

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

L O N D O N, July 28.

Extract of a letter from Halifax, brought by the Royal Charlotte, Hill, which left that place the 20th of June.

I AM truly unhappy to inform you, that a squadron of American ships have visited the Banks, and taken upwards of 40 British vessels. On the 21st instant a man of war of 50 guns, seemingly a Frenchman, came up with his Majesty's sloop the Pegasus, and a frigate of considerable force, to the north of Sable Island. A desperate engagement ensued; the Pegasus lay open to the full broadside of the enemy, and her shot being very heavy, obliged her to strike. The frigate being considerably a head, got under way, and escaped. Various reports are brought in every day, but all confirm that Admiral Montague's squadron is in the utmost danger, and no ways able to protect the fleets on the Banks."

The arrival of the East-Indiamen at this juncture was very fortunate for the navy, as they are much in want of men to man the several ships now fitting out.

They write from Petersburg, that according to the military list, the present force of their Imperial Majesty, including cavalry and marines, amounts to 430,000 effective men.

The spirited conduct of Administration, in demanding absolute security from France, may probably involve us in a war with that Crown. We may lay it down very safely as a maxim, that an open war is better than a treacherous insecure peace; against the one we may prepare, but no prudence can guard against the other. The French are aiming at present to appropriate to themselves the whole profit of the American trade; to allow them to effect it, would be more disadvantageous to Britain than many wars.

A vessel upon a particular construction is now building in a private dock-yard near Limehouse, on Government's account, to serve as a packet between England and America: She is to mount 24 guns.

France had never more reason to dread the power of England than at this time, or England more right to chastise that insidious and deceitful people.

If, in addition to the present unhappy quarrel with America, we should have a war with the whole House of Bourbon, that war, in the nature of things, will be a naval one; consequently it will be such a war as the politics of this country have been roaring at these hundred years. How often have we been told, keep clear of a continental war, and Britain is a match for all the world. The only danger of the national debt arises from the increase of interest, at a time when the immense drain of a German or a Flanders war carries the money borrowed forever from this country. But a naval war with the whole House of Bourbon, is an expence which flows in a circle constantly going out, and coming in; no danger to the state can therefore result from it; and the proper time to declare war is now, before the arrival of their West-India and Newfoundland fleets.

July 30. The king has made a very serious scrutiny into the delays of office that occasioned Gen. Howe's being unable to take the field before the 15th of June, when it is well known that he might have marched towards Philadelphia early in the month of April, had he received the camp equipage by the time he was promised to expect it:—Lord B——n endeavoured to conciliate the matter as much as possible, but his Majesty spiritedly replied,—"My Lord, that is not the satisfaction that will either do for me or my people; for I am determined to save opposition the trouble of debating this matter, by seeing the delinquent disgraced to whom we are indebted for this fatal measure."—Lord B——n attempted to reply, but the king turned upon his heel, and left him to ruminate on what had passed.

Notwithstanding the very warm addresses to the throne from Scotland, yet recruiting goes on very slowly in the northern part of Britain, and the few recruits that are got, scarcely deserve the name of soldiers.

The following is the postscript of a letter from Warrington in Lancashire, dated July 28: "In a little time I believe you may be furnished with news from this quarter, as the American privateers swarm at present about this coast. There never was during the last war such a consternation among the merchants at Liverpool. This, Sir, you may depend upon as a fact."

Extract of a letter from Dublin, July 22.

"Three vessels were taken last week, about seven leagues from Scilly, by the Civil Usage American privateer, mounting 14 carriage guns and 9 swivels, with 70 men. One of the vessels was bound from London to Limerick, one from Bristol to the Madecras, and one from Tinby to this port with bark; they were all sent to America. The captains were landed here on Sunday last, who report, that they were taken within view of a man of war, who could not fail to their relief, there being a dead calm; and the privateer rowing with 16 oars: They also report, that soon after they were put on board the Dutchman (that brought them here) they saw the same privateer take a large vessel, who, before she struck, fired five guns. The captains say, they were treated with the utmost humanity and civility by the captain and crew of the privateer."

A letter from an officer on board the Levant frigate, dated Gibraltar, June 27, says, "About four day's sail from the Streight's mouth, we took a 14 gun privateer; called the Vigilant, Richard Witear, master, fitted out at Dunkirk, which place she left twelve days before; we also retook a brig from Lisbon, bound to Bristol, named the Mayflower, which she had taken the day before. Three days after we took the Pitt, Edward Sheers, master, bound to Boston, fitted out at Cherburgh, of about 200 tons, having on board two brass mortars, 150 swivels, bar iron, some shot, musquets, &c. supposed worth about 3000 l. sterling. On our return here we found our two prizes safe arrived two days before. The Raven also came in five days before with the Vengeance, of 10 carriage, and 6 swivel guns, laden with rice, tobacco, indigo, &c. which she took about 40 leagues to the westward of St. Eustatia."

August 7. It is confidently reported, that on a late solicitation from our Ministry to the Empress of Russia, for hiring a certain number of her troops to fight against our rebellious subjects in America, the Empress made the following reply to the negociator: "That if Government would make over the Island of Minorca to her, she would send 30,000 men to subdue the Americans, and at her sole expence maintain and recruit them for two years." This proposal, if accepted of, by adding Minorca to her possessions in the black sea, and her free navigation in the Archipelago, would throw the whole Mediterranean and Levant trade into her hands, and make her the first maritime power in Europe.

It is reported that a Great Personage has declared that the body guards, both horse and foot, shall be sent to America, rather than the service there shall want men.

August 11. Fifty thousand blankets are ordered to be immediately got ready for the troops in America against the ensuing winter.

Admiralty Office, July 29. The Hon. Leveson Gower, captain of his Majesty's ship the Valiant, gives an account, that on the 7th instant, he fell in with and took the brig Blair, Thomas Perriam, master, laden with rice, from South-Carolina.

Twenty-two commissions of bankruptcy were fitting on Saturday at the same time in Guildhall. What a dreadful increase of business to the commissioners!

Extract of a letter from Galloway, July 24.

"Every day the American streamers are shining on our coast. There is not a ship dare stir out of a harbour, as the ministry only ordered a large man of war into the channel, which is of no manner of service, either to distress the American privateers, or protect our trade, for Lord Sandwich might as well send a cow to catch a hare. This day eight days we were alarmed with near eight hours cannonading, owing to the engagement of an American privateer, only of 20 guns, with two of the King's cutters, and a large letter of marque from Liverpool, when the