

a place called Ghent, in the interior of Flanders, there we were supplied with French soldiers shoes; this was a comfortable thing to us, having marched many miles barefooted. We arrived, after an intolerable tedious journey at Amsterdam, where we remained until we were put on board American vessels permitted to sail by the Dutch government. In one of them I obtained a passage to the Downs from whence I took up my line of march on foot to London, in the greatest distress, with a small handkerchief which contained all the treasure I had, and not a penny in my pocket, which I never knew the want of before. On my arrival I found friends and money—since which I am very comfortable. On a review of the subject I think my fortune rather hard; when I left home I took with me upwards of four thousand dollars in cash and produce, all of which I have been literally robbed, kept five months on prisoners allowance, marched several hundred miles barefooted through an unfriendly country, and seemingly to augment our suffering by the orders of a government who pretend to be our friends.

I must impose on myself a temporary exile, from my home and friends, until the government of my own country shall see fit to raise the embargo, which obliges me with thousands of my unfortunate countrymen to seek bread in foreign service; I could give you a considerable historical account of politics of the different countries in which I have been, but suppose you will learn them through the different channels by which information reaches America."

FROM THE EVENING POST.

Captain Palmer, of this port (one of my informants) sailed from the Canaries in the ship Mercury, bound to Hamburg; in the Bay of Biscay, was boarded by a British letter of marque, treated politely, and permitted to proceed. But on 27th of January last, he was carried into Dieppe, on the presumption that he was bound to London. After the crew had been examined in order to procure evidence of this fact, and it was found that none of them would swear to it, since they all knew the destination of the vessel to be Hamburg, three of them, namely, Adam Wise, the second mate, Isaac Robinson, both Americans, and Henry Fatjotham, a German, were seized and put into a dungeon, and there they were kept for three days and three nights, and supplied with nothing but bread and water all that time, in order to compel them by this species of torture, to perjure themselves, and swear what was wanted of them. While in this confinement, they were offered not only their liberty, if they would swear, but one third of the ship and cargo. They however had the virtue to endure the punishment, to resist the temptation, and despise every threat. At length they were set at liberty. Captain Palmer was, however, detained from January to August, when his vessel was condemned on another ground, viz: that she had been visited by a British letter of marque; this, it seems being a ground of condemnation that was not resorted to till latterly: but since it has been taken, condemnations have been going on incessantly up to the time that he sailed from Havre. (Sept. 12. A fact of no small moment is to be added to this narrative; which is that during the time Captain Palmer remained at Dieppe, waiting the fate of his ship, though he made repeated applications to our ambassador general Armstrong, by letter, that gentleman never once gave himself the trouble to answer him; and when he at length went up to see him, he had no other satisfaction than to be told coldly, the general could not interfere. The ship must be condemned under the Milan Decree. Under this decree she was condemned accordingly. So Capt. Palmer was glad to make his escape and get home; where the only consolation he has, and the only indemnity for being plundered by a foreign piratical government, is to be able to tell his sad tale, and lament that he is an American citizen.

Along with Captain Palmer came Captain Caleb Hopkins, of Portsmouth New Hampshire (my other informant) who sailed from this port for Cherbourg, in the ship Victory, of Portsmouth, and having been captured and sent into England, but not detained, proceeded to his original destination, where he arrived, landed and ware housed his cargo some days before the Milan Decree had been acted upon except in the case of the Horizon. Nevertheless the vessel and cargo were seized under the same decree and held for trial. Captain Hopkins then applied to the American Ambassador at Paris by letters from Cherbourg, and most earnestly besought him to interfere, or at least to send him a passport, to come to Paris to attempt to recover his ship.

Armstrong after preserving a perfect silence for many months, at length on the 16th of July last, deigned to write him by his secretary, in which he told him it would be useless to come to Paris; and he had the cruelty to attempt to play off a sarcasm on his wretched countrymen, by saying in his letter, which now lies before me, "I would advise you that Paris is not on the route to L'Orient, the only port in France from which you can sail for America."

After the vessel was condemned, he walked all the way from Cherbourg to Paris, more than three hundred miles, to see Armstrong personally, and get a passport home. Armstrong asked him if he had any money to pay for his passport? The poor man answered no, he was not the owner of a farthing;

Armstrong then turned to his secretary, and cut the business short by telling him to grant the man a passport, whenever he produced 12 francs to pay the fees.—Captain Hopkins then went into the street, and begged the money of an American whom he met, with which he went back and bought a License to return to his native country, penniless and ruined. And now, Captain Hopkins found himself stripped of every thing, and nearly reduced to the last desperate resource of great numbers of his countrymen, that of engaging on board a French privateer, to save himself from starving; but accident assisted him, and he got a conveyance back in the Hope. These facts I take from himself: to-morrow he sets out for his cheerless home.

If Captain Smith, of Philadelphia, who formerly sailed in the employ of John Jehel, commonly known by the name of Algerine Smith, (from having been captured and imprisoned five years by the Algerines) has any friends living, wife or children, I am prepared to give them some account of his fate.—This Captain Smith last sailed in his own brig, the Hope, and was captured about two and twenty months ago; his brig was run ashore, all his papers lost or destroyed, and the monsters who took him made a formal report that he was an Englishman. Being deprived of his evidence to shew that he was a citizen of the United States, he was hurried off to the living grave of Americans at Arras, where he has remained ever since. I am authorized to state, that several Americans who knew Captain Smith, have been to Armstrong and informed him that they knew him, that he was an American and belonged to Philadelphia; but Armstrong only answered, let him send home for regular papers, and declined to give any assistance.

The last case I have to mention is that of Captain Waterman, of this port. Captain Waterman left London on his homeward bound voyage, and was captured by a French privateer in the Bay of Biscay. The privateersman called him up in the night to see his vessel in a blaze in hopes he might be provoked to utter some intemperate expression against the French government, but he was on his guard. Having burnt his vessel and destroyed all his papers; they made a report that he was an Englishman. It was in vain that he denied it, and for want of papers which had been taken from him, appealed to some of his crew for evidence. He and all his crew were immediately ordered to the infernal prison at Arras. As they passed by Paris, several American Captains went out to see them, some of whom particularly a Capt. Nichols, of Portsmouth, N. H. recognised Captain Waterman as an old acquaintance, and went directly and made application to our Ambassador for his relief. The application however, was in vain, Armstrong declined any interference, and Captain Waterman and all his crew were immersed in the prison, where they are at this moment pining in hopeless captivity.

The following facts are added, to shew the indignity and contempt with which our countrymen are treated by the French. Captain Palmer one day, it seems, omitted to take off his hat and make his obeisance to the French commissary; in the evening he found himself arrested by two soldiers who clapped him in prison, from which he was only released the next morning by the American Consul, but with an assurance, that if he was ever guilty of such insolence again, imprisonment and chains should be his portion till he was sent out of the country.—The other fact is still more degrading; On the march of Captain Waterman's crew to their gloomy dungeon, the mate of the ship not chusing to walk through a pond of water that lay in his way, went round, for which he was seized by his driver, and chained fast to a criminal conducting to the same prison, and thus made to walk through all the mud puddles in the road, to the great diversion of all the French guard.

Foreign News.

LONDON, Sept. 26.

COMPLAINTS OF THE PORTUGUESE.

The following are the alleged grounds of complaint of the Portuguese, at the conduct of our officers in Portugal. They rest upon the authority of letters from Lisbon, of 11th, and from Oporto of the 14th instant, of which they constitute the substance.

The usual ceremonies had scarcely been exchanged, after the landing of sir Arthur Wellesley on the banks of the Duero, when the Bishop of Oporto in his political character, demanded of the British officer the arms with which he was provided for the natives, who had been enrolled for the defence of their country.—This application was ineffectual. His excellency was told, that they were not to be disposed of; and thus the only means which he considered necessary for the salvation of Portugal were withheld; and the venerable Prelate was forced to retire from the first interview with his allies, indignant and disappointed. He knew that French perfidy and rapacity, had deprived his intrepid countrymen of the means indispensable to give effect to their courage; and was apprised that under the orders of the British ministers, arms had been provided for at least 15,000 men, for the purpose of this expedition.—With such facts before him, he had the mortification to see that his brave compatriots, were to be prevented from partaking in the glory of the approaching conflict. The total

number prepared to enter the field amounted to 40,000, but for want of arms only 5000 were assembled under Gen. Freire, and they were indifferently provided.—The Portuguese also complain that in conformity to the contracted system of the British Generals, they were not brought into action in either of the engagements which preceded the ultimate arrangement; that in one case a native body of 1500, was constrained to give place to a corps of British, in a moment when their courage could have been advantageously displayed; and that in the battle of Vimeria, nearly their whole force under their gallant General was removed to a distance of more than two leagues from the scene of action.

They object, that not only these general opportunities of distinguishing the valour of the Portuguese on their own territory were neglected, but the examples of individual talent or success have been passed over in silence: and further that merit has been attributed to the British soldiery, due exclusive to themselves. In support of this pretension, they cite the anecdote of the English grenadier who is said to have taken General Brenier prisoner, and to have refused the pecuniary offers of that Frenchman for his manumission. The Portuguese account of the same transaction is given in a Gazette of Coimbra, where it is expressly stated, that a sergeant and cadet, both of that nation took Gen. Brenier prisoner.

The Portuguese, we understand, are anxious to bestow all due praise upon English valour, but they say, that the number of troops in the French armies have been exaggerated, in order to acquire that glory which the transactions could not maintain. They contend, that for 18,000 English to vanquish 12,000 French, was no subject of boast to the British character; and they do not admit, that even with this inequality of force, under the recent convention, any conquest was achieved.

Their objections to the conduct of the British commanders do not terminate here. Prior to the last engagement the Portuguese had consumed the whole of their bread; and in these circumstances general Freire applied to sir A. Wellesley for a supply of provisions for a single day, the British at the same time having an abundance both in their train and with the shipping stationed on the coast.—This request was denied; on hearing which, the Portuguese commander is reported to have made this short observation, "Then we will fight without bread."

The most serious complaint yet remains. Neither the military nor the civil authorities of the natives were at any time consulted, either respecting the armistice, or the ultimate disgraceful convention; and had the proper respect been paid to their discretion and patriotism, it is highly probable that the manifest impolicy of this arrangement would have been exposed; so that even those who assented to it would have been convinced of their own precipitancy and folly.

As soon as the terms of that convention had placed the forts and capital of our faithful and august ally, under the protection of our troops, the British flag was elevated, as if Portugal had not recovered her liberty, but had been consigned over to new masters. When this emblem of their degradation was discovered, it excited such general expressions of indignation, that the imprudence which raised the banner was alarmed, and it was almost instantly lowered; but not without producing those sensations of disgust, the impression of which it will be very difficult to remove.

Under the strong impression of sensibility occasioned by these serious grievances, it is not surprising if we hear of commotions in Portugal, in which the English sent as friends and deliverers, have to endure some portion of general indignation, and in consequence of the French troops gradually diminishing in number, by the embarkation of their brethren to France, will be exposed to immediate danger. It is in truth impossible that laden with the plunder of that injured country, the latter can withdraw unless they are removed to a place of safety, guarded from the rage of the natives by the British troops.

The most convincing proof of the disgust of the inhabitants of Portugal, is the circumstance, that none of the public papers of that government has thought it fit to insert the conditions of the final convention.—Globe.

Dancing School.

BENJAMIN LONG of Spotsylvania, Virginia, purposes opening a DANCING SCHOOL in the State-House, City of Raleigh, on the first Friday and Saturday in January next, when and where he invites the Ladies and Gentlemen of Raleigh and its vicinity to attend for the purpose of witnessing his steps and manners &c. November 17. 59—Sp.

NORTH CAROLINA, } Court of Equity Octo-
BUNCOMBE COUNTY. } ber Term, 1808.

Ebenezer Fain, }
vs. } Bill of Complaint.
Elias Eastes. }

IT appearing to the Court that the defendant resides without the limits of this state, that he cannot be served with process: Therefore ordered, that unless the defendant appear at the next term of this Court to be held on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in March next, and make defence; this Bill will be taken *pro confesso*, and set for hearing *ex parte*. Ordered also that this order be published four weeks successively in the Minerva. G. NEWTON, c. & M. E.

Raleigh:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1808.

The Federal Court for this district was opened in Raleigh on Saturday last by Judge Potter, the Chief Justice arrived in the stage that evening.—But little business was done at this term, though the court went through the docket.—The trials of Collins and Twitty for the United States.—The present attorney having lately received his appointment, it cannot be expected he should possess all the necessary information relative to these suits, which is necessary to prosecute with effect. The Court adjourned on Tuesday evening.

In this day's paper will be found the message of the President.—The paragraphs which we have published from the National Intelligencer some weeks ago relative to our negotiations with France and England, contain just as much information as does this message, so anxiously looked for by the people.

When speaking of the negotiations with France, the President is certainly very unintelligible; we hope it is not a studied ambiguity.

We were in hopes of seeing something more in detail from the President, relative to our situation with France and Great-Britain. It must be acknowledged that the country never was in a more perilous situation, and we did expect that the President would have taken it upon himself to recommend to Congress some decided measures; but an opinion does not escape him—he throws all responsibility from himself upon that body. We shall expect to see shortly closed doors, and secret messages, or else certain members will receive their orders secretly how to act.

At first we were of opinion that the President could do no more than offer to England, that if she would repeal her orders, the Embargo should be raised as to her.—But let us dispassionately examine what would be the consequence, were Great Britain to accede to such a measure.—If the British orders are repealed there is at once no obstruction to our trade with France; and although our government should not suffer vessels to clear out for France, what would prevent their sailing for the West Indies, and there clear out for a French port? The British ministers knowing this would inevitably be the case, no doubt say that such a course would completely through our trade into France, and instead of our resisting the French decree, passed at Berlin in November 1806, it would be an acquiescence or a submission to that decree by us.

The Election for Electors of President closed throughout this State on Friday last.

In this district Col. Taylor, the Madisonian candidate is elected. In Granville his majority was 369, in Johnston 45 and in Wake 159, consequently, his whole majority is about 568. In some places of elections in Johnston, where the federalists have a decided majority, the polls were not opened, and this accounts for the republican majority. When it was known that the soldiers belonging to the army, stationed at this place, were to vote, many respectable men were so much disgusted that they would not vote at all, and many did not attend the election. We understand that at Tarborough and Hillsborough, the new recruits were not suffered to vote.—Indeed at Hillsborough, Captain Atkinson expressed his opinion, that by receiving a commission in the army, he considered himself completely disfranchised and that he should not attempt to vote, and further hoped that if the soldiers attempted it that the Inspectors would not suffer them. They did attempt to vote and were refused.

We do not recollect that the standing army ever voted before at an election, except in that republican state, Virginia, which can not do wrong, and which is a pattern for North Carolina upon all occasions. About the year 1798, A. Col. Preston and a Mr. Trigg contended for a seat in Congress.—The brother of Col. Preston was a capt. in the army, and on the day of election brought his men up who voted for Col. Preston. In canvassing the votes before the Congressional committee of Elections, the votes of the soldiers were deemed bad and deducted from Col. Preston's number. These were however not sufficient in number, and the Colonel kept his seat. This decision of Congress, we conceive, was a case in point, and this was mentioned among many other reasons, to the Inspectors; but Judge Potter gave it as his opinion that the soldiers had the right of voting, and contended strenuously at the polls, that they should be permitted to exercise that right.—We believe it was mentioned to the Inspectors that the recruits at Newbern, attempted to vote in August last, but were not permitted.—It was mentioned that these recruits, had just come into this county from Cumberland, Robeson, Franklin, and the adjoining counties, and that this place could not be called their residence, because they were soon to be ordered by the government into more active life, and to be hoped, into some service. It was also mentioned, that these men were not free (and none others can vote); that they could exercise no privilege whatever of freemen, if their officers should think proper to deny it to them.—That it was improper that men should vote at an election, whom a civil process could not reach, if they violated the election laws. Is not the example now set, a dangerous one?