

on our own coasts, we are like soon to be in a condition to carry terror to those of our enemies.

The late action between the *Arethusa*, a British frigate, and the *Belle Poule*, a French one, was very severe. Neither side has any thing to boast. By all the accounts from the *Arethusa*, she was roughly handled. Her rigging, masts and yards, were cut to pieces; the boats and hammocks brought on deck for defence, were shot away. The engagement lasted three hours, and she was towed away next morning into Keppel's fleet a mere wreck. She lost, in killed and wounded, near 50 men; among the latter, Lord Charles Fitzgerald. The French are much pleased that the *Belle Poule*, tho' much wounded, made so good a defence against an equal force, and so good an escape into harbour, when the whole British fleet were so near at hand. Her commander understood himself.—He would not begin hostilities, nor would he dishonour the French flag, by obeying the orders given to him in the name of Admiral Keppel, to bring to under the stern of a British man of war. The court of France is collecting all the circumstances of this affair, and of the behaviour of the British squadron on their coasts, in order to prove, in case of a war, England the aggressor; a circumstance of which they mean to avail themselves among their allies, and in the courts of Europe. Such are our accounts from France.

July 9. Gen. Burgoyne dined on Wednesday with the Hon. Col. Harcourt, when he took his leave, and it is said the General will return to America in the course of next week.

Extract of a letter from Dover, July 8.

"We hourly expect the communication between this port and Calais to be stopped, for we learn by some Gentlemen who landed here this day from Paris, that the French were to declare war last Tuesday against England, every thing being got ready for that purpose when they left that city, which was last Monday."

July 15. The Spanish ambassador Count Almelova arrived here two days ago. He came by way of Paris, where he had repeated private conferences with the King and Cabinet of France, in which all things were settled according to the secret views of both courts.

Some connoisseurs are still of opinion, notwithstanding present appearances, that there will be no war between France and England. The ministry have no great appetite for it they say, and France only wishes that America may never return to the government of Britain. She would be glad to secure this without a war, and our wise pilots seem jealous that, in the present situation of affairs, a war would not recover the dependence of the colonies. From this view of things, perhaps the independence of America may be ceded, and peace and commerce restored, sooner than many imagine.

The entrance of the King into the camp at Cockheath will be attended with a martial grandeur not easily to be described. The army will be divided into three lines, the van guard, main body, and rear guard, whilst trumpets proclaim his Majesty's arrival.

B O S T O N, September 17.

By the last advices it seems the British fleet and army are preparing to move to the Northward, with a view to destroy the French fleet, and re-possess themselves of Boston. Count d'Estaing, we understand, is prepared for them, as he has thrown up such works on the islands, at the entrance of the harbour, as to render it impossible for the whole navy of England to enter; and we hear a number of brigades are detached from the grand army, and upon their march for these parts, and every precaution has, and will be taken, for our defence by land.

Our inveterate enemies, since destroying a great part of the town of Bedford, have been employed in ravaging and destroying upon the south shore, particularly at Homes and Wood's Hole, where they have burnt and carried off several vessels.

Sept. 21. According to a late register of Lloyd, stocks in England have fallen from 158 to 106, and the consolidated funds from 88 to 62.

The British pillagers have left the Vineyard and parts adjacent, after burning a brig, and taking off 150 head of cattle, and a large number of sheep.

It is reported that a sloop from Hispaniola, in a short passage, has brought an account that a large Spanish fleet had arrived there with upwards of 8000 troops, and that they were designed for Jamaica.

Friday night arrived a vessel at Piscataqua, in 40 days from Nantes, in France, with dispatches for his Excellency Count d'Estaing, commander of his Most Christian Majesty's Squadron on this station, which dispatches went down to his Excellency yesterday, the contents of which have not yet transpired. The ac-

counts brought by this vessel are, that on the 27th of July a naval engagement happened off Ushant, between the Squadron of his Most Christian Majesty, commanded by Mons. de Chaffault, and that of the British tyrant, commanded by Admiral Keppel, which lasted three hours, there being 67 vessels engaged, viz. 34 French and 34 English, frigates included on both sides, in which the fleet of his most Christian Majesty got the advantage by taking one frigate (which was the only one lost on both sides) which the British gave way, and were pursued by the French to the channel of England, as far as was thought prudent. After which the French fleet returned into port, had refitted, and were to sail in two days after these advices came away. It is asserted that Admiral Keppel was killed in the engagement, and that Mons. de Chaffault was badly wounded in one of his arms.

P O U G H K E E P S I E, Sept. 21.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at Boston, Sept. 8.

"The enemy at Newport are reinforced so as to amount to 11,000 men. Many conjectures are made concerning them.—Some imagine they will leave the continent. Others think the war will be in this quarter. Time in a little space will determine it.

Sunday night the 13th instant a body of the enemy from King's bridge came out, and advanced towards our light infantry, with an intent (as was supposed) to have surprized them; but on account of some deserter which came to us, and gave an account of their movement, they thought proper to retire.

The division of troops under the command of General Gates, who marched to the eastward, we hear are halted at Bedford.

Sept. 28. Last Wednesday morning, we are informed, came in to Gen. Scott's quarters (five or six miles above White Plains) a serjeant major, deserted from the 71st British regiment, posted at King's Bridge. He reported that 3000 of the enemy, with 6 field pieces, and a considerable number of waggons, &c. were at Valentine's, about two miles above King's Bridge, and on their way to the White Plains. Another deserter, who came in on the evening of the same day, confirmed the above account, of these troops being bound to the White Plains.

On Friday morning it was reported at North Castle that they were then arrived at the White Plains, 6 or 7 miles below Gen. Scott's quarters.

These deserters say that the common report at New York was, that the British troops were very soon to quit that city, that two brigades were going to the West Indies, transports being provided, which were now taking in wood and water for that purpose; that they were to leave a strong garrison in Newport, and to proceed with the rest to Halifax.

The last of these deserters says the enemy were preparing to march with the main body, consisting of about 15,000, towards New England, and it was reported they intended to march thro' the sea coast towns to New Haven, &c.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, October 1.

Several deserters from Staten Island, just arrived, say that two brigades of the enemy's troops and a corps of refugees lay there, under orders of embarkation for the West India islands.

On Tuesday the 22d ult. 30 sail of vessels were seen passing by Egg Harbour, in New Jersey, by many persons on the shore, and the next day 50 others followed. As no such fleet has been perceived to sail out of Sandy Hook by the neighbouring inhabitants, it is difficult to ascertain whence they came. They probably carry British troops to the West Indies.

By accounts received from New York, it appears that Admiral Lord Howe, soon after his return with the fleet from the coast of New England, received orders to embark for England; and that Governor Tryon and General Robertson, being also sent for, had gone home in a frigate with his Lordship.

A large foraging party of the enemy landed last week in New Jersey, on Bergen shore, near New York city, and marched to Hackensack. It was expected at Elizabeth Town, on Saturday last, that another party was to enter the country there on a like design. As the militia were collecting, it was hoped they would not be able to penetrate far, or disturb the stores at Morris Town. It is supposed the enemy want some articles for the accommodation of their forces destined for the West Indies.

B A L T I M O R E, October 5.

Congress have ordered one million of dollars, to enable Major General Mifflin to discharge the debts due from the quarter-master's department previous to the 2d of March last.