

in the schooner Adventure, having got on board that vessel the day before, off the mouth of Savannah river.

[Courier.]  
February 15.

Captain Carlson, of the brig Merchant, from Barbadoes, brings accounts of the arrival there of a British Squadron of five sail of the line, under admiral Duckworth. It was asserted at Barbadoes, that this Squadron had fallen in with that from Rochefort, off the island of St. Nicholas, (one of the Cape-de-Verdes) on the 25th of December last; but as none but admiral Duckworth's ship could get near enough to the French Squadron, it avoided an action.

Capt. Carlson saw nine sail of British ships of the line in St. Kitt's, as he passed it; and on arriving at Turks Island, where he stopped, was told by a respectable gentleman of that place, that capt. Sayac, an American, who had been there, stated, that he had been boarded on the 24th of January, ten leagues northwest of Anguilla, by a French Squadron of seven sail of the line, who detained him two hours, and made many enquiries respecting the British naval force in the West-Indies.

NORFOLK, February 11.

We have been favoured with the St. Christopher Gazette of the 21st January, received by the schooner Virginia-Anna, capt. Sampson.

Certain advices had been received in the West-Indies that the Brest fleet were at sea. It seems that to the number of 18 sail of the line, and in the absence of admiral Cornwallis, they put to sea about the beginning of December. One of the British cruising ships, on the 15th December, in lat. 44, long. 10, fell in with this fleet steering W. S. W. From this course it appeared to be destined for the West-Indies. Their arrival was not known at St. Kitts on the 21st of January, or at Guadaloupe on the 16th of that month. The circumstance of being so near to the coast of Portugal, is rather against the probability of this fleet being bound to the West-Indies; this might, however, have been occasioned by the head winds. It appears that as late as the 25th of Dec. that the fleet had not sailed from St. Vincent's.

NEW-YORK, February 20.

**Meteorological.** The weather yesterday was so remarkably warm, that we consider it worthy of being recorded. The Mercury, in a correct standard Fahrenheit thermometer, exposed at half past 2 o'clock, P. M. in the shade, in the vacant lot adjoining the city hall, stood at 69, within 7 of summer heat; the wind was due south and the atmosphere clear.

The assembly of this state has ordered a bill to be brought in, fixing a day for the execution of Stephen Arnold for murder.

February 22.

The census of the city and county of New-York, was completed yesterday; from which it appears that there are 75,770 inhabitants, 26,000 of whom removed from their usual residence during the sickness of last summer. This will give to the city and county two representatives in congress, without including the county of King's and Staten Island, as heretofore has been the practice.

We are informed by a gentleman, who came passenger in the brig Archilles, from St. John's, Porto-Rico, that a Danish vessel arrived there on the 22d January, from the city of St. Domingo, where she was detained in coming out of the harbour 34 hours by a French fleet of 10 sail of the line and 10 frigates, which had arrived there from Brest, and had landed 1,500 troops.

Our informant adds, on the authority of the secretary of the government, that the Danish captain had informed the governor of Porto-Rico of the above intelligence.

From the Kingston Royal Gazette of the 25th ult.

Capt. Peile, of the Resolution, of Liverpool, which vessel arrived on Wednesday at Port Morant, has favoured us with the following extract from his log-book, from which we have every reason to hope that a British Squadron of equal force, is closely treading on the heels of the enemy:

"On the 10th December, in lat. 35, 20, long. 11, at day light, perceived a French fleet, in two divisions, one in the S. E. quarter, the other in the N. W. About 8, A. M. the commodore (the Arethusa) made a signal for the fleet to heave too, which was immediately obeyed. At half past 8 the commodore stood in for the fleet with a signal to disperse, and for an enemy in sight. He then stood to the N. N. W. with about 10 sail, accompanied by the Boadicea frigate and the Wasp sloop. At 10 the whole of the enemy's Squadron, consisting of 14 line of battle ships, a frigate, a sloop of war, and a brig, pursued the commodore. At 11, stood to the S. E. crossing the haube of the enemy's leading ship, almost within gun shot to the leeward, when the admiral making a signal, two of the enemy's two deckers stood after us, and chased us till 3, P. M. only the sternmost ships of their fleet being in sight to the N. W. The two ships then tacked, and joined their fleet; we steered a S. S. E. course till dark, and due W. all night. At day-light on the 17th, saw 14 or 15 sail of large ships astern, some lying to, and others steering different ways, apparently as if they had lost scent of their pursuit, which we conjectured to be the English fleet."

The Ellen in 45 days from Angola, and 18 from Dominica. She has 269 slaves on board and was bound to New-Providence, but has put in here in distress. At Dominica she learnt, that in consequence of information of 14 sail of the line having escaped from Brest, martial law had been proclaimed, but on the day of the Ellen's departure it was taken off, two frigates having arrived at Prince Rupert's with an

account of the arrival of sir John T. Duckworth, at Barbadoes, with 11 sail of the line and several frigates.

Vice-admiral lord Collingwood, on the 11th ult. was off Carthagena, blockading the Spanish Squadron in that port, with the following ships, viz.

Britannia, 100 guns, rear admiral W. Earl of Northesk, capt. C. Bullen; Queen, 98, vice-admiral lord Collingwood, capt. F. Pender; Dreadnought, 98, capt. J. Conn; Prince, 98, R. Grindall; Minotaur, 74, C. J. M. Mansfield; Thunderer, 74, lieutenant J. Stockham, (acting); another 74, name unknown; 2 frigates, and 2 sloops of war.

It is supposed that the ships that were off Cadiz would proceed to join lord Collingwood off Carthagena.

In consequence of information received from capt. Langford, of the Lark sloop of war, of the capture by the Rochefort Squadron of the vessels for Africa, under his convoy, sir John T. Duckworth had failed in quest of them, with the following ships of the line, viz.

Canopus, 80 guns, rear admiral T. Louis, capt. F. W. Austen; Donnegal, 80, P. Malcolm; Tigre, 80, B. Hallowell; Powerful, 74, R. Plampin; Spencer, 74, hon. R. Stopford; Agamemnon, 64, sir E. Barry, knt. and another 74, supposed to be the Ajax, lieutenant J. Pifford, (acting.)

This is the same Squadron which called at Madeira for information prior to the sailing of the Defiance, which arrived here last week.

The Zealous, 74, capt. John Oaks Hardy was at Gibraltar on the 9th ult. Captain Hardy, we are happy to state, was in good health on the 9th, though stated in the London papers to have been dead.

BASSATERRE, (St. Kitts) Jan. 21.

On Sunday evening last we had the pleasing sight of a Squadron of English ships of the line anchoring in this road; they are under the command of sir John Thomas Duckworth, vice-admiral of the white, and consist of the following ships:

Superb	74	Vice adm. Duckworth,
		Captain Keats.
Canopus	80	Rear admiral T. Louis,
		Captain Bullen.
Spencer	74	Capt. hon. R. Stopford.
Donnegal	80	Captain Malcolm.
Atlas	74	Captain Pym.
Agamemnon	74	Sir Edward Barry.

The Acasta, of 40 guns, Capt. Dunn, and another frigate, arrived here this morning.

It is this day reported that an express had arrived from England at Barbadoes, with the important intelligence that the Danes, as well as the Swedes, had declared war against France. And as there is no doubt of the king of Prussia's joining, as may be seen in a state paper in another part of this, Buonaparte's rapid advances in Germany may cost him very dear; he was by the last accounts, more than 500 miles from his capital, with large additional armies to contend with, who may not only retard his progress, but leave very little probability of his being able to make good his retreat.

His majesty's ship Northumberland, rear admiral Cochrane, arrived here this morning.

PHILADELPHIA, February 21.

Yesterday arrived the brig Lydia, capt. McCulloch, in 14 days from St. Martins, and informs that admiral Duckworth, from England; with 8 ships of the line and 3 frigates, were lying at St. Kitts 17 days ago—that the captain-general of Martinico, had ordered all the Swedes to leave the different ports of the French islands in 24 hours. The report of St. Bartholomews being taken, (mentioned yesterday) he contradicts, and says in unfounded.

BALTIMORE, February 22.

Captain Toby, arrived at Philadelphia from New-Orleans, informs, that all the Spanish officers had left that place for Pensacola, being ordered off, and all other Spanish subjects were packing up to depart.

February 24.

Captain Howell, from Porto Rico, informs, that it was reported at that place when he sailed, that 12 sail of French ships of the line, and as many frigates, had gone to leeward; supposed to be bound to the city of St. Domingo. Seven British frigates passed St. John's the day he sailed.—N. York paper.

Captain Whittlesey, of the brig Joseph, arrived yesterday from Surinam, informs us, that on his passage from that place, the 14th of January, to the windward of Martinique, he was boarded by three English men of war. On the 17th, he saw five sail of men of war, was boarded by one of them, who examined his papers, but they shewed no colours, supposed them to be French. The smallest of the ships was of 36 guns. They chased and brought to, two other vessels about the same time, but let them pass. They were then in lat. 19, 12, long. 62, 40, and were steering to the westward. On the 18th, spoke the brig Jane, Hooper, of Boston, from Martinique, who had been boarded by a 74 gun ship, one of the fleet that boarded-captain Whittlesey the day before, who informed, that they were 36 days from Brest, (Rochefort probably) and that the fleet consisted of 7 sail, one of 100 guns, four of 74, and two frigates.—Ibid.

CARLISLE, (Penn.) February 11.

By a gentleman who left St. Louis, (Upper Louisiana) on the 31st December last, we are informed that a party of the Sock Indians took the opportunity when the Osages were out hunting, came in on their towns, killed about 100, consisting of old men, women and children, and took about as many prisoners. A number of the Osage chiefs came down to St. Louis, and

demanding protection from the United States, upon which general Wilkinson sent a lieutenant Huges, with a detachment of thirty men, to demand the prisoners.

We are also informed by the same gentleman, that a few days previous to his leaving St. Louis, an Indian chief sent down by capt. Lewis, from about 1500 miles up the Missouri, had set out from St. Louis, for the city of Washington, attended by lieutenant Climpson, and an interpreter; he is of the Kickapoo nation, of a dark complexion, and remarkably corpulent.

At the time of our informant's leaving that place they had received no account of the destruction of captain Lewis and his party. It is therefore to be hoped that the report which has been in circulation of their being cut off, is without foundation, as we have reason to suppose, had such an event taken place, they would there have received the earliest intelligence.

A serious affair has lately happened at Detroit. The following are the particulars of it as received by a gentleman at Washington. A soldier deserted the British lines and took refuge in Detroit. He was pursued into the American territory by two British officers, with a file of men, but was protected by the magistrates, who can only surrender in cases of murder and forgery. The British thereon endeavoured by force to carry him back, when an affray took place between them and the inhabitants, in which one of the British officers, a Mr. Muir, was shot through the leg, after which they retreated, leaving the deserter at Detroit. The British officers were each bound to appear and take their trials at the Detroit May court, under a given security of 1000 dollars each.

WASHINGTON, February 21.

The senate yesterday passed the bill for prohibiting intercourse with certain ports of St. Domingo—Yeas 21—Nays 8.

## Laws of Maryland,

An ACT relating to Sheriffs and Constables.

BE it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, That from and after the first day of April next, it shall not be lawful for any sheriff or deputy sheriff, or for any constable, within this state, during the time they respectively act as such, to purchase in any debt due from any person or persons residing, or who shall reside, at the time of the transfer or assignment of such debt to such sheriff or constable, within the county or hundred within which such sheriff or constable is authorized to serve process for the recovery of debts, whether such debt shall be due on judgment, bond, note or open account, unless such purchase, assignment or transfer, shall be made to such sheriff, deputy sheriff or constable, for a bona fide debt before that time due and owing to him from the person making such assignment or transfer.

And be it enacted, That if any person or persons shall be sued or warranted by any sheriff, deputy-sheriff or constable, or by any other person for the use of such sheriff, deputy-sheriff or constable, to recover any sum or sums of money which shall have been purchased, assigned or transferred as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such person to plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, and if on the trial it shall appear that such debt has been purchased in, assigned or transferred over, to such sheriff, deputy-sheriff or constable, contrary to the provisions of this act, there shall be a judgment entered in favour of the defendant.

And be it enacted, That on the return of an execution founded on a judgment purchased, assigned or transferred, to any sheriff, deputy-sheriff or constable, it shall and may be lawful for the person who shall have been executed as aforesaid to allege, in writing, to the court or magistrate before whom such execution shall be returned, that such judgment has been purchased, assigned or transferred, contrary to the provisions of this act, and the court to whom such allegation shall be made shall thereupon cause an issue to be made, and a trial before a jury to be had, and if it shall appear by the finding of the jury, that such purchase, assignment or transfer, has been made contrary to the provisions of this act, the court shall thereupon cause an entry to be made that such judgment is discharged, and an execution may thereupon issue to restore any sum or sums of money that has been raised under any such execution, and if such execution shall be returnable before any single magistrate, such magistrate, on such allegation being made, shall, in a summary way, determine the fact, and if such purchase shall appear to have been made, shall cause the said judgment to be entered discharged, and issue execution as before directed where returned to a court; Provided, that nothing contained in this act shall prevent, or be construed to prevent, any sheriff or coroner of this state from receiving an assignment of, and bringing suit on, any cause of action assigned to such sheriff or coroner under and in virtue of an act which passed in the year seventeen hundred and sixty-eight, entitled, An act for the recovery of certain American debts, and also upon defaults on executions, and recovering the money due thereon, agreeably to the provisions of this act; and provided, that any sheriff or coroner of this state shall also be entitled to all the benefits and advantages reserved to such sheriff or coroner under and in virtue of the act which passed in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-four, entitled, An act for the amendment of the law in certain cases, any thing in this act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.