

**BOSTON, Mass. 29.**  
**INTERCEPTED DISPATCHES.**  
*My particular.*

On Wednesday arrived from Alicante, via Gibraltar, the fast sailing armed brig Alert, capt. Rich, only 29 days from the latter port, where he remained for 8 hours. The American Consul confided to his care a package of dispatches, written in cyphers, addressed to Citizen Tallrand, and found on board of the ship Altea, capt. Pearce, from New-York, and professedly bound to Comina, in Spain. The ship was met with at sea by a British frigate—and art. Pearce was desired to receive on board a few Spanish prisoners, which he refused, with singular vehemence, suspicious were excited respecting her true destination, and neutrality of her cargo. In consequence of which she was taken possession of. A few days afterwards, the cabin boy, in taking a bottle of porter from some chest in the stern locker, drew forth a letter, which the Captain, who was standing by, with confusion, instantly seized and pocketed. This being communicated to the Prize-Master, induced him to search for other papers; and between the ceiling and the quarter-deck over the cabin was found the Dispatches in Cyphers. The nature of the letter from the locker, we have not heard. When the Prize arrived at Gibraltar the Captain and a passenger were put into confinement—Soon after capt. Rich arrived, on Wednesday, these papers were carried to the President at Quincy. Nothing has yet transpired of their contents.

**PHILADELPHIA, March 28.**  
**Important Letter.**

The following extract of a letter of the 23d inst. from a gentleman of the best intelligence and respectability in NORTHAMPTON, gives a pretty accurate view of the situation of that county:

With respect to the general disposition of the people in this county, it is very difficult for me to obtain such information upon which I can form a correct opinion. Many do not vote at the polls at Birtley to amount to any crime at all, but believe the act was perfectly right inasmuch as the object was in defence of liberty; others again believe they have gained a complete victory over government and its from henceforth they will not be troubled for the payment of taxes. Others believe that government will not be able to bring a large body of men to act against them; because, for they, every body thinks as we do, except a few dissenting Tories in K. B. For my part, I trust government will judge of the business as it ought, and not look upon it as a contemptible thing—Should a small number of men be sent to support the Marshal in the execution of his duty, and they should meet with the least check, it will become a serious piece of business to us as few that have firmly adhered to the government. In such a case, a large number who from fear, have for the present remained neuter, will at once declare themselves for the rebels, and become active in the cause of sedition, &c. &c. &c. it is true, have been in the country, preaching (as it is said) submission to the laws; but I doubt whether the impression, if any was made, will be lasting. Some people, I am told, begin to fear it is a snare, and say they have a better chance since they went to Philadelphia, because they tell a different story now from that which they told at the election.

In Mount Bethel township, a number of persons met to consult with the Constable, as to what was right or wrong to be done. They were divided in opinion, their Col. and a Cap. were waiting on general Brown to hear his sentiments, before they came to a conclusion. The meeting was then adjourned to another day, to receive the report from the Gen. The messengers, the Col. and Cap. waited on him; he recommended submission to the laws as they reported. The clamorous part of the assembly that the Gen. Col. and Cap. were all to need tories, or would turn and therefore, should not be trusted.

K. believes, he was told that Congress had empowered the President to borrow as much money as he pleased, and to mortgage any, or all of the States, for the payment of that he will surely mor-

gave Penn's loan to fill, because it is the right, and that when he gave all the money he will run off to England, buy himself a torship, and marry one of his daughters into the royal family.

From this letter, it is obvious, to be inferred, that although there is a great deal of gross ignorance and delusion in the county, yet there is also much wicked and determined obstinacy—they will trust nobody that advises for submission to government. Even their political friends and advisers on former occasions, lose all power and confidence when they recommended submission to law. Another observation that arises from this letter is, that the strange uncertainty and delay with which the preparations to quell this insurrection have been conducted, have already infused a confidence among the rebels, in their own strength, and a contempt for the government. It is now three weeks since a mob of an hundred men set themselves up in open defiance of the government, and in violent opposition to the law; and yet it is all uncertainty and conjecture what will be done to vindicate its dignity and defend its laws. It is not wonderful if such want of speed and vigour gives even men less than an ignorant mob of insurgents, an unfavorable idea of the energy of the government.

**NORFOLK, April 9.**  
**ANOTHER PRIZE.**

Capt. Smith, arrived here last Saturday in the schooner Raging Polly, with a passage of 14 days from St. Croix. He relates, that the day he failed a schooner arrived at St. Croix from St. Thomas, which brought an account from Capt. Troxton (who was at St. Thomas, on the 21st ult. in the Constellation) that the insurgent frigate had taken a French privateer schooner, off Guadaloupe.

**WILMINGTON, April 18.**  
**EARTHQUAKE.**

At about three-quarters after three o'clock in the morning of Thursday last, the 11th instant, an alarming shock of an Earthquake was felt in his town and its vicinity. The relation of those who happened to be awake at the time the awful phenomenon commenced, differs very much; but from the most general opinion, we state the following account: A hollow rumbling noise was heard first from the north or north-east, which gradually diminished and then revived again with increased noise and a great trembling of the earth, resembling the effect of a heavy carriage rattling over a pavement. The sound seemed to progress in a south or south-west direction, and gradually to die away like deep distant thunder. From the commencement to the conclusion it is supposed was about a minute, and that the trembling lasted about half that time. Both were felt very sensibly by vessels and boats on the river.

**Port of Wilmington.**

**ENTERED** since our last.  
Sch'r. Friendship, S.oyer, Philad.  
Nancywright, Brown, Charleston  
Betsey, Brown, Ba. badces.  
Sloop Sally, Wilkinson, Philadelphia.  
Polly, Bintl, Gloucester.

**CLEARED**  
Brig. Sophia, Naylor, Kingston Ja.  
Lydia, Cooke, Surinam.  
Betsey, Austin, New York.  
Sch'r. J. no, Timanston, New York.  
Ringer, Sprague, Bolton.  
Hope, Carlons, Tobago.

**To the Editor of the WILMINGTON GAZETTE.**

SIR,  
FROM the commencement of your career in this town, I have always evinced a warm and sincere disposition to promote the prosperity of the Wilmington Gazette, nor has my zeal suffered any the least diminution. I think therefore, I have a right to make a few animadversions, in a friendly way, when any productions are artfully slipped into it, which have a tendency to affect its reputation. Of this class was a publication in your last number, stated to be a letter from the Secretary of War to General Smith. I have all surmises respecting the probability of any additions or interlineations being foisted into this letter. It is, forsooth, harmless enough, if it except that paragraph which compliments and praises the Brigadier.—But why—tell me sir, why is the public eye to be per-

petually dazzled with glittering ex-country, I was pleased to see these tracks in commendation of that his exertions use, and more so that the piece of morality, called General Smith? Has the field of literature or of politics been so sterile for those citizens who distinguished six months past that you have been themselves on this occasion, to make compelled to hunt through files of honorable mention in common with old newspapers for encomiastic printers to the northward, who did spirits on General Smith, dressed off not to talet even to make mention of a in all the gaudy pageantry of South pair of colours being presented to a Carolina pomp and vanity, in or company, and every other indicator to fill up the chafms in your on the wing public spirit) of their G zette? In the name of heaven, what have your subscribers to do with General Smith—or if any of them be in the sad plight of having to do with him, is there one who does not pray night and day for a speedy riddance? A credulous reader, sir, would be apt to conclude from the extravagant applauses scattered throughout these extracts, as they are termed, that the Honourable General, Speaker, &c. &c. had arrived at the very zenith of political importance and military renown.—Now, for my own part, I am not easily of faith as to believe this; no can I conjecture what his pretensions are to raise such a hubbub and dizzy the ears of the multitude, unless he has some hereditary claims; for it may be that like Goldsmith's strolling player, "His mother cry'd offiers and his father beat a drum."

But, Mr. Hall! I have indulged a suspicion in common with some others (perhaps an unjust one) that your design in committing to your press, these romantic exaggerations of General Smith's prowess and patriotism, was to reality to burlesque him more effectually for the entertainment of your subscribers, and at the same time, in such a manner as to afford to the blustering egotist himself, the most exquisite delight little estimable as he is in my opinion, I disapprove highly of this mode of panegirico-satirizing. Is it generous? Is it humane for any purpose, and particularly for the purpose of gratifying the malignity of those of your readers who are to be amused by irony of this sharp sort, another into a succession of gazettes, lampoons upon lampoons, in the fictitious and ludicrous garb of distorted panegyrics, levelled at a man whom a series of calamities has oppressed and dispirited? Who is at this moment entangled in a labyrinth of perplexing embarrassments, from which all his adroitness and cunning will scarcely extricate him? Suppose, as people will have it, and as I doubt not, that the General swallows it all *verbatim et literatim*, as the choicest and most delicate repast, is this an apology for making him as it were, the brunt of vulgar railing and ridicule? Is he a proper subject for the rude gibes and jests of the rabble?—For shame! For shame, Mr. Hall! Had you a twentieth part of his afflictions to bear, your little shoulders would crack under the load—and take my word for it, you would learn to sympathize with the unfortunate. Yet hold! do not conceive too hastily that I absolutely impute to you a design so barbarous; I dare say you had no intention to sport with the feelings of one, who *poetically speaking*, is "Tremblingly alive all over."

I am, Sir,  
Yours till more at leisure,  
**WHIRLIGIG.**

Left by the imputations contained in the above production, my conduct as Editor of the Wilmington Gazette should be called into question, and for the want of a proper criterion whereby to judge, the public may construe my views and intentions unfavourably, I have thought proper to lay before them the whole of the publications therein alluded to, (except the extracts from the letter of the Secretary of War, published last week) with the following remarks:

At that period our country was menaced with an attack on its independence, by a powerful enemy, whose ambition is nothing less than universal domination, and whose principal aim was to create insurrections by emiffaries who were scattered throughout the southern States—and by their intrigues expected to gain a strong hold, which would have greatly facilitated the conquest of the United States. At this perilous crisis, individual exertions were necessary, to rouse the minds of the people from the torpid state in which they appeared, and to awaken them to a sense of the impending danger. As friend to my should be depressed—

Mr. HALL,  
THE freedom of the press ranks amongst our highest privileges, but every good man must lament the frequent abuse of it, and be truly concerned to see this valuable blessing so often perverted to the worst of purposes. To the disgrace of America, there is scarcely a distinguished character in it, on which the vilest slanders have not been poured with diabolical venom, through the medium of the press. The great services, virtue and patriotism of a Washington, a Franklin, or an Adams, could not shelter them—How then can any public character even down to the lowest order, expect to escape? I have long thought, that every man who attempted to exceed a more ordinary and cold performance of his duty in the service of his country, must prepare to run the gauntlet of newspaper remarks. It was therefore more a cause of pleasing reflection, than I had experienced silence till the last paper I intended to publish or that could be necessary on the occasion, was inserted, than matter of surprise, when I discovered the intention of putting into your paper of this week, an avowed piece signed "Whirligig," a piece containing so much matter entirely foreign from the general concern, as to afford the clearest proof that NOT the public good, but private malice, revenge and the blackest malignity, dictated the performance—one made up of such contradiction, as to evince, that the name is well adapted to the nature of the Creature.

To men possessing the smallest discernment, I cannot think an apology necessary for publishing the extracts of a letter from the Secretary of War. They must know, that having been authorized by about 1800 of the militia, to offer their services as volunteers, to the President, it was my duty to make known the answer. So far from feeling any vanity on the occasion, extracts were published instead of the *whole* letter, in order that the part most perfectly gratifying to my own feelings might be left out; and this you well know was the reason I gave when I delivered the original, and desired you to omit that part *alone*. The suspicion of additions and interlineations, is too ridiculous to deserve reply; it serves however to expose the vile baseness and corruption of Whirligig's heart. For the rest of my public conduct, which is made the subject of animadversion, I can only say, that as Brigadier of a district peculiarly exposed to danger, I thought it incumbent on me, at a threatening crisis, to rouse a military spirit—Those methods were pursued which appeared to me the best; success amply crowned my endeavours; and although it might stir the envy and spleen of Whirligig, and writhes of his cast, the exertions made have been rewarded with the flattering confidence of about 1800 respectable fellow-citizens, who on a visit of one day each, to four regiments, most heartily announced their choice of serving under me, in case their military DUTIES were required, and by the approbation of some of the first characters of this, and the United States.

Now, Mr. Hall, for the contradictions of Whirligig.—Does not his inconsistency plainly appear, when he makes work for himself with me, in the same piece in which he insinuates, that if any one has *to do with me*, (elegant expression,) he prays night and day for a speedy riddance? Does not this giddy thing contradict himself still more grossly by imputing to you a want of generosity and humanity "in gratifying the malignity of some of your readers, by publishing lampoons against a man whom a series of calamities has depressed and dispirited, and who is at this moment entangled in a labyrinth of perplexing embarrassments," and then in the same paper attempt to sting that man with ten-fold venom. But sir, his poison carries with it an antidote—Its baseness too plainly appears, to be mistaken by the most common observer. The introduction of his poetry, by attempting to disturb the ashes of a revered Father, to hurt the feelings of a respected aged Mother, and to injure my own, demonstrates in the most glaring colours, that private malice or revenge prompted him to take his quill—They are happily beyond his reach, and whilst the nefarious endeavour excites my utmost contempt, it reminds me of a Fard, which from the principal Hero of the piece, is called "THE LYAR."

October 25.  
We hear from Bro. Lwick, that on Monday last, a Review of the troops of that county took place agreeable to orders.—And that the officers and men of the whole regiment animated by the address of their Commander; on the signal being given, nobly rushed forward and offered themselves as part of the Legionary Corps which he is about to raise.

As it has been common, in mentioning the names of military gentlemen in the papers, to say something respecting their services in the Revolution, and General Smith having performed his in a different State from that in which he now resides, it is our duty to shew the opinion of those who were witnesses to his conduct in the war.—This we cheerfully do by giving the following extract from a Charleston paper on his arrival here, after obtaining the rank he now holds and we insert the extract with pleasure at this particular period, because it may with propriety be expected to assist the measure he is now pursuing, one that is certainly laudable and which, we believe, well planned, and intended to advance the security and honour of this part of the State.

**Charleston, February 10, 1794.**

On Saturday last arrived in this city, the hon. Benjamin Smith, who has been lately created one of the general officers of the State of North Carolina, by the house of assembly in their last sitting at Fayetteville. It must give pleasure to every friend of this republic, to find that the military merit of their brave and worthy countryman, has not been overlooked or neglected by their sister States; but that the citizens of North Carolina, in the distribution of their military honors, have been justly attentive to the services of this gentleman; who during the late war acted as an aid-de-camp to General Washington, during the difficult and dangerous retreat of the American army from Long-Island. He was also present, and behaved with the calm intrepidity and exemplary spirit of a veteran soldier at the well fought action near Benesart, under the command of the present governor of this State; and indeed he gave on many occasions, such various proofs of activity and distinguished bravery, through the whole war, as to merit the approbation of his impartial countrymen.

**General Moultrie.**

November 8.  
Every true friend of the United States must rejoice at the success General Smith has met with, in his endeavours to raise a Legionary Corps. The whole of the Regiments of Oulow & Duplin that were reviewed, following the noble example of Brunswick, unanimously pressed forward to be the standard of their country, and authorized him to offer them to the President of the United States as Volunteers, to serve in his Legion.

Stimulated by their own spirit and feelings, we hope that the Bladen & New-Hanover Regiments, at their approaching reviews will shew equal patriotism and spirit with the other counties. Notwithstanding the severe calamity which presses sorely on the inhabitants of Wilmington, and which has deprived many of the means of subsistence, yet being the capital of the District, and having their lives, their liberties and their country all to defend, they will exhibit the truth of an old observation: That people really great rise under their misfortunes—Towards only