

Edenton Gazette.

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IMPORTANT NEWS.

NEW-YORK, Feb. 15.
Late and Important Foreign News.

By the British brig Matilda, which arrived at this port last evening in 18 days from St. John's in Antigua, the editor of the Mercantile Advertiser has received London papers to the 13th of December inclusive, (ten days later than our former dates) and the Antigua Journal of the 24th of January, containing news from Lisbon of the 10th of December, from which we have made the following important extracts.

We learn verbally by a passenger in the brig Matilda from Antigua, that on the 26th of January a dispatch was received from Admiral Cochrane, stating that Sir John Moore with an army of 36,000 men, had attacked the French army in the environs of Madrid and completely routed them, & with great slaughter on both sides.—The English lost 4000 killed.

It is further stated, that a French 50 gun ship with 500 troops and 1700 barrels of flour, was captured after a severe engagement, going into Guadaloupe, by the British frigates Jason and Cleopatra.

The London papers have contradictory reports about Buonaparte; one day he is said to be at Paris, and the next at Madrid.

[Mer. Adv.]

BASSETERRE, (St. Christopher,) Jan. 17.
A few hours previous to this paper going to press, we were politely favoured by the following communication, from a gentleman:

"The Ring Dove sloop of war, arrived at Barbadoes on the 11th inst. from Lisbon, which port she left on the 10th December, and brings the melancholy account of the French army having entered Madrid early in December, after completely vanquishing the Spanish army under Generals Blake and Palafox, and that Sir John Moore, was within a day's march with 36,000 British troops.

A French line of battle ship and two frigates, left France on the 28th November, with supplies and troops, for Martinique. Sir Cochrane, has also positive information of 5 French ships having left France, with troops and supplies, which the Admiral is only expecting to meet off Martinique.

The Portuguese with 2000 men, have taken possession of Cayenne, and by a schooner which arrived express from Halifax, we learn that the Non-Intercourse Bill, has been passed in America."

We also extract the following paragraph, from a Barbadoes paper of the 10th inst.

"The Chubb schooner, Lieut. Crook, express from Halifax, with dispatches for Sir George Prevost, arrived here this day at noon. As far as we have been able to learn, they are of the utmost importance respecting the aspect of affairs in America; and were not off so precipitately, that the Chubb, in order to proceed, with as little delay as possible, cut her cable upon being ordered to do so with them."

The troops from Halifax under Sir George Prevost have received orders to prepare to proceed to Bermuda where they are to winter, and from thence return to Halifax. And it is said that some of the troops had actually embarked when the last accounts were received from Barbadoes.

ST. JOHN'S (Antigua,) Jan. 24.

During the last week, melancholy accounts the affairs in Spain have reached us from various quarters. The sum of these is, that Buonaparte after having annihilated the army of Castanos and vanquished Blake and others of the Spanish leaders, had marched on Madrid, drenching his foot steps in the blood of the patriots and desolating the whole country around. The only printed account which we have seen, will be found above extracted from the St. Christopher Advertiser the 17th inst. which was politely handed to yesterday.

However, by the arrival of the ship City of Edinburgh, Capt. W. Cook, on Wednesday last, at Falmouth, we have received accounts varying considerably from the foregoing. This vessel sailed from the Motherbank in company with the rest of our outward bound fleet on the 15th December, but returned in a gale two days afterwards. Now we believe probably that at the period of Captain Cook's departure, the event of the battle, which from the report of the Ring Dove, could not have been fought later than the end of November, or first days of December, must have been known in England. Captain Cook affirms that these accounts were known to have taken place, but they were very different results to them. The conflict between Castanos and the French is reported to have been obstinate and sanguinary beyond description, and at the con-

clusion stood so nearly in equipoise, that the victory could be ascribed to neither party; the Spaniards however, perhaps from partiality, were supposed to have gained some small advantage. Gen. Blake it was acknowledged, had been so roughly handled in two or three encounters, as to be under the necessity of retreating; this however he had performed in the best order.

Since writing the above, our minds have been still further relieved from gloomy apprehension. H. M.'s ship Circe, Capt. Collier, arrived last night from off Martinique, and bring the intelligence that Admiral Cochrane had received an express (we suppose from some part of Spain or Portugal) informing him that a part of the French army evading the vigilance of the Spaniards had by a circuitous route taken possession of Madrid. The Spanish troops had not suffered the defeats reported; the conflicts in which they had been engaged, had not terminated in such a manner as to depress their courage, but they still remained resolute and hearty in the cause, and sanguine in the expectation of establishing their independence.

In this manoeuvre of Buonaparte, we mean dispatching a division of his troops into the rear of his enemy, we may trace something of the plan which he practised at Jena, with almost unparalleled success. It will be remembered, that upon the occasion alluded to, Gen. Davoust was detached at the head of a strong body, with orders to take a compass and post himself about 20 miles in the rear of the left wing of the Prussian army. These orders were no sooner executed than Buonaparte made his attack. The Prussians were defeated, and the fugitives, from the centre & left wing either destroyed or so entirely dispersed, that any attempt afterwards to reassemble them must have proved altogether fruitless. It may be objected, that there is a vast difference between 20 miles and the distance of Madrid from the scene of action; and that these troops must be too far removed to co-operate with the main army. But we are not Buonaparte intend, that when his arrangements for a general engagement are complete this corps should retrace their steps and take a position in the rear of the patriots? We know that upon all former occasions, he has been careful to take such previous measures, as should the advantage fall to him in the first instance, to insure the most absolute success. Victory has no brilliancy in his eyes, unless it be complete. He aims not to overthrow, but to annihilate his enemy. But, in the present glorious struggle, we ardently wish, and we trust, that a similar event will not attend his stratagems. It is believed, he has men of caution to deal with. The patriotic Generals, among other excellent qualifications, have shown great circumspection, and we hope this virtue will not abandon them in the important crisis.

On Friday last, another of our London fleet, the Sally, Capt. Knobley, arrived at Falmouth. With regard to the remainder of this convoy, a most alarming report has reached us from St. Bartholomews, that they had been burnt at sea by a squadron of French frigates; but the quarter from whence it is received, stamps it in our opinion, apocryphal.

The second November and first December Packets have arrived at Barbadoes, and the former may be hourly expected here with both mails.

We understand, that another French brig has escaped into Fort Royal Harbour, Martinique.

Captain Collier, in the Circe, has had a brush with a masked battery at St. Pierre's, into the road of which place he had been ordered. The battery opened upon the Circe, and in self-defence, the fire was returned, by which the enemy was shortly silenced, & part of their church and some other buildings destroyed. Captain Collier, and two or three of his crew are slightly wounded. The Circe was so close in shore, that the Frenchmen fired upon her with musquetry.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbadoes, Jan. 17.

His Majesty's sloop Forrester, from off Martinique, arrived here last night with the re-captured brig Besty, from Jersey, last from Madeira, bound to Tobago and St. Bartholomews; taken on the 4th inst. to windward of this island, by the French privateer schooner Renommee, but re-captured on the following day close in shore off Bay Robert, Martinique, by the Forrester and Acasta in company. The Renommee has also taken a cutter from Cork bound to Grenada, and sent her into Martinique.

The boats of his Majesty's brig Morne Fortune have, recently captured, close under Morne Boeuf, Martinique, a fine French cutter, called the Frederic, of 163 tons, from Havre bound to St. Pierre, with a valuable cargo of wine, oil, flour, beef and dry goods.

From London papers.

LONDON, December 10.
A cabinet council was held yesterday, & did not break up till seven in the evening; after which Mr. Hunter, the messenger, was ordered to proceed to Spain with dispatches. It is said, the subject was the situation of the British army. It is stated the British forces are to be stationed in Portugal.—Transports have been ordered to Corunna and Vigo.

The American ship Margaret and cargo, has been ordered to Copenhagen, and sold for the benefit of the captors.

A Sunday paper says, some ministerial changes are spoken of. The Duke of Portland, Mr. Canning, and Mulgrave, it is said, are to retire. Lord Chatham, it is added, is to be removed to the treasury, and Lord Melville has been offered a seat in the cabinet.

Mr. Shaw, the messenger left London the 10th of December, with dispatches for Paris.

Accounts from Sweden were unfavourable since the rupture of the armistice, the Russians pushed forward with such an overwhelming superiority of forces, that all the gallant efforts of the Swedes have been fruitless.

Dutch letters received in England state, on the authority of accounts from Paris, that the answer of the British government to the overtures from France and Russia, was very detailed, and very favorable, and that at Paris, it is generally supposed, a peace would shortly be concluded. A London paper, says, "we cannot agree with the Parisian quidnuncs as to the probable result of the negotiation."

Austria still continues her military preparations.

A Russian Ukase, notifies to the merchants of St. Petersburg, that after the 1st Jan. 1809, no ships shall be suffered to enter or clear, from the Russian ports.

Private letters from Holland state, that Buonaparte has ordered a relaxation to take place in the regulations enjoined by his Milan decree, respecting neutrals.—By the decree alluded to, it was ordered that all neutrals which had touched at a British port, or submitted to be searched by a British cruiser should be confiscated on entering a French port, or condemned as legal prizes if captured by a French armed vessel. It is now ordered that neutrals shall be admitted into French ports, though they have been searched by a British cruiser, provided they have not touched at a British port. Buonaparte by relaxing in the Milan decree probably expects that the American government will be induced to remove its Embargo so far at least as regards vessels bound to France.

December 13.

Nothing but uncertainty prevails with regard to Spain. We have received no intelligence of the least importance since our last; and the public is obliged to rest upon the imperfect intelligence which we received on Friday. The vague, but very positive statement of the defeat of Castanos, and the intended retreat of the British forces from Astorga and Salamanca is all, therefore we have, on which to found our speculations and conjectures.

It is matter of no little anxiety, that we have so little information respecting the ultimate intentions of our own army. We remain of opinion, that the resolution has been taken of embarking our troops with all possible expedition.

On the 14th of Nov. Buonaparte reviewed his troops at Burgos.

PORTSMOUTH, Dec. 9.

Several ships are ordered to Spain, to protect our transports, in bringing off our troops.

DOVER, Dec. 11.

Yesterday the foreign messengers arrived here.—They were accompanied by a William Doyt and family. They embarked about 3 o'clock for Calais.—Mr. Shaw, the messenger, sailed this morning, in one of our small cutters.

FROM JAMAICA PAPERS

Received at the Office of the Public Ledger, by the British Schooner COMMERCE, Captain CHIPMAN.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica,) January 26.

It is with infinite satisfaction we state, that a direct contradiction is given to the gasconading accounts by the Ephigene, of the disasters of the British and Spanish troops. By late advices from Carthagea we are informed of the most brilliant illuminations having taken place there as well as every other demonstration of joy evinced, in consequence of the glorious news received, of the success of the combined British and Spanish force over the French, in an action fought near Burgos at the commencement of December, when the latter suffered most terribly in killed, wounded and prisoners; and in fact were so

completely cut up, that the action was considered to be of a very decisive nature.

A stronger and further corroboration of the same intelligence, is also given from other parts in Spanish America.—Dispatches from Spain with official advices of the battle, addressed to the Captains General of the Caraccas, had been received at Laguira; and at Maracabo a vessel arrived a few days since with information of the same nature.

Thus, notwithstanding the attempts to make the efforts of the British and Spanish in Spain appear drooping and disheartened, we may now safely pronounce that they have gained the day; and we trust it will prove a preliminary step to the total expulsion of those enemies of the human race, who have endeavored to subjugate that country.

January 27.

GOOD NEWS!

From the Royal Truro Gazette, of December 16.

In laying it before our readers, we must notice, as first in order of time, the arrival of the Indefatigable frigate, Captain Rodd, at Plymouth on Tuesday morning, which landed two officers there, who set off immediately with dispatches for London. Upon this occasion it was rumoured through Plymouth, that Romana, Baird, and Moore, had effected a junction of their three armies. This junction, our readers need not be told, would of itself be an event of infinite importance; but we do not consider this rumour alone as sufficient evidence of the fact: tho' it deserves to be noticed, as corroborative of what follows.

The next arrival, is that of a vessel on Wednesday in St. Austell Bay, from which a gentleman landed, whose intelligence has been handed about that neighbourhood in substance as follows: "That a great battle had been fought in Spain, which terminated in the defeat of the enemy; and one British regiment of infantry was named, which was said to have had only 15 (or as others say) 40 men left. This we consider as but another echo of what will gradually become more tangible as we proceed."

The Mars cutter letter of marque, arrived at Falmouth on Thursday from Lisbon. In her came passenger Captain A. McGeachy of the 14th regiment of foot, charged with dispatches from Madrid, dated the 27th ult. and which were received at Lisbon on the 5th instant. We did not see this officer; but a correspondent at Falmouth, who has very seldom misled us, writes, that "the news brought by this gentleman is of a more favourable nature indeed, it is said, that affairs in Spain have taken a sudden turn, decidedly favourable, and that the Spaniards have rallied since the defeat of Castanos, and have cut off twenty-five thousand men of the French. Such is the substance of the news from Madrid, via Lisbon; and it serves to establish the important fact, that Buonaparte had not arrived there on the 27th. So much for the rumour in the London prints, that he was at Madrid on the 24th!

But let us proceed: The Cheerful, cutter, Lieut. Carpenter, reached the Mount's Bay on Wednesday last, in five days from Corunna, and landed dispatches, which were forwarded by a post office express through Truro for London. This cutter got round to Falmouth on Thursday, and several private letters were received at Falmouth from Corunna by this conveyance. These letters agree in saying also, that affairs have taken a very favourable turn in the North of Spain.—It was understood that at Corunna, that after the defeat of Castanos, which was allowed to be a severe one, the army of Aragon under Palafox [these are the brave fellows who gave proof of their metal by their desperate and successful defence of Saragossa] that the army of Aragon had joined the army of Castanos, and (as our correspondent expresses it) "had gained much ground." One thing (he adds) is certain, that Sir David Baird had again advanced, and all thoughts of his army embarking, were given over. Of this fact too, we are certain, from another source, a confidential one, of unquestionable respectability. This change, then, in the army of Sir David Baird, from retreating to advancing, is of itself an incontrovertible proof, that the French have experienced an important check; at the same time that it affords the strongest presumption of the truth of the accounts from Madrid, and from Corunna, which accounts agree also in stating that the Spaniards have rallied under Palafox and Castanos, and beat back the enemy. That this could not have been effected but with great slaughter, must be evident.

In the mean time we have also to announce the arrival at Falmouth on Thursday of a vessel from Malaga. Our readers will recollect that a French army has been shut up in Barcelona ever since the surrender of Dupont. The accounts by this vessel state, that the enemy was closely besieged there by a Spanish army of 30,000 men; and that being