

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U L Y 18, 1799.

KINGSTON, (Jam.) May 25.

FRENCH privateer schooner, of 10 four pounders and 94 men, we learn, arrived at Rio de la Hache on the 15th instant, with an American brig of 8 guns, bound from Curacao to Carthagena, with dry goods to the amount of 45,000 dollars. An American schooner of equal force had an engagement with her, and beat her off, in which action five of her men were killed.

BERMUDA, June 15.

By a vessel from Jamaica, we learn that the Queen of 98 guns, admiral Parder, lately fell in with three Spanish 74 gun ships which she engaged for a considerable time and beat off with great slaughter. The Queen lost near 300 men. By this vessel we also learn that general Toussaint, of St. Domingo, died a short time since; and that the British government has declared that island independent.

BOSTON, July 8.

A correspondent observes, that a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in this town last Monday morning, which happened about five minutes after nine. Its duration was about two seconds. It was also felt at Salem, the same day and hour. The fort lately erected at Portland, was by order of the secretary at war, named Fort Sumner, under the discharge of 15 twenty-four pounders.—The secretary in his letter to the proper officer, says, "The death of governor Sumner is not to prevent the naming of the fort at Portland, as heretofore directed; for this tribute of respect is no less due to his memory, than to his living virtues."

COOPERSTOWN, June 28.

The day before yesterday and the evening of the same day, presented to the inhabitants of Cooperstown, and its vicinity, a spectacle surpassing every thing of the kind, which has been witnessed since it has been penetrated by civilized beings.—Towards evening, the clouds gathered and produced unusual torrents, so as to render lighted candles necessary an hour before sunset—soon the rain poured from the clouds with unusual torrents, accompanied by heavy winds, and the lightning emitted almost a constant blaze, accompanied by its attendant companion, thunder; in the evening the flashes were almost incessant, and the rain which fell during the night, raised the waters of Lake Otsego, the surface of which, covers 20,000 acres, from two to three feet—a circumstance which has never occurred within the knowledge of the oldest inhabitant of this country, in the same time. The damage done by the lightning is considerable. The house of Mr. Waldo, of Cherry Valley, has been struck and injured, and another in Middlefield, several cattle killed, persons injured but none killed, as we have heard—vast damage has been done by the destruction of the crops, bridges, mills, mill-dams, and tan-works. A grist-mill in Burlington, was carried down the stream by the rapidity of the torrent, with such force and effect, that the first discoverable remains of the mill were the mill-stones, the nearest of which was found 50 rods below the site of the mill.

NEW-YORK, July 11.

We last evening received by the ship Olive, from Cadiz, the following correct general statement relative to the British, French and Spanish fleets, in the Mediterranean. On the 5th May, 23 sail of French ships, 3 being 3 deckers, passed up the straits, besides a 74, a store ship and some frigates. The 10th, admiral Jarvis left Gibraltar with 18 ships of the line, one ship of 50 guns, and several frigates. The 14th, admiral Massaredo left Cadiz, bound to the Straits, with 17 ships of the line, 5 three deckers, one 80, eleven 74's, four frigates and three brigs. The 18th, 5 British ships of the line, one a three decker, are said to have passed the Straits. Lord Nelson was in the Mediterranean with 14 or 16 74's, and 4 Portuguese ships. It was reported the Turkish and Russian fleet was 14 ships of the line, with some Neapolitan ships of war, number unknown. No accounts of Buonaparte. The destination of the French and Spanish fleets, was not known. It was said, that the French armies had been beaten every where. Nothing had transpired relative to either of the fleets, previous to the sailing of the Olive. The ship Olive, captain M'Fall, arrived yesterday in 19 days from Cadiz, with 6 cargo of wine, &c. consigned to J. B. Desdoy.

Captain M'Fall informs, that the Spanish fleet, consisting of 17 sail of the line, besides frigates, &c. had left Cadiz, and gone up the Straits; that the Spanish and French fleets, it was supposed, intended to form a junction; and that the latter consisted of 22 sail of the line, besides frigates, &c. Our readers will recollect that we gave this intelligence in our paper of Monday last, with the addition of the British fleet having left their station off Cadiz, some time previous.

PHILADELPHIA, July 11.

From Algiers and Gibraltar. To captain Smith, of the United States polacre, the Dey, arrived yesterday at the fort, from Algiers and Gibraltar, we are indebted for the following information.

The following is the information I received at Gibraltar on my arrival there from Algiers. It may be relied on as coming from the best authority.—

On the 22d May arrived at Gibraltar: was there visited by a boat belonging to a guard ship. They informed me I had to perform a quarantine. I hoisted a flag at the usual place for the prodic master, who in a short time came along side.—From him and others I afterwards received the following information: That a few days previous to my arrival there, captain Smith, of and from Baltimore, had a severe action with several French gun-boats, and was taken: that he was severely wounded, having received several musket shot in several parts of his body, and that he was then on board the ship at the port of Algiers, and was allowed no surgeon to attend him. About the same time, captain Adams, of and from New-York, in a ship belonging to Mr. Murray of New-York, was taken and carried into the same port, by this banditti. Of their treatment of others who were so unfortunate as to be captured by them, I had no information. I was likewise informed, that a brig, of and from Baltimore, was upset in the Mediterranean, off the island of Alboran. This island is about 30 leagues above Gibraltar. The crew was saved. She was pilot boat built.

I was likewise informed, that on the 5th May part of the Spanish fleet sailed from Cadiz, and was joined by the French fleet from Brest: and that lord St. Vincent had been driven from his station by continued gales of wind from the westward; but on the 7th, seeing the fleet to windward, he made every exertion to gain them, but to no effect, the whole of his fleet being on a lee-shore in 9 fathoms water. The French and Spaniards, taking advantage of his situation, steered to the southward in order to avoid falling in with his lordship. As soon as the weather moderated, he steered to the southward in pursuit of them. After five days research, and no appearance of the enemy, he bore away for the Mediterranean, which the former had entered on the 13th, their fleet consisting of seventeen sail of the line. On the morning of the 17th his lordship passed Gibraltar, with his fleet, amounting to fifteen sail of the line, with some lighter vessels. There have since passed Gibraltar six seventy-fours to reinforce his lordship. These I saw on the 20th about 20 leagues above Gibraltar.

May 25th, sailed from Gibraltar in company with four sail of Americans, who were waiting an opportunity to get down the gut.—They were the following, viz. ship Eliza, of Boston, from Legnano, bound to London—a brig of Salem, captain Horn, bound to Salem; brig Katy, of Newburyport, Wm. Cottle, master, bound to Newburyport, and a schooner belonging to Kingston in the bay. The captain informed me, that he had been three months in Gibraltar waiting an opportunity to get out of the gut. We took her under our convoy. There is no possibility of any vessel passing the gut but those which are well manned and armed; or by availing themselves of the sailing of an English convoy, which is not very frequent, as most of their private ships that visit this quarter, are themselves well equipped with men and guns. On the night of the 23d, two vessels sailed from Gibraltar, under cover of the dark: they had scarcely made sail, when one of them was fired at by three French privateers, and taken into Algiers. In three hours from their leaving the port, they were both captured in sight of the shipping lying in the road, and within shot of the English gun-boats. One of them was a Swede, the other a brig under English colours. The same night passed through the gut, a fleet of Spanish merchantmen, from Malaga, under convoy of 21 sail of Spanish gun-boats. On the morning following the gun-boats were all standing for Algiers, and were anchored there in the course of the day. There are from 50 to 60 sail of those French privateers of rather of size, under French colours, that intercept the trade between Cape Spartal and Bute Point. But only three of them are of any considerable force, viz. one brig mounting 18 long twelves, and

90 men—one schooner of 8 nines and twelves, and 90 men; and a lugger of 8 nines and sixes. The others principally consist of one or two guns, in the bows, with some swivels and muskets. Their practice is, to attempt to board, and if they are repulsed, row away to windward, out of gun-shot, in a short time; so that, unless you have a breeze, you can do nothing with them; but during a breeze, they are sure never to attack you if you are of any force.

The afternoon of my departure from Gibraltar, it was reported the French and Spanish fleets were in Carthagena; and that six sail of the Spaniards having failed on a cruise, met with a heavy gale of wind, and were dismasted.

On the night of the 26th, parted company with the before mentioned American vessels, they being in all safe outside of the gut, Cape Spartal bearing E. by N. distant about 20 leagues.

Done on board the United States polacre Dey, lying at Gibraltar from May 22d to 25.

[TRUE COPY.]

The Bashaw of Tripoli has ordered away the American agent, who has arrived at Carthagena. Said bashaw has made some new demands on the United States; and declares, that if they are not complied with, that his corsairs will be ordered by him to take American vessels. This information captain Smith will communicate to all Americans he shall meet, that they might use the necessary precautions, and that captain Smith will proceed with dispatches for the United States, and follow his original instructions, which he has received from the underwritten consul for the United States.

RICHARD O'BRIAN.

To captain Smith, commander of the United States polacre, the Dey, Algiers, April 25, 1799.

AUTHENTIC PARTICULARS.

Letters have been received at the office of the secretary of state, from Gibraltar, the contents of which, we understand, are as follow:

Admiral Gardner was cruising off Cadiz with 14 sail of the line, when he received advices in 6 days that the Brest fleet was out—he left his station and stood for Cape St. Vincent, in hopes to meet them—May the 5th, the Brest fleet of 19 sail of the line passed up the Straits. On the 10th, admiral Gardner arrived off Gibraltar, with his fleet, not having seen the enemy, and the next day lord St. Vincent having joined him, they went in pursuit of the French with 17 sail of the line, and on the 13th the Spanish fleet of 15 sail of the line passed up in the rear of St. Vincent's; on the 20th, a reinforcement of 6 sail of the line passed up to join lord St. Vincent's. As soon as the sailing of the Brest fleet reached Gibraltar, lord St. Vincent embargued all the American vessels, and detained them until the fleet passed through the gut. A letter from the consul of the United States, at Gibraltar of which the following is a copy, was received this morning at the office of the secretary of state.

Gibraltar, 17th May, 1799.

SIR,

The bearer of my last being still detained, I have now to inform you that on the 4th inst. arrived the British majesty's sloop of war Childers, in six days from the Channel fleet, with advices of the French fleet, consisting of 15 sail of the line, having slipped out of Brest in a fog, unperceived. Said sloop met an English frigate from whom she learned that she had been chased by the out scouts of an enemy's fleet of 19 sail of the line, supposed to be the above one, joined by 4 Spanish ships from Ferrol—they were seen in the latitude of Oporto. This the earl St. Vincent communicated to me, that I might apprise the commanders of American vessels bound to the westward, of their danger. Admiral lord Keith, with the British fleet of 14 sail of the line, was at anchor off Cadiz, on receipt of the above intelligence they got under way, and went for Cape St. Vincent. A French admiral and several officers arrived at Cadiz some days ago, to take the command of some of the Spanish ships; from which it is conjectured a junction of these fleets was in agitation. When the Childers left the Channel fleet it was proceeding for the coast of Ireland.

On the evening of the 5th instant, the French fleet passed the gut, going to the eastward, with a fresh southerly wind, and very hazy; twenty-four sail were counted, of which 19 were of the line. Near morning earl St. Vincent sent to inform me that the Americans bound to the westward should be ready to proceed the moment the wind came about, as the French fleet went past us yesterday. Open boats, &c. are sent to endeavor to get out of the gut with dispatches to apprise lord Keith of the French fleet having passed this, and to follow them. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

JOHN GAVINO.