

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A Y 23, 1799.

**AMSTERDAM, February 14.**  
 HE swelling of the Rhine has been so vast as to burst a dyke which kept out the tide at Nimèguen, and a considerable part of Dutch Gueldres has been inundated. Many of the inhabitants were drowned, and the remainder got upon the roofs to save themselves from the floating ice, but they were frozen there. The town of Dorch, 19 leagues from Amsterdam, expects with dreadful anxiety the breaking up of the frost, as it is situated lower than the Legzval, a river as impetuous as the Scheldt. This town is on the point of being swallowed, and the inhabitants are flying in all directions. Rotterdam is in the same situation. The water is only six inches below the top of the dykes, by which the sea is prevented from rushing in. In the town of Deventer, six leagues from Amsterdam, the water is five feet above the dykes, and 17 feet deep in the town. The number lost is unknown, as it is impossible to approach the place. The bridges of the town of Arnhem, three leagues of this city are carried away, and the communication between us and the Hague is entirely cut off by the ice and the water of the Rhine, which covers a part of Holland. Our situation hitherto is not bad, and Amsterdam cannot be inundated, unless the great dyke at the gate of Muyden should happen to burst. Should the thaw set in rapidly with a strong wind from the south, we have as much to apprehend here as they at Dorch and Rotterdam. We shall, however, have the advantage of 200 ships now in port, and we are situated near them. The disasters occasioned by the breaking up of the frozen rivers are the more dreadful, as all the wealth of this country consists in cattle and pasture lands, since commerce both here, as well as in France, has been ruined by the war.

**DUBLIN, March 9.**

The following letter has been sent to the lord mayor, by order of the lord lieutenant:  
*Dublin Castle, March 8, 1799.*

"MY LORD,  
 The lord lieutenant and council having, by order in council on the 26th of May last, directed that no person whatever should depart this kingdom without having first obtained a passport for the purpose, signed by his excellency's chief secretary, or by some person authorized by him to sign such passport—And it being necessary that the said order should be strictly enforced, I am directed by my lord lieutenant to acquaint your lordship, that no person whatever will be allowed to depart from the kingdom without the passports required by the said order in council; and that I have authorized alderman James to sign such passport for persons embarking in the harbour of Dublin, of which your lordship will be pleased to give notice, that all persons may conform to this regulation.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"CASTLEREAGH."

*Right hon. the lord mayor.*

*March 20.*

Similar precautions to those which have been taken in Dublin, are adopted in Cork, to prevent any person from quitting the kingdom in that district, without a passport signed by the collector or surveyor of the port—This we understand will be strictly enforced.

*March 22.*

*Adjutant-General's Office.*

*Dublin, 16th March, 1799.*

"The very disturbed state of Ireland, at the period of his excellency's arrival, and the subsequent attempts of a foreign enemy to invade this country, prevented the lord lieutenant from having an opportunity of reviewing that most respectable military corps, the yeomanry of Ireland, during the last year.

"It is, however, his intention, as far as it may be in his power, personally to see them; and where that cannot be effected, to employ the general officers on the staff, to inspect the whole body of yeomanry throughout the kingdom in the course of the ensuing month.

"The lord lieutenant is convinced, that the probability of their being soon called again into action, will induce them to appear as completely and in as good order as possible; and he has no doubt that when the day of trial shall come, the same loyalty and public spirit, which have hitherto so eminently distinguished the yeomanry of Ireland, will animate them to stand bravely forward in defence of their king and country, against the most inveterate enemies of the British empire.

"Signed, G. HEWITT, Adj. Gen."

*BOSTON, March 10.*

**DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.**  
 The particular agent of the Executive Directory at Guadaloupe and its dependencies, has, ever since his

arrival in the colony, confirmed the dispositions of the Executive Directory of the French republic, with respect to neutral nations:—His measures have been calculated to keep union and harmony and to cause their colours and their property to be respected.

Those measures were scrupulously observed with regard to the Americans. The citizens of that nation, who were detained, on his arrival, have been released. Those were destitute of means, have been supplied with the succours which their situation required; and carrels were provided to carry them to New-York. The cargoes and ships seized and carried into Guadaloupe and its dependencies were restored to their owners; and, to add to the proofs of our aversion from vexation and hostilities, the armed schooner of the United States, the Revenge, was sent back to the president.

The particular agent of the directory could not without astonishment and indignation, be informed that in contempt of the free and open conduct observed in respect to that nation, Mr. Truxton, commanding the American ship Constellation, mounting fifty guns, insulted the colours of the French republic, and took, in an action wherein he was aggressor, the frigate Insurgente, whose captain had positive orders to respect the American flag.

Such a piece of hostility, exercised without a declaration of war, has induced measures, the result of which leaves no doubt that the American officer, in thus acting, followed the orders, and instructions of his government.

From the above facts, and the hostilities which are daily committed by the Americans since the capture of the Insurgente,

The particular agent of the Executive Directory, Considering that it is his duty to cause the flag of the French republic to be respected, to protect the commerce and the seamen from the risks they have to run from the Americans, who are cruising in force on these coasts:

To adopt measures which may be the least prejudicial to negotiations that may have begun between the two nations; and which may justify self-defence against aggression and insults, and even to prevent them:

**RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

I. The captains and officers who command the vessels of the republic, and those armed from the ports of Guadaloupe and its dependencies, are authorized, from the date of the publication of the present resolve, to pursue all American vessels, whether belonging to the government or to individuals, to seize and capture them, without distinction, and bring them into the ports of Guadaloupe and its dependencies.

II. The vessels belonging to the American government shall be kept to be used according to the order of the Executive Directory.

III. Such as are the property of individuals, and which may contravene the laws of the republic, and the resolves of the Executive Directory, respecting neutrals and allies, and liable to condemnation, agreeably to the purport of those same laws and resolves, shall be, as well as their cargoes, condemned by a judgement of the tribunal of commerce, and sold for the profit of the captors according to custom.

IV. The merchant vessels, the papers of which shall have been acknowledged by the tribunal to be regular, and not liable to condemnation, shall be sold, together with their cargoes, and the proceeds thereof deposited in the public coffers, that it may afterwards be delivered either to the captors or owners, agreeably to the order of the Executive Directory.

V. In the foregoing dispositions are included all American vessels and their cargoes detained in the ports of Guadaloupe and its dependencies, ever since information was received of the capture of the Insurgente.

The present resolves shall be read, published, posted up, and registered in the tribunal of commerce and council of the navy.

All public functionaries, owners and commanders of the ships of the republic, and privateers, whom it concerns, are hereby ordered to conform to the same.

Done at Basseterre in the national house of the agents, the 24th Ventose, 7th year of the French republic, one and indivisible.

[Signed] **DESFOURNEAUX,**  
*Agent of the directory.*  
 [Signed] **DECHAMPS,**  
*Particular secretary for the*  
*General secretary.*

A true copy [Signed] **DESFOURNEAUX.**

**IMPORTANT**  
 London, 14th of March 1799, has been received at Halifax, by an arrival from the latter place we are enabled to give the following important article of commercial intelligence—

*London, March 27.*

The Gazette of last night contains a notification that "the king has been pleased to cause it to be signified to the ministers of neutral powers that the ports of the United provinces are declared to be in a state of blockade, and that all vessels which may attempt to enter any of them after this notice, shall be dealt with according to the principles of the law of nations, &c."

*Halifax, May 2.*

The Assistance has captured a valuable ship from Batavia. [We understand this vessel belonged to Mr. Lyman of this place.]

**CONFLAGRATION.**

On Saturday morning last, between the hours of two and three, a fire broke out in Newbury-street, which destroyed eleven dwelling-houses, several barns, and other out buildings. The fire is supposed to have kindled in Mr. Merckell's barn, from thence communicated to Mr. Adams's work shop, the dwelling-houses of Mr. Merckell and Mrs. Hunt, the buildings of Mr. Jarvis, eight of which it consumed; and the dwelling-house of Messrs. Child and Cole; with the stables adjoining.

The principle sufferers are Mr. John Jarvis, who in a moment is deprived of the property which was accumulated by long and laborious industry; Mr. Abraham Adams, who lost a valuable work shop, and the principal part of his stock and tools; Mr. Merckell, who lost much of his furniture, stock to a considerable amount, and several horses and carriages; Miss Mary Yorkis, who owned the building occupied by Mr. Merckell; Messrs. Child and Cole, and Messrs. George Grouper, captain George Wheelwright, Patrick Kenny, John Mitchell, Timothy Pease, jun, James Brewes, Lewis Degoy, and Henry Fullerton; who occupied the row of buildings owned by Mr. Jarvis, and who have lost great part of their furniture and wearing apparel.

**PROVIDENCE, May 8.**

On the 24th of March, a child of certain Asa Osgood, of Brownfield (Maine) only ten months old, swallowed a penknife, which being shut measured two inches and three quarters of an inch in length—the handle three quarters of an inch wide—the joint end of the knife went down first—it was in the body three nights and two days: The infant did not appear to feel any pain till a few hours preceding its coming from him. The child is well.

*NEW MILLS, (Burlington county) April 30.*

The recruiting service, under captain Marlis is going on rapidly at this place. The captain only began to recruit the 25th instant, and he has already enlisted eighteen fine young hearty fellows, all American born: more are daily coming in, and if their present ardor continues, the captain will in all probability have his complement of men enlisted in a few weeks. Much credit is due the youth of this place, for the laudable and patriotic spirit they exhibit in thus entering so cordially into the service of their country.

**PHILADELPHIA, May 13.**

The trial of George Shæffer, and five others, on an indictment of four counts, viz. For a conspiracy to impede the law—for counselling and advising an unlawful assembly—for obstructing William Nicolls, Esq; the marshal, in the execution of process—and for rescuing Henry Shankweeler, Jacob Iremson, and others, from the custody of the marshal, was yesterday concluded.

Fourteen witnesses were examined in support of this prosecution, after which Mr. M'Keon, counsel for the defendants, addressed the jury; he was followed by Mr. Dallas counsel particularly, for George Shæffer. Mr. Rawle attorney of the district concluded the pleadings, when judge Iredell analyzed the law, and evidence in a pertinent charge to the jury. From the great length which two indictments have taken in trying, it is probable no other cause will come on this term, as judge Iredell has signified his absolute engagement to attend court in Virginia, so that he must go on Saturday next.

This morning the jury gave in the following verdict, in the above case:

Christian Ruth, guilty of the third count only—*(Rescus.)*  
 Daniel Schwartz, sen. guilty of the first count only—*(Conspiracy.)*  
 Daniel Schwartz, jun. not guilty, generally.  
 Henry Stahler, guilty of the third count only—*(Rescus.)*  
 Henry Schiffert, guilty of the third count only—*(Rescus.)*  
 George Shæffer, guilty of the first and fourth counts only—*(Conspiracy and obstruction of process.)*  
 Mr. Dallas this morning commenced the argument on the motion for granting John Fries a new