

Our men are in high spirits, and in four days we shall have upwards of 20,000 men. General Putnam has 8000 with him. General Washington has wrote three days since for 4000 to be sent him immediately. I expect every minute to hear from our army and the enemy. Every intelligence of consequence shall be forwarded to you directly."

BASSETERRE (in St. Christopher's) April 12.

We have collected the following particulars from persons lately arrived from the Windward Islands, and from English papers:

The pirates have cut two vessels out of Tobago, and there are 26 private vessels out of Martinico, cruising to windward, for the outward bound ships, chiefly manned with Frenchmen. One of these pirates, who took a brig from Corke, after a short engagement, had not a single man on board who could speak any English, but *Strike to Congress*. So many of the Cork fleet have been carried into Martinico, that beef is now selling for 40s. per barrel. The Governor gives the pirates every encouragement; they fit out their vessels there, or rather the French are all turned pirates. In particular, they are now cutting a prize snow down to make a pirate of her. The English sailors carried in the prizes are encouraged to run a few dollars in debt, and then have the option of going on board a pirate, or going to jail. We should not omit doing justice to the spirited behaviour of Governor Morris of St. Vincent's, who sent to the French Governor to demand the English prisoners, offering to pay their debts. The demand was immediately complied with, and he recovered at one time to his country 26 stout fellows, who immediately entered on board a privateer which he is fitting out himself. He offers commissions to every man who will give a proper security, observing that, when every cowardly foreigner is fighting under pirate colours, he will run the risk of granting letters of reprisal to his countrymen. The prizes, amongst which are several Guinea ships, brought into Martinico, are sold immediately and publicly, without condemnation. The best slaves are sold for ten joes a piece.

The Seafood has taken three French pirates and a sloop loaded with ammunition, supposed to be one of those loaded from the French ships that have been freighted on account of Franklin, lately arrived at Martinico, and consigned to the Agent Bingham, who commissions all the French pirates.

April 16. So eager are the French for piracy, that many planters in Martinico have sold their property, and veiled it in pirate vessels, with the permission of their Governor. In short, St. Pierre is full of pirates and their prizes.

From the LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

WHITEHALL, Dec. 30, 1776.

Return of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships passing the batteries (in going up the North river, near New York) the 9th of October, 1776.

Phoenix. 1 midshipman, 2 seamen, 1 servant, killed; 1 boatswain, 1 carpenter, 8 seamen, 1 servant, 1 Negro man, 1 private marine, wounded.

Roebuck. 1 lieutenant, 1 midshipman, 2 seamen, killed; 1 midshipman, two seamen, 1 corporal of marines, wounded.

Tartar. 1 midshipman, killed; 1 lieutenant of marines, wounded.

Total. 9 killed; 18 wounded.

H. PARKER.

The ships suffered much in their masts and rigging.

LONDON, MARCH 13.

Captain Dixon, of the Ocean snow, just arrived at Cork from New York, brings an account that a malignant fever had broke out the beginning of January last among the provincial prisoners confined in that city, which had carried off great numbers; and that upon a consultation of the physicians and surgeons of the army, it being found of the pethetical kind (which the faculty esteem a type of the plague) Sir William Howe, with the greatest humanity, directed a large quantity of port wine to be allowed the sick; and finding the prisoners were afflicted with this disorder from the putrid air which arose from the closeness of their confinement, he ordered the greatest part of them to be immediately set at liberty, on taking an oath that they would not bear arms against his Britannic Majesty. [A Lie.]

Extract of a letter from Gojport, March 17.

"Saturday arrived at St. Helens, his Majesty's ships Courageux and Royal Oak, Capt. Faulkner. Capt. Faulkner is said to have despatched his Lieutenant to town, with an account that they saw six sail of French ships with an Admiral; but what more respecting them, or whether they were bound, do not hear. The Royal Oak will this day or tomorrow proceed to sea."

March 15. Yesterday morning a messenger was sent of to Scotland, to forward the embarkation of the troops with all speed for America.

A letter from Paris, dated Feb. 17, says, "It has been a long time talked of to augment the fortifications of Brest. To carry

this into execution, 18 battalions have actually received orders to march there, and work under the direction of Count Langeron, who is going to erect some new batteries on the sea side.

Extract of a letter from Dublin, March 6.

"Yesterday a proclamation was issued here by government, laying an embargo for an unlimited time on all provisions whatsoever, from being exported out of this kingdom, except to Great Britain and the British dominions, where salted beef, salted pork, bacon and butter, may be sent by an English act of last sessions of their Parliament; and for the faithful delivery of such provisions in Great Britain, &c. security must be given by bond, which is to remain in force against the shipper, until a certificate is returned from the port for which such provisions were shipped, of their being landed there, pursuant to the entry thereof. This embargo excludes (as part of the British dominion) from receiving any benefit of the above provisions, the several provinces of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, &c."

General Clinton has had several private conferences with the King upon the conduct of the next campaign, and has strongly advised the King, that if the Americans are well supplied with arms, ammunition, and artillery, by France, all which articles they want more than courage, they will be able to make a very effective resistance next campaign, unless General Howe has a force of at least 50,000 men.

The firmness of the British Ministry at this present crisis has rescued this country from Gallic influence, and now every idea of a French war vanishes; for we have the pleasure to assure the public, from the best authority, that the French government have issued orders for every American vessel to quit the French ports in 48 hours, and that no ship of that country belonging to the rebels shall continue longer than that time, on pain of seizure.

[A mistake.]

A correspondent says he expects, that by the next express from General Howe, the Ministry and their runners will be found to have told us *one truth* at least; namely, that Lord Cornwallis would reach Philadelphia—but he begs leave to add, *in the capacity of a prisoner of war*.

A correspondent begs the public to observe two or three things in the last gazette. It makes General Howe call it "leaving the pursuit," when Washington had cut off his retreat from New York. It tells us an ugly story, when it makes three Hessian regiments amount to no more than 700 men. Will Ministry allow that the army is already so reduced, that a regiment contains but 233, which went over with 650? If not so reduced, then the gazette tells lies. Why should not a state paper meet with the same fate?

Last night and yesterday in the afternoon there was as hot a fire on the river Thames as was ever known; they paid no regard to protections, and stripped many of the colliers just come in of the best of their hands. There were no less than six gallica rowing up and down the river, who took all they met with.

In case Lord North should not be well enough to open the budget himself, Mr. Cornwallis is to be his deputy upon that occasion. It will be one of the most difficult ones that ever occurred, if two essential points are attempted to be explained; first, the real amount of the unfunded debt, and secondly, the situation in which we stand respecting the House of Bourbon.

Positive orders are sent to Sir William Howe not to weaken his force by detached expeditions, in consequence of which Rhode Island will be evacuated.

Tuesday, a great quantity of brass cannon was shipped at Woolwich for New York.

Frankfort on the Main, Feb. 27. Men are raising with all possible expedition throughout the whole empire, without paying any distinction to the age or size of them; which has carried away so many labourers, that there are not enough left to till the land, inasmuch that many women follow the plough, and attend to the culture of the farms.

NEW BERN, July 11.

Extract of a Letter from Edenton, to a Gentleman in Bath, dated July 4, 1777.

"It is with the greatest pleasure imaginable that I can inform you that General Washington has routed General Howe, who left Brunswick in order to enter Philadelphia, but was fortunately stopped in his Career by General Washington, after he had marched about nine Miles from Brunswick. Howe finding he could not pass that Way, retreated as fast as possible to regain his old Post (Brunswick) but also very fortunate for us, we had three Regiments there, that drove him thence, and would not suffer him to enter. They are still pursuing him down to Amboy, where I hope they will give a good Account of him. His Men are disheartened, his Campaign ruined, and all his Schemes frustrated. Our Men are in high Spirits, about 20,000 Regulars, and Numbers of Militia. This News you may depend on, as I have it in a Philadelphia Paper, dated 24th June, by Order of Congress."