

rently reported, that twenty more, in order to make their number fourscore, will be erected with all convenient speed. As 'tis taken here almost for granted, that the war is on int of breaking out in Italy, Franco proposes to supply the King of the Two Sicilies with 40,000 men, as auxiliary troops; I we are credibly informed, that the king of Sardinia will give them a free passage thro' his territories.

Genoa, March 2. On Tuesday last an English vessel arrived at Algiers; the return whereof is waited for with the utmost impatience.

It came from Lisbon and Cadiz; and its cargo consists of a large quantity of divers sorts of rich effects for and on the account of several merchants belonging to this city, besides 90000 ortogonal peices.

The carnival having interrupted, in some measures, the course of public affairs, the government have began again to take them into their serious consideration.

'Tis generally conjectured, that there will be an election of a doge by the 6th of April next.

There are four or five candidates on the list, who are under some pain for fear that high post should fall to their lot, as 'tis not only very laborious, but very expensive.

### L O N D O N.

*At a court martial held on board his majesty's yacht the Charlotte, at Deptford, on the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, and 20th days of December, 1749.*

The court, pursuant to an order from the hon. the lords of the admiralty, to Wm. Rowley, Esq; (dated the first instant) proceeded to enquire into the conduct and behaviour of Charles Knowles, Esq; a rear admiral of his majesty's fleet, in, and relating to an action which happened on the 11th of October, 1748, between a British Squadron under his command, and a Squadron of Spain; and having heard the witnesses, as well for the crown as the prisoner, and also what the prisoner had to say in his defence, and thoroughly considered the same, the court do unanimously agree, that it had appear'd that Mr. Knowles, by forming the line to the Northward, upon seeing the enemy in the morning, acted properly, and like an officer; but while he was standing for the enemy, he might, by a different disposition of his Squadron, have begun the attack with six ships, as early in the day, as four of them were engaged; and that therefore, by his neglect to do so, he gave the enemy a manifest advantage; but in the situation the Squadron was at the time the *Tilbury* returned the enemy's fire, the rear admiral seems to have acted properly in making the signal for battle, and beginning the engagement then as he did; that it appears the *Cornwall* continued in close and smart action better than an hour, and that Mr. Knowles remained on board her, with his flag, after he was disabled from continuing the action, tho' he might have upon her being disabled, shifted the flag on board another ship; and the court are unanimously of opinion, that he ought to have done so, in order to have conducted and directed, during the whole action, the motions of the Squadron entrusted to his care and conduct; but as it appears that Mr. Knowles, expressed great earnestness and zeal to get into action, and while the *Cornwall* was engaged, shewed great personal courage, therefore the court do unanimously think, that his not removing his flag arose from a mistake, and not from backwardness to bring it upon her into action; and upon consideration of Mr. Knowles's whole conduct relating to the action, the court do unanimously agree, that he falls under part of the 14th article of war, namely, the word negligence, and no other, and also under the 23d article. And the court do therefore unanimously adjudge, that he be reprimanded, for not bringing up the Squadron in closer order than he did, and not beginning the attack with as great force as he might have done, and also for not shifting his flag, on the *Cornwall's* being disabled. And he is hereby reprimanded accordingly.

*At a court martial held on board his majesty's yacht the Charlotte on the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th of Jan. 1749. Wm. Rowley, Esq; Rear Admiral president.*

The court, in pursuance of an order from the hon. the lords of the admiralty to Wm. Rowley, Esq; (dated the first of last month) proceeded to enquire into the conduct and behaviour of Capt. Charles Holmes, upon a charge exhibited against him by Rear Admiral Knowles for bad conduct, breach of orders, disobedience to signals, and not doing his utmost to take and engage a Spanish Squadron in an action off the *Havanna*, in 1748, and having heard the witnesses produced both by Mr. Knowles and the prisoner, and thoroughly considered their

deeds, the court do unanimously agree, that it hath appeared Capt. Holmes behaved like a good and gallant officer during the whole action; that he likewise shew'd very good conduct for the preservation of his conveyance when he fell in with the Spanish Squadron, a day or two before the action, and also great zeal for his king and country, in quitting his homeward course to go in quest of rear admiral Knowles, in order to inform him of that Squadron, and to strengthen him with the addition of his ship, the better to enable him to engage them, when he had at the same time not only a large part of his own fortune on board the ship, but was pressed by the passengers to proceed directly home. The court do therefore unanimously agree to acquit Capt. Holmes with honour, of every part of the charge exhibited against him, and he is accordingly hereby honourably acquitted. Signed by all.

Capt. Poulett was also honourably acquitted.  
A copy of a letter, dated Nov. 30, 1749, from Geo. Hick, late a blacksmith of York, who went over to Nova-Scotia last Spring.

*My dear and loving wife,*  
"This being the fourth letter I have sent you, and I hope that they all found you in good health as I am at present, and in a very good state of life, and liveth very well, but could be glad you would come over, where you'd live better than ever you did in old England: A country well fortified with batteries and cannon, well supplied with wood and water; plenty of salt provisions and fresh meat, and fish of all sorts; and where there is plenty of work, and good wages, and every common labourer that is willing to work in the summer-time, will earn 2s. 6d. a day, and a tradesman 5s. a day. I being set up for myself, keeps a man at work with me, and pays him 7s. 6d. a week from Martinmas till Candlemas. I sell rum by quart, and in smaller quantities. I buy it at 3s. a gallon, and lay out two guineas a week in it, by which I find I get money very fast; I am this day worth 50 £ in cash and goods, but my lot of fifty acres will not be set out till the spring. My dear, I live as well as man can desire, I want for no money nor cloaths, I want for no victuals nor drink, nor lodging; I want for nothing but you and my dear children, and should be very glad that you would come in the fleet, the next spring, in the year 50; you shall be kindly welcome to enjoy my prosperous labour, as you may live an easy life, without labour to toil yourself. Pray if you can, send a letter before you come; direct your letter for Halifax in Nova Scotia.

I am your loving husband G. Hick.

### B O S T O N, April 9.

*Extract of a Letter from Cadiz, to a Gentleman in this Town, dated Feb. 25. 1750.*

"Feb. 16. Last night, or rather evening, a very rash action was committed here by a young Spanish officer, in setting the soldiers against the boat's crew of the *Nightingale* man of war, Capt. Arbuthnot, and proceeding to take the Captain, and a gentleman that was going on board with him, out of the boat, and beating the sailors.—The Spanish officer took care to be in the wrong in every particular.—He caus'd the king's colours to be struck, the arm-chest to be open'd and the arms brought on shore. As soon as I got to the Mould the governor ordered the Captain to be releas'd, and every thing to be dispos'd as I should desire. I thought it proper to conduct the Captain to my house, but to leave the spoil to the captors. We are now busy in taking depositions, to send by an express to Mr. Keene, to make complaint directly to the king of Spain, it being of too high a nature to be decided here.

By a Law passed by the General Court at the present Session, for Ascertaining the Rates of coin'd Silver and Gold, and English Half Pence and Farthings.

A Guinea is to pass	at	28s
An English Crown	at	6/8
A half Crown	at	3/4
An English Shilling	at	1/4
An English six-Pence	at	8d.
A double Johannee or Gold Coin of Portugal, of the Value of £. 3 12s Sterling	at	£. 4 16s
A single Johannee	at	2 8
A Moldore	at	1 16
A Pistole of full Weight	at	1 2

Three English Farthings for one Penny, and English Half-Pence in proportion.