

between the courts of France and London that the English may seize all commodities of the growth of New-England*, which they may find on board such ships, and that the goods and vessels shall be lawful prize. I am solicitous to prevent the alarms which may be spread in people's minds by this groundless assertion. If the governor of Martinico has spoken of the seizures of vessels in such cases, he can only have mentioned a pretension on the part of the English, which perhaps has been interpreted as the effect of an agreement between the courts of France and London; but the King charges me to acquaint you, that no such agreement exists between the two courts, and that his Majesty is determined to reclaim every French vessel which might be seized under that pretext, and to protect the trade.

DE SARTINE.

* A common term in France for the British colonies.

CHARLESTOWN, October 7.

WE are told, that three weeks ago, there were not less than between 6 and 700 Americans (taken in vessels) closely confined in the gaols of Antigua, and that they were treated with so little humanity, that collections were making in all the French, Dutch and Danish islands, in order to enable them to procure the necessaries of life.

Last Thursday arrived here a ship from France, laden with salt, in which came passenger (highly recommended by the Hon. Dr. Franklin, Mr. Deane, and others) Mons. de Bretigney, a French officer of distinction, who, animated with the same zeal to serve in the glorious cause of America as has distinguished the Marquis de la Fayette, has brought over, at his own expence, a chosen corps of experienced officers, to form a regiment of Chasseurs, together, with 130 stand of choice arms, and as many genteel complete uniforms, to be presented to the regiment. Mons. de Bretigney is stiled Colonel; his Lieutenant Colonel is, the Chevalier de Kerangues (who has been in most of the actions of note in Germany since the year 1742) and his Major, Mons. Milly.

Letters from France of the 21st of August, advise, that a son of Lord North had been in Bourdeaux a whole month, at the house of a Mr. Barton, and had suddenly departed on the 18th; that 12 ships of the line at Brest, and three more at Rotchfort, had been fitted out with the utmost expedition to take in 12,000 troops at the latter port: That 12,000 more troops were to be embarked at Rotchfort on the 26th, for which purpose a number of West-India ships of 500 tons had been taken into the King's service: That the clamour for war was so great in England, that the King seldom went abroad without being insulted; and the French Ambassador in London had also received some gross insults; and that a war between France and Great-Britain seemed then inevitable. Yet another letter, dated August 23, says, that the preceding day, in consequence of orders from court, by an extra courier in 46 hours, all the American vessels at Bourdeaux had been searched, and every kind of warlike stores found on board, taken out and stored: But the writer concludes, "the Americans are not to be alarmed at this."

BALTIMORE, October 28.

BY a gentleman just arrived in this town from camp yesterday, which he left last Friday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we are favoured with the following, viz.

Thursday last, about 1 o'clock, the Augusta man of war, of 64 guns, was set on fire by one of our fire-rafts and blown up; about 3 o'clock the same day the Aurora frigate shared the same fate. Three boats load of the crews were saved, and made prisoners. A number of the enemy having crossed the river on Wednesday night, to attack our people stationed at Billingsport Fort, were repulsed with considerable loss.

Extract of a letter from Major Clarke, Aid De Camp to General Green, dated Gothen, October 24th, 6 o'clock, A. M.

"A person employed by me to bring intelligence from the Delaware shore, returned last night with the following intelligence: On the 23d, at 4 o'clock, P. M. the enemy made several attacks upon Fort Mifflin, but was as often repulsed. The cannonade was very severe, and continued till 8 o'clock in the evening. Yesterday morning it was renewed with redoubled vigour, two large ships endeavoured to pass the chevaux de frise, while a brisk fire was kept up from Province Island. A party of 3000, at the same time attacked Red Bank, so that a continued fire was kept up on all sides, which lasted from 6 in the morning till 4 in the afternoon, without the least intermission; at which the enemy quitted their ships, having first set them on fire, and they soon blew up. The explosion exceeds every description.— Thus ended the day. Every thing quiet this morning. I am also informed a number of boats were manned, and made an attempt to land at Fort Mifflin, but were defeated with great loss. It is said 300 Hessians were drowned in the attempt. One of the ships blown up is the Augusta, of 64 guns; the other is not known."

Dear General,

New Windsor Oa.

IN consequence of a severe tartar emetic, which I ordered to be given the spy, I have in my possession a small silver bullet, from which I have taken a letter from Clinton to Burgoyne, of which the enclosed is an exact copy. With esteem, I am dear General, your obedient servant,

Gen. PUTNAM.

GEO. CLINTON.

FORT MONTGOMERY, Oa. 8, 1777.

NOUS y voici and nothing now between us but Gates. I sincerely hope this little success of ours may facilitate your operations. In answer to your letter of the 28th Sept. by C. C. I shall only say, I cannot presume to order, or even advise, for reasons obvious. I heartily wish you success. Faithfully yours,

Gen. BURGOYNE.

H. CLINTON.

WILLIAMSBURG, Nov. 7.

Extract of a letter, dated Head Quarters, Germantown, Oa. 25.

I WAS a Spectator to a most glorious fight yesterday. Placed on the top of a high house in Germantown, I beheld the destruction of two of the British ships attempting to bombard Fort Mifflin, on the Jersey shore, in order to facilitate their siege against Mud Fort; the most violent and awful cannonade ensued that perhaps ever happened in this quarter of the world. The gondolas distinguished themselves; and so well concerted was the opposition to the attack, in the midst of confusion of smoke and fire two ships were sent down and set fire to a 64 gun ship, said to be the Eagle, and a 32 gun frigate, by some said to be the Apollo; in an instant they were in flames, even up to the top gallant yards. They must have had a valuable store of ammunition on board, for when their magazines were blown up, they surpassed the most horrid conception of noise. If all nature had been crushing to atoms the sound could not have been more tremendous. During the time of this great cannonade the Hessians, in number about 3000, made an attack upon Fort Mifflin, and in a little time were defeated with the loss of 500 killed, wounded, and prisoners; among the prisoners we have Count Donop and his Aid De Camp, both wounded. The destruction of the two ships, and defeat of the Hessians, is looked upon as one of the most capital strokes that has happened during the war. I hope a coup de main will be Mr. Howe's fate before long. And then for peace, freedom, and happiness."

NEW BERN, November 21, 1777.

ON Saturday last, a sufficient number of the Members of Assembly appearing, they immediately proceeded on Business, and are now sitting on the important Matters of the State. On Tuesday the House of Commons resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider the Expediency of opening the Land Office, and granting the vacant Lands in this State; when they came to a Resolution for opening the said Office and granting as well the Lands in Lord Granville's District, as those lately in the King's Part, and appointed a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

We hear from the Bar, that two Vessels are arrived with Salt, and dry Goods, from Old France, on Account of the Congress.

STATE of NORTH-CAROLINA.

By his Excellency RICHARD CASWELL, Esq; Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief of the State.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have received authenticated Intelligence that General Burgoyne, and the whole Army under his Command, after repeated Losses, surrendered themselves Prisoners of War to General GATES on the Fourteenth Day of October last: To the End therefore that we may not presumptuously attribute the late signal Successes gained over our Enemies to our own Strength, and thereby forget the Interposition of Divine Providence in our Behalf, whose Assistance we have experienced, and more especially in this Particular, wherein the Goodness of GOD has been so visibly demonstrated; I have thought proper, with the Advice of the Council of State, to issue this Proclamation, appointing Friday the Twenty Eighth Day of this Instant to be observed in all Churches and Congregations in this State as a Day of GENERAL and SOLEMN THANKSGIVING, and I do strictly enjoin the several Ministers and Preachers of the Gospel to embrace this Opportunity of testifying, in the most solemn Manner, those Sentiments of Gratitude which the happy Event so justly demands.

GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the State, at New-Bern, the Eighth Day of November, in the Second Year of the Independence of the said State.

RICHARD CASWELL.

By his Excellency's Command.

J. GLASGOW, Secretary of the State.