade in their stations are less deserving; on the contrary, to the latter I always feel myself most indebted for their exertions in the hour of battle, as they have generally much less at stake, than those in higher stations, and consequently less inducement to display their valour."

NOTICE is hereby given to the collectors of the tax for Anne-Arundel county, that they be and appear before the Levy Court, in the city of Annapolis, at the house of Mr. James West, on Friday the 12th of April next, to settle their accounts for the collection of the said tax.

By order, NICH. HARWOOD, CLK.

March 19, 1799.

By his Excellency: BENJAMIN OGLE, Esquire, GOVERNOR of MARYLAND.

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it appears by the deposition of William Croftman and representation of Henry Hall Dorsey, Esquire, of Anne-Arundel county, that a certain John Tufft, of the said county, on the second day of January last, beat, in a cruel manner, the said William Croftman, and that the said Tufft still threatens the aforesaid Croftman, and refuses to be taken by the officers of government, or to submit to the laws, so that the said Croftman is duly in danger of his life; and whereas it is obviously the duty of the executive to guard as much as may be against the commission of such enormities, and to bring such offenders against the laws and peace of society to justice, I have therefore thought proper, by and with the advice of the council, to issue this my proclamation, authorizing and enjoining all sheriffs, and other officers of the peace, to apprehend and convey before some one of the judges or justices within this state the said John Tufft, in order that he may be dealt with according to law; and I do hereby exhort and require the good people of this state to be aiding and assisting the said officers in the execution of their duty.

Given in Council, at the city of Annapolis, under the seal of the State of Maryland, this eleventh day of March, seventeen hundred and ninety-nine.

BEN. OGLE.

By the Governor, NINIAN PINNEY, Clerk of the Governor and Council.

In COUNCIL, March 11, 1799.

ORDERED, That the foregoing proclamation be published every day for the space of six weeks in the Maryland Gazette, at Annapolis, and the Federal Gazette, at Baltimore;

By order,

NINIAN PINNEY.

PUBLIC SALE.

THE uncommon severity of the weather having interrupted the sales of the PERSONAL PROPERTY, belonging to the estate of the late RICHARD SPRIGG, Esq; at West river, and at Sparrow's Point; what remains unsold will be EXPOSED to PUBLIC VENDUE, for CASH, at West river, on Thursday the 28th instant, if fair, if not the first fair day, consisting, among other things, of some very valuable stock, such as work oxen, steers, and horses—all the household linen, and articles of furniture of various kinds—plantation tools and utensils, two old coaches, one wanting but little repair, an old chariot, several old carriages—Timber wheels, one of them of the largest and most valuable kind—six of the largest timber-chains and gin blocks—an excellent money chest of wrought iron, a still of 40 gallons but little used, and its worm and tub—a very large quantity of seasoned ship timber and plank, lying on the shore ready for transportation—Also will be offered for sale, the sloop Julia, formerly the Cool and Easy, a packet out of Annapolis to the eastern shore, bought for her mould, entirely rebuilt with new timbers and plank, except her bottom plank (adjudged good) and raised so as to carry 600 bushels of grain, or nine cords of wood, she sails as fast and draws as little water for her size as any craft on Chesapeake waters, she will want most of her rigging new.

JOHN F. MERCER.

West river, March 15, 1799.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber intends moving to Baltimore the first of May next, and in consequence of which OFFERS, at PUBLIC SALE, for READY CASH, on the third Monday in April next, All his LOTS, with the improvements thereon, situated in Port-Tobacco-town, Charles county, which has always rented for one hundred and seventy-seven pounds ten shillings, per year. Also three lots, lying and being on the Point, in said town, with one small house on them, which has rented for thirty-five pounds per year, but at this time I have negroes living in the houses; the first three lots all front the court house. Also several likely country born negroes, consisting of women, men, girls and boys, which have no claim to freedom, a few work steers, and cart, several good horses, riding carriage, and all kinds of household furniture, &c. &c. The sale to be commenced at one o'clock precisely, and continue till all is sold. Those that have claims against the subscriber will attend the sale, also those who are indebted are requested to make immediate payment, or they will be dealt with as the law directs. I have often advertised my property for sale, but some evil minded persons have been kind enough to prevail on those that would wish to purchase that I did it out of a sham; I do hereby declare that I intend to sell on the day of sale, fetch what it may.

CHARLES MANKIN.

WAS found on my shore, at the mouth of Magothy river, the following articles, to wit: a surveyor's compass, quadrant, old spy-glass, a mallet, tea-pot, whip, plated mounting, two pipes, and gliblet, with a padlock, all in the trunk of a vessel, also a tow-boat, with a bag of turnips in it. The above articles are in my possession, and the owners are requested to comply with the law, and take them away, otherwise they will be given up to the negro that found them.

JOHN GIBSON.

Magothy, March 19, 1799.