

purged which is necessary to take away any particular right granted by the form of government to the citizens of the eastern shore.

For the sake of illustrating the subject, and that the effect of the present law may be better comprehended, I will suppose it confirmed, as it has passed, by a legal majority, and the system in operation; a few years experience will convince the people that they have been deceived by the specious and illusory advantages held up to them by the promoters of the measure as flowing from it, and they will become dissatisfied with it. Should this dissatisfaction take place, an event highly probable, it will be the wish of the people to reitrate the judiciary, as now established by the constitution; and it may be the object of the politicians of the western shore to restrict the fittings of the general court to the great commercial town of that shore, under the pretext, that the inconvenience to jurymen, suitors and witnesses, resident on the eastern shore, will be counterbalanced, and amply compensated, by having justice administered at one place, where they may, at the same time, and without any additional expence, transact their private business to advantage. These, and many other pretences, equally plausible and deceptive, may be suggested, to justify the measure, and the same majority which effected the change, can, in the same way, establish a new judiciary, or restore the old, with such alterations as they may think right.

Should an attempt be made to alter the 15th and 16th sections of the form of government, by directing that the fifteen senators should be elected out of the best, wisest, and most desecret citizens in the state of Maryland, without regard to their local situation, or particular place of residence, whether on the western or eastern shore, on the pretext, that the distinction between the two shores is invidious, founded in jealousy, and tends to disseminate and infuse an opinion, that their interests are dissimilar, which may have a pernicious effect on the public mind.

Such a change in the constitution would certainly infringe a particular right conferred on the eastern shore, the right to have six of the senators residents on the eastern shore, and would, in the same way, become a part of the form of government, without the concurrence of two thirds of all the members of each branch of the legislature.

Instead of effecting a change in the senate in a direct way, by depriving the eastern shore of the particular right of having six senators elected who are residents on that shore, suppose a circuitous mode should be taken, by first abolishing the senate, on the pretence, that that body was an unnecessary check on the deliberations of the immediate representatives of the people, retarded the public business, and very much augmented the expences of government, by protracting the sessions to an immoderate length, and afterwards reviving the senate, without confining the choice of the electors, to any particular number of senators resident on the eastern shore, or suppose, what is more probable, that as the first step to the accomplishment of this alteration, the constitution should be changed, by declaring that there should be nineteen senators, one elected for each county in the state, in the same manner representatives are elected, would not these changes and alterations operate in the most effectual manner to deprive the citizens of the eastern shore of the particular right derived from the constitution of having six senators elected, who are residents of that shore?

The right to have a general court, which court shall sit on the eastern, as well as on the western shore, and the right to have a senate, composed of fifteen members, six of whom shall be residents of the eastern shore, stand on the same foundation, and are so protected and secured by the constitution to the citizens of the eastern shore, that they cannot be taken away, without the concurrence of two thirds of all the members of each branch of the legislature to the law for altering, and the law for confirming, such alterations of the form of government.

It is so plain to me, that a law to abolish the general court, and a law to abolish the senate, will subvert the constitutional rights vested in the eastern shore particularly of having a general court which shall sit on the eastern shore, and a senate composed of fifteen members, six of whom shall be residents of that shore, that the multiplying arguments would tend more to obscure than elucidate the subject. Such laws might effect that, indirectly and circuitously, which, if openly and directly proposed, would be effectually repelled by the provision inserted in the form of government to protect the particular rights of the eastern shore.

In these times of innovation it is necessary the people of Maryland should be watchful.

A FRIEND TO THE CONSTITUTION.

WE are authorized to say, that Doctor JOHN CASSAWAY, of Rhode river, will be a candidate at the ensuing election, for one of the representatives of Ann Arundel county to the legislature.

Rhode river, March 27, 1805.

Having received from commodore Preble, information that the Neapolitan government cannot possibly spare to commodore Barron any of their gun-boats for the ensuing summer, the secretary of the navy has issued orders for the equipment of ten gun-boats to leave the United States, so as to join our squadron in the Mediterranean, about the 1st of July. Owing to the violent gales of wind that usually prevail on the coast of Tripoli before the month of July, gun-boats cannot be used to advantage, or even with safety, before that period.

Nat. Intel.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, February 9.

Private letters from Madrid of the 11th ult. mention the receipt of very unpleasant accounts from Mexico:—Some serious troubles had broken out there, and the inhabitants generally are represented as being extremely dissatisfied at the conduct of the present viceroy. Since the cession of Louisiana to America, the people of Mexico have evinced a strong disposition to a like union with the United States, and the American government is accused of having sent emissaries to foment their existing discontent.

The Spanish army at St. Roach was, according to Madrid letters of the 7th ult. to be augmented with all possible dispatch to 50,000 men. A French auxiliary corps, commanded by a field marshal, is expected there early in the spring, till which period the intended operations of the Spaniards are to be deferred.

The Paris accounts, of the 16th ult. state, that Buonaparte has consented to permit his brother Joseph to accept the crown of Lombardy, though he has refused it himself. The courts of Naples, Spain, Portugal and Berlin, have, it is said, given their consent to this change. From Austria, however, no answer has as yet been received. It was also generally reported in the French capital, that, owing to the mediation of Prussia, the harmony between the cabinets of St. Petersburg and Paris would soon be restored.

On the 14th ult. a French corps of 1800 men, was stationed between Civignola and Godgion, waiting orders to enter the Neapolitan territory.

Aviz es from Embden of the 16th ult. mention, that the idea of an expedition against England is entirely given up by Buonaparte, and that within these last three months upwards of 9000 men of the army placed on the coast of the Channel have fallen victims to diseases, particularly fevers. It is stated, therefore, to have been resolved in a council of state to order a dislocation, and 40,000 men will, it is said, be sent to Italy. The diseases were particularly prevalent among the Italian troops, who were on this account sent home about six weeks ago.

Admiral Cornwallis, in the Ville de Paris, with the Neptune, reached Ushant on the 28th ult. at which time his squadron comprised only 14 sail of the line.

The French fleet at Toulon remained safe in the harbour on the 28th December, and Lord Nelson, with 18 ships of war, is said to have sailed from Cagliari on the 21st, to reform his station off the Hieres.

In the Madrid Gazette, of December 24, it is asserted, that the day on which the declaration of war was published in that city, the king signed a treaty of alliance with Portugal, in virtue of which, the latter government declares itself an ally of Spain, and an enemy of England.

The French squadron at Rochefort, consisting of six sail of the line and two frigates, effected their escape from the port on the 11th ult. There is no doubt but some of our fleets will be able very soon to give a good account of them.

The monthly report of the ships in commission in the British navy, state them to be 697, of which number 105 are of the line; 24 of 50 guns, 137 frigates, and 431 sloops of war; besides these, there are a great number building and repairing, receiving ships, smaller vessels, &c. making in the whole a grand total of 905 sail.

The report that Lord Nelson has taken Minorca is repeated by every advice from the continent.

The emperor of Russia has assigned the city of Kiow for the future residence of the count de Lille.

Buonaparte and the pope are said to be going to Milan, to assist in the coronation of Joseph Buonaparte as king of Lombardy.

BERMUDA, March 9.

NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

Wednesday came in from a cruize his majesty's ship Leander, captain Talbot, with the French frigate La Ville de Milan, commanded by Monsieur de Reynaud, captain de Vaisseau, and member of the Legion of honor, and Monsieur Gillier, captain de Frigate, under jury-masts, which ship had been taken by the Leander; and also with his majesty's ship Cleopatra, Captain Sir Robert Laurie, Bart. also under jury masts, retaken by the Leander. A very desperate engagement had taken place between the Cleopatra and La Ville de Milan, which ended in the capture of the former, and of which the following are some of the particulars, stated as accurately as we have been able to procure them.

About 10 o'clock A. M. of the 16th of February, La Ville de Milan hove in sight, and the Cleopatra gave chase, hoisting American colours to induce the other to bring to. La Ville de Milan however continued her course, and the Cleopatra, (though under a press of sail) could not come up with her so as to bring her to action, until half past two o'clock, P. M. of the 17th of February, when the action commenced and was continued with great fury on both sides, within half a cable's length. During two hours and a half, the Cleopatra had greatly the advantage, notwithstanding the great superiority of the force of the enemy, and would in all probability have soon obliged the French ship to surrender, (having at 5 P. M. shot away her main top sail yard and her masts being very much wounded,) had not the wheel of the Cleopatra been unfortunately struck with a shot which rendered it immovable, and the rudder at the same time so choked as to be wholly incapable of directing the movements of the ship. The Cleopatra having shot a head, was, at the moment of the wheel's

being struck with the shot, attempting to cross the bows of the French ship, so as to rake her, when the enemy (seeing the accident which had happened, and that that was wholly unmanageable,) with the wind on his beam, and the heavy swell, run his head and bowsprit over the Cleopatra's quarter deck, and availing himself of his great superiority in numbers, under a tremendous fire from his musketry, which almost cleared the Cleopatra's decks, attempted to board. They were, however, with the greatest bravery, driven back by the gallant few who yet remained to defend the ship. An attempt was made to hoist the fore-top-mast stay-sail, and to let the sprit-sail top-sail, in order to get clear of the enemy's ship; but the men ordered to do this duty, were all killed by the musketry of the other ship, and the Cleopatra being now able to bring only two guns to bear upon the French ship, and that with very little effect, from her superior height, and the French musketry sweeping the decks, the enemy at length succeeded in boarding, and at a quarter past five P. M. (after a severe and bloody conflict of nearly three hours) the Cleopatra was obliged to give over an effectual resistance, and to surrender to such a superior force—aided as it was by an unfortunate accident. After the action the Cleopatra was a mere wreck, having no masts standing but her mizenmast; her foremast, mainmast and also her bowsprit, having been shot away; and the next morning the French ship had no masts standing but her foremast; her mainmast and mizenmast having gone over the side.

To form a just opinion of the very gallant defence made by the Cleopatra, in this severe action, with a frigate of such superior strength, it is only necessary to state the comparative force and numbers on board the two ships.—La Ville de Milan was laid down for a 74, is a ship of 1200 tons burthen, with 15 ports of a side upon her main deck, upon which she had mounted in the action 26 French 18 pounders, each carrying a 22 pound shot; 14 long 9 pounders upon her quarter deck, and 6 long 9 pounders upon her fore-castle; with a crew of 360 men, besides 20 French officers, and a number of soldiers who were going passengers to France. The Cleopatra mounts 22 twelve pounders, and had 199 men in this action; by that time, number of men and weight of metal, La Ville de Milan was nearly double the force of the Cleopatra. There were 22 men killed and 36 wounded on board of the Cleopatra; among the latter were 7 officers, including Mr. Mitchell, (the eldest son of Sir Andrew Mitchell,) who was dangerously wounded in the shoulder. We have not heard how many were killed and wounded on board the French ship; among the former was Monsieur Reynaud, the Capitaine de Vaisseau, and among the latter Monsieur Gillier, the captain of the frigate. After the Cleopatra had been about a week in the possession of the French frigate, the Leander, captain Talbot, most fortunately hove in sight, and after a short chase, took both ships, without the least resistance on their part, and brought them with her into this port. The action happened three degrees to the southward of this port.

Francis Gore, Esq; (son of the earl of Aaron) is appointed governor of these Islands.

DOMESTIC.

NEW-YORK, March 25.

In the ship Hare, from Lisbon, came passenger Joseph Rudemaker, Esq; charge des affaires and consul-general from the Regent of Portugal to the United States, who informs us that the Spanish ports are opened; that intelligence had been received of the French fleet having sailed from Toulon, consisting of fifteen sail; and that the Brest fleet was also said to be out.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in St. Pierre, Mart. dated the 1st of March to his correspondent in this city, received by the Cleopatra.

"A French fleet from Rochefort, consisting of 5 sail of the line, 3 frigates, 2 brigs, with 3,500 troops, arrived here on the 19th of February, and sailed the next day for Dominica. They effected a landing at Dominica, and burnt all the houses excepting 4 in the town of Roseau; the merchants did not save their books or papers. The French met with opposition, and found it impracticable to take the island. They evacuated it on the 27th February; and sailed for Guadaloupe, with 8 or 9 sail British merchant ships, and several small vessels, which they fell in with and captured at Dominica. The merchants and inhabitants at Dominica have lost their all, and must be in a very distressing situation, as they had no intelligence of the arrival of the above fleet in the West-Indies, until they made their appearance off the town.

"An embargo was immediately laid upon all vessels in the island of Martinique, on the arrival of the French fleet, which lasted for 6 days."

MURDER.

On Monday afternoon, a man of the name of Banks, living in the Bowrey, committed this horrid crime on the body of his wife. It appears they had lived unhappily for some time, though but ten months married, and had often used threatening language and abusive conduct towards each other. On that day their quarrel rose to an uncommon pitch, but their neighbours who heard them, did not wish to interfere between man and wife.—A message was sent to the watch-house on the occasion, but the police also did not chuse to concern themselves. The boy who was dispatched for the civil officer, on his return met Banks walking apparently with much composure with a basket on his arm. It was then thought proper to go down into the cellar, where the dispute happened, when shocking to relate, they found the woman's skull