

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A U G U S T 26, 1802.

M A D R A S, December 31.

ADVICES by the Dispatch, capt. Hutchinson, lately arrived with a cargo of sugar from China, report that the King had issued an edict by which free ingrels into all the ports of Cochin China had been granted to all English vessels, with exemption from port charges, and duties of every description. This exclusive mark of favour to English vessels, is said to have been principally occasioned by the favourable impression of the national character, commenced by some emigrant French officers and anished priests, who had entered into the service and received the protection of the government of Cochin China. The rebellion which had long existed in that country continued to oppose some resistance to the regular authority, but decided advantages had lately been obtained by the latter, which promised to bring the contest to a speedy termination.

PHENOMENON.

Five minutes after sunset, a meteor appeared over St. Thomas's Mount, on the evening of the 13th instant, which at first resembled a rocket descending obliquely at an angle with the horizon of about 45, and in a direction from S. E. to N. W. Its progress was rapid, in a straight line, and from its commencement until it finally burst, with apparent explosion, about 20 degrees from the horizon, had traversed a space of 15 degrees, and although the few clouds visible, were yet tinged red with the refracted light of the sun, the brilliancy of the meteor was such, as to cause all persons, abroad, to look that way, when their eyes were dazzled with the light.

The sun had set with great lustre, so as to be visible until the western hills obscured the last point of his sphere. The motion of the air was so gentle, that the wind could just be perceived as being from the land; but what seems to render this more worthy of notice than the generality of meteors, is, that after its first appearance and last explosion, it remained for some minutes, in all the brilliancy of a furnace in white heat, or rather, a plate of polished silver, from which the sun's rays are reflected: it then gradually extended a little in breadth, and fell into a zig zag, less sharp than forked lightning, the extremities bending towards each other, so that in half an hour it appeared like the circumference of a cloud of a luminous red colour.

From its remaining so long stationary, it filled the mind with the idea of something more material than fire, which explodes and is instantaneously extinguished, as is the case with most meteors; and in all probability, was of that kind, that has given rise to the appellation of a shot star, and which is vulgarly supposed to fall on the surface of the earth, in the form of a thick jelly or mutilage, and were it not for the rapidity and explosion, might be considered as being of a phosphorescent nature.

Other accounts of this extraordinary phenomenon state, that it appeared, at first circular, and not unlike the moon, when seen through a mist—that it became brighter by degrees, and at length burst; that a column, as it were of smoke, ascended from it, which was succeeded by a broad luminous streak of some expanse, which after a short interval, was changed into a zig zag line, with obtuse angles—resembling a snake descendant with the head somewhat raised and involuted. That it remained bright, like a pale flame, for more than 25 minutes. When the lower extreme appeared of a brimstone colour; and which in about 10 minutes spread itself by degrees, over the whole line; so that the whole vanished, or gradually faded away in a direction upwards.

The middle of the line seemed wider than any other part, and on the first appearance of the meteor seemed to be the point or centre, from which the two ends of the line diverged—and which may account for a diversity of opinion, in respect to the bursting of the ball, at first seen.—Some avering it to have shot in direction towards the heavens—and others towards the earth.

L O N D O N, June 16.

We understand Mr. Otto (by order of his government) has very lately delivered several notes to lord Hawkebury, respecting the hostile language held in parliament, and the free remarks of the English newspapers on the conduct of Buonaparte. Nothing further on this subject has transpired; and we do not believe ministers will be able to afford any further satisfaction than a civil answer.

We were the first, on Tuesday last, to announce the appointment of general Andross, as ambassador from France to England.—This fact was on Monday announced by Mr. Otto to lord Hawkebury, and it is publicly confirmed by various letters from Paris.—It is remarkable that Andross was some years ago appointed by the directors of the committee for superintending the descent on England. He is, as we have already stated, one of the ablest engineers in France, and it is said, by being intrusted with secret off-

cers almost as well skilled in that science. The circumstances we are assured, have greatly alarmed ministers, who are much embarrassed, between their desire of being civil to France, and their fear of being accused of allowing Frenchmen in this country, who may investigate the means of invading it.—Portalis the younger is to be Andross's chief secretary.

PROVIDENCE, August 14.

INTERESTING.

The ship Sterling, capt. Toby, is arrived at Newport, from Gibraltar, which she left the second July, and brings the following important intelligence.

On the 24th June arrived at Gibraltar, from Tangiers, Mr. Simpson, consul of the United States, having been ordered to depart from thence at only one hour's notice.—This order was in consequence of not complying with a demand of the emperor of Morocco, to grant convoy for several of his vessels, laden with wheat, bound to Tripoli, and the release and convoy of the Tripolitan ship, then at Gibraltar, to pass unmolested with her crew. The danger by the consul and commodore Morris was considered so great in passing the Straits by the gun boats, that the latter with the frigate Chesapeake, came out with only three ships, there being an order from the emperor to fit his armed craft immediately against the Americans.

BATTLEBORO [Ver.] August 9.

On Saturday last, Samuel M. Millen, of Warrick, cut his throat from ear to ear with his razor, and expired in 3 hours after. The circumstances of this horrid transaction exceed every thing of the kind ever published. He arose in the morning with his usual cheerfulness, went out and milked his cows; returned to the house, took his razor and effected the bloody work in the door yard, in presence of his wife: Her shrieks brought a neighbour to the spot; he would not go into the house, or lie down on a bed which was carried out for him; but while the blood was running from his throat took a quid of tobacco, and offered one to his neighbour with his usual good nature; by signs he invited him to his sty to view a pig, then sick, which he scared up; and patted him with fondness. There was no alteration from his common behaviour; no signs of remorse, fear or sense of his dreadful situation till he fainted, and fell on the grass, where he died like a butchered hog. He was between 60 and 70 years of age.

About 20 years since he hung himself, was cut down by his son, and after lying apparently dead half an hour was resuscitated by an able physician.

It is remarkable, that instead of shewing any symptoms of insanity or weakness, this man has ever been steady in business, a hard labouring and successful farmer, a pleasant neighbour, strictly moral, and affectionate to his wife and children. That a man in such a state of mind and body, should thus sinfully rush unaltered into the presence of his Maker, is truly astonishing.

NEW-YORK, August 15.

As the public mind has been considerably agitated in consequence of the arrival of three French ships of war in this port, and the expectation of three others, we have made it our business to become acquainted with their situation, as to health and their object in coming into this port.

In the first place, it is proper to state, and we do so from the best information; that the frigate La Consolante, (which vessel has been permitted to anchor off Fort Jay) is a healthy ship—that she has had no death on board since her arrival off Guadaloupe, and that though there are upwards of 200 blacks on board; not one has died; or been sick; she cannot, however, approach the town—none but the officers and the crewmen of one boat are allowed to come on shore.

The other two ships of war, though with very little sickness and no malignancy on board, are detained at the quarantine ground; and commodore Caille has pledged his word to the health officer that if any sickness should happen on board La Consolante, he will instantly stop the boats from going to town; and report the case or cases to him.

These ships went from Guadaloupe to Carthage, but anchored several leagues from the Spanish Main, and only sent a boat with some officers on shore. The names of the ships of war now in our port, are the frigates La Consolante and La Volontaire, and the sloop of war Salamandre; the whole having on board between 7 and 800 blacks, taken from Guadaloupe. The frigates La Cockade, and La Honneur, and the sloop of war Le Ulis, are hourly expected.

We are informed, that it was intended to land these blacks at Carthage, but that the Spaniards would not receive them. On their determination to bring them out to America, one of the squadron was dispatched back to Guadaloupe, for orders relative to the disposition of the black prisoners; and it is supposed they will remain in this port till such orders shall be received.

It is also said, that the poor wretches on board these vessels are almost in a state of starvation—and that application has been made for supplies, to be paid for in bills drawn on the first consul. Provisions, they say, must be had. If the paper offered in payment will not be accepted, what is to be done. Perhaps, at this time, it would be advisable in our government, to become endorsers for Buonaparte. This would please this powerful man, and perhaps prevent his future power and vengeance from being directed against us.

The reports of Saturday evening, in consequence of orders having been given to some of the independent corps to hold themselves in readiness, and prepared for battle, are truly laughable. It was stated as the cause of these orders, that the commander of the French squadron had threatened to fire on the town, and take provisions per force.—That it was an insult on his nation to refuse the consul's paper. Another report was, that the blacks had been offered at so much a head, in exchange for provisions—and if not taken, the town was to be bombarded! A third report was, that the French commodore made a proposition to land the blacks, and let them shift for themselves—this was also refused, and this town was to be laid in ashes.

The fact is, we are informed, that some disposition was discovered on the part of the blacks, to rise and force a landing. This circumstance was communicated to the mayor of the city, who no doubt thought proper, in case of such an attempt to have the military in readiness to oppose the landing of our shores of a set of men so much to be dreaded—men inured to plunder and familiar with the most bloody massacres—and ripe for every species of cruelty.

August 17.

Capt. Fuller, who arrived here yesterday in 16 days from Curacao, informs that the two French 74's and sloop of war, which sailed some time since from St. Domingo for Porto-Cavello, for mules and cattle, were obliged to return on account of a malarial fever which prevailed at that place which carried off on an average, 30 persons a day. While there, the commodore of this squadron died of the above disease.—They came off without getting either mules or cattle.

[The subsequent letters have passed between the mayor and the French consul on the subject of the French frigates now in our harbour.]

New-York, August 14, 1802.

SIR,

I have been informed that the frigates belonging to your nation, now in this harbour, have a great number of negroes (slaves or prisoners) confined on board. You are acquainted, Sir, with the scrupulous jealousy with which our laws watch their introduction into our country, and will therefore perceive it to be a duty, which as its first magistrate, I owe this city, to request through you an assurance from the commander of the squadron, that none of those people shall, under any pretence, be permitted to land.—I hope too it will not be deemed an indiscretion, on a point so interesting to our police, to ask whether the force on board is fully adequate to prevent any risqué of insurrection or escape.

I have the honour to be,
With great respect,
Your most obedient servant,
EDWARD LIVINGSTON.

Citizen Archambault, commercial agent
of the French republic.

Honourable Edward Livingston, mayor of the city of
New-York.

MR. MAYOR,

On the receipt of the letter which you did me the honour to write me yesterday, I communicated its contents to the commander of the French division now anchored in this port. I hasten to transmit to you a copy of his answer, which I hope will appear to you satisfactory on all points.

I have the honour to inform you, that in consequence of the fears manifested by the inhabitants of this city, on the approach of the frigate La Consolante, the commander has ordered her back to the quarantine as soon as possible. We flatter ourselves that you will see in this step the success with of