

The Hon. JOHN ADAMS, Esq; is now on his passage to France, having been despatched on a special embassy to that court from the united states.

WILLIAMSBURG, April 17.

THE St. Taminy, Capt. Cuninghame, in twelve days from St. Eustatia, is just arrived in James river with a very valuable cargo. In her came passenger Mr. Thomas Shore, of Petersburg. By said vessel we have the melancholy account of the Randolph frigate, Capt. Biddle, having blown up, about fifteen minutes after she had struck to the Yarmouth man of war of 64 guns. It was supposed to have been done by some of the crew on board, as near one hundred of them were deserters from the Yarmouth. The whole ship's company consisted of three hundred and sixteen men, only three of whom were saved.—We also learn that the American frigate Alfred is taken by the Aurora of 32 guns, having been deserted by her consort in time of action.—Both these accidents happened last March, to the windward of Barbadoes.

The British cruisers on this station have lately captured, and brought into Hampton road last Monday, a Spanish snow and schooner, and a French vessel.

The sloop Sally Norton, Capt. Cox, in twenty one days from Martinique, is arrived at South Quay, laden with sugar, coffee, salt, and dry good. Capt. Cox informs us, that he heard Capt. Thomson say, who arrived from France a few days before him, and was obliged to put into Lisbon in distress, that a packet had just arrived there from England, with intelligence that three commissioners were to set out immediately to treat with the American Congress, who had full powers to acknowledge our independency, provided we gave them our trade.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Martinique, to his friend in this city, dated March 18, 1778.

"I did myself the honour of writing to you on my arrival at this place. I then informed you of the interesting news which prevailed here. The accounts which arrived yesterday seem to promise me little repose to America. The court of France has just sent two deputies to Congress to ratify the treaty of alliance for thirty years, which she has agreed upon with Dr. Franklin. These deputies had embarked in one of the King's frigates, commanded by Monsieur de Carnique. Letters brought by the same vessel assure us, that they are at work night and day in our ports in building thirteen ships of the line, which will be ready to sail by the last of this month; that 80,000 men had been sent into the provinces of Flanders and Britain, under the command of the Prince of Condé; that an English fleet of 20 sail were lying off the harbour of Brest; and that the Count De Noailles, our ambassador at the court of Britain, had retired on account of the egregious insults he received from the populace of London.—Besides all this agreeable news, it is positively affirmed that war was to be declared on the 15th of the present month; in consequence of which, a corps of volunteers is now raising to serve as a guard to this island, and an embargo is laid on all our merchant ships. Four ships of war have arrived at St. Eustatia from Holland, which have express orders to protect the American trade, and to permit American vessels to hoist their colours in their ports, which was not the case before the arrival of this squadron. I perceive, with a satisfaction truly patriotic, that all the powers of Europe are anxious to contribute to the liberty of a nation whose courage and heroism have so justly merited their esteem."

Last night, about nine in the evening, we had some very sharp thunder and lightning, which struck a stable in which were some horses, killed two of them, and stunned others. The shock was felt by sundry people in and near the place.

The account published, a few weeks ago, of the loss of the continental ship Reprisal, is contradicted by this week's mail from the northward, which we heartily wish to see confirmed; and Capt. Cox, just arrived from Martinique, says he heard nothing of the sad disaster which is said to have happened to the Randolph frigate, and does not give credit to it.

Extracts from "An address to the inhabitants of America," by the author of COMMON SENSE.

"THE only way to finish a war with the least possible bloodshed, or perhaps without any, is to collect an army, against the power of which the enemy shall have no chance. By neglecting this we prolong the war, and double both the calamities and the expenses of it. What a rich and happy country would America be, were she, by a vigorous exertion, to reduce Howe as she did Burgoyne! And why not do these things? What is there to hinder? America is her own mistress, and can do what she pleases. Vigour and determination will do any thing, and every thing. We began the war with this kind of spirit; why not end it with the same? A small proportion of the individuals to be chosen by lot (if the number do not prefer the glory of sharing in this great work and offer themselves) and rewarded by contribu-

tions of those who remain at home, will answer the purpose. We never had so small an army to fight against, nor so fair an opportunity of final success, as now. The death wound is already given; the day is our own if we follow it up. The enemy by his situation is within our reach, and by his reduced strength is within our power. Here, in this spot, is our business to be accomplished, our felicity secured. Here is the enemy. Here is the army. The interest, the happiness of all America, is centered in this half-ruined place. Come on, and help us. Here are LAURELS; come and share them. Here are Tories; come and help us to expel them. Here are Whigs, that will make you welcome; and enemies, that dread your coming.

Obey this call, ye brave Virginians, and fly to the glorious scene. A NELSON waits to conduct you thither, and your illustrious countryman will then lead you on to the accomplishment of all our wishes.

* In Pennsylvania.

Extract from a pamphlet lately published in England, on American affairs, by Lord ABINGDON, an illustrious peer of the realm, since re-printed to the Northward, and universally admired.

"UPON the whole, when I perceive a war, and such a war too, so weakly supported, and yet so violently pursued; when I find the most elevated of the church preaching and publishing to the world passive obedience and non-resistance to the supremacy of law, whether that law be right or wrong, whether it be good or bad, whether it be to establish popery or protestantism, whether it be enacted by an honest or by a corrupt and abandoned parliament; when I see men that were pilloried in the reign of good old George the II. pensioned in this, and for the same reasons; when I hear of others hired to root out the very idea of public virtue from the minds, and tear benevolence from the hearts, of Englishmen; when I reflect (but why add more to the black catalogue of public dangers) it is time to look at home, it is time, even with stentorian voice, to call for union among the friends of the constitution, it is time that private opinion should yield to public safety, it is time that we keep both 'watch and ward;' for if the liberties of our fellow subjects in America are to be taken from them, it is for the idiot only to suppose that we can preserve our own. The dagger uplifted against the breast of America is meant for the heart of Old England.

In fine, these are my sentiments, and these my principles.—They are the principles of the constitution; and under this persuasion, whilst I have signed them with my name, I will, if necessary, as readily seal them with my blood.

Extract of a letter dated Moor-Hall, near bead quarters, March 28, 1778.

"The exchange of prisoners depends on the issue of a conference of commissioners from the two armies, who are to meet at Germantown, between this and Philadelphia, next Thursday.—General Lee is now in Philadelphia, having passed under a flag from New-York through Jersey.

"We yet remain in our encampment at the Valley Forge.—About 3500 patients have passed through inoculation for the smallpox; not more than 20 have died under it. The army very healthy. The enemy have, from all accounts, no prospect of speedy reinforcements."

WHEN I reflect on the vast extent and power of the British empire at the end of the last war, and consider how much happiness it might have diffused throughout the world, had a wise and benevolent prince sat on the throne, and made a proper use of that power, I am almost tempted to repine and murmur at the dispensations of Providence; but when I recollect that Britain was so corrupt as to be unworthy of such a prince and incapable of making any other use of its power than to tyrannize over the rest of the world, I acknowledge the justice of Heaven in giving to such a nation a prince who seems formed like Pharaoh, at once to humble his haughty subjects by involving them in every calamity through his obstinacy, and by his tyranny and cruelty to oblige an oppressed people to shake off his galling yoke. I see the justice of Heaven in humbling such a nation as Britain, which has so wantonly sported with that great power, to do good with which Heaven had entrusted her. She might have diffused the British constitution in its perfection throughout a great part of the world, and might have kept all the nations on the globe in peace; she might, like the God of peace, have broken the bow, and knapped the spear, asunder; but, instead of doing these things, she has refused even the shadow of her constitution to all but those who live within the narrow limits of her little isle, and has suffered her bloody King not only to look on with unconcern at the tyrannical, wanton, and cruel effusion of blood in Corsica and Poland, but even to assist in carrying on a war of carnage and desolation between two of the most powerful nations in the world, and now with unheard of cruelty, she herself employs the swords of foreign mercenaries, and the scalping knives of savage Indians, to assist her own more savage troops to spread destructi-