

dressed to him by his sovereign for having overcome nature herself, because he was able to make his way over Mountain St. Gothard. Hannibal's march across the Alps, and his splitting rocks with vinegar was nothing to this march. What honours would not the field marshal have acquired in crossing the mountains that separate Italy and Switzerland, when he is so extolled for what a great many military men have done before him.

BOSTON, Feb 15.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in London, to his friend in this town, dated December 1st, 1799.

"A new French agent for the care of prisoners, has arrived here, he is to select the 13,000 French seamen prisoners in England, 8000 by the Convention of the Duke of York's glorious victory, and without exchange, and 5000 on the balance of exchange in their favor on the late success of his majesty's arms. Thus have the French by this masterly stroke obtained seamen sufficient to man 20 sail of the line, and stopped an expence of 2,000,000 Dollars annually to feed these prisoners in England; the French are more powerful than ever, the Emperor will be hard pushed this winter in Italy, unless he makes a sudden peace which is expected, and our difficulties will be increased I fear beyond any former period of distress."

NEW-YORK, Feb. 22.

A large French ship *Two Angels*, having on board a very valuable cargo, has been sent into Newport by the Boston frigate, Capt. Little.—She was taken on the 27th January, in the Caucas passage, bound from Cape Francois to Bourdeaux, and arrived at Newport on Friday last—we understand she is to proceed the first fair wind to Boston.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.

Extract of a letter from Edward Stevens, Esq on board the United States schooner *Experiment*, of 12 guns, Lieut. Maley, commander.

Leogane, January 2, 1800.

SIR,  
I have this moment landed here, after an unpleasant passage of six days. Nothing extraordinary happened during our voyage until the 1st instant, when at 7 o'clock in the morning, being becalmed in the middle of the channel between the island of Gonaives and Trou Corvet (a small islet between Montrouz and the point of Saint Marc) we were attacked by ten barges, manned with negroes and mulattoes, and armed with muskets, and sabres and boarding pikes. Several of these barges carried cannon of 4 pounders and Swivels in the bow: and from the most accurate calculation I could make, the whole number of people on board of them amounted to about 4 or 500—the large ones carrying 60 or 70, and the small ones 40 or 50 each. They rowed towards us with great eagerness from Trou Corvet until they came within long gun shot of the convoy, when they divided into several small squadrons, with intention to board each of the vessels. Capt. Maley had made the best possible arrangement for receiving them: The guns of the *Experiment* being concealed and her ports kept shut, they could not distinguish her from the merchantmen under her convoy, but approached her with the same degree of boldness that they did the rest. When they came within musket shot of the convoy they commenced a very heavy fire from their great guns and musketry, which was instantly returned by the *Experiment*, the brig *Daniel* and *Mary*, and the schooner *Sea Flower*. Our grape shot and small arms made dreadful havoc among them, and obliged them to retire out of the reach of our guns. In this situation they lay on their oars for the space of half an hour examining us, and consulting what measures they should adopt.

They then rowed towards the island of Gonaive, fired a gun and were joined by some other barges from the shore, which took out the dead and wounded from those that had been in the engagement, and brought off a reinforcement of men. After they had continued thus recruiting their force for an hour and an half, they hoisted their masts and sails,

and divided into three squadrons of 4 barges each: The centre division, consisting of the largest barges, displayed red pendants from the mast heads, while the van and the rear kept the tri-coloured flag still flying. In this order they rowed towards our bow with great boldness and velocity; and from their manœuvres we could plainly perceive that this attack was meant for the *Experiment*, and her alone, and that they determined by one vigorous effort to board and carry her. During their approach captain Maley made a very judicious arrangement of his force: He placed a very strong body of musketry on the fore-castle, and another on the quarter deck: The oars on both sides were manned to bring her starboard and larboard broadside to bear as occasion might require; the boarding nettings hoisted, and the great guns all loaded and ready for action. As soon as they came within half musket shot of the *Experiment*, the van and centre of this little fleet, ranged themselves on each side of us, whilst its rear attacked us on our bow. They then commenced a brisk and well directed fire on all sides, accompanied with dreadful shrieks and menaces. The guns of the *Experiment* however, being well served, and the fire of the Marines continued with great steadiness and activity, we at length succeeded in driving them off, after a smart action of near three hours.

In this second attempt two of the barges were sunk, and a great number in the others killed or wounded; I am sorry, however, to add, that during the heat of the engagement, and while they attempted to board on all sides, two of the barges left the fleet, and sheltered themselves from our guns behind the schooner *Mary*, capt. Chipman, and the brig *Daniel* and *Mary*, captain Farley, attempted to take them. The first barge accomplished its object, boarded the *Mary*, and inhumanly murdered captain Chipman, being the only person found on deck, as the rest of the crew had either secreted themselves in the hold, or jumped into the sea. The other was sunk in the act of boarding the *Daniel* and *Mary*, by a well directed shot from the *Experiment*, which passed between the masts of the brig.

As soon as it was perceived that the *Mary* was taken, a few rounds of grape shot were thrown on board of her, which quickly dislodged the pirates, and obliged them to abandon her, before they had time to do more than plunder the cabin. After the second attack the barges rowed towards Gonaives, again landed their killed and wounded, and took in another reinforcement. They continued in this position for some time laying on their oars, and carefully watching our motions. As the calm continued it was impossible for the *Experiment* to pursue them, or for the vessels under her convoy to escape. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon, observing that the current had carried the brig *Daniel* and *Mary*, and the schooner *Washington*, nearly out of the reach of our guns they rowed off a third time, with a determination to cut off those two vessels. This being perceived by captains Farley and Taylor, commanders of the brig and schooner, they came to resolution to abandon their vessels. They were induced so to do in consequence of their crews refusing to defend themselves, and from being too distant to be protected by the *Experiment*, they therefore came on board the armed schooner with their crews and passengers. They had scarcely left their boats when the barges boarded their respective vessels, and rowed them off in triumph. Every effort was made by capt. Maley to save them, but without effect, by means of his oars; however, he got near enough to reach the barges with his round shot, which did them considerable damage.

Observing this, they detached two of their number to some distance from the brig and schooner, either to prevent us from following them, or to capture the two remaining vessels that were under convoy of the *Experiment*, should she continue the pursuit. Capt. Maley judged it, therefore most prudent to remain by them; the calm still continuing, it was very uncertain whether he could have reached the two vessels that were already taken, while on the other hand, had he continued the pursuit, he must have subjected the other two to certain capture—During the

first and second actions with the *Experiment* suffered in her masts, rigging, and sails; fortunately no person was wounded on board of her, and only two were wounded. Lieut. Porter received a contusion from a musket ball in his arm, a French passenger was struck in the head with a spent ball. I cannot too much praise the intrepidity, and good conduct of captain Maley, his officers and men during several actions in which the *Experiment* was engaged. By their persevering exertions the schooner *Sea Flower*, and *Mary* were saved from capture. Surrounded as these vessels were by superior numbers, in a perfect calm, and attacked on all sides, without being able to bring the guns of the *Experiment* to bear, the greatest part of the enemy—It is surprising that any of them escaped, and the murder of the unfortunate capt. Chipman, and the loss of two of the convoy, are circumstances much to be regretted, but notwithstanding inevitable; the barges were so numerous that it was next to impossible to prevent them from boarding some of the vessels.—Had capt. Farley and capt. Taylor remained on board the schooner and brig it is highly probable that both they and their crews would have been put to death, or is but doubtful whether all their lives would have been preserved; it was therefore prudent in them to retire.—The *Experiment* expended nearly all her grape shot in the engagement, and as it would be hazardous for her to cruize against the barges again, without this essential article. I have proposed to General Toussaint to spare her 2 or 3 cannoniers, until she can receive a fresh supply—he has also been good enough to send her a long six pounder to serve as a chase, the want of one during the late action was a very serious inconvenience, and subjected her to much hazard. Captain Maley has thought it advisable to go to Port Prince and take in these articles, and to supply of fresh water; he expects to be ready in two or three days to return to his station and protect the commerce of the Bites:

I have received accurate information, that the number of barges which now actually fest the coast from l'Archaye to St. Marc are not less than 37, and the number of persons they carry exceeds 1500. If you should think it proper to send any more cruisers to this station, permit me to suggest to you the necessity of furnishing them with a large supply of musket ball and grape shot.

I have the honour to remain,  
with respect and esteem, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
EDWARD STEVENS  
SILAS TAYLOR, Esq. }  
&c. &c. &c. }

[OFFICIAL.]

Yesterday morning lieutenant Shaw, of the armed schooner *Experiment*, arrived at Marcus Hook from a cruise, being dispatched by Commodore Truxton, with letters to the Secretary of the Navy; from which the following are extracts:

United States ship *Constellation*, at  
Feb. 4, 1800.

On the 20th ult. I left St. Christopher with the *Constellation*, in excellent trim, stood to windward, in order to gain the station for myself before the road of Guadaloupe, and at half past 7, A. M. of the following day, I discovered a sail to the S. E. which I gave chase, and for the particulars of that chase, and the action after it, I must beg to refer to the extracts from my journal herewith, as being the mode of exhibiting a just and candid account of all our transactions in the late business which has ended in the most entire dismantlement of the *Constellation*, though I trust the high reputation of the American flag will have the honour to be &c. &c.

THOMAS TRUXTON  
Benj. Stoddart, Esq. Sec. of the Navy.

Occurrences on board the United States ship *Constellation*, of 38 guns, under the command Feb 1, 1800,

Throughout these twenty-four hours, notwithstanding unsettled weather, kept on all our beating up under Guadaloupe, and at