

of Valenciennes.—The enemy seem busy in repairing the works, &c. On that side I believe the principal attack will be made, as the ground is very favorable. On the left is a height, which in a great measure commands the Horn-work, which is likewise commanded and enfiladed, from the east side of Mount Ansin.

We break ground to-night, and I have seen the first working party, under the command of Lord Charles Fitzroy, march off.—The Duke of York commands the siege. Ferraris, the celebrated Austrian Engineer, conducts it. Monieriff will I hope, have a good deal to say, as he has that baffle and activity which is too often wanting in the Germans. From the situation of the place, which is commanded on every side, and from every appearance, I do not think it will be a tedious business.

Conde holds out, and will do so while it has provisions, being totally unattackable, from the extensive inundations, and is besides one of the best and most regular fortifications in France.

The garrison of Valenciennes is supposed to be about 4 or 5000, and is said to be very badly supplied with munition de guerre.—They have killed a great number of horses, the carcases of which we can perceive round the Glacis: a proof they do not abound in forage.

If like Uncle Toby, you have a mind to carry on the siege along with us, you will probably find a plan of the town in the memoirs of Turenne, or Luxembourg, by one of whom, I think, it was last taken, and I do not believe the works have been much added to since.

The enemy have just begun to fire on the working party. They are also cannonading the Austrians on Mount Ansin, who are likewise at work. As they have not discovered, and I hope will not till the men are under cover.

June 4.

We have had two parties out, but without any loss. Since writing my last, I have examined the heights of Ansin, and the wood on the left of the French, through which Clairfayt attacked them. They had fortified themselves so strongly, and thrown so many obstacles in the way, that on his first attack he was beat back, and, at last, succeeded no farther than in getting possession of the wood. The entrenchments on the hill were abandoned by the enemy on the morning of the 24th ult. after the other part of the army had made their retreat through Valenciennes. Had he succeeded at first, it appears highly probable that the whole army would have been shut up in that town; and doubtless that was the great object of the day. At present, they are reported to be between Bouchain and Cambrai.

Cobourg has crossed the Scheldt, and his camp, I am told, extends almost to the first of these places. The Hanoverians occupy the Camp of Famars with the greater part of their troops. On this side the Ronelle are three battalions of Hanoverian grenadiers, with their left at Prefau; two regiments of their cavalry, and one regiment of Hungarian infantry. The second British brigade on the left of Arou; the Guards on the right of it: then two Austrian battalions, extending nearly to Onaing. In front of them the Esterhazi Hussars, and then in the village of St. Sauveur, which covers the right of the whole position, two companies of Croats, and two free battalions, (viz. O'Donnell and Melchowski) whose out-posts extend almost to the Glacis of the Horn-work. Clairfayt invests all the other side of the town, each wing extending to the Scheldt, and Mount Ansin, nearly in the centre. With the assistance of Ferraris's map, this will give you an idea of the manner in which the place is invested, and nothing can be more complete.

Of miscellaneous articles, great numbers are of course in circulation—the following, however, is certain: In the baggage taken by the 11th dragoons, was a portmanteau of an officer, in which was found an unfinished letter, where among o-

ther things, he states, that ever since the desertion of Dumourier, the discipline of the army was growing daily worse; that at Famars all was confusion and insubordination; that the troops of the line were heartily sick of the cause, and suspected, and hated the others; and that their loss from the 8th to the 12th of May had not been less than 8000 men.

Cuffine is said to be at Lille, and we imagine will endeavour to break the Cordon in that quarter. For my part, I do not see that it is of much consequence, if we can keep the navigation of the Scheldt open of which there can be but little doubt.

The utmost harmony prevails between us and the Austrian troops; they seem to look upon us with much partiality, and consider us as their old and natural friends. When you consider what has been done before the season in which a campaign generally opens, I do not think you can accuse them of delay; at the same time it is evident that the rapidity of their success has put out of their power to reap every possible advantage from it. Great reinforcements of men, artillery and horse, are on the road, and part of them near at hand.

Adieu, for this time—I am in perfect health, and so in general is the army.

I have just time to add, that Colonel Perryn is this moment returned from Bouchain, which place is completely invested. —Quefnoi is in the same situation, so that we have at present no less than four fortified places within the line. The French are between Cambrai and Douay, in small numbers Cuffine is with them. Once more adieu.

FROM THE (BOSTON) MERCURY.

A CORRESPONDENT observes, that the measure of calling together the General Court, in the midst of the present time, however inconvenient it may be to the members, is an act which goes beyond all the former exertions of patriotism, which have been displayed by the supreme executive officer of the State, through his long and laborious life. That the Governor of Massachusetts should be roused from his peaceful slumbers in the chair of State, by the service of a bill in equity, is an offence so atrocious as calls for the whole force of the Legislature to avenge the injury. That the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be compelled to comply with the laws of justice and equity as much as a single citizen, would be a principle so directly repugnant to the sovereignty of the State, that no sort of inconvenience or expense can be an object in comparison with that of resisting such an usurpation.—Does not every body know that sovereignty consists in doing injustice with impunity? Has it not in all ages been one of the darling prerogatives of royal sovereignty, and is not republican sovereignty entitled to the right of doing wrong without answering for it, as much as any crowned villain that ever existed? Considered in every point of view, the calling upon a sovereign Commonwealth to do justice, and to be equitable towards a single individual, the summoning of five hundred thousand men, to deal fairly with one, and worse than all, the indignity offered to the Majesty of the Commonwealth, by serving a legal process upon its servant, is an act of such audacious absurdity, and of such alarming tendency, that nothing less than the wisdom of the legislature, invigorated by the indignant resentment of the chief magistrate, can be competent to avert the impending calamity.

It has indeed been said that the personal affront, must necessarily be the only motive upon which the General Court are called together, at a period when the presence of the worthy agricultural members is so necessary to their own farms. Because as far as respects the interest of the State itself, the question involved in this transaction, has already during two successive sessions been before the Legislature, and they have thought proper to postpone the consideration of the subject until their next Winter Session. But it is very easy to discover whether there is not a sophism, lurking under the plausible suggestion. The truth is that the personal irritation of the executive officer can at most be considered only as a stimulus to rouse the Legislative body from their apparent torpid indifference, upon this momentous affair, and if they have thought the general question whether the State will be amenable to justice? Deserving of their future consideration, when the wounded Representative of the dignity of the State brings the consequences of the obnoxious principle of compulsory justice, so closely home to ourselves, they will readily precipitate the deliberation.

Messrs. Printers,

YOU are requested to inform the public through the channel of your paper, that the few French citizens, who were suspected of being interested in the privateer, lately fitted out of this port, have used their influence with their Consul and the commander to have him return into the harbour upon the report, that she was waiting for some English vessels, which were ready, but could not sail for fear of being taken: Accordingly the Captain, out of regard for the citizens of this town, returned last night into the harbour, until those vessels are sailed. One of the Suspected.

Philadelphia, August 7.

AMBUSCADE and BOSTON FRIGATES.

An account of the action between those vessels, by a Spectator on board the latter.

On Thursday the 1st of August, at a A. M. the Boston discovered a sail on the weather bow; she immediately beat to arms, and every thing was prepared for action. The Captain of the Boston knowing himself near the fleet, concluded to stand to the southward as long as it was dark, that at daylight he might see if any more ships were in sight. At about 5 o'clock, finding no other ship in sight, he sail to head-reach the Ambuscade, so as to fetch her on the other tack. In about 20 minutes they tacked ship again, but could not fetch the Ambuscade. As soon as the Boston came abreast, she bore down. Captain Courtney expecting the enemy were going to take him, wore ship and met him in the opposite tack. The Boston then hauled down her French colours which she had wore in her former manœuvres, and hoisting her English colours, fired a broadside without hailing the other ship. The Ambuscade returned the fire, carried away the Boston's cross jack yard, and passed by. The Boston then tacked again and came under the Ambuscade's lee quarter, when the engagement was very smart. In the early part of the action the 1st and 2d lieutenants were wounded. About the middle part the Captain was killed, as was the lieutenant of marines; and about the same time the main top mast was shot away. The Ambuscade was the whole of this time dropping astern, to get on the Boston's weather quarter; and as soon as she had got this situation had greatly the advantage, and shortly after cut the spars, sails and rigging of the Boston in such a manner, that they had very little command of their ship.

The 1st lieutenant (who had been wounded before) came on deck and took command: he immediately bore away, making what sail he could, and having a fair wind, set all his steering sails on his foremast. The Ambuscade gave chase, which she continued about 2 hours, but finding she could not overtake the Boston, spoke a brig which she appeared to have captured.

The Boston has received much damage in her hull, and sprung her mizen mast, damaged her fore and mizen yard, and most part of her standing and running rigging cut to pieces. One of her main deck guns was also dismounted, and by the surgeon's account there were 10 men killed and 24 wounded; among the former were Captain Courtney, the lieutenant and corporal of marines; among the latter, 3 lieutenants and 1 midshipman.

As some persons have disputed the challenge sent by Capt. Courtney to Citizen Bompard, I think proper to certify that it is a matter of fact.

The Ambuscade returned to New-York on Saturday morning, with the loss of 8 men killed and about 30 wounded, in the above engagement.

The New-York papers inform us, that the masts of the Ambuscade were so wounded in the late engagement, that she must have a new set complete.

Tuesday evening arrived here the ship Fame, from Nantes, which place she left about the first of June.—Letters are received by her as late as the 3d.

We have seen a Paris paper of the 28th May—brought by the Fame—it contains several letters from Gen. Lamouriere, and the Commissioners, dated at Lille—giving an account of a successful attack on the enemy in the neighborhood of that place, on the 23d.

Extract of a letter from Kingston, (Jam.) June 23.

"Yesterday sailed from Bluefields, the homeward bound fleet, accompanied by a very weak convoy; this is the largest and richest fleet of merchantmen ever dispatched from this island, the vessels belonging to this town only are valued at four millions sterling. There was a meeting a few days ago of the inhabitants, to petition the Governor for the admission of provisions in American bottoms, or a famine must be the inevitable consequence, for, on the most minute investigation, there is not provisions in town for a fortnight's supply; what with the numerous inhabitants, the soldiery, navy, vast number of French prisoners, thirty odd fail of Guineamen in the harbor, and a vast number of Spanish vessels to be supplied, you will naturally conclude the consumption to be very great."

Though the following Declaration may not be worn as a visible talisman—yet the sentiments are indelibly engraved on the heart of every real friend to the happiness of our Country—and will, without doubt, operate to securing its peace and prosperity for many generations.

EXTRACT from the CHESTERTOWN GAZETTE.

"Mr. PRINTER,

"I sincerely love my country, rejoice in its prosperity, and, where wisdom dictates and virtue approves, will cheerfully contribute to its welfare, by all the means within the compass of my power. While I repose in security under the shade of the Tree of Liberty, and enjoy the delightful repast of its fruits, and participate the gales of general prosperity, I hope I shall not be the first to contract the benefits of its umbrage, by lopping the luxuriance of its branches, nor doom myself to merit execration, by applying the first ax to its roots. Conscious of the blessings I enjoy under the AMPLE ROOF, MY COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION, I AM LED BY A SECRET IMPULSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION TO STRENGTHEN THE PILLARS WHICH SUPPORT IT, and thus, while I divert the calamities of ruin, I perpetuate to myself the protection of this NEW and COMMODOUS EDIFICE.—

This, Sir, is my patriotism, which if not refined from the grossness of selfish motive, is not the less sincere and natural, since it proceeds from a fundamental and ineluctible spring of human operation."

Extract of a letter from New-York, August 1.

"There has been a meeting to-day in the Fields, to consider of the propriety of addressing the French Minister, who is expected here to-morrow; and it has been determined, tho' not without much opposition, to address him."

A writer in the New-York Patriotic Journal, asks the following question—Would there be an impropriety in wearing the National Ribbon during the war?—Another writer from the same mint, has honored America, by calling her the daughter of France.—It is abundantly evident that there are persons among us who wish to sink or lose the Nation of Independent Americans in that of some European power.—This is one way of keeping clear of European politics and connections!—With respect to ribbons, or other public badges, their fatal effects have been realized in all ages.—In the time of the Emperor Justinian, the ribbon factions in Constantinople, destroyed of each other, seventy thousand persons in one day.

The ship Happy Return, Capt. Stevens, is arrived at Newcastle, in nine weeks from London-derry, with 400 passengers.

The Merchants and others, inhabitants of the town of Beverly, Massachusetts, have passed sundry resolutions expressive of a full approbation of the President's Proclamation of Neutrality.

The Committee appointed to distribute relief to the distressed French Emigrants from the Cape, REPORT, That upwards of 600 have already arrived in Philadelphia from sea and from Baltimore.

That 239 have been relieved in a very temporary manner.

About 6 have been sent to the hospital under the security of the committee for board, &c.

About 30 have been lodged, under like security for board.

About 60 equally distressed with the former, but having just arrived, have not been, but will be relieved.

About 100 have had employments procured for them; but small advances for cloathing was absolutely necessary.

The sum actually expended is 1600 dollars. The committee have chiefly confined their relief to subsistence for 15 days, which is near expiring; they have procured lodgings for the greatest part on very moderate terms; they have taken pains to avoid impositions, and to give only to those really distressed.

Besides the above enumerated, the committee report, that 800 dollars has been distributed by the French Patriotic Society; their fund being exhausted, many of the objects of it must apply to the committee.

Many who had saved some small matter of property have not yet applied, but their fund being small, they must soon have recourse to the committee.

They report generally, that they have in pursuit of this duty, been witness to the greatest scene of distress that can be conceived, and cannot but recommend that the subscription be warmly promoted, under a full conviction, that notwithstanding the most rigid economy has been used, the funds expected, will be far short of what will be wanted, to complete the benevolent object of their fellow-citizens.

J. VAUGHAN,  
P. LEMAIGRE,  
J. G. WACHSMUTH.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Who are the persons that clamour in favor of a government of laws, & not of men? Answer—They are those who glory in the insults which the laws and their administrators receive at the hands of the avowed enemies of both.

Who are the persons who toast principles and not men? Answer—They are the very men who fly in the face of principles, whenever their operation contravenes their ambitious projects.

Who are the persons that say they like the Constitution of the United States, but dislike the administration of the Government? Answer, They are the very men who exerted themselves to the utmost, to prevent the adoption of the Constitution; but since that event took place, conceive that their merits have not been properly rewarded by posts of honor and profit under the Government.

Who are the men that say "the voice of the people is the voice of God," and that representation is the vital principle of republicanism? Answer—They are the very persons who have reviled, abused and insulted the President and Vice President of the United States, the majority of both Houses of Congress, the FREELY-ELECTED Representatives of the People—and this they have been continually employed in doing for more than four years past—and after repeated elections made by the sovereign people.

NEW-YORK, August 3.

Yesterday afternoon arrived the French Fleet, consisting of the L'Eole and Jupiter, 74 guns each, two Frigates and twelve other ships; they came to anchor off the Battery and fired a salute of 15 guns, which was returned from the Battery.

SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVED at the PORT of PHILADELPHIA.

Ship New-Bedford, Smith,	New-Bedford
Fame, Eldridge,	Nantz
Delaware, Art,	Charleston
Brig Fair Hope, Brown,	Oporto
Phoenix, Drinker,	Cape-Francois
Twins, Yard,	St. Croix
New Planter, Hawkins,	do.
Industry, Brewster,	St. John's
Sch. Ceres, Stevens,	Curacoa
Dolphin, Watson,	Cape-Francois
Sloop Fair American, Stevens,	St. Croix
Harmony, Stratton,	New-York
Anna, Gardner,	Nantucket
Sally, Hayes,	Goadaloupe

The French ships mentioned in our last to have arrived here, are La Precieuse, of 36 guns, and Labornant, of 22 guns—thro' misinformation, these ships were misnamed in some of Saturday's papers.

Price of Stocks as in our last.