

powers of government in France.

Provided also, that all and every person and persons who shall take the benefit of such licence hereby granted, shall so take the same, upon condition that in case of any proceeding, criminal or civil, under the provisions of the said act of parliament, for any thing alledged to have been done contrary thereto, any question shall arise whether the thing so done was authorized by the licence hereby given, the proof that such thing was done under the peculiar circumstances according to the special terms and conditions required by this order, shall lie on the persons, claiming the benefit of such licence.

W. FAWKNER.

F R A N C E.
NATIONAL CONVENTION.

June 17.

GRAND NAVAL ACTION.

Letter from Prieur, of the Department of Marine, to the committee of public safety.

[No date is given to the letter in the Hamburg Gazette.]

Yesterday afternoon 19 of our ships of the line were discovered by their signals from Ushant. I went immediately to meet them and this morning at five o'clock arrived on board the Mountain. I found there our colleague Jean bon de St. Andre and the vice admiral Villaret. I went through the ship and found every where strong proofs of the bravery of the crew, and the violence of the attack made by the British. The carpenters told me, that above the water line of the ship 230 balls struck, besides those that struck below water and in the rigging and sails; this ship is one of those which suffered most; out of 18 officers only 5 were able to keep their posts till the end of the action. Our colleague St. Andre received a contusion in his hand from a splinter. He was on the quarter deck at the time the English admiral gave the first broad side and it is very wonderful that he was not shot into pieces. Besides this, many of the vessels were well fought, but some captains proved unworthy of the trust reposed in them; particularly all accuse the commander of the ship of the line the Jacobin; he is displaced and under arrest; his conduct and that of several others will be examined by the revolutionary tribunal. I visited the brave sailors that were wounded; they are worthy of their brethren on the frontiers; like them, during the action, they rent the air with long live the Republic, like them they only regretted that they were no longer in a situation to remain at their post and like them they burn to give their country new proofs of their heroism. According to the report of our colleague, who was an eye witness to the affair, the admirals Villaret, Milly, and Bouvet have faithfully done their duty. It appears that Villaret during the action shewed great calmness and bravery, and had it not been for the cowardice of those mentioned, instead of losing vessels we should have taken

more that were dismasted belonging to the English. The fate of our seven vessels left on the scene of action give us great uneasiness, but we hope that some will yet escape, as they may refit or be taken in tow by some frigates left near them. Three English ships, among whom was a three-decker, sunk during the action. Fatigued as I am, I am very busily employed to refit the fleet with all expedition, that they may take the sea again.

Letter from Jean bon St. Andre, to his colleague Prieur, dated Brest, June 2.

Yesterday the most terrible and bloody action, that naval annals record, was fought by the two fleets. The dispositions were well planned and every thing portended a favorable issue; but the captain of the Jacobin threw all into confusion. We fought with true republican bravery, and did immense mischief to the enemy.

In each fleet eight ships at least were dismasted, but as we were to leeward unluckily, we could not save them all.—We towed five of them, the others fell into the hands of the enemy, less thro' their bravery than through the fatality of circumstances.

We saved our masts on board the mountain, but had 300 men killed and dangerously wounded. All the English ships attacked us in their turn, and we had six engaged with us at one time. The admiral performed his duty perfectly; we have lost the brave captain Bazire, he died sending up his prayers to heaven for the triumph of the republic.

A number of brave men were killed; I envy their fate; I saw several fall at my side and before me. The part that I had in the action was not equal to my wishes. The English fleet is more crippled than ours.

There was no mark of courage but what was displayed in the contest; it was courage; in a word the bravery of Rome and Carthage was combined in us. We are endeavouring to accomplish the return of our leaky vessels into Brest.

Letter from Jean bon de St. Andre to the committee of public safety, dated Brest, June 13.

We have accomplished your object: the consequence of the action was the safety of the convoy, we drew the enemy to the west, and freed that corner through which the provision fleet was to pass. The letter which I received from the commander in chief of the fleet, will inform you that Vanstable and his convoy have anchored safely at St. Matthew. Probably he will be the subject of conversation to day, but he is in safety enough, and Pitt's hopes that the French people would be starved, are again blasted. During the winter out frigates brought us the necessaries which he was send-

ing now we have safe in our ports again his will the provisions intended for republic.

It was announced this day in convention, that 31 millions of assignats were ready to be burnt, the amount in circulation is 2150 millions.

C A R L I S L E, August 1

We understand, with great concern that the western disturbances have risen to so great a height, that the ordinary powers of government are altogether inadequate to the suppression of them; but we perceive with pleasure, that the President of the United States, as well as the governor of the state, are disposed to pursue a line of conduct that evinces the energy and the moderation of government.

As no Republican Constitution can subsist, where the minority (and a very small minority too) attempt to give law to the majority, and to oppose, by violence, the general will of the whole nation, it is evident, that laws opposed by force must be executed by force. Congress and that Legislature of Pennsylvania have armed their several executives with powers for such great emergencies; it appears that measures are preparing to call out the strength not only of Pennsylvania, but the whole union, if it should be necessary. But, in the mean time before recourse to this last resort, government appears disposed to adopt every measure which may allay the discontents and restore obedience to the laws. For this purpose the honorable judge Yates and the honourable William Bradford, Attorney General of the United States on Sunday, and yesterday morning the Hon. Thomas M'Kean, chief justice of the state; and Gen. William Irvine, passed through this place, on their way to the western counties; the two first named gentlemen together with the Hon. James Ross of Washington, are appointed commissioners on behalf of the United States, and the chief justice Gen. Irvine, on the part of the state, vested it is said, with considerable powers; and we sincerely hope, that a love of order and republican government, will finally prevail over the anarchy and insurrection which at present are predominant in that part of the state.

If the insurgents expected any countenance from their fellow citizens, they will be miserably disappointed, and there is no doubt but that all good citizens will be ready to vindicate the authority of a free government, whenever they shall be called upon for that purpose. The citizens of the United States in general, (and the people in the disaffected counties in common with fellow citizens,) have flourished under the present government: every man who is not blind, sees this, and