

PHILADELPHIA.

The following Letter has been transmitted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Collectors of the different ports in the United States.

CIRCULAR to the COLLECTORS of the CUSTOMS.

Philadelphia, August 4th, 1793.

SIR, It appearing that repeated contraventions of our neutrality have taken place in the ports of the United States, without having been discovered in time for prevention or remedy, I have it in command from the President, to address to the collectors of the respective districts a particular instruction on the subject.

It is expected, that the officers of the customs in each district, will in the course of their official functions have a vigilant eye upon whatever may be passing within the ports, harbours, creeks, inlets and waters of such district, of a nature to contravene the laws of neutrality, and upon discovery of any thing of the kind will give immediate notice to the governor of the state and to the attorney of the judicial district, comprehending the district of the customs within which any such contravention may happen.

To assist the judgment of the officers on this head, I transmit herewith a schedule of rules, concerning sundry particulars, which have been adopted by the President, as deductions from the laws of neutrality, established and received among nations. Whatever shall be contrary to these rules will, of course, be to be notified, as above mentioned.

There are some other points, which, pursuant to our treaties and the determinations of the executive, I ought to notice to you.

If any vessel of either of the powers at war with France should bring or send with in your district a prize made of the subjects, people or property of France, it is immediately to be notified to the Governor of the state, in order that measures may be taken, pursuant to the 17th article of our treaty with France, to oblige such vessel and her prize, or such prize when sent in without the capturing vessel, to depart.

No privateer of any of the powers at war with France, coming within a district of the United States, can, by the 22d article of our treaty with France, enjoy any other privilege than that of purchasing such victuals as shall be necessary for her going to the next port of the prince or state from which she has her commission. If she should do any thing beside this, it is immediately to be reported to the governor and the attorney of the district. You will observe by the rules transmitted, that the term privateer is understood not to extend to vessels armed for merchandise and war, commonly called with us *letters of marque*, nor, of course, to vessels of war in the immediate service of the government of either of the powers at war.

No armed vessel which has been or shall be originally fitted out in any port of the United States by either of the parties at war is henceforth to have asylum in any district of the United States. If any such armed vessel shall appear within your district, it is immediately to be notified to the governor and attorney of the district; which is also to be done, in respect to any prize, that such armed vessel shall bring or lead in. At foot is a list of such armed vessels of the above description as have hitherto come to the knowledge of the executive.

The purchasing within, and exporting from, the United States, by way of merchandise, articles commonly called contraband (being generally, warlike instruments and military stores) is free to all the parties at war, and is not to be interfered with. If our own citizens undertake to carry them to any of those parties, they will be abandoned to the penalties which the laws of war authorize.

You will be particularly careful to observe, and to notify as directed in other instances, the case of any citizen of the United States, who shall be found in the service of either of the parties at war.

In case any vessel shall be found in the act of contravening any of the rules or principles which are the ground of this instruction, she is to be refused a clearance until she shall have complied with what the governor shall have decided in reference to her. Care, however, is to be taken in this, not unnecessarily or unreasonably to embarrass trade or to vex

any of the parties concerned.

In order that contraventions may be the better ascertained, it is desired that the officers who shall first go on board any vessel arriving within your district shall make an accurate survey of her then condition, as to military equipment, to be forthwith reported to you, and that prior to her clearance a like survey be made, that any transgression of the rules laid down may be ascertained.

But as the propriety of any such inspection of a vessel of war in the immediate service of the government of a foreign nation is not without question in reference to the usage of nations, no attempt is to be made to inspect any such vessel till further order on the point.

The President desires me to signify to you his most particular expectation that the instruction contained in this letter will be executed with the greatest vigilance, activity, care and impartiality. Omissions will tend to expose the government to injurious imputations and suspicions, and proportionably to commit the good faith and peace of the country; objects of too much importance not to engage every proper exertion of your zeal.

With consideration, I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

RULES adopted by the President of the United States.

I. The original arming and equipping of vessels in the ports of the United States by any of the belligerent parties, for military service, offensive or defensive, is deemed unlawful.

II. Equipments of merchant vessels by either of the belligerent parties in the ports of the United States, purely for the accommodation of them, as such, is deemed lawful.

III. Equipments in the ports of the United States of vessels of war in the immediate service of the government of any of the belligerent parties, which if done to other vessels would be of a doubtful nature, as being applicable either to commerce or war, are deemed lawful; except those which shall have made prize of the subjects, people or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

IV. Equipments in the ports of the United States, by any of the parties at war with France, of vessels fitted for merchandize and war whether with or without commissions, which are doubtful in their nature, as being applicable either to commerce or war, are deemed lawful; except those which shall have made prize of the subjects, people or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

V. Equipments of any of the vessels of France, in the ports of the United States, which are doubtful in their nature, as being applicable to commerce or war, are deemed lawful.

VI. Equipments of every kind in the ports of the United States, of privateers of the powers at war with France, are deemed unlawful.

VII. Equipments of vessels in the ports of the United States, which are of a nature solely adapted to war, are deemed unlawful; except those stranded or wrecked, as mentioned in the eighteenth article of our treaty with France, the sixteenth of our treaty with the United Netherlands, the ninth of our treaty with Prussia; and except those mentioned in the nineteenth article of our treaty with France, the seventeenth of our treaty with the United Netherlands, the eighteenth of our treaty with Prussia.

VIII. Vessels of either of the parties not armed, or armed previous to their coming into the ports of the United States which shall not have infringed any of the foregoing rules, may lawfully engage or enlist therein their own subjects or citizens, not being inhabitants of the United States; except privateers of the powers at war with France, and except those vessels which shall have made prize of the subjects, people or property of France, coming with their prizes into the ports of the United States, pursuant to the seventeenth article of our treaty of amity and commerce with France.

List of Privateers referred to in the Circular Letter to the Collectors of the Customs.

Citizen Genet,	} Fitted out at Charleston,
Sans Culottes,	
Vainqueur de Baffille,	
Petit Democrat,	
Caramanville,	
	Philadelphia,
	Delaware.

Foreign Intelligence.

VIENNA, May 11.

THE late Hungarian Diet have granted to his Majesty 5000 recruits, to complete the national regiments, and 3000 more being wanted, the States have given orders to raise them without delay.

The remaining troops in Hungary; both Infantry and cavalry, have also been sent off to the army of reserve in Upper Austria; and those in Transylvania are also on their march, under the command of General Heydendorff.

Last Sunday a considerable quantity of ammunition and warlike implements were dispatched from this metropolis to the frontiers, besides a sum of 4,000,000 of florins, all in silver specie, put up in chests, and carried by forty waggons.

From the lists given, it appears that there are still 4100 persons of both sexes in captivity among the Turks, by whom they were taken during the campaigns of 1788, 89, and 90. The Porte has been unable to restore them, since they have been sold as slaves to owners unknown, and perhaps at an immense distance from the Turkish capital. His majesty has assigned the fund of the suppressed order of Trinitarians to the redemption of those unfortunate people.

MARSEILLES, June 18.

M. M. Savon, two brothers, who had for a long time kept the guillotine in action in this city, have been condemned to death in their turn, by the new anti Jacobin Tribunal, and were guillotined the day before yesterday (the 16th) at four in the afternoon, amidst an immense crowd of spectators.

A considerable number of persons have been apprehended at Aix, in consequence, as is said, of the dying confessions of these brothers. Among the prisoners is a Magistrate.

The Central Committee formed at Savon, of the deputies of the different clubs of the department, has just been dissolved by an order of the department itself.

The Sections of this city have just announced the discovery of a great conspiracy, and their intention to pursue its authors. Philippe Egalite is more strictly confined than ever in the Tower of Fort St. Jean.—His Trial goes on unremittingly.

United States.

PORTLAND, (Mass.) Aug. 3.
SEA MONSTER.

Capt. Crabtree, who lately arrived at Frenchman's bay, and now in this town, gives the following extraordinary account of a sea-serpent, the authenticity of which may be depended on:—

"On the 20th of June last, being on my passage from the West Indies, in the morning, having just made Mount-Desart island, distant nearly ten leagues, I suddenly got sight of a Serpent of an enormous size, swimming on the surface of the ocean, its head elevated about six or eight feet out of water, rather prone forward. That part of the body which was out of water, I judged to be about the size of a barrel in circumference, but the head larger, having some resemblance of a horse's. According to the most accurate computation which I made in my mind, of his length, I think it could not be less than from 55 to 60 feet, and perhaps longer. That part of the body which was not elevated, but of which I had a distinct view several times, was larger than the part out of water. The body of a dark brown. I was within two hundred yards of it near an hour; during which time, as it discovered no inclination to molest us, myself and the whole crew observed it with the minutest attention; nor was its attention less fixed on us. The eye was perfectly black, sharp, and piercing. I was so near it as to observe clearly that there were no fins or external appendages to the body; but that its motion was by the writhing of the body, like other serpents. During the time it was with us, several flocks of birds flew near which it eyed very narrowly. I observed in it the greatest agility and quickness of motion."

There is no doubt but this is one of the two which have been seen in these parts. All accounts agree respecting their size and appearance. Two of them (perhaps the same) were once seen on the shore of the Cranberry islands, but immediately took to the water on being discovered. These are the first ever seen in our seas, that we have any account of, though they have been seen on the coast of Norway, more than 100 feet in length.

At a general meeting of the citizens of Portland, on the 29th day of July, Capt. Nathaniel Deering was chosen chairman; and at an adjournment on the following day, the late Proclamation of the President of the United States, declaring their neutrality in the present European war, was taken into consideration, and thereupon,

Voted, That the actual tranquillity, peace and prosperity of the United States, are blessings of the highest order, and that the preservation of them is essential to the happiness of the present and future generations.

Voted, That the interference of any of our fellow-citizens in the present European war, would be no less criminal to the public good, than the private motives of such robbery and rapine are immoral, unsocial and detestable.

Voted, That we highly approve and will strictly observe the late proclamation of the President of the United States, declaring that their duty and interest require a friendly and impartial conduct towards all the belligerent powers.

That in addition to the regulation of our own conduct on this important occasion, we will keep an eye on that of any deluded citizens or persons, who may so far abandon their duty and the common good (as defined in the constitution, treaties and laws of the United States) as to intermeddle in the war on any pretence whatever—and will use our best endeavors that their designs may be defeated, and their offences punished according to their demerit.

Voted, That these proceedings be printed; that a copy of them be transmitted to our fellow-citizens of the town of Boston, in return for their similar communication.

By order of the Citizens of Portland. SA. WALDO, Sec'y.

PROVIDENCE, August 3.

Saturday last arrived at Newport the British ship Catharine, William James Davis, master, mounting 4 Iron Guns, and some of Wood.—She was bound from Jamaica to New York, with freight, and a number of passengers; but falling in with a British frigate off Sandy Hook, and learning that the French Frigate Ambuscade was at New York, Davis thought proper to bear away for Newport. The passengers inform, that some time previous to their speaking the British frigate, they fell in with an American vessel, bound from Cape-Francois to Baltimore, having on board 150 French passengers, and that from this vessel Davis took two bags of money, said to contain between 6 and 7000 dollars, supposing it to be French property. As he was not provided with a Commission, his conduct became a subject of conversation at Newport—and fearing he should be stopped, on Wednesday night he split his cables, and put to sea, leaving the passengers ashore one of whom had freight on board to a large amount.

A writer in the Newport Mercury asks the following queries in relation to the foregoing nefarious transaction.

"Why was not a guard put on board the ship, if the Captain could not be arrested till the examination was finished?—Or, why was his word deemed sufficient for his appearance? I address myself to the gentlemen of the law. Was he bailable in law, at the time he was suffered to appear at large? Why was the examination so lengthy, viz. from three to eight o'clock? Why,