

BOSTON, December 7.

Monday last Admiral Knowles sail'd from Nantasket for the West-Indies, with the following ships of war, viz. the Canterbury and Warwick of 60 guns each, the Lark and Forby of 40, the Aldborough of 20, and the schooner Achilles of 16.

Last Friday night we had as violent a storm of wind about N. East (attended with a great snow) as has been known for many years past, by which much damage was done on shore, as well as to the shipping in the harbour. Several chimneys were blown down, and the roofs of sundry buildings tore up, and carried to a considerable distance by the violence of the wind, several old buildings quite turned over; and in the harbour, the Massachusetts frigate was drove from her moorings, and received much damage, and several other vessels either parted their cables, broke their masts, or drags'd their anchors, and drove ashore, and 2 or 3 were everfit and sunk at the wharfs.

And on Friday, in the afternoon, a fire broke out of a sail-maker's Loft upon Wentworth's wharff, which being got to a considerable head before it was discovered, soon consum'd the whole building, with Mr. Fletcher's warehouse, a joiner's shop, &c. and a large quantity of new canvass, besides the sails belonging to several vessels. The damage is computed at a very large sum.

We hear from below, that in the storm last Thursday night, the following vessels were drove ashore, viz. a small schooner on Long Island, a sloop from New York (Bagley) on Hangan's Island, and a brigantine (not known from whence) on Squantum Neck: Capt. Stevenson, in a large ship from the West Indies, till it out in Nantasket road, as did also a brigantine from Newcastle, that came in during the storm; but the Panther, a ship of 300 tons, bound to Madeira, that lay in Nantasket road, was drove from her anchors upon the rocks near Rainford's island, and will be lost.

We hear also, that a brigantine from Barbadoes, is ashore on the back of the cape; and from Marblehead, that great damage has been done to the shipping there.

Extract of a Letter from Kingston, Jamaica, dated October 14. 1747.

The Spanish galley that was taken formerly by Capt. Forrest, and fitted out here as a privateer, came in yesterday from the southward, and has taken a large Dutch ship that sail'd from hence about 6 weeks ago, bound as they say for Coracia, but they found her going to Ea Vera Cruz, with 90 chests of arms on board. As she could not turn up here, they burnt her through the Sticks, with a rich register ship which they also took, worth eighty thousand pounds, as also a large Spanish schooner, and have sent them to South-Carolina, or some other part in the continent, to be retaken.

Boston, Decem. 15. Last Wednesday morning, the town was exceedingly surprized by a terrible fire which broke out in the court house, whereby that spacious and beautiful building, except the butt walls, was entirely destroyed: The rise and progress of which, according to the best information we can get, is as follows, viz. The day before being very cold, and the general court sitting, there had been two fires in the chimneys of the chambers both of the council and representatives, and from those chimneys between them, the fire seems to have been kindled, and to have been lurking all night in one of the beams beneath them; till it first broke out in the dead or cedar wainscot passage between the doors of those chambers, which were also of dead or cedar wainscot.

For as soon in the morning, the watch at the east end of the town bells broke up, and between five and ten minutes after, the rays of the fire first discovered itself in the said passage, through the great window against it, by glancing into the chambers of the north side of the town house, where two or three people were awake; and running to the window, first saw it there; but it quickly broke into the council chamber, and ran up the dead wainscot stairs, into the left and lightborn above, and set them all in a blaze, before the people came either to manage the engines, or to save the private records, books, papers, pictures, or any thing else in the chambers or apartments, to the inevitable loss of the privilege. But through the mercy of G O D, the county record under the western stair case below, as also copies of the minutes of council from the beginning to 1737, being at the secretary's dwelling house, were happily saved. In the cellars, which were burnt by several persons, a great quantity of wines and other liquors were lost; to the amount of several thousand pounds: The loss of the flames occasion'd such a great heat, as to set the some of the opposite walls on fire, notwithstanding they had been covered with snow, and were extinguish'd with much

In the House of Representatives, 12 Decembris, A. D. 1747.

Upon a motion made and seconded. Resolved, That the house now make particular enquiry into the late fire in the court-house was first discovered, and by what means it was occasioned.—After examining the Door-keeper, and receiving a particular account of the time and circumstances of his leaving the house the evening before, and enquiring of those gentlemen who early discovered the fire. Resolved, That it appears to the satisfaction of this house, that the late fire which consumed the court house, proceeded from the woodwork under the hearth taking fire, and that the fire first broke out in the entry way between the council chamber and the representatives room, and from thence went up the staircase, and through the roof, and continued until the house was consumed.

One day, the beginning of last week, a fine privateer sloop call'd the Dreadnought, Capt. Maybury Commander, sail'd from this port for the West Indies, and the night following, in a severe storm, was cast away and lost upon Cape Cod, but the people were all saved.

December 21. Last Monday night, two men on board a vessel, having made a charcoal fire in a close storage of it's stow, turn'd in one their cabins, one of which was close, the other open; the men minding they were both found speechless, being almost suffocated, proper means being used, he that was found in the close cabin is like to recover; but the other, named Oliver Haley, continued senseless 'till Wednesday, about noon, when he died.

NEW-YORK, December 14.

By Capt. Britain, who arriv'd here last Friday, in six weeks from Cape-Breton, we hear that some French inhabitants who liv'd at a village call'd Santi Esprite, about 12 leagues from Louisbourg, consisting of about 30 houses and a church, had abandon'd it, and gone off, 'tis suppos'd either to Canada or Menin.

December 21. Saturday last the wife of John Casney, of this city, carrier, being seized, as 'tis suppos'd, with a contagious distemper, unhappily fell into the fire, and no help being near, was burnt to death.

December 28. On Friday arriv'd here the ship Great, Capt. Haysam, in a long passage from Newcastle and the Orkney He left Newcastle the 14th of September last, and has brought 22 later prints than we have had. He sail'd from the Orkney the 23d of September, and was taken the 25th, by a French privateer of 16 carriage-guns, and 150 men, who ransom'd him for 9500 sterling, taking on board the second mate as an hostage.

January 4. Yesterday came in here a French privateer taken the 27th of November last, about a league off of Martinico, by the privateer brig. Catharine, Capt. Ouline, of this port (late Capt. Perkins, who died a few days after they sail'd from hence) in company with the privateer brig. Revenge, Capt. Troup, also of this port. This ship was one of the French fleet (lastly mentioned) and is called the St. Anne of Rochelle, mounts 14 Carriage Guns, had 47 Men, and is about 200 tons. Her cargo consists of shot, cordage, beef, &c.

By her we learn, that Capt. Ouline has taken a snow belonging to the same fleet, laden with flour and beef, and sent her into St. Kitts: Capt. Troup, in Company with Capt. Ouline, drove 4 more ashore on Martinico, and suppos'd all the men were lost: And were left by this prize in chace of another.

PHILADELPHIA, December 20.

Last week came to town, the Captains Houston and Clark of this Province, who were both taken some time ago by a Spanish privateer, and carried to the Havannah: By them we are inform'd, that the mofety fleet that has been there so long, in all the 28th of October, under convoy of four men of war: that a few days after, a large French ship came in there from Ea Vera Cruz, said to be very sick, and sail'd again before the informants; which ship they suppose was ashore on Cape Florida, as they saw a large ship ashore when they came through the gulf. That a large ship, designed for a privateer, mounts 20 guns, was launched; which ship, it was said, was to be on our coast early in the spring: And that there were several other privateers sitting out there.

A List of English vessels carried into the Havannah, from the 1st of April, 1747, to November following.

Capt. Snow, in a sloop from Cape-Fear to Boston: Merced, a schooner, and Bute, a brig, from Virginia to Anegon: John Banes, a sloop from Barbadoes to Virginia: Satus, a sloop, from Carolina to Bermuda: Everton, a ship, from Boston to Jamaica: White, a Billander, to Carolina: Mill,