

en by Capt. Stackpole, in the privateer brigantine M'Clary, belonging to Portsmouth. The invoice of her cargo amounts to twelve thousand pounds sterling, in the following articles, viz. English goods, thirteen chests of bohea tea, loaf sugar, cheese, steel, porter, hardware, provisions, &c. The Captain of the prize informs, that on hearing General Burgoyne had taken Ticonderoga, and his progress towards Albany, looking upon it that America was conquered, thirty five sail came out with him, laden with the like articles, bound to different ports in America.

Tuesday last a vessel arrived here in a short passage from St. Peter's, Newfoundland, the master of which informs, that a packet had arrived there from France in thirty days, with orders for the governor and inhabitants to evacuate that place in eight days, as a war with Great-Britain was inevitable; in consequence of which, several vessels, with all kinds of goods, were preparing for these ports.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 2. 1777.

Extract of a letter from Mr. B——, continental agent at Martinique, dated October 13, 1777.

I SINCERELY congratulate Congress on the favourable and important news which the General has received a few days ago by a packet boat which sailed from Rochelle the 14th September, the substance of which is, that a courier had been despatched to Versailles with instructions for the ambassador at the court of London to claim all French vessels that have been captured (without the limits) by the English, and which were regularly cleared out for any French port; which requisition, if not complied with, is to be the signal for retiring from that court. The General has received orders to put every thing in readiness for war, and to lay an embargo on all ships for Europe, to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.—The French minister announces 5000 additional troops for Martinico and Guadaloupe. The transports are already engaged for them at Havre, Nantz, and Bourdeaux. At Breast, Rochford, and Toulon, they work night and day, and the greatest preparations are making for the immediate commencement of hostilities. Although the General hourly expects the declaration of war, I cannot imagine this will take place until the arrival of the troops destined for this place. The General's plan is to attack the English islands immediately, and I think his success depends on his conducting his operations with rapidity. The restitution of the ship Seine, and her cargo, is strongly insisted on by the court of Versailles. This ship the General of Martinico despatched on account of his Majesty, as a storeship, to serve the garrison of Miquelon and St. Domingo; but you are to observe she was loaded with American property, and bound to America, but had French papers.

The ministry of England, foreseeing the event of this war with America, and the damage that attends their critical situation, would willingly restore and resign the helm of government, to hands more capable of directing it. From this view, they have published a number of inflammatory pieces, calculated to rouse and animate the nation, in which they attribute the disasters of the American war entirely to the assistance which the French have offered us. Authentic advices say, the King of Prussia has opened his ports to the Americans.

Extract of a letter from a member of Congress at York-town, to a gentleman in this place, dated Nov. 28.

"About an hour ago letters were received from Gen. Gates, which inform, that the enemy had abandoned Ticonderoga with the greatest precipitation. They were so much alarmed that they did not wait to carry off their cannon, but spiked them up. We are now in possession of that important post. What frightened these paltrons away I do not know, but suppose it to have been the approach of Gen. Stark's volunteers."

Extract of a letter from York-town, dated Nov. 24.

"A correspondent in France writes, that he had just received a letter from Mr. Lee, commissioner to the court of Berlin, which he informed, he had succeeded at that court to his wishes. Particulars not yet known, further than the opening their ports to our vessels."

WILLIAMSBURG, Dec. 12.

ON the 25th ult. the Phoenix and Emerald, British ships of war, with two tenders, appeared off Sandy Point, in Potowmack. Their avowed errand up that river is in search of provisions, for which they are greatly distressed, and would give any price.

We learn from the northern papers, that a Mr. John Brown has lately made his appearance (without a flag, or even a pass) at York in Pennsylvania, who says he was sent by Mr. Willing of Philadelphia with a verbal message from General Howe to Congress, purporting that the General wished for an accommodation; that he had power to treat with Congress as a Congress, provided they would rescind independency, and was desirous they should be informed of it. Upon Mr. Brown's message being delivered to some individuals of that honourable Assembly,

he was sent a prisoner to Lancaster, and by order of the Council of Pennsylvania, committed to the common jail. When we consider that Lord and General Howe have uniformly attempted to deceive us from the beginning, that their faith, frequently and solemnly plighted to individuals, has been as frequently violated, that the messages they sent to Congress, even by our own Generals, then captives in their hands, were merely delusive, and that the most palpable falsehoods have been industriously circulated by their emissaries, both in Europe and America, we cannot help at once admiring both the stupidity and impudence of the British leaders, who think we will now attend to a ridiculous tale of peace brought by an obscure person, who says he saw another person, who saw General Howe.

Extract of a letter from the continental camp, dated Nov. 24.

"The enemy have at length made themselves full masters of the Delaware, by the reduction of Fort Mifflin, and the evacuation of Fort Mercer. However, neither of these events has been attended with any loss either of men or stores, both being happily removed before the forts fell into their hands."

Extract of a letter from a member of Congress, dated Nov. 30.

"Our affairs are in a prosperous situation, notwithstanding we have lost our forts, &c. on the Delaware. Ticonderoga and Fort Independence have fallen into our hands. The enemy have evacuated King's Bridge; and we are in possession of the north river as low as New-York."

We have a report that New-York and all the tory property there is in our possession; and that France has declared war against Great-Britain.

The Phoenix and Emerald men of war and two tenders, are gone up Potowmack river, as high as Hobe's ferry, and we hear have threatened to land 4 or 500 men, and take what provision they want, if the inhabitants will not allow them to purchase it.

LONDON, October 2.

IN the late war, it was thought necessary to raise some troops in Virginia. At the same time, the present General Washington, by his indefatigable zeal for the service, raised a regiment called the Virginia Volunteers, which he commanded.—Their activity and success were so remarkable, that the Reverend Mr. Davis, who preached a sermon, or rather delivered a panegyric on the occasion, in Virginia, on his speaking of Mr. Washington, who was their Colonel, made use of the following sentence: "As for that young man (WASHINGTON) his uncommon bravery, conduct, and knowledge in the art of war, at his age, is superior to what I ever read of; and he seems as if appointed by Providence to be, hereafter, the protector and deliverer of his country."

Extract of a letter from Mr. Izrael Powley, dated at Cadiz, September 8, 1777.

"Last Friday an American privateer of twenty six guns came into this bay, and lay to near three hours, when Don Carlos Hederitz, a Spanish Colonel, and some other officers, embarked on board the above vessel for Charlestown, and the privateer stood out to sea again, and, setting all her sails, was soon out of sight."

Two of the white Indians from the Isthmus of Darien have lately been sent, among a number of natural curiosities, by the governor of Porto Bello to Old Spain. They arrived at Bilboa the middle of last month, and from thence were taken to Madrid, in order to be shewn to the King and royal family.

The Bedford, De Garis, from Cowes for Quebec, was taken the 22d of August by a schooner privateer, called the Eagle, from Bolton, of eight carriage guns and twelve swivels.

Orders are issued from the War Office, at the desire of the Lords of the Admiralty, for a draught to be made of all the soldiers of the three regiments of foot guards under standard, which are five feet eight inches high, in order to their being turned over to serve as marines, and the regiments to be completed with men of the proper height, from the parties now recruiting throughout England.

Another fleet of transports and storeships is getting ready at Portsmouth for New York, which will sail next week, and is the ninth that has sailed this year.

Orders are sent to Portsmouth for the several ships of war that are returned from cruising to proceed again to sea with the utmost despatch (after taking in necessaries) to protect the trade.

Extract of a letter from Paris.

"When Dr. Franklin appears abroad it is more like a publick than a private gentleman, and the curiosity of the people to see him is so great, that he may be said to be followed by a genteel mob. A friend of mine paid something for a place at a two pair of stairs window to see him pass by in his coach, but the crowd was so great that he could but barely say he saw him."

Extract of a letter from Berlin.

"Though almost worn out with age, fatigue, and disease, Frederick cannot be idle. The Prussian cabinet (which by the