

LONDON, MARCH 31.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, March 29, 1800.

Copy of a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B. Vice-Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to Evan Nepean, Esq. dated on board the Queen Charlotte, off Valette, 20th Feb. 1800.

SIR,

My Letter of the 15th acquainted you, for the information of their Lordships, that I had received intelligence of the reported approach of an enemy's Squadron towards this island; although I had considerable difficulty in persuading myself that they would hazard the attempt in the face of so superior a force, I nevertheless considered it incumbent upon me to take the necessary precautions of reconnoitering the quarter in which they were to be expected, and at the same time guarding most particularly the entrance of the harbour of Valette, as the only point in which they could secure themselves, and debark their troops and stores. The wind being strong from the S. E. and accompanied with rain, I could only communicate by signal; I accordingly denoted the bearing, and the reputed force of the enemy, and directed the Foudroyant, Audacious, and Northumberland to chase to windward, and the Lion to look out off the passage between Goza and Malta, while the Queen Charlotte was kept as close in with the mouth of the harbour as the batteries would admit of; the Alexander at the same time was under weigh on the South East side of the Island. On the 16th I was joined by the Phaeton, from Palermo; and the wind having shifted to the N. W. which afforded a favourable opportunity for landing the Neapolitan Troops at Marfa Sarocco, I accordingly embraced it, and in the afternoon returned off the harbour of Valette. Signals were made from various parts of the island of an enemy being in fight, and with the Queen Charlotte, Minerva sloop, I anxiously continued to maintain a position near the shore, to prevent the enemy from passing within us, and to expose them to the attack of his Majesty's ships that were in pursuit of them. On the morning of the 19th, El Corso joined with a large French armed store-ship which she took possession of at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 18th, by signal from Lord Nelson, whose Squadron was then engaged with the French: Capt. Ricketts reported this ship to be the Ville de Marseilles, loaded with salt meat, brandy, wine, clothing, stores, &c. she sailed from Toulon on the 17th inst. in company with the Genereux 74, Admiral Perree, Badine 24, and two Corvettes, having near 4000 troops on board for the relief of Malta.

At 4 P. M. the Foudroyant and Audacious joined me, and I was acquainted by Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson, that the Genereux had surrendered without any action, and that the three corvettes had escaped, from all the line of battle ships having anxiously pressed after the French Admiral. I have the honour to enclose a copy of Lord Nelson's letter.

His Lordship has on this occasion, as on all others, conducted himself with skill and great address in comprehending my signals, which the state of the weather led me greatly to suspect.—Capt. Peard has evinced excellent management from the moment he first discovered the enemy off the south-west end of Sicily until the period of the capture; and Lt. Wm. Harrington, commanding the Alexander in the absence of Capt. Ball, has shewn great merit in so ably conducting that ship in presence of so superior a force previously to the appearance of Lord Nelson; I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships consideration.

I have detached ships in all directions to endeavour to pick up the stragglers.

I have the honour to be, &c.

KEITH.

Foudroyant at Sea, off Cape di Corvo, 8 leagues West of Cape Passaro, off shore about 4 miles, 18th February, 1800.

MY LORD,

This morning at day-light, being in company with the ships named in the

margin*, I saw the Alexander in chase of a line of battle ship, three frigates and a corvette. At about 8 o'clock she fired several shot at one of the enemy's frigates, which struck her colors, and leaving her to be secured by the ships astern, continued the chase. I directed Capt. Gould, of the Audacious, and the El Corso brig to take charge of this prize.

At half past one P. M. the frigates and corvette tacked to the Westward, but the line of battle ship not being able to tack without coming to action with the Alexander, bore up. The Success being to Leeward, Captain Peard, with great judgment and gallantry, lay across his hawle, and raked him with several broadsides; in passing the French ship's broadside, several shot struck the Success, by which one man was killed, and the Master and eight men wounded.

At half past 4, the Foudroyant and Northumberland coming up, the former fired two shot, when the French ship fired her broadside and struck her colors. She proved to be the Genereux, of 74 guns, bearing the Flag of Rear-Admiral Perree, commander in chief of the French Naval Force in the Mediterranean, having a number of troops on board for the relief of Malta. I attributed our success this day to be principally owing to the extreme good management of Lieut. Wm. Harrington, who commands the Alexander in the absence of Capt. Ball; and I am much pleased with the gallant behaviour of Capt. Peard, of the Success, as also with the alacrity and good conduct of Capt. Martin and Sir Edward Berry. I have sent Lieutenant Andrew Thompson, 1st Lieutenant of the Foudroyant to take charge of the Genereux, whom I beg leave to recommend to your Lordship for promotion; and have sent her under the care of the Northumberland and Alexander to Syracuse, to wait your Lordship's orders.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord, &c.

BRONTE NELSON.

* Northumberland, Audacious, and El Corso brig.

The following particulars of the mutiny on board the Danae, may be considered as authentic.

"On the night of Friday the 14th ult. a little before three o'clock, when all the Officers were in bed except the Captain, the Officer of Marines, and the Master, the latter (who had the watch on deck) was on a sudden knocked down by two seamen with cutlasses, and on getting up to defend himself, received two severe cuts on the head, and was immediately pushed down the hatchway. The noise which this occasioned having alarmed the Marine Officer, he ran into the cabin to acquaint Lord Proby (the Commander,) who instantly endeavoured to force his way up the after hatchway; but found it surrounded by a number of armed mutineers, and was cut down in the attempt, the ladder thrown down, and all the hatchways secured, unfortunately there was no possibility of forcing them; ten cutlasses, about four muskets, and some pocket-pistols, being the only arms below. These were collected by the Officers, and distributed among the most trust-worthy of the ship's company, consisting of about 40 men, who were asleep in their hammocks when this affair took place.—Every means were taken by the Officers, to gain a footing on deck; but their efforts proved ineffectual, and the next morning the Mutineers assisted by 5 Frenchmen, who had been taken by the Danae out of a vessel she had recaptured, carried her under the fort of Coquet, the French corvette la Columbe being in sight. A large party of French troops came on board, to whom Lord Proby on being summoned, surrendered himself, and the faithful part of his crew; and they at present remain prisoners at Brest, together with the Mutineers, except 3 who were sent off for Paris.—About 30 of the ship's company, including Officers, were absent in prizes. The Danae is a flush vessel; the Captain's cabin is therefore below."

The Mail of this day from Dublin, brings us the issue of the deliberations in the Irish Parliament on the question of an Union, between the two kingdoms. The question will soon be brought again before the British Parliament, and there will be as little delay as possible, in giving the finishing hand to the measure.

DUBLIN, March 27.

In the House of Commons, this day, a Message was received from the Lords, returning the Articles of Union, sent up to them by the Commons, and informing the House that they had agreed to the same with some amendments. Those amendments having been taken into consideration and agreed to,

Lord Castlereagh moved an address to his Majesty, to the following effect:—That his Majesty's faithful Commons had taken into their consideration the important subject of a Legislative Union, laid before them by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in his Message of the 5th February, accompanied by Resolutions of both Houses of the British Parliament: That deeply impressed with the necessity which existed for further strengthening the connexion between the two kingdoms, and truly sensible of the efforts of foreign enemies to shake that connexion and the stability of the Empire, the Irish Commons most cordially embraced the principle of uniting both kingdoms by a Legislative incorporation under his Majesty's auspicious Government.—That they had adopted the Resolutions of the British Parliament, as their guide, in the articles which they felt it their duty to lay before his Majesty, and which, if concurred in by the two Houses of the British Parliament, they were ready to ratify by an act to that effect;—that they entertained no doubt but that those articles would be received as an unequivocal testimony of their zeal and loyalty, convinced as they were, that a Legislative incorporation, by consolidating the connexion between the two kingdoms, would encrease the power and the wealth of the empire, extend the commerce, secure the religion, and preserve the liberties of Ireland.

Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Dawson spoke shortly to the question, after which the Address was agreed to without a division.

The usual message was then ordered to be sent to the Lords, acquainting them that the Commons had agreed to their amendments; also presenting them with a copy of the Address voted to his Majesty, and desiring their Lordships' concurrence thereto.

March 28.

The House having met at four o'clock an adjournment for half an hour took place, in order to go up to the Castle with the Address to his Majesty. On their return the Speaker read from the Chair the answer of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, which was very briefly, that he would transmit their dutiful and loyal Address to his Majesty.—The same, as usual, was ordered to be entered on the Journals of the House.

FROM LATE LONDON PAPERS.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,
March 1.

Sittings at Guildhall before Lord Kenyon and a Special Jury.

TODD V. BUCKMASTER, and others.

The Plaintiff brought this action to recover the sum of 530l. on a Bill of Exchange drawn by the defendants, and dated Sept. 30, 1796.

The defence set up against the payment of this bill was, that a Mr. Harrison, who had been a partner in the house, had, in November, 1797, after the partnership was regularly dissolved, drawn this bill, and subscribed the firm of the partnership; at the same time antedating the bill, so as to make it appear to be drawn before the dissolution took place. In support of this it was proved, that the stamp on which this bill was drawn was not in existence at the time of the date.—Previous to the month of July 1797, the Stamp Duty on Bills of Exchange not exceeding 200l. was 1s. and 6d. and above that sum 2s. and both these were integral. In the month of July, 1797, an additional duty took place of 6d. on the former, and 8d. on the latter.—The commissioners of the Stamp Office added a 6d. from a separate die to the 1s. 6d. to make it a 2s. and it was upon one of these that this Bill was drawn.

Lord Kenyon observed, that in a vast number of instances frauds and forgeries had been discovered and detected by means of stamps, and from the evidence of the Surveyor of the Stamp Office, there could be no doubt at all on the present question, and the Plaintiff must be non-suited. Plaintiff non-suited.

BIRD V. FICOU.

This was the fourth time of trying this cause, on a Policy of Insurance on the ship Confederacy, sailing from Europe to China, and back again. The case having been so often reported, it is unnecessary to say more at present than that the question was, whether under all the circumstances of the case, this voyage should be considered as only one voyage or two distinct voyages? Judgment had been postponed on all the other verdicts till the decision of another Jury should take place in the present cause, and this Jury determined the same as all the others had done before them, that it was two distinct voyages.

ABELL V. SUTTON.

The Plaintiff brought his action on a Bill of Exchange for 685l. of Sutton and Pointer, merchants. It was however proved, that after the partnership between these two persons had been dissolved, Pointer, being a man in desperate circumstances, had got this bill discounted by the Plaintiff, and that he signed to it the firm of himself and his late partner, antedating it to the time of their partnership, an act that had he not since put a bullet through his head, would have been probably the cause of a trial of a very different nature. The facts being fully established, and that the Defendant had no concern in the transaction, the jury found for the Defendant.

ROXBY V. FENWICK.

This was an action for running down the Defendant's vessel on the North Coast. On the part of the Defendant it was proved that every attention was paid by the crew of the Defendant's vessel, which was a light ship, to get clear of the Plaintiff's ship, a heavy laden collier; and that in fact the night was so dark that it was impossible to see a ship at the distance of half a quarter of a mile. Under these circumstances, Lord Kenyon said there must be a verdict for the Defendant, which the Jury accordingly found.

At the county Sessions for Hereford, seven Parish Officers of Coddington were tried and convicted of a conspiracy for procuring a marriage to be solemnized between J. Norris, a parishioner of Bosbury, and one Margaret Bedford, a pauper, chargeable to the parish of Coddington, with an intent to burthen the inhabitants of Bosbury. One of them, T. Sallaway, sen. was sentenced to pay a fine of 20l. and to be imprisoned in the house of Correction for one month; two of them, J. Archer and T. Brewer, to pay a fine of 5l. each, and to be imprisoned a fortnight; James Lewis to pay a fine of 5l. and be imprisoned one month; and T. Sallaway, jun. R. Thomas, and T. Nott, to pay a fine of 1l. each.

REWARD.

WHEREAS a number of Seamen under Articles to the Ship America, Captain Mackie, Brig Britannia, Captain Cowan, and Ship Menie, Captain M'Kellar, have lately absented themselves from their duty on board without leave, and as there is reason to believe that many of the said Deserters are concealed in this City or its neighbourhood—the Subscribers hereby offer a Reward of TWENTY DOLLARS for each Man to any person who shall first give such information to the respective Captains, as the said Deserters or any of them may be discovered and apprehended; and the name of the informant will be kept secret if required.

ALL Persons are warned not to harbor any of the aforesaid Seamen, as the Law in that case, which subjects the offender to Twenty Pounds penalty, will assuredly be put in force.

JOHN BLACK, & Co.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT.

St. John, June 3d, 1800.

JOHN BLACK, & Co.

HAVE received by the Ship America, from Liverpool, and Brig Britannia, from Greenock, a full and extensive assortment of all kinds of British Goods suitable for this Country, which are now opening, and will be offered for sale on the most reasonable terms.

—A L S O—

SALT, coarse and fine,
PORTER in hogheads & barrels,
Port, Sherry and Lisbon WINE,
Jamaica SPIRITS,
BRANDY.

13th May, 1800.

†2M.