

(XXXVIIIth YEAR.)

THE

(No. 1877.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1783.

LONDON, October 10.

It appears that admiral Graves, who had the charge of the homeward bound Jamaica convoy, kept a very northward course, to avoid the enemy's cruisers, which he apprehended might be detached to intercept and pick up the tardy ships of the convoy. His flag was flying on board the *Ramilles* from his departure from Jamaica to the moment it was found necessary to quit her, for the preservation of the lives of her crew. She lost her masts on the 10th of last month in a violent gale of wind, and continued ungovernable till the 19th, when she was abandoned and left sinking. She was then in lat. 41. 20. north, long. 17. west. A number of ships of the convoy were observed foundering between the 13th and 19th of September, though most of the crews were saved.

Extra of a letter from Plymouth, October 8.

Monday, October 7. The merchantmen arrived yesterday here from Jamaica, are as follows: the *London*, the *Oleary*, *Diana*, *Peter*, *Belona*, *Bedford*, *Ashley*, *Prince George*, *Jamaica*, *Planter*, *Friendship*, *Lady Taylor*, *St. Anne's*, *Planter*, and *British Hero*.

The accounts brought by these ships are truly melancholy; the gale of wind, the 16th ult. in lat. 42. 30. long. 48. 33. caused a general dispersion, and proved fatal to some of the men of war and merchantmen. The *Ramilles*, 74, admiral Graves, captain Moriarty, after having lost all her masts, and thrown all her guns overboard in the night, was provisionally, in the morning of the 17th of September, in this distressed condition, in the middle of the foregoing merchantmen, of which, at great hazard, saved all the crew, except those left when the masts and yards went by the board. Captain Moriarty, and 200 of the crew, are arrived here. Just after they left the *Ramilles*, she went down.

The *Centaur*, 74, lost all her masts, rudder, and bowsprit, and was left under the care of the *Ville de Paris*, which we thence the gale surprisingly, having only carried away a top-mast-yard; it was feared the *Centaur* must be scuttled or burnt, as her situation was very dreadful.

Extra of a letter from Paris.

At a meeting held the 19th of September, at the French minister's, there were present Messrs. Fitzherbert and Oswald, on the part of Great-Britain; Dr. Franklin and Mr. Jay, from America; the count d'Aranda, ambassador from Spain; and M. de Bernabode, and another person, from Holland; who all produced their credentials from their respective courts, fully authorizing them to treat, and to settle the preliminaries of a general peace. These ambassadors are to meet again in a few days.

Extra of a letter from the Hague, September 11.

On Tuesday Mr. Adams, the American minister, had a conference with the States General, when the treaty of amity and commerce between the thirteen United States of America and this republic was signed by their high mightinesses.

On 12. It was yesterday confidently reported, that advices were received from Paris, dated on Sunday last, which positively assert, that the siege of Gibraltar was raised. This important intelligence was received on Thursday evening, by a nobleman at the west end of the town.

The nobleman alluded to in the foregoing paragraph, is the right honourable the earl of Shelburne.

So confident was the duc de Crillon of taking Gibraltar, in consequence of the grand attack by sea and land, that in the last summons he sent general Elliott to surrender, he warned him, that if his resistance should be obstinate, he could not possibly answer for the impetuosity of his soldiers, whose fury he was afraid he should not be able to restrain, if they were driven to the necessity of storming; the general, however, was inflexible, and Crillon's tone is somewhat lowered since the 13th of September.

It was said yesterday, with great confidence, that lord Keppel had resigned his office as first lord of the admiralty, and that a commission had passed the great seal, appointing lord Howe his successor. It was further said, that lord Keppel was to officiate until the return of lord Howe from Gibraltar.

On 13. Yesterday morning some letters were received from Ireland, which contain an account of the transports there, having nearly finished their lading of provisions, would sail for America as soon as the convoy is ready.

On 14. The *Medway* is arrived with four East-India ships under her convoy.

The Mediator man of war, has taken and brought into Plymouth, three large store ships intended for Brazil.

The complexion of the French letters received on Saturday, are such as place it beyond a doubt, that

the court are more than ever inclined to peace, since their late letters from the East-Indies and the successes of the Spaniards at Gibraltar. As our court are now in the mood for peace, it is probable they will not let an opportunity slip of putting an end to a war, the complexion of which changes very visibly in favour of England.

Lord Cornwallis is appointed to the chief command in the East-Indies.

The count d'Artois, brother to the French king, arrived at Paris from the siege of Gibraltar about the 11th of October.

Sir Edward Hughes was preparing to depart on an important expedition, supposed against the Dutch East-India settlements.

The price of three per cent. consols stock, on the 17th of October was 54 and an eighth.

By authentic letters received on Saturday from India we are informed, that Hyder Ally, at length tired of the various defeats and repulses his legions have met with, and finding his interest declining with the country powers, has made overtures of peace, which it is said will be acceded to by the East India company.

The late good news from India has entirely dispelled every doubt previously entertained for our Asiatic settlements, by the proprietors of India stock and the nation in general.

On 15. It is generally understood at the west end of the town, that the loan for the ensuing year will be proposed to the public soon after the meeting of parliament, and that the first payment will be made early in the month of January.

The Dutch, who treated the court of London so haughtily a very short time ago, have been obliged to make the most abject concessions to the Danes; and are still sinking more and more in their language by every courier that is dispatched to Copenhagen.

The Parisians express great astonishment at the ideas of peace, with which all the English papers are crowded, especially as they have no opinion that an negotiation will take place till the end of another campaign.

It may be said that times are changed in favour of America, since the year 1776, upon which it is to be observed, that from the great support rebellion received in our own senate, the colonies, perfidious in their determination to shake off the British government, and gained some important advantages in the field; but it is to be ascertained, that at the time Mr. Fox was in office, the provinces were in a state to prosecute the war with vigour, or indeed to support it with a chance of success, for another campaign, we directly appeal to the real accounts, describing their own miseries and impoverished state, as an incontrovertible evidence of the contrary. The ad. res. of the loyalists to the British commissioners at New York, published lately in this paper, states the miserable situation of the colonies, and laments that, at a moment when we had the fairest prospect of bringing them once more under the dominion of England, a vicious system in the cabinet at home should, in a moment, blast all their hopes. However, the public will soon be officially informed on this very important subject, as Sir Guy Carleton's dispatches are shortly expected. He will truly inform us respecting the temper and condition of the colonies, and from thence the people will be enabled to judge, with tolerable precision, what species of reward Mr. Fox is entitled to for the services he has done his country.

On 26. The pensions of American refugees are stopped, by order of his majesty, till a new act can be made, which shall exclude those who have too long been undetected objects of Great-Britain's charity. Mr. chancellor Pitt is to have the arrangement of this business.

This day it was reported on change, that the *Ville de Paris* was seen by a Portuguese vessel, which is arrived at Oporto, bearing away for Lisbon.

NEW-YORK, December 14.

On Wednesday arrived a brig in twenty-two days from St. Kitts; by her we have advice, that two days before she left that island, a gentleman, whose veracity was relied upon, arrived there from Antigua, and brought intelligence, that a frigate or sloop of war had arrived at St. Lucia, with dispatches from lord Howe, giving an account of his lordship's arrival at Gibraltar, on the 4th of October last, with thirty-seven sail of the line, five fifty-gun ships, some frigates, and about two hundred transports, store ships and victuallers, which had effectually relieved that garrison.

A gazette extraordinary was published at St. Lucia, on the receipt of lord Howe's dispatches, and the gentleman who brought the news to St. Kitts declared, that he had read it; it contained a detail of the operations of the besieged and besiegers from the 11th of September last. The sad disaster which happened to the land and sea armaments of France and Spain, employed before Gibraltar, on the 13th of that month, we have already given the best accounts we could obtain. We have now the pleasure to learn through the before mentioned channel, that, on the 2d of October last, the combined army, who had been melancholy spectators of the destruction of their floating batteries and gun-boats, on which their most sanguine hopes of reducing the place were founded, hearing of the near approach of lord Howe's fleet, and that the own boasted armada had shrunk into Cadiz, to avoid falling in its way, made a desperate effort to storm the British lines; the attacks of the assailants were extremely spirited, and,

although repulsed on the 2d, they renewed them on the 3d, when convinced of their inability to make any impression they finally retired, leaving about four thousand men the flower of the French and Spanish armies, dead upon the isthmus which connects the peninsula of Gibraltar to the main.

Lord Howe, upon his arrival in the bay of Gibraltar, took a large Spanish floating battery, mounted with brass cannon, which carried balls of 68 pounds. It was a 64 cut down.

It is said that among the slain, found before the lines of Gibraltar, after the late assault, were a number of Spanish grandees, and French nobles.

The French fleet which lately arrived in the West-Indies, we are informed, consisted of four sail of the line and the same number of frigates, having transports under their convoy with 4000 troops on board. Two sail of the line, three frigates, and 1500 troops were destined for Martinique, and two sail of the line, one frigate, and 1500 troops for Cape Francois.

On Wednesday was sent in here the rebel privateer brig *Scammel*, belonging to Boston, prize to some of his majesty's ships.

His majesty's copper-bottomed sloop of war *Drake*, with dispatches from Quebec, arrived here on Wednesday.

CHATHAM, December 18.

Copy of a letter from count de Vergennes to general Washington, dated at Versailles the 29th of July, 1782.

SIR, IT is not in quality of a king, the friend and ally of the United States (though with the knowledge and content of his majesty) that I now have the honour to write to your excellency. It is as a man of sensibility, and a tender father, who feels all the force of paternal love, that I take the liberty to address to your excellency, my earnest solicitations in favour of a mother and a family in tears. Her situation seems the more worthy of notice, on our part, as it is to the humanity of a nation, at war with her own, that she has recourse, for what she ought to receive from the impartial justice of her own generals.

I have the honour to enclose your excellency a copy of a letter which Mrs. Aigill has just wrote me. I am not known to her, nor was I acquainted that her son was the unhappy victim, destined by lot to expiate the odious crime that a formal denial of justice obliges you to revenge. Your excellency will not read this letter without being extremely affected; it had that affect upon the king and queen, to whom I communicated it. The goodness of their majesties hearts induce them to desire, that the iniquities of an unfortunate mother may be calmed, and her tenderness reassured. I feel, Sir, that there are cases where humanity itself exacts the most extreme rigour; perhaps the one now in question may be of the number; but allowing reprisals to be just, it is not less horrid to those who are the victims; and the character of your excellency is too well known for me not to be persuaded that you desire nothing more than to be able to avoid the disagreeable necessity.

There is one consideration, Sir, which, though it is not decisive, may have an influence on your resolution; captain Aigill is doubtless your prisoner, but he is among those whom the arms of the king contributed to put into your hands at York town. Although this circumstance does not operate as a safeguard, it however justifies the interest I permit myself to take in this affair. It is in your power, Sir, to consider and have regard to it, you will do what is very agreeable to their majesties; the danger of young Aigill, the tears, the despair of his mother, affect them sensibly; and they will see with pleasure the hope of consolation shine out for those unfortunate people.

In seeking to deliver Mr. Aigill from the fate which threatens him, I am far from engaging you to seek another victim; the pardon, to be perfectly satisfactory, must be entire. I do not imagine it can be productive of any bad consequences. If the English general has not been able to punish the horrible crime you complain of, in so exemplary a manner as he should, there is reason to think he will take the most efficacious measures to prevent the like in future.

I sincerely wish, Sir, that my intercession may meet success; the sentiment which dictates it, and which you have not ceased to manifest on every occasion, assures me that you will not be indifferent to the prayers and to the tears of a family which has recourse to your clemency through me. It is rendering homage to your virtue to implore it. I have the honour to be, with the most perfect consideration, Sir, your's, &c.

Signed, DE VERGENNES.

Copy of a letter from Mrs. Aigill to count de Vergennes, dated London, July 18, 1782.

SIR,

IF the politeness of the French court will permit an application of a stranger, there can be no doubt but one in which all the tender feelings of an individual can be interested, will meet with a favourable reception from a nobleman, whose character does honour not only to his own country, but to human nature. The subject, Sir, on which I presume to implore your assistance, is too heart-piercing for me to dwell on, and common fame has, most probably, informed you of it; it therefore renders the painful task unnecessary. My son, (an only son) as dear as he is brave, amiable as he is deserving, to be so, only nineteen, a prisoner upon