

a new corps; MacLain's (in which the Duke of Hamilton) to one of the new corps, have all embarked at Greenock, for Halifax. This is an idle, and it is feared, will prove a wicked measure. Halifax is not defenceless. It is more than a thousand men, they will be all taken. They would have been better employed in protecting the coast of Scotland.

No reinforcements have been sent, nor are to be sent to the armies at Philadelphia or New-York. General Howe's army have been repeatedly assured, that at least 20,000 men will arrive by the first week in May. How great will be their disappointment, when they find they have been deceived. A wise minister would have reinforced or recalled these brave troops. They are too few to be of any real service there, and too many, and too valuable, to be lost; which it is feared will be the case, if Count Mifflin is given to co-operate with General Washington.

In all the sea ports of France public notices are posted up that convoys will be appointed in the month of June next, and regularly afterwards, for all such ships as are bound to any port of the dominions of the Independent States of America. This places it beyond a doubt that the French court mean to protect their trade to the utmost.

Tobacco is the staple of America, which the French, and it is believed, the Spaniards, have agreed to take from them. Salt is a grand point of French produce, and brings in a greater revenue, which the Congress have stipulated to take for a time certain from France only.

The emoluments of the American commissioners are as follows. 1000 each for a service of plate; 5000 each for sea stores, &c. and 100 each per week salary, except Lord Carlisle, the president, who has three times that sum.

May 10. It is worthy of observation, that Lord North, who is so great an advocate for keeping secrets, should divulge a very dangerous one. He said in the House, "That should the Americans still insist on independency, it might then be expedient to grant it them." This is, in other words, only saying, you have but to ask, and you shall have it.—O thou head of the Congregheds.

Dr. Franklin is the idol of Paris. All ages and sexes join in his praise, and the ladies strive most who shall do him the kind offices. In short he has perpetuated his name to eternity. Copy had it been for England if she had listened to his advice. Mr. Burke, in Tuesday's debate, displayed the most noble sentiments in regard to religious liberty. While the narrow and confined policy of Europe, he observed, had established partial opinions and particular sects, the expanded policy of America had established the Christian religion and the broad basis of universal toleration. They will not ask the useful mechanic that shall fly to them for security and freedom what sect he professes, or what dogmas he admits; but Papist or Protestant, Presbyterian or Episcopist, he is welcome, and he is free. By this means the persecuted of every persuasion, the enslaved of every country, the miserable mechanic, the disgraced artist, the depressed manufacturer, the unrequited man of science, will fly to America, as to the rich soil of universal toleration. America, in the words of the Blessed Redeemer, sends out, "Come unto me all that are burthened and heavy laden, and I will give you rest; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

**B O S T O N, July 6.**

*Extract of a letter from Belfast, May 1.*

"No time could have been so unfortunate to the Drake sloop of war, for the American privateer's appearance, as when she did. Captain Burdon was a man in years, and at the very time ill, and the lieutenant and boatswain of the Drake were just dead, and no officers appointed in their room. Lieutenant Dobbs, just appointed first-lieutenant of the Defiance, a new 64 gun ship, at Portsmouth, happened to be at Belfast, and actually went off to the Drake when she was sailed from the harbour after the Ranger, in order to assist her, she being in want of officers; the action opened on Friday the 24th ult. half seas over. The Drake found the privateer was too much for her, and Captain Burdon was intreated to strike, but answered, he never would. He was killed by a musket ball. Lieutenant Dobbs took upon him

the command, and soon after received a wound, which rendered him incapable of remaining on deck. The top mast being wounded, and the running-rigging shot away, the Drake was unmanageable, so that the privateer raked her as she pleased, and therefore the Drake struck, having a number of men wounded, mostly by small-arms.

"The Captain of the privateer behaved exceedingly civil, and offered to set the lieutenant on shore, provided the surgeon thought he could be removed with safety; he had 155 men on board (four of them Frenchmen) and in the action, which lasted an hour, two killed and four wounded."

*Extract of a letter, dated London, April 6, 1778, to a person in this town.*

"Every appearance of an accommodation is likely to take place in 12 or 18 months, as three commissioners are to go from here, and the two commanders in chief in America, are the people nominated to settle it on any terms short of independence; and I believe they have plenary powers sufficient, if it is not to be obtained any otherways, to grant it. The council of this nation were never directed by men in whom the people put so little confidence as at this time. The general cry is, "Peace with America on any terms." Many petitions have been presented to the throne for a removal of the present men in office, but, whether a change will take place, remains yet a doubt. We are under great apprehensions of a French invasion. As the dispute is nearly at a close, those people who have left America with the army, will be taken into consideration. Among that number I am one; whether my acting a neutral part, will give me a reception again, I am at a loss to say, and at present how to act; nevertheless, I shall make the attempt, hope to be with you before the end of the present year." [Doubtless we may see many other letters of the same import; but we do hope and believe that there is yet so much virtue left in the worthy citizens of this metropolis, that they will sooner part with even life itself, than suffer such ingrates to have an existence among them.]

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Brest, dated June 13, 1778, to his friend in this town.*

"I am here on account of the Ranger's late success. Captain Jones has been up the St. George's channel, spiked up 30 or 40 cannon at White Haven, and set fire to the shipping, but could not stay long enough to fire many: He then fell in with the Drake sloop of war, which was sent out after him, and engaged her 65 minutes, when she struck to him; he raked her so often (7 times) that he killed and wounded 42 men; he lost himself, 3 killed and 4 wounded. The Ranger had 18 guns, and 123 men; the Drake 20 guns, and 156 men. Captain Jones had thinned his crew by his prizes, of which he made 5; three he sunk and two are in this port, exclusive of the Drake. It was pleasure to see the English flag flying under the American staff and stripes."

*Extract from a letter lately received from Europe.*

"Take care that you are not more hurt by insidious pretences of treaty on the part of the British ministry, than you can possibly be by their arms, their aim is treating, is, if possibly, to divide you, that they may afterwards more easily destroy. This is always the last refuge of boasting, cruel cowards, but it is to be hoped, through the blessing of him who often taketh the worldly wise and cunning in their own craftiness, all these arts will fail them."

*Extract of a letter from Paris, May 16, 1778.*

"I wrote you per Mr. Deane. Congress will doubtless be well satisfied with this gentleman's conduct while in France. To my certain knowledge no man could have paid greater attention to his country. His assiduity and frankness gained him the confidence of the ministry; and before his departure he was honored with a rich present from his Majesty, which is a sufficient token he was well esteemed. Hope this spring will effectually exclude from the continent of America, all the disturbers of public peace among you. Rest assured no more troops will be sent from England. Commissioners, I understand, have failed to settle a treaty of peace, if possible. I rely so much upon the wisdom of Congress, that I am satisfied they will not ever hearken to any thing short of independence, &c. England is sorely tired of this unfortunate, expensive and humiliating war."