

for the dispatch with which he has fitted out this excellent ship.

LANCASTER, February 22.

*Fracas in the chamber of the house of representatives.*

On Thursday evening last a very disagreeable fracas took place in the chamber of the house of representatives of Pennsylvania. We have endeavoured to collect the circumstances with accuracy, and believe them to be briefly as follow:

During the evening session of the house, Mr. Samuel W. Fisher was delivering his sentiments on a resolution which went to disfranchise all officers and soldiers under the United States. In the course of his arguments, Mr. Fisher was twice interrupted by a call for adjournment from one part of the house. Both calls were negatived. A third call was made, which Mr. Fisher and his friends acceded to, and the house adjourned.

As soon as the adjournment had taken place, Mr. Fisher observed to a number of the members who had repeatedly called for an adjournment, that they had acted cowardly, were unwilling and afraid to hear his arguments.

Dr. Logan remarked that such foolish, nonsensical arguments as those made use of by Mr. Fisher, were not worth attending to. The latter then replied that any man who would call his arguments foolish and nonsensical was a puppy. Dr. Logan rejoined and called Mr. Fisher a rascal! On this Mr. Fisher struck him. The doctor returned the blow. The members on all sides immediately interfered, and the combatants were separated. A considerable deal of altercation took place among some of the members—and indeed we feel happy in being able to say that the battle was not more general.

While Mr. Fisher was aiming a blow at the doctor, Mr. Wilson, of Dauphin, suddenly thrust himself into its road, and received a small contusion in or near the eye.

Another gentleman received a blow on his cheek but could not find his man. It was candle light, which rendered confusion the more confused. The members after some difficulty, found their hats, and dispersed.

Doctor Logan did not appear in the house on Friday, but addressed the following letter to Mr. Weaver, the speaker.

Lancaster, February 21st, 1800.

SIR,

As a member of the house of representatives, I complain to you as speaker of the house of representatives, that yesterday, the 20th of February, in the afternoon, in the chamber of the house, immediately after the adjournment of the house, Samuel Fisher, a representative of the city of Philadelphia, struck me a violent blow on my face, in breach of the privilege of the house.

GEORGE LOGAN.

On motion of Mr. Frailey seconded by Mr. Boileau.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire concerning the complaint of George Logan, a member of this house against Samuel W. Fisher also a member of this house, on a breach of privilege; that the committee have authority to send for persons and to examine them under oath or affirmation, touching the premises, and that they report as soon as possible.

Ordered, That Messrs. Whitehill, Bull, Potts, Hopkins, Ingels, Barclay and Cunningham, be a committee for that purpose.

PHILADELPHIA, February 26.

TRIBUTE

To the memory of gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON, among our citizens abroad.

On the 14th of January the intelligence respecting the death of general Washington reached the Havana. The grief occasioned thereby was most strongly evinced. Mr. Morton our consul at that city, immediately issued an address to the Americans, suggesting the public evidences to be given of their sorrow on the mournful occasion. The numerous vessels in the harbour (about 100 sail) were directed to suspend their flags half-mast-high for three successive days; and the citizens to wear crape on their left arms, both of which were instantly and universally complied with.

The United States sloop of war Norfolk, captain Bainbridge, then in harbour, the private armed ships Superior, captain Cunningham, Good Friends, capt. Earl, brig Liberty, capt. Henderson, with several others, discharged minute guns throughout the day.

The consul also communicated the intelligence by letter to the Spanish governor (the marquis de Somerellos) who returned a polite and condoling answer, declaring the sympathetic interest he took therein, with every admirer of those "exalted virtues and patriotism" of which the world was bereaved in the loss of our illustrious citizen.

February 27.

The keel of the Massachusetts 74, to be built in Boston, has arrived at the navy yard there. It is in five pieces; and cost 500 dollars. Vast quantities of timber for plank, and other materials, are daily arriving.

CAUTION.

Counterfeits of the New Federal Coin of dollars are equally in circulation; how long the fraud has been impudently on the public, we cannot determine, as the execution bears a strong likeness, excepting that the false medallions are thinner and larger in circumference, the weight nearly corresponding. This information was given us by a gentleman last evening, who has one in his possession, but cannot trace its original circulation. [New-York Argus.]

CHARLESTON, February 10.

A letter was received by a gentleman of this city, on Saturday, from Port Republic, dated the 24th January, which states, that a frigate had arrived at Cape-Francois, from France, in 26 days passage, which announced the change which has lately taken place in the government of France, and it was said had brought out a commission, appointing the commander in chief, (Touffaint) pro-consul for the island of St. Domingo, with full and absolute powers, and ordering Rigaud to return to France. If this is so, adds the letter, it will be favourable for the island, the affairs of which are now in a very wretched way.

NORFOLK, February 18.

The brig Pegasus, arrived here on Saturday, in 18 days from St. Kitt's, sailed with 50 sail under convoy of the Pickering. Left at St. Kitt's the United States frigate Constellation and Isourgent. The day before the Pegasus sailed, the United States ship Baltimore, capt. Cowper, brought in a French privateer of 12 guns, which the captured by a stratagem:—the privateer greatly outfitted the Baltimore, capt. Cowper disguised his ship like a merchantman; and hoisted all the guns; the privateer deceived by this appearance ran along side and poured a broadside in the Baltimore—her mistake was announced by a return from the Baltimore, which prevented the citizen from escaping.

BALTIMORE, February 28.

Counterfeit Bank Bills.

From an Alexandria paper of Tuesday last, received by yesterday's mail.

Yesterday two men were apprehended for having passed a number of counterfeit 50 and 100 dollar bills of the bank of the United States. On their examination, it was proved that they, a few days since, arrived at this port in the schooner Two Brothers, from New-Orleans; and from evidence it appeared, that vast quantities of notes of the above description were in general circulation at that place.

[The printers in the United States may perhaps render essential service to the community by noticing the circumstance.]

March 1.

A Boston paper mentions that the French ship captured by the Boston, American frigate, and sent into Newport, is the property of general Touffaint, and that in consequence of her capture the General Green frigate has been detained at Cape-Francois.

Annapolis, March 6.

PHILADELPHIA, February 23.

This morning lieutenant Shaw, of the armed sloop Experiment, arrived at Marcus Hook, from a cruise, being dispatched by commodore Truxton, with letters for the secretary of the navy; from which the following are extracts:

United States ship Constellation, at sea, February 3, 1800.

SIR,

On the 30th ultimo, I left St. Christopher's, with the Constellation, in excellent trim, and stood to windward in order to gain the station for myself before the road of Guadaloupe; and at half past 7, A. M. of the day following, I discovered a sail to the southward, to which I gave chase—and for the further particulars of that chase and the action after it, I must beg to refer to the extracts of my journal, herewith, as being the best mode of exhibiting a just and candid account of all our transactions in the late business, which has ended in the most entire dismantlement of the Constellation, though I trust, to the high reputation of the American flag.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

THOMAS TRUXTON.

Benjamin Stoddert, Esquire, secretary of the navy.

Occurrences on board the United States ship Constellation, of 38 guns, under my command, February 1st, 1800.

Throughout these twenty-four hours, very unsettled weather, kept on our tacks beating up under Guadaloupe, and at half past 7, A. M. the road of Basseterre bearing East, 5 leagues distance saw a sail in the S. E. standing to the S. W. which from her situation, I at first took for a large ship from Martinico, and hoisted English colours on giving chase by way of inducement for her to come down and speak me, which would have saved us a long chase to leeward, off my intended cruising ground; but finding she did not attempt to alter her course, I examined her more minutely, as we approached her and discovered that she was a heavy French frigate, mounting at least 54 guns. I immediately gave orders for the yards, &c. to be slung with chains, top-sail sheets, &c. stoppered, and the ship cleared; and every thing prepared for action, and haled down the English colours. At noon the wind became light, and I observed the chase, that we had before been gaining fast on, held way with us, but I was determined to continue the pursuit, though the running to leeward I was convinced would be attended with many serious disadvantages, especially if the object of my wishes were not gratified.

Passed two schooners standing to the northward, one of them showed American colours, and was a merchant vessel, and the other I supposed to be of the same description.

February 23, at 1, P. M. the wind being somewhat fresher, than at noon preceding, and an appearance of its continuance, our prospect of bringing the enemy to action began again to brighten; as I perceived we were coming up with the chase, fast; and every inch of canvas being set that could be of service, except the top-sails, which I kept in the top-sails, in case of

the chase finding an escape from our thunder impracticable, should blow on a wind and give us fair battle; but this did not prove to be her commander's intention. I, however, got within hail of him, at 8, P. M. hoisted our ensign, and had the candles in the battle lanterns, all lighted, and the large trumpet in the lee gangway, ready to speak him, and to demand the surrender of his ship to the United States of America; but he at this moment commenced a fire from his stern and quarter guns, directed at our rigging and spars. No parley being then necessary, I sent my principal aide-de-camp, Mr. Vandyke, to the different officers commanding divisions on the main battery, to repeat strictly my orders, before given; not to throw away a single charge of powder, but to take good aim and fire directly in the hull of the enemy; and load principally with two round shot and now and then with a round shot, and a stand of grape, &c. to encourage the men at their quarters; to cause or suffer no noise or confusion whatever; but to load and fire as fast as possible when it could be done with certain effect. These orders being given, in a few moments I gained a position on his weather quarter, that enabled us effectually to return his salute; and thus a close and as sharp an action as ever was fought between two frigates, commenced and continued until within a few minutes of 1, A. M. when the enemy's fire was completely silenced, and he was again steering off.

It was at this moment that I considered him as my prize, and was trimming in the best manner I could my much shattered sails; when I found the main-mast was totally unsupported by rigging, every shroud being shot away, and some of them in several places;—that even stoppers were useless, and could not be applied with effect. I then gave orders for the officers to send the men up from the gun deck, to endeavour to secure it, in order that we might get along side of the enemy again as soon as possible; but every effort was in vain, for the main-mast went over the side in a few minutes after, and carried with it the top men, among whom was an amiable young gentleman who commanded the main-top, Mr. James Jarvis, son of James Jarvis, Esq; of New-York. It seems this young gentleman was apprized of the mast going in a few minutes by an old seaman; but had already so much the principal of an officer ingrafted on his mind, not to leave his quarters on any account, that he told the man if the mast went they must go with it, which was the case, and only one of them was saved.

I regret much his loss, as a promising officer and amiable young man, as well as on account of a long intimacy that has subsisted between his father and myself; but have great satisfaction in finding that I have lost no other and only two or three slightly wounded out of 39 killed and wounded, 14 of the former and 25 of the latter.

As soon as the main-mast went, every effort was made to clear the wreck from the ship as soon as possible, which was effected in about an hour. It being impossible to pursue the enemy, and as our security was then the great object, I immediately bore away for Jamaica, for repairs, &c. finding it impossible to reach a friendly port in any of the islands to windward.

I should be wanting in common justice, was I to omit here to journalize the steady attention to order, and the great exertion and bravery of all my officers, seamen and marines, in this action, many of whom I had sufficiently tried before on a similar occasion, and all their names are recorded in the muster roll I sent to the secretary of the navy, dated the 19th December last, signed by myself.

All hands employed at repairing the damages sustained in the action, so far as to get the ship into Jamaica as soon as possible.

THOMAS TRUXTON.

List of officers and men killed, wounded and missing, by the action of the 1st of February, 1800, on-board the United States ship Constellation of 38 guns, Thomas Truxton, Esquire, commander, with a French national ship of 58 guns.

Wounded.—A. Shirley, 2d lieutenant, slight wound in the leg; Mr. Wedertrant, midshipman, slight wound in the head; Mr. Warren, midshipman, slight wound in the head; Mr. Comerford, master's mate, slight wound in the head; John Highland, quarter gunner, wound in the back; James Rodgers, sergeant of marines, slight wound in the arm; Jonathan Bell, sail maker's mate, fractured leg.

Killed.—Seamen, William Lightfoot, John Robinson, John Smith, Thomas Stevenson, John Williams, William Powell, John Wilson, James Foster, Emanuel Mann, Robert Smith, Emanuel Deist.—Marines, Christopher M' Cormic.—Boy, Joseph Graves.

Seamen.—John Huxie, arm shot off and wounded in the side; Thomas Clarke, fractured leg; Wm. Musgrove, fractured thigh; James Carter, slight wound in the thigh and side; Ephraim Jabins, slight wound in the arm; Benjamin Bradford, arm shot off—dead; Antonio Poyntz, slight wound on the head; Edward Hollman, slight wound in the arm and knee; George Matthews, fractured thigh; John Logan, fractured leg; Thomas Fitzgerald, wounded on the gluteus muscle; Charles Lewis, shot through the arm; Wm. Howell, slight wound in the thigh.

Marines.—Caldie, Branidin, wound in the thigh; Wm. Small, shot through the thigh; George Carlson, shot through the hand.

Boys.—John Baptist, leg shot off; Philip Smith, wound in the back of the neck.

Missing.—Mr. James Jarvis, midshipman, Isaac Henry, Surgeon.

[Lieutenant Shaw being on a cruise, (fortunately) fell in with the Constellation the day after the action, and was directed home by commodore Truxton with the above important information.]