

left to resist the insidious efforts of Prussia, tho' supported by France, and subsidized by Spain. Such a monstrous coalition, founded on a violation of every virtuous principle, must end, we think, in the confusion and disappointment of all the parties concerned.

#### ANTIGUA, January 24.

On Thursday morning the 13th Nov. the Portland Packet sailed from Dominica, for Antigua, in company with the Neptune brig, and Atalanta schooner. On Friday the 14th, fell in with and spoke his majesty's ship Lapwing, in company with the Mermaid and Laurel frigates; as it was quite calm, and but little appearance of a breeze, captain Taylor went on board the Lapwing to request he would convoy us clear of Guadaloupe, being then within six leagues of Basseterre, and having much reason to apprehend that some of the French privateers might come out, and availing themselves of the calm, attack the packet—the captain of the Lapwing told him, he could not consistently with his orders, convey or grant us either of the other frigates for that purpose, but that he would keep between us and the land, by way of protection, at the same time he informed us, that they were then in Basseterre, three large frigates, two corvettes, a brig, cutter, and several privateers—the next day we found ourselves within about four leagues of Basseterre, and not one of the frigates or any other cruiser in sight.—The enemy did not, however, to our surprise, send out any thing against us. On Sunday the 16th inst. saw a large ship close in with the haul, under which we were still becalmed, and at the same time saw a strange sail bearing down on the Atalanta schooner, had not the large ship under the land bore in sight, upon which we immediately bore away—a light breeze springing up, the ship which we then perceived was evidently a ship of war, gave us chase, shewed no colours, and about 8 o'clock at night came up with and fired a shot at us, upon which we directly hoist to and hoisted our flag—she then yawed up close on our bow, and fired several shots at us, through our rigging and our foretopail, upon which we instantly hauled down our colours, and she sent her boat on board, when to our great astonishment we found it was his Majesty's ship Thunderer, instead of an enemy, as we had every reason to suppose.

Upon his demanding why we did not hoist the packet signal, Captain Taylor informed him that the captain of the Lapwing had particularly cautioned him against doing so under the land, as the signals were well known to the French on shore, besides that he had supposed from his coming out so close from under the land, and shewing no colours, that he was one of the French ships of war. The next day about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, being then becalmed about three leagues off the north end of Guadaloupe, and no English cruiser whatever in sight, we described a schooner coming out from the land, and bearing down fast upon us,—by 6 o'clock she had neared us so much, as to enable us to discover that she was full of men, and had about 30 sweeps out—a light breeze springing up, we tacked and bore away towards Montserrat, to get rid of the shore, and she still followed, every now and then edging down towards us to reconnoitre, and so on during the whole night.

On Tuesday morning the 18th, at day light, being then about 9 leagues from Montserrat, the schooner that had been watching us all night, edged down gradually upon us, and capt. Taylor then evidently perceived that she was a large French privateer, got all ready for action, requesting the gentlemen passengers on-board, who acted as marines on the quarter deck, and the men to conceal themselves in order that she might not observe our force until she came along side—about 7 o'clock she being then within a musket shot upon our starboard quarter, we hoisted our colours and gave her a gun, upon which she hoisted the national and bloody flags on her main, after exchanging a few more shot from the great guns, she resolutely bore down, and hauling up close under our stern, laid herself on our larboard quarter, and made a most desperate attempt to board; we instantly lashed her bowsprit to our main shrouds, and secured her bowsprit to our mizen, and a steady and well directed fire of musketry was opened upon them, while they were attempting to force themselves into the quarter gallery and cabin windows, and up the netting. In this situation, locked together

for about 30 minutes, every effort was made with the utmost determination on both sides, they even throwing their pistols, after firing them, at our heads, and pelting us with round shot.

Fortunately we being covered by our quarters, and they being entirely exposed gave us the decisive advantage, inasmuch that her deck was strewn from stem to stern with the bodies of their killed and wounded, when they struck their colours, which was done at the inst. we were stripping down the sides to board her. Upon taking possession of her, she proved to be the Temeraire, of Guadaloupe, a fine Virginia built vessel, mounting six carriage guns, and in all respects completely provided and equipped—she was commanded by one Pierre Teulon, and had on board 68 fighting men, out of which 11 were killed, and 29 wounded, the greater part mortally; she was reckoned by far the fastest sailer from Guadaloupe, and would certainly have got away with the greatest ease, had not the precaution, at first taken, of securing her, prevented her so doing, on our part it is with the most poignant grief, we have to relate the deaths of Capt. Taylor, and Mr. Samuel Gunningham of St. Vincent's, who were the only two killed in the action—the captain received, in the very moment of victory, a musket ball thro' the heart while exhibiting himself the foremost and most heroic example—strange likewise to tell, we have but two wounded, one of whom was capt. Maxwell of the 93d regiment, slightly on the knee. We have carried her into Montserrat, where it is needless to add, that the utmost attention and humanity were shewn to the wounded, and the bodies of our dead interred with suitable honours.

#### NEW-YORK, March 6. SPOILIATION.

At a meeting of the underwriters in this city, affected by spoliations on American commerce, held at the Tontine coffee-house, on Friday the 24th of February, Messrs. William Neilson, Isaac Gouverneur, and John B. Coles, were appointed a committee for the purpose of adopting such measures as they may deem necessary, for obtaining compensation for vessels and cargoes, which have been taken by the belligerent powers, with authority to employ an agent at the expence of the underwriters.

The committee taking the object of their appointment into consideration, have appointed Mr. John Ferrers as their agent, enjoining on him—first, to enquire of the assured, who have received payment from the underwriters, under an engagement of prosecuting the appeals, whether they have transmitted these papers, and if the necessary steps have been taken to bring them before the proper tribunal—third, to instruct the agent of the United States, resident in London, to enquire the state and situation of all such claims, and to have those which may have been neglected, prosecuted to effect without loss of time.

WILLIAM NEILSON,  
ISAAC GOUVERNEUR,  
JOHN COLES.

The subscriber requests gentlemen, whose interests are implicated in the foregoing resolution, to give him the necessary information with all possible expedition, that he may be enabled to bring the business to as speedy an issue as possible; to effect which, he will, in the course of the week, call on the insurance brokers for a state of the losses paid by them on account of property captured as above.

JOHN FERRERS.

#### PHILADELPHIA, March 7.

The following resolution was laid on the table of the house of representatives of the United States.

Whereas it is stated to this house in the report of the secretary of the treasury of the 15th of February, "That the accounts of Edmund Randolph, esq. late secretary of state, for monies advanced to him for foreign expenditure, still remain unsettled, & that neither the accounts of the foreign ministers, bankers of the United States nor the records of the department of state, contain any explanation in respect to a considerable sum of the said monies"—Resol-

ved, that the secretary of the treasury lay before this house, at their next session, information of the amount of monies so received by the said Edmund Randolph, &c. which there is no explanation as aforesaid, and what measures have been taken to obtain a settlement of his account.

#### NORFOLK, March 13.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Cadiz, to his friend in this town received by yesterday's mail from Charleston, dated

CADIZ, January 15, '97.

"Adm. Jervis has arrived at Lisbon from the Mediterranean with 10 sail of the line and 2 frigates; one of his ships (the Bombay Castle of 74 guns) got on the rocks at the entrance of Lisbon, and they do not know if she ever will be got off—he has landed 4000 troops from Corsica; and Admiral Bridport is daily expected there with 16 sail of the line and 8 frigates, with 8000 Emigrants, and 5000 English troops, in all 13,000, to prepare the war with Spain and Portugal, which they say is declared in Madrid, but not yet published. At all events the Portuguese ambassador has left Madrid, by order of the Court, in a very abrupt manner, without taking leave of the Spanish Court—You may judge by this war is inevitable.

"The 22d ult. Lord Malmesbury left Paris for England, without succeeding in his mission—Also General Pinckney, the late American minister, left with him. I am afraid there will be a rupture between France and the United States.

"There is news in town that the French have arrived in Ireland, from Brest, and landed 20,000 men near Cork.—His news came from a Swedish captain who arrived here yesterday 12 days from Cork; he says it is a real fact, and believes they will meet with very little opposition.

"This day sailed a Spanish ship of 74 guns, one frigate and a brig."

#### PETERSBURG, March 17.

Extract of a letter from Norfolk, dated the 14th instant.

By a vessel arrived here to day in 14 days from Martinique, we are positively informed, Admiral Harvey, with six sail of the line and three frigates, had made an attack upon Trinidad, a Spanish Island, with 10,000 men, and taken it together with one ship of 64 guns, 3 frigates, 1 sloop of war; and that the Spaniards on his approach set fire to and burnt 3 of their ships, one of 120 guns, one of 100, and one of 98 guns."

#### WILMINGTON, March 30.

The late arrival of the post from Fayetteville, last evening, which was about three hours after the stated time, rendered it impossible to make copious extracts from the papers received. The most important of their contents is a confirmation of the hostile disposition of France to this country, in refusing to receive our minister. This information was brought by the brig Sally, captain Adams, which arrived at Wilmington (D.) on the 8th inst. from St. Bartholomews, and is as follows:—The day before the Sally left the island (15th Feb.) the ship Hope, of Philadelphia, arrived from Bourdeaux, which place she left the 7th January last; the master informed, that the French Directory would no longer listen to Lord Malmesbury's unequivocal mission, and that he had taken his departure without effecting a single point in the negotiation. The American ambassador, general Pinckney, had arrived; he was not received as minister of the United States; and after he had presented his credentials to the directory, he was informed that he could not be immediately accepted, but that he might remain in Paris, by subjecting himself to the same regulations that other foreigners were under. The general did not think the dignity or the honour of the United States in the least complimented, by being compelled to receive the kind, domiciliary, searching visits of an armed body; and, whether he consulted his own safety or not, he thought it prudent to take his departure in company with Lord Malmesbury.