

THE NORTH-CAROLINA MINERVA,

AND
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LONDON, November 20.
ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Nov. 18.
Copy of a letter from captain Macnamara, of His Majesty's ship Cerberus, to Admiral King Smith.

"Cerberus, off St. Andre, Oct. 12, 1799.
"SIR,
"On the 20th, at 5 P. M. Cape Ortugal bearing S. S. W. or 9 leagues, a fleet was discovered from our mast head, standing to the S. E. I stood toward them, and at 8 P. M. I hailed one of the leading frigates, and, nearly touching, brought her to a stop. The enemy now seemed only to wish to join his Squadron to leeward, as he was making sail for that purpose, and his fire was not very brisk. To obviate his intentions, I wore, and engaged him under his lee. At half past 8 his fire was completely silenced; but all my efforts to take possession of him were rendered fruitless by the rest of his Squadron coming up to support him, which I now found to consist of five frigates and two brigs. On hauling up, to save a being taken, we nearly fell on board of one of them, and carried away her main top sail yard. The engagement till half past 9 o'clock, the greater part of that time keeping up a fire on both sides, I was under the mortifying necessity to haul off. I then laid hold of one of their convoys which I was obliged to set fire to, as the enemy's Squadron was within a mile, standing towards us, ready to support each other. That very zealous officer, Lieut. Stanpole, performed this service in the jolly boat, blowing hard and in a heavy sea. The Cerberus only suffered in her sails and rigging, and four men wounded; which I attribute to the confusion which a close and steady fire, and an unexpected attack, must have thrown the enemy into. I observed, in the latter part of the action, some of their frigates fired whole broadsides without shot. I have to regret I had not another frigate with me, as in that case, I am confident I should have destroyed the greatest part of the enemy's convoy, and have taken some of their men of war.

"I need not say that the officers and ship's company of His Majesty's ship under my command, showed themselves cool and intrepid; and though I have not been fortunate enough to take any of the enemy's Squadron, I hope I may be allowed to speak of the able assistance I received from Lieut. Stanpole on the quarter deck, and the spirit and alacrity with which he executed all my orders, during an action in which manoeuvre was so necessary to prevent the enemy from having that advantage over us which so great a superiority must otherwise have given them. The names of the ships composing the enemy's Squadron, I herewith send you, as given to me by the prisoners taken out of the ship we burnt.

"I have the honor to be, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MACNAMARA.
Admiral King Smith, &c. &c.

THE SPANISH SQUADRON.

| Ship | Gun. | Ship | Gun. |
|------------|------|-------------|------|
| La Ceres | 44 | La Mercedes | 40 |
| La Nymphe | 40 | L'Antoine | 18 |
| La Diana | 40 | La Delouga | 22 |
| L'Emeralda | 36 | | |

NEW-YORK, February 15.

From London papers to the fifteenth of December, received at the Office of the Mercantile Advertiser.
London, December 14.
Yesterday the Edinburgh mail due, arrived. The Vienna Court Gazette contains a detailed account of the different actions which have taken place upon the Rhine, upon various points of a very extended line. There had been no general engagement, but from every post they occupied the French were incessantly driven. The official communications reach us to the 15th; the French papers informed us subsequent to that period that their headquarters were at Vienna. Upon the 20th Champagne was at Geneva, and, as the reports in the Paris papers state, the Austrians had been recalled in an attempt to carry the passes into the Germanic. They have now, however, secured all the passes which are necessary to enable them to prosecute the force of their operations. The English had not indeed seem to have positively given up attempts of relieving it, but it is probable that their army can be reinforced, and the new commander who is appointed can be in a situation to attempt a new offensive operation, the plan of which is not yet known. It will then be almost completely clear that the French, and the Austrians will be in possession of all the strong holds which guard that country from a fresh invasion. It is said likewise that the intentions of the Austrian government to send powerful reinforcements to their army in this quarter.

Upon the Rhine no new operations have taken place. Reports of an armistice continue to circulate, but without any great appearance of probability.

The letters from Augsburg state that general Suwarow has actually begun his march to return home, and that his whole army is in motion.—This must to a certain degree disconcert the military plans of the Archduke, and injure the prosecution of the war against France, though it is extremely clear that the importance of the Russians has been greatly over rated.

At Vienna the wishes of the people are in favour of peace. Politicians there think that the late events in France will facilitate the attainment of that object.

At Berlin considerable notice is taken of the mission of Duroc, Buonaparte's aide de camp, who has arrived in that city. It appears that Otto, the French charge d'affaires at that court, is going to France in order to come to this country to fill the office to which it was mentioned in the French papers that he had been appointed.

The armistice between the French consuls and Chouan chiefs has by no means put an end to the hopes of our government from that predatory war. They learn by private letters that they still continue in great force, and that they exercise their adherents in open day. The plan of an expedition to the coast of Normandy is therefore preserved with increasing spirits, and they hope to make a descent on France with 100,000 troops of different nations, English, Russians, Swits, and French.

Captain Taylor, the duke of York's secretary, goes to St. Petersburg to assist in digesting the new plan of a subsidiary treaty, and it is believed that we shall contract for more troops than we ever purchased in any former year. Whether they are to be employed in this service or not, we cannot say; but we know that the rumour of such a design will do more to unite all the hostile parties in France, than the effected moderation of the consuls, or the short-lived energy which the government has derived from the late military convulsion.

It was generally reported yesterday in the political circles of Mr. Dundas's journey to Scotland was from deep political reasons. Some say that he is about to retire from office, and is to be called up to the throne of Peers. Another pretext for his going to Scotland is that he may have a personal interview with Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and do away some misunderstanding which has occurred on the late expedition to Holland.

A letter from our Dublin correspondent of the 7th instant, says, Our apprehensions of scarcity have subsided, but they are succeeded by our apprehensions of French invasion, and the troops forwarding to this country seem to shew that your government also is not without expectation of such an event.

The Consulate have agreed to the demand made by Gen. Knox, of residing at Calais, for the purpose of being better enabled to carry into effect the release of the 8000 French prisoners, stipulated by the convention concluded at Alkmaar. Gen. Humbert is to accompany him.

A German paper says: "About 800 Irish rebels arrived at Embsen, and were received by a Prussian officer, who gave them one dollar, or three shillings sterling bounty each. Being lodged in the barracks, they thought of regaling themselves with gin after their voyage; unfortunately, they got too much inspired, and began talking of cutting off King's heads, and singing revolutionary songs. The next morning the Prussian officer had them quartered on the parade, and about a dozen of the most noisy were saluted with 50 strokes of the cane, by way of welcome, and example to all the rest, who seemed to be all fine young Paddy's, from 18 to 30 years of age. They afterwards were divided in small parties, and conveyed under strong escorts to different regiments, where, the officer told them, they would be most particularly taken care of, as they came so very strongly recommended."

December 15.

Notwithstanding the suspension of arms concluded between Gen. Hedouville, and four of the royalist chiefs, it appears that not only the district of Vannes, in which General George commands, and part of Normandy, which is under the direction of General Frotte, continuing their hostilities against the republic, but that the royalists are also under arms in several other parts of the West, and particularly in the department of which Tours is the chief place. A letter from that city, dated on the 11th inst. leads us to believe that the momentary pacification concluded by Gen. Hedouville, relates rather to the royalist chiefs than to their soldiers, and that a great part of the latter have gone to increase the other corps which are yet under arms.

Several changes, both in the administrations and in the army, have been made by the consuls.—Alquier has been appointed to succeed Guillemardet at Madrid; and it is thought that the minister d'Urquijo will also ere long be succeeded by some other person. There

is no one who must not congratulate himself on the first of these changes, and who must not be desirous of the latter. All the persons condemned to deportation last month, and provisionally thrown into prison, have been released. The Ex-Prince of Hesse has been the last who has been set at liberty. In general almost all the acts of the present government shew that it is attempting to conciliate the public mind; but the style of the Journals shews that it has been most assuredly successful in making itself feared.

According to a letter from Brussels of last month, relative to Latour Maubourg, it has been conceived that the Constitutionalists of 1791, and among others, La Fayette, were about to be recalled. This is possible, and in a certain degree probable, but nothing authentic has been published which leads to demonstrate that such a measure is in agitation. The recalling of the Dutchess of Aremberg and of some other Brabanters furnishes no argument on such a subject.

Since writing the above, we learn that Paris papers to the 9th have been received in town. The most important circumstance which we can collect from them is an inference which we are able to draw from the republican statements, that the Austrians have obtained new advantages in Italy.

December 16.

The Clyde, George, Wennek, and three other vessels, on his Majesty's late Proclamation permitting a Commercial Intercourse with Holland, cleared out of the Custom House in London in ballast for Amsterdam, where, on their arrival, they were seized, and their crews lodged in goal; the Batavian government alleging, that they had not opened their ports to England.

PARIS, December 12.

Different Journals have given in a list of the candidates for the consulship. The greater part of them have pointed out Citizens Volney, Beuchier and Talleyrand Perigord as Colleagues to Buonaparte—others, who pretend to an equal degree of information, assure us that Buonaparte will be the first Consul, and will have for his colleagues Garat and Cambaceres. The faction of the Impatient are eagerly desirous of seeing every thing elucidated. We think they must yet wait at least ten days.

Paris is at this moment the rendezvous of almost all our generals.

Buonaparte assembled at the Consular Palace, on the 8th of December, the two Legislative Commissions. Roger Ducos took the chair.

Dannou read the plan of the New Constitution, of which we have only hitherto collected imperfect fragments.

The discussion was calm, and every way worthy of so great a cause. They first discussed it in whole, and then article by article.

Some of the articles were strongly combated, but they were carried by a great majority: others were rejected, and it was here that Buonaparte manifested his wonderful powers, for, after having collected all the opinions for and against an article, he commented on the argument advanced, and concluded by bringing the majority to agree to the propositions which he made.

The assembly did not separate till seven o'clock next morning; and the estimable Daunau was appointed to digest the alterations which were made; and the act will be made public in a few days.

Citizen Roederer has now lifted up another corner of the curtain that concealed the new Constitution. The following is the sketch which he gives of the public establishment;—

Legislative Power.

"There is to be a Council of State to propose laws, which Council of State constitutes part of the Executive power. For the discussion of these proposed laws, there is a Tribunal, or a select body of the Representatives of the people; and a Legislative body to decide upon the propositions after they have been discussed or assented to.

The Legislative Body is to consist of 360 members; the Tribunal of 100; and the Council of State of 30.

Executive Power.

"There is to be a first or principal Consul invested with power to appoint and remove Ministers, Generals, Ambassadors, and Counsellors of State.—There are to be two other Consuls to discuss public matters in concert with the first Consul. They are to have but a consultative voice; their persons are inviolable. They are named for ten years; they may be re-elected; they will have a guard. The grand Consul will have 500,000 francs of salary. There are besides two councils of State, the one for the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the other for the Home Department. This latter Council will have the initiative. It will have also