

# WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

THE following account of the Russian and Massachusetts enterprize, along the west coast of North-America, was drawn up by Jacob Crowningshield, Esq. of Salem, for Dr. Mitchell. It is highly interesting and has a near connection with the persevering attempt, making by Captains Lewis and Clarke, to penetrate by land to the Pacific Ocean.

"I fear it will not be in my power, Dear Sir, to give you very correct information, as to the points of your enquiry. You ask whether I am in possession of any facts, relative to the settlement and migration of the Kamshatkadales, or subjects of Russia, by land or sea; along the North-Western coast of America." I am in possession of no facts, except from the information of others, but I believe it is certain that the Russians for eight or ten years past, have been on the coast, and that they are extending their settlements, if they may be called such, to the Southward. They come from Kamshatka, and their progress is to the South, where I have no doubt they will prove troublesome, either to the Spaniards, or to ourselves, if we should ever take possession of that part of the coast (and we can produce better titles to the country than any European nation whatever.) Although I am not now able to point out the places where they have made establishments, yet I have been informed, and I think correctly, that several Russian traders from Kamshatka have fixed themselves at Queen Charlotte's Island, and in that neighborhood, where they carry on an advantageous commerce with the Indians. They remain over winter, and collect large quantities of Sea Otter and other skins, which are delivered to Russian vessels that regularly visit the coast from St. Peters and other places on the eastern parts of Kamshatka. These vessels make frequent voyages, and supply their traders with such articles as will sell to advantage among the natives. I am not positive that I have heard of the Russians making permanent settlements, but I am sure that the Americans have frequently met their traders on different parts of the coast, to the north of Nootka Sound. It is said they mix freely with the natives, learn their language, and endeavor to conciliate them by every means in their power: and I was once informed by a gentleman who had been on the coast, that they possessed a very considerable influence over the northern tribes; and it was his opinion, as it was mine, that the Russian government contemplates making encroachments to the southward, until they shall be stopped by the Spaniards. The American traders were assuredly on the coast before the Russians, except, indeed, that a Russian vessel or two might have visited that part of the coast immediately opposite the eastern extremity of Asia, a few years before. It is about twenty years since the ship Columbia, Captain Kendrick, and the sloop Mary Washington, Captain Gray, were dispatched from Boston to the N. W. coast of America; they made important discoveries, and took possession of a considerable tract of country, and Captain Kendrick actually received deeds of a large part from some of the principal chiefs. The river Columbia, if I am not mistaken, receives its name from the Boston ship I have mentioned. I saw the Columbia in Canton, on her return, with a cargo of sea otter skins, which were advantageously disposed of in that market. The Mary Washington afterwards came to China, and made frequent voyages back to the coast, but I believe never returned to the United States. Captain Kendrick having sent the Columbia home, under charge of Captain Gray, remained in the sloop, and finally lost his life on the coast, in saluting another vessel. I was acquainted with Captain Metcalf, of New-York, who commanded the brig Elenora: he was early on the coast, and told me he had taken possession in behalf of the United States. Captain Metcalf was either cut off by the natives, or lost on the coast on his second trip, after he had visited the Isle of France. Captain Roberts and others, from Boston, soon followed Captain Kendrick.—Since these voyages were made (and they were the first undertaken from this country,) the Americans have carried on a constant trade to the coast, where they collect otter skins and carry them to China, and for ten or fifteen years there have been from five to ten vessels, principally from Massachusetts, engaged in this trade. I have only referred to their voyages, particularly to Captain Kendrick's, with a view of shewing you that the Americans have as good, if not better claims to the country than the Russians can possibly have. I wish a collection could be made of all their voyages; the information to be derived from them would certainly be interesting, and perhaps important, in establishing our title to the country embraced within the limits of their discoveries. Captain Metcalf was a correct navigator, and had made valuable charts and drawings of the coast and harbors which he entered. but I presume they were lost with him. The first navigators are chiefly dead, and it is doubtful whether their journals were preserved. Captain

Kendrick's is said to have fallen into the hands of a Mr. Howell, who, it is understood, died in Manila, where it is probable they were lost. Captain Ingraham, who sailed under Kendrick, in the Columbia, afterwards made a voyage to the northwest coast, and thence to China, and on his passage discovered a small cluster of Islands; and I have heard that his journal was presented to General Washington, and it is very probable it may be found among his papers. It is possible that Captain Magee's may be preserved by his friends or relations who reside in Boston, and if a copy can at any future time be obtained, you may depend I will not fail to present it to you. I do not recollect a single vessel ever having performed a voyage from Salem to the Western coast of America.—Our merchants generally having been engaged in other enterprizes, particularly to the East-Indies by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, few or none from our port, within my knowledge, have dispatched any vessel round Cape Horn, upon voyages for sea otter skins, which are only procured in high northern latitudes, on the west side of this continent.

The eastern extremity of Asia is so near the Western part of North America that the Russians have easy and frequent communications with it. I have not the least doubt but that they have views of taking possession of the whole coast, from the northern extremity of the continent (as far as the sea is navigable) to the Spanish settlements to the southward; and I am of opinion that the late Russian voyage of discovery is connected with the general system of extending their settlements in that quarter of our continent. The Russians, for the first time I think, are now passing Cape Horn, and their ships are destined to Kamshatka and the N. W. coast of America. We must wait the event, but if I am not very much deceived, you will find their attention principally directed to discoveries and settlements on our western shores.

The extreme point of their southern discoveries I cannot ascertain. They collect the skins of the sea otter and other animals, which they carry to Kamshatka, and by that rout they reach Europe and China by land, but I have heard of no Russian vessel making a voyage from the coast direct to China; nor do I think that any Russians have as yet undertaken any commercial voyage from the eastern shores of Asia to China, except indeed they may have passed into some of the ports on the northern and eastern coasts of that country, which are not frequented by our navigators. The European and American traders are only allowed to visit Canton. If the Russian government intends to make permanent settlements on the American coast and extend them southward, there can be little doubt that they may interfere with our claim to the western part of Louisiana, provided we secure a title to that territory as far as the great western ocean.

## MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS.

Mr. Harrod mentions, in addition to the information given in our last, that he learnt at Syracuse, that general Eaton, who was in the vicinity of Alexandria, in concert with the ex-bashaw, were going against Tripoli, with an army of 20,000 Arabs. He also learnt that the American squadron would commence their operations about the 1st of July, when our "smallest competent force," will no doubt do all in their power to subdue this heretofore unconquerable race of barbarians. [Newburyport Herald.]

Extract of a letter from an American officer, dated Malta, April 7.

"A letter dated January 27, was received a few days since from Captain Bainbridge, by way of Tunis. The officers were in good health, notwithstanding their rigorous confinement. Arrangements are making for entering on offensive operations against the Barbarians. It will be needless to assure you that the officers and crew of the squadron are full of zeal and ardor, and that every thing will be done to insure success, and to restore our unfortunate prisoners to their country and friends."

Extract of a letter from an officer of the United States, at Syracuse, dated the 11th of May, 1805, to Commodore Preble.

"The Commodore is still at Malta—his health something better. The Enterprize is expected every day from Venice entirely rebuilt. Captain Barron, of the Essex, left this port yesterday, for Malta, leaving a brig called the Franklin, which I believe he purchased in Trieste, intended for a bomb. A Mr. Farquar arrived here a few days ago from Alexandria.—He said that Mr. Eaton had marched some days before, (about the 4th March) with 100 Christians, and the old Bashaw, with about 4000 Turks; their hopes were very sanguine to get safe, and take possession of Derne and Bengaza. We have had no official accounts from Mr. Eaton as yet, but it is rumored at Malta that he is in Derne. The Argus is expected to bring us news soon.

Extract of a letter from an American officer, at Malta, dated April 5, 1805.

"In my last I believe I informed you, that captain Eaton had gone to Alexandria, in Egypt, to meet the ci-devant Bashaw of Tripoli, brother to the reigning Bashaw, since which the Argus has returned and brings letters from Eaton. He was received with much attention, and appointed generalissimo by the Bashaw; he is now at the head of about 6000 men, on his march to Tripoli, a distance of 1000 miles. He is supposed by this time to be at Derne, a province of Tripoli, about half way from Alexandria.

"The Argus has been dispatched to Derne with provisions, and the Commodore has sent to Messina to purchase field pieces, &c.—Great hopes are entertained from this expedition. The reigning Bashaw is much alarmed, and has put himself at the head of his army to oppose them.

"Commodore Barron continues very ill yet. The Constitution, Constellation, and brig Vixen, are now off Tripoli, from which we have just returned; the Essex and Enterprize at Venice and Trieste, expected here daily; the Congress and Nautilus at Syracuse, or on their passage to this place; the Syren cruising off Tangier."

By an arrival at New-York from Leghorn, letters are received in town from our unfortunate prisoners at Tripoli, dated in November last. A letter from one of the officers mentions, that they had the fall fever of that climate, but had then recovered from it.

A tedious and lingering confinement in a close and loathsome prison, with poor and scanty fare, and deprived of their accustomed conveniences, in the hands, likewise, of such an enemy, must prey upon the health, and wear down the spirits of these brave but unfortunate men. In spite of the efforts of some of them, to sooth the anxiety of their relatives and friends by affected gaiety and favorable accounts of their situation, the marks of despondency will break forth.—"Our days," say they, "drag heavily, we are still closely confined, not having enjoyed a sight of the heavens (but once) excepting through a small grated hole in the terrace, since May last. We are secluded in a loathsome prison, surrounded by vermin, without the enjoyment of pure air, and debarred from holding converse with any person outside the walls of our prison—the policy of concealing the operations of the fleet from the enemy, cuts off the intercourse with our countrymen, and keeps us in ignorance and constant suspense—the letters from our friends in America are intercepted, opened, and sometimes never reach us. After spending a tedious day, sleep, the solace of the wretched, comes to ease the burden of our minds, and sometimes transports us, by a visionary light, to our beloved friends, but the return of light awakens us to the dreary realities of our prison. Even hope has now almost deserted us, and though we struggle to support with fortitude the horrors of our situation, yet human nature is scarcely equal to the conflict."

It is now twenty-one months since the disastrous loss of their ship consigned three hundred American citizens to Barbarian captivity and slavery. During all this time, they have been doomed to sufferings which courage itself has not means to lessen, and to experience that "sickness of the heart, which arises from hope deferred." Husbands, fathers, sons and brothers, young men in the prime of life and vigor of their age, are thus lost to their country, their families and themselves. But while they pine in slavery, and their families deplore their fate, from their country they have a right to look with confidence for relief. Let us believe that the measures hitherto pursued by our government have been the wisest;—that the delays incurred have been unavoidable. The season for renewing the attacks upon the enemy has commenced, and the result, we hope, will be fortunate. Yet all means should be prepared and nothing should be neglected to insure the liberation of our countrymen—the feelings of the people of this country, their sympathy for the captives, and their sense of justice, imperiously demand that this business should now be concluded, and that another year should not be added to the miserable term of slavery. If the application of force should prove insufficient—if it should appear that no skill, no courage, can remove the obstructions which nature has thrown in our way, we must then be prepared and content to do as the nations of Europe have done, and as we did on a former occasion, to give the Barbarians the paltry sum at which they value our ingestimable citizens—the sum demanded, it is acknowledged, is insignificant—the expence not an object, and surely with such a nation, if it may be so called, there can be no point of honor. The refusal of our government to make this provision, will compel the wealthy friends of individual captives to procure their ransom by large sums of money, and in relieving a very few, plunge the rest into tenfold misery and despair. [Phil. paper.]

## TRIPOLITAN CAPTIVITY.

A letter from Jonathan Cowdery, Esq. Sur-

geon of the late frigate Philadelphia, now a captive in Tripoli, to Dr. Mitchell, of New-York, dated 24th November, 1804.

DEAR SIR,

"I HOPE you will excuse me for the liberty I take in suggesting to you a few remarks which have occurred since my captivity.—The Bashaw has taken me from the prison where my fellow-officers are confined, and ordered me to attend his sick slaves who are principally Neapolitans, negroes, and our unfortunate crew. Some of the latter I this morning saw chained to a cart loaded with stones, which they were dragging through the town to repair the fortifications. They complain much of hunger, cold, hard labor, and the lash of the whip. I confess I never saw any thing that wounded my feelings equal to the sight of those poor fellows. I have liberty to walk in the town, but am attended by a Turk who is loaded with weapons of war. I am not allowed to visit any of the fortifications or any of the foreign consuls.—Captain Bainbridge's endeavors to relieve the wants of his crew are often countermanded by our new masters. Five of our countrymen have turned Turks, and five have paid their last debt to nature. Diarrhoea and Dysentery have often appeared among our crew, but on a free use of Carbonate of Soda (Naton) which is found in abundance in this country, and often white-washing the wall of the prison with lime where they sleep, it soon disappears. Our crew are now very healthy.

"During the several attacks upon this town by our squadron under the command of Commodore Preble, many Turks were killed and wounded, and several men much burnt by the explosion of their own powder. I had an opportunity of seeing their method of curing burns in particular, many of which extended over the whole body.—The Bashaw has all his wounded brought to an apartment in the Castle, where he visits them and makes them a present of ten dollars each. He then orders his Surgeons and Mamelukes to dress their wounds; he often assists with his own hands. The Mamelukes are his body guards, the Marabouts are employed to expel evil spirits and make intercession with Mahomet, their prophet, for their recovery. Those that were burnt, were first anointed with honey, carefully preserving the skin as much as possible and keeping the parts exposed to the air. They then sprinkle the ulcered parts, if any, with a fine powder of white lead, (Ceruse;) this is repeated at short intervals until a scab is formed, that is carefully preserved until a cure is accomplished, which is remarkably soon.

"I hope and expect that in due time my country will honorably and to the astonishment of Barbarians and Tyrants liberate us from the chains of slavery, and restore us to our native land, that happy land, the thoughts of which is a healing balm to our souls in this miserable bondage."

NEW-YORK, July 30.

Extract of a letter from Cadiz, dated June 22, 1805.

"By the inclosed papers\* you will perceive the insulting stile in which the Spaniards mention in their public prints, an occurrence which took place a few days since of the attack and capture of one of the United States gun-boats No. 3, by three Spanish privateers; the result of this business we are yet ignorant of, though it is said the boat has been given up—the capture appears to have been intended more as an insult than any thing else.

\* Omitted.

"The same letter announces the condemnation of the brig Hudson and cargo, by the Tribunal of Marine of the island of St. Leon. The reason given is "that the brig was English built; and the want of Spanish certificates to the property." This vessel is American built and owned, was bound to Naples with a valuable cargo, belonging entirely to native citizens.

NORFOLK, August 1.

Extract of a letter from a mercantile house in Jamaica, to its correspondent in this place, dated Kingston, July 13, 1805.

"We enclose you this day's Royal Gazette, wherein you will observe the strong representation again made to the Governor by the Assembly, for opening the ports to American vessels as formerly, and his answer refusing. The fact is his orders from England are positive not to open them, and not in consequence of some few people here applying to keep them shut against salted provisions."

KINGSTON, (Jam.) July 13, 1805.

On Thursday, the hon. house of assembly laid before his honor the lieutenant governor, their representation of the miserable situation to which this island is likely to be reduced, by a perseverance in the measures lately adopted by the command of his majesty's ministers, for the prevention of a supply of salted provisions from the United States of America, to which he made the following reply:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly, "In consequence of the measures which were taken during the late martial law, for