

From the London Gazette.  
ADMIRALTY OFFICE, February 3.  
A letter from Rear-Admiral Bligh, late Captain of his Majesty's ship the Alexander, to Mr. Stephens, (a copy of which is as follows) was received at this office the 30th of last month:

On board the *Miral*, at Brest,  
November 23d, 1793.

SIR,  
THE arrival of the Canada must long since have informed their Lordships of my misfortune, in losing his Majesty's ship Alexander, late under my command, having been taken by a squadron of French ships of war, consisting of five of 74 guns, three large frigates, and an armed brig, commanded by Rear-Admiral Neilly: farther particulars and details I herewith transmit you for their Lordships' information. We discovered this squadron on our weather-bow, about half past two o'clock, or near three, in the morning on the 6th inst. being then in latitude 48 deg. 25 min. N. 7 deg. 53 min. W. the wind then at west, and we steering north-east; on which I immediately hauled our wind, with the larboard tacks on board, and without signal, the Canada being close to us. We passed the strange ships a little before four o'clock, the nearest of whom at about half a mile distant, but could not discover what they were. Shortly after we bore more up, let the reefs out of the topsails, and set steering-fails. About five o'clock perceiving, by my night glass, the strange ships stand after us, we crowded all the sail we could possibly set, as did the Canada, and hauled more to the eastward. About day break the Canada passed us and steering more to the northward than we did, brought her on her larboard bow. Two ships of the line and two frigates pursued her; and three of the line and one frigate chased the Alexander. About half past seven o'clock the French ships hoisted English colours. About a quarter past eight o'clock we hoisted our colours; upon which the French ships hauled down the English, and hoisted theirs; and drawing up within gun shot, we began firing our stern-chaces at them, and received their bow-chaces. About nine o'clock, or shortly after, observing the ships in pursuit of the Canada, drawing with her, and firing at each other their bow and stern-chaces, I made the Canada's signal to form a head for our mutual support, being determined to defend the ships to the last extremity; which signal she instantly answered, and endeavoured to put it in execution by steering towards us; but the ships in chase of her, seeing her intentions, hauled more to starboard to cut her off, and which obliged her to steer the course she had done before. We continued firing our stern chaces at the ships pursuing us till near eleven o'clock, when three ships of the line came up, and brought us to close action, which we sustained for upwards of two hours, when the ship was a complete wreck; the main yard, spanker-boom, and three top-gallant yards shot away; all the lower masts shot through in many places, and expected every minute to go over the side; all the other masts and yards were also wounded, more or less; nearly the whole of the standing and running rigging cut to pieces, the sails torn into ribbons, and her hull much shattered, and making a great deal of water, and with difficulty floated into Brest. At this time the ships that had chased the Canada had quitted her, and were coming fast up to us, the shot of one of them at the time passing over us. Thus situated, and cut off from all resources, I judged it advisable to consult my officers, and accordingly assembled them all on the quarter-deck; when, upon surveying and examining the state of the ship, (engaged as I have already described) they deemed any farther resistance would be ineffectual, as every possible exertion had already been used in vain to save her, and therefore they were unanimously of opinion, that to resign her would be the means of saving the lives of a number of brave men. Then, and not till then, (painful to relate) I ordered the colours to be struck; a measure which, on a full investigation, I hope and trust their Lordships will not disapprove. Hitherto I have not been able to collect an exact list of the killed and wounded, as many of the former were thrown overboard during the action, and when taken possession of, the people were divided and sent on board different ships, but I do not believe they exceed forty or thereabout. No officer above the rank of boatwain's mate, was killed. Lieutenant Fitzgerald, of the Marines, Messrs. Burns, boatwain, and McCurdy, pilot, were

wounded, but in a fair way of doing well. The cool, steady and gallant behaviour of all my officers and ship's company, marines as well as seamen, throughout the whole action, merits the highest applause; and I should feel myself deficient in my duty, as well as in what I owe to those brave men, were I to omit requesting you will be pleased to recommend them in the strongest manner to their Lordships' favour and protection; particularly lieutenants Godench, Epworth, Carter, West and Daracott; Major Tench, Lieutenants Fitzgerald and Brown of the marines; Mr. Robinson the master, together with the warrant and petty officers, whose bravery and good conduct I shall ever hold in the highest estimation. I have hitherto been treated with great kindness and humanity, and have not a doubt but that I shall meet with the same treatment during my captivity.

I am, with great respect,  
Your most obedient, and  
Most humble servant,  
R. R. BLIGH.

LONDON, January 18.

At Grave the French emigrants were given up by the 14th article of the capitulation. The constant sacrifice of these unfortunate men during the present war, is an indelible blot on the reputation of the Allies.

A swarm of French privateers are cruising off the Texel, and take a great number of prizes; since the 9th of last month those privateers have carried into Dunkirk 20 Dutch and 16 English prizes.

The latest letters from Warsaw are of the most melancholy description. Most of the illustrious Polish Patriots have been suddenly seized by different detachments of Cossacks, and sent as state prisoners to St. Petersburg.

Madalinski has laid down his arms, and obtained permission to return to Warsaw.

The Empress of Russia has written a letter to the king of Poland, inviting him to quit that capital, and go to Grodno, as a place of more security. The King declared, that, though the rigor of the season, and the bad state of health, were contrary to such a journey, yet he would obey the request of the Empress. It is, alas! but too true, that the life of that excellent monarch promises but short duration.—The wretched state in which his country is involved, has nearly affected him, and will probably accelerate his death.

The horrors and cruelties exercised by the Russian butchers upon the unfortunate Poles, are beyond description; they have not only raised heavy contributions every where, but even gather the revenue, and ever since the reduction of Warsaw not a single sou of the public money has been applied to the exigencies of the State or the King. Famine and want prevail every where; and so exhausted is that devoted country, that even the Russian plunderers, unless they receive speedy supplies, will be compelled by hunger and want to quit Warsaw and other districts of Poland.

On the 26th ult. a very serious insurrection took place in the City of Augsburg, which has been quelled by some Austrian regiments.

Letters from Genoa mention, that the French Commissioners buy up all the provisions they can in that part of Italy, and pay the most exorbitant prices for them.

Orders are said to have been issued to press every seaman for the service of the navy, from Deal to the Land's end, whatever may be the destination of the merchantmen in which he shall be found.

In pursuance of the sentence of a Court Martial held on board his Majesty's ship *Stately*, the Honourable Admiral Cornwallis President, the following men were executed on Tuesday last, on board the *Calloden*, for being the principals concerned in the mutiny on board that ship, viz. Francis Watts, Cornelius Sullivan, Jeremiah Curtain, John Johnson and Joseph Collins; three hung on the starboard, and two on the larboard foreyard arm; all the Chaplains of the fleet had orders to attend them: they behaved very penitent, and admitted the justness of their sentence; exhorting all the ship's company to take warning by their unhappy end, and never more to be concerned in mutiny or disobedience to their superior officers. They were turned off about a quarter before twelve, and hung till near one. David Hyman, Samuel Tregge, and James Morris, who were condemned with the others, received his Majesty's pardon, and were put on board three different ships.

Wednesday afternoon an American brig called the *Betsy*, Capt. Fletcher, arrived at Portsmouth from Havre-de-Grace; which place she left on the 11th inst. On coming ashore at Portsmouth, Capt. Fletcher directly waited upon Sir Peter Parker, the Port-Admiral, and gave him the following information: that the French fleet returned to Brest about ten days ago, and that the

Revolutionaire, of 110 guns, in going in, struck on a rock, and is totally lost: the crew were all saved. He also states, that within these few days two large frigates were launched at Havre, and that there are more in great forwardness. Capt. Fletcher set off immediately for London, with upwards of 20,000*l.* in specie.

The late Bankruptcies among the Polish Jews have operated the failure of several mercantile houses in Germany. The misfortunes of the former, who are numerous and opulent, arose from the unhappy distractions of Poland. Instead of attending the fair of Leipzig, they transmitted a formal intimation to their creditors, that they were unable to pay their debts, till the lapse of ten years. By these bankruptcies, it is believed, that some of the Dutch and British merchants have collaterally suffered considerable losses.

The French General Jourdan, is said to have been a Haberdasher; but, whatever he was, it is certain that he is now a man of business. As this scheme succeeds so well with them, suppose we should try the experiment of putting our Man-milliners, Haberdashers of Small Wares, and Man-mercers, into a state of requisition, just to see what they would do in the army. At home they are totally useless, and a change of place might possibly produce a change of manners.

Considering the exorbitant price of bread, of vegetables, and animal food of all descriptions,—a Proclamation for a fast was scarcely necessary. Many orders of his Majesty's liege subjects will be under the necessity of fasting upon compulsion.

It is a fact very well authenticated, that in the conference which the Dutch commissioners, Messrs. Brantzen and Replaeur, held at Bois-le-Duc with General Pichegru, the latter advised them by all means to continue their journey to Paris, and said, "that from that moment he considered the negotiations of peace to be opened." In consequence of this expression, all the Dutch troops which occupied Bommel and the right banks of the Waal, were ordered to confine themselves to defensive measures, as it was supposed the French would follow the same line of conduct; and this they might have done, if the extreme rigor of the season had not furnished the French General an easy means of crossing the Waal on the ice, and of accomplishing the reduction and conquest of the rich Province of Holland.

This perfidious conduct places, in the fullest light, the principles that guide the policy of the Convention. So long as it seemed impossible to remove the obstacles which obstructed their troops from penetrating into that province, they professed an earnest desire of entering into negotiations of peace with the States General; but these obstacles were no sooner removed, than, notwithstanding these negotiations, they forced their way, sword in hand, into the very heart of that country, which, relying on their boasted principles of moderation and justice, had deputed commissioners for the conclusion of peace. All the conclusions, therefore, which certain people would draw from the present *moderantism* of the Convention, in favour of pacificatory measures, are evidently illusive, since that moderation is nothing but a mask to hide their ambitious projects, and facilitate their execution, by imposing upon the weak and unguarded.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Sitting of December 28.

Duhem.—YOU have given proofs that the whole Convention will a republic (laughter)—murmurs.) It can therefore never be your intention to second the toolish hopes of aristocracy and royalism, which are impudently rearing their crests at our very doors, and would re-establish the constitution of 1791. (The whole Assembly rose, crying out *Vive la Republique!*)

The above introductory observations led Duhem again to denounce a publication, entitled, "The French Spectator during the Revolutionary Government," by La Croix, ancient professor at the Lyceum. He read the following passage from the 23d Lecture:

"What may be the true wish of the French nation remains still doubtful to me. I am not yet certain, that the people of France do really feel that love for the Republic which results from a careful comparison of the present government with that you have delivered them from. The number of individuals, who like machines, follow every impulse they receive, and adopt or seem to adopt, every opinion suggested by others, is so very great, that I do neither rely on external demonstrations, nor on acclamations, produced either by fear or desire of imitation."

(The whole Assembly arose again, and exclaimed *Vive la Republique!* under the loudest shouts of applause.)

The author then endeavors to prove, that the clubs, sections, and the popular assemblies are divided by different opinions; that their members do not constitute the tenth part of the nation; that the sentiments proclaimed to-day, are disfavoured to-morrow; that it is impossible to take the sense of the primary assemblies, because agitators and a-

narchists would soon direct the elections, intimidate the citizens, and force them to elect enemies of public order and repose. In his opinion, it would be necessary to exclude from those elections all those who could neither read nor write well; who had not been established at least a twelvemonth in the place where they give their vote, nor paid their contributions and taxes. The author afterwards continues in the following manner:

"The Convention ought to send into every Department a Representative of the People, charged with enquiring into the true sentiments of the nation, and assisted by the national agents, who should visit the different communes and invite all the inhabitants of the age of twenty-one and above, to produce their receipts of contribution, and to have their names, places of abode, trade and profession registered in a book, destined for that purpose. This done, he should be requested to sign a bulletin, at the head of which should be printed the following words: *Liberty of Opinions, Protection of Property, and Public Welfare*; and the space under them be divided into different columns, bearing the inscriptions *Republican Constitution of 1793; Constitution of 1791; Adhesion to an honourable peace, if it should be proposed by the Belligerent Powers*. In each of these columns the citizens in a separate room should inscribe *Yes*, or *No*; fold up the bulletin thus signed, and put it in a separate box, on which the national agent should put the national seal, and all these boxes should be carried to the chief place of the section, there to be opened in the presence of the commissioners; all the different bulletins taken out, and collected in an urn, to be sent to the Convention. By this Assembly forty commissioners should be chosen from among its members, to scrutinize the votes, and verify their result." The author adds, "A great number of people are still of opinion, that the Constitution of 1791 better suited the national character than that of 1793; and that the former, instead of being annihilated, should have been modified." (The most violent expressions of disgust and indignation burst from every part of the hall. Several voices demanded the arrest of the author.)

Laignelot announced, that the Committee of General Safety had already ordered the writer to be taken into custody, the bookseller Buisson, to be put in a state of arrest, and all the copies of the work to be seized, and that the said committee intended to surrender La Croix up to the Revolutionary Tribunal.

Duhem continued the reading of the same work, whose author asserts, that in case the majority of the people wished for the re-establishment of royalty, the Convention would in its wisdom confine its authority within due bounds.

Bourdon, de l'Oise, exclaimed, "I declare, that I never will put other limits to the authority of a King than a poignard." (Loud plaudits. The assembly rose once more, and cried out *Vive la Republique!*)

In a dialogue, contained in the same treatise, between the author and a member of the Convention, the latter uttering some doubts, that notwithstanding the oath of oblivion, which would be exacted of the new monarch, those who had voted for the death of Louis XVI. might not be safe if they remained in France, the former answers—"Before you resign your powers, in pursuance of the last decree you are to enact, three vessels must be in readiness to convey to America all those deputies and administrators, who should wish to go thither; the value of the revenue and estates they leave behind, must be paid in specie into their hands; and besides this, the sum of twenty thousand livres to each of them by way of indemnity." (Bursts of Laughter.)

The reading of La Croix's work being finished, Mailhe informed the Convention, that nothing could be more certain, than that the enemies of liberty were endeavoring to destroy the republic; that the committees of government were on the point of making a report relative to this subject, wherein they intended to describe the situation of the Republic on and since the 9th of Thermidor; to unfold all the dark manœuvres of royalists; to refute the paradox which ignorant men had of late asserted, viz. That the people had a right to chuse such a government as they pleased—and to demonstrate, that the nation had no right to chuse and to subject themselves to a King; that they could not re-establish royalty without violating their own rights; and that a private individual, a Frenchman, who wished for a King, was not a man, but a tiger, a foe to humanity. (Shouts of Applause.)

Lequinio.—For several days past, Royalists, and other ill-disposed people,

have resumed their perfidious plots, which you will never be able entirely to destroy, without depriving them of this last hope; I mean the last offspring of the impure race of tyrants, who is in the temple. (Plaudits). I move that the committees be charged with devising and proposing the best means of purifying the soil of liberty of the last remaining trace of royalism. Referred to the committees.

Boissy d'Anglas said, that the Royalists, with a view of attacking the republican government, endeavored to excite in Paris commotions favourable to their intentions, and that they meant to take advantage of the difficulty of procuring provisions, occasioned by the severity of the season, to alarm the people with respect to their subsistence; but that all possible measures had been adopted to convey to the capital by land those provisions, which on account of the Seine being frozen over, could not arrive by water.

Cambon observed, that in all the manœuvres of the Royalists to overthrow the Republic, he clearly discerned the sequel of the plans of Pitt and Coburg, (Plaudits). He complained of the persecutions, which in several departments true republicans suffered from the partisans of the constitution of 1791. He declaimed with much warmth against libel-mongers, informers, and the obstacles which obstructed the exculpation of such Deputies as were the objects of calumny and slander. "I freely speak my sentiments (added he) when I say, that we at present bend our necks under a tyranny more grinding than even that of Robespierre." (Murmurs.)

Several voices—"He is right; Ferron's tyranny is horrid."

Bourdon, de l'Oise—"The first emotion of this Assembly, on hearing read the infamous production of Royalty, produced the solemn promise of poignarding Kings. This our enemies shall learn and tremble, (shouts of applause.) There are people who would render useless all the victories of your armies, by confining France within her ancient limits, and make peace by leaving on our shoulders a national debt of eight thousand millions. But you shall soon perceive, that in case of need we are able to carry on the war three years longer.—(Ten years, cried a great number of members.) Your enemies are not ignorant of it, and this makes them tremble."

Sitting of Dec. 29.

Le Carpentier announced, that in a few days he would propose a total abolition of the Civil Courts of justice in the Districts.—(Murmurs)

Armonville mounted the tribune with the red cap on his head.

A great number of voices,—*Down with the cap.*

Armonville placed his cap on Marat's head. He was applauded from a part of the Hall, and proceeded to justify himself in several charges brought against him.

Syeyes demanded to be dispensed with being a Member of the Committee of Twenty-one, on pretence that he was a suppliant at the Committee of legislation.

Bernard de Saintes thought it strange that Syeyes should make use of false pretences to get dispensed with his duty.

Glauzel said, that Syeyes would do well to check his indolence, and to be more exact in the performing of his duty.

Johannot read a proclamation, destined to acquaint the French people with the beneficial consequences of the abolition of the law of the maximum, which was approved of and adopted.

Michault du Doubs.—"This proclamation will not do. It says, that patriots are no longer persecuted in the Departments, and I assure you, that they are treated there with the utmost infamy. The Popular Societies are intended to be suppressed in a mass.—(No one, exclaimed the whole convention.)—Well, enact then a Decree which states, that the Popular Societies have never ceased to deserve well of country, and that the Constituted Authorities are to protect them."—(laughter.)

Girot Pouzol.—"The proposition suits wonderfully well the time, when all the popular Societies congratulated us on the overthrow of that which lorded it over them all."

Lefage Senault.—"Thou liest." (Violent murmurs.)

The President called Senault to order. Several Members declared that he should be sent to the Abbey prison. Senault and Ruamps raised their voice in the uproarious confusion which ensued.—At last Girot was allowed to proceed.—"Ye are no citizens, ye who spurn at this great Society, because it