

We are credibly informed, that the British officers at New-York, and other places, make no scruple to say, that the ministry, by neglecting to send seasonable succours of naval and land forces, have given up their army here a sacrifice to the Americans.

*Extract of a letter from Boston, dated head quarters, September 2.*

"The day before yesterday intelligence was received that a fleet had been seen off in the bay, and yesterday morning the signals were made at Hull. Soon after, the fleet was discovered from town. By the observations made at Hull (Nantasket) the last evening, at six o'clock, the enemy's fleet, in sight, consisted of twenty ships, one sloop, and a schooner, within about two leagues, veering E. S. E. from Light-house island, eight or ten of them ships of the line, one with a blue flag at her fore topmast head, eight frigates, the other small. Between one and three o'clock this morning, six or seven cannon were fired in the bay — Wind fresh at north this morning; ships not to be seen; probably will stand in again when the wind permits.

"The Count D'Estaing has stationed his ships, except those which were damaged, in Nantasket-road, has landed a number of cannon on Hull, George's Island, &c. which command the entrance, and afford a cross fire to the ships, which will render it extremely difficult, if possible, for a fleet, greatly superior in force, to enter.

"Nine of the neighbouring regiments of militia are coming in. Should the enemy attempt any thing, hope they will meet with a proper reception."

**WILLIAMSBURG, September 25, 1778.**

WE have authentic advice from Philadelphia, that thirty two ships of the line and forty frigates, with fifty thousand land forces on board, are upon the coast of England, which has caused Admiral Keppel to return to Spithead, and the whole kingdom was in the greatest confusion. Also, that eight 74 gun ships of Admiral Byron's squadron had arrived, which, joined to Lord Howe's fleet, were cruising off Boston harbour, to watch the motions of Count D'Estaing. The Admiral's ship, and three of 74 guns each, it was supposed were put into Halifax to refit, having suffered considerably in the late storm; and another 74 gun ship of the fleet had returned to England, being unable to proceed on her voyage — That General Gates, with five brigades, had marched towards Rhode-Island, and it was expected the main army were soon to follow, it being almost reduced to a certainty that the enemy intended to evacuate New-York, and proceed to Rhode Island or Halifax.

Capt. Barron brought in a tender belonging to the Goodriches last week, mounting three carriage guns, eight swivels, and two cohorns. He fought her a considerable time, killed one man, and wounded another, without sustaining any injury.

*Copy of a letter from the KING of FRANCE to Monsieur the Count DORAORE, dated June 28, 1778.*

**V E R S A I L L E S.**

*Monsieur Le Count DORBORE,*

"THE insult offered to my flag by one of the King of England's ships against my frigate Le belle Poulle, the taking of my frigates La Licorne and Le Pallas, and of my transport ship La Coureur, by an English fleet, in contempt of the law of nations, the seizing on the high seas and confiscating ships the property of my subjects, against the faith of treaties, the continual disorder and interruption that power occasions to the maritime commerce of my kingdom and my American colonies, either by her ships of war, or by the privateers, whose lawless insult offered to my flag have forced me to fix bounds to the moderation I had proposed to myself to observe, and will not permit me any longer to suspend the effects of my resentment. The dignity of my crown, and the protection I owe my subjects, obliges me at last to make reprisals, and to commence hostilities against Great Britain, that my ships attack, endeavour to take, and destroy, all ships, frigates, or other vessels, belonging to the King of England, which they may meet with, and that they take and seize, in like manner, all English merchant ships, and that my troops attack, take and keep possession of the territories of his Britannic Majesty.

I write you this letter to inform you that it is my intention

that you employ all the force, as well by land as sea, that you have under your directions, to attack and take the possessions of the King of England, his ships, frigates, and other vessels, as well as all the merchant ships belonging his subjects; and to that effect that you exercise, and cause to be exercised every kind of hostility authorized by laws of war. I am sure of finding, in the justice of my cause, in the valour and skill of my general officers, in the talents and bravery of my officers, as well by land as sea, in the firmness and courage of my troops and sailors, and the love of all my subjects, the resources, of which I have so often experienced the good effects. This being the sole design of this letter, I pray God, Count Dorbore, to take you into his holy protection.

Signed  
Counterigned

L O U I S.  
S A R T I N E.

His most Christian Majesty was pleased to order his thanks to the officers and men of the Belle Poulle frigate, for their gallant behaviour in the engagement with the Arethusa frigate, and besides conferred titles of honour on several of the officers, gave a gratuity of three months pay to the men, and to the widows and orphans of the killed made very generous presents. The disabled are, by his direction, to be handsomely provided for during life. The Prince who thus rewards merit, will always be faithfully and gallantly served.

**L O N D O N. June 23, 1778.**

THE Earl of Bristol, it is reported, has had an offer of the command of a fleet, but refused to take it unless he was first acquainted with its destination and the nature of his instructions.

The marquess ordered down to Coxheath in Kent, for the use of his Majesty, is so large, that when extended it measures 240 feet in length, and 200 in width, and was made new for the purpose. The top is a fine canvas, beautifully painted, and ornamented with military trophies.

The following is a list of general officers who are appointed to command at the different camps, viz. General Lord Amherst, Lieut. Gen. Keppel, Maj. Gen. Amherst, at Coxheath. Lieut. Gen. Pierson, Lieut. Gen. Sir David Lindsay, at Warley Common. Lieut. Gen. Johnstone, Maj. Gen. Sloper, at Salisbury. Lieut. Gen. Calcraft, at Winchester. Maj. Gen. Warde, at St. Edmund's Bury. Lieut. Gen. Monckton, at Portsmouth. Lieut. Gen. Earl Percy, at Newcastle. Lieut. Gen. Parker, at Plymouth.

Admiral Rodney, who so eminently distinguished himself last war, is lately come over from France to make an offer of his services at this important crisis. Some time ago, being in public company with the Duke de Chartres, his Highness asked him what was become of his countryman Mr. Keppel? Sir George replied, he supposed his Grace would very soon hear of him. — The moment, says the Frenchman, he appears before Brest, I will go out and meet him. Then, resumes our gallant Admiral, I must beg to be excused, my Lord Duke, in saying, that Mr. Keppel will most certainly carry you with him to learn English.

**MADRID, May 16.** The court has just received the happy information that the flota is just arrived at Cadiz from the Indies. The arrival of the flota will soon determine on the part our sovereign means to take in the disputes subsisting between Great Britain and America, and whether he will openly declare himself in favour of the latter.

**BOURDEAUX, May 19.** It was determined in the Cabinet to make all the English here quit the place; but Marshal de Mouchy having spoken to the King on that subject, his majesty has relaxed in the severity, and permitted all those English subjects to remain who are established merchants or housekeepers of credit here. All others are to depart.

**HAMBURG, May 20.** At Berlin every thing is in motion. Two squadrons of the regiment of Lothoffel cuirassiers left that city the 25th instant. The carabineers and cuirassier guards at Potsdam had received orders to march. Every preparation for war was making with the greatest vigour in Saxony, and they are working with the greatest expedition at the fortifications of Dresden.