

could there be to retain her, but her wealth and revenues, which the interdiction of the English trade would immediately sink to nothing.

Here, then, is the dilemma. To be worth even the holding, the commercial advantages of Portugal, in whatever power she falls, must not be diverted from the British Channel; and if they be not, in the spirit of calculation, we can be apprehensive of no mercantile loss.

But it does not appear, even should the First Consul make the attempt, that he would find the conquest of Portugal a matter of such ease. As almost the whole of its territory lies on the sea coast, it would not be difficult for England to throw garrisons into the principal towns. At all events, we hope a stand will be made for the defence of Portugal, if it be attacked. If the continental powers refuse to assist us in the heart of Europe, we must be ambitious to fight upon the earth's utmost verge for the great cause in which we are engaged.

A generous intrepidity is now expected from us, and the example may operate among other kingdoms. Nothing would more truly distress us than to see the nation regard with tranquillity the fate of Portugal. She looks up to us as her protector, and, to the honor of the cause, we have another inducement which will always weigh with a generous people—that is gratitude for past benefits, and the remembrance of former services.

EXPEDITION AGAINST FRANCE.

It has, for the last ten days, been propagated by most of our cotemporary journalists, that an expedition has been resolved upon by Government, in conjunction with the French Princes, against the Despot who now absorbs in his own person the rights and liberties of the nation which he has the effrontery to call free. Perhaps, in no instance, has speculation been carried to so extravagant an excess. The public has been assured, that this expedition, after having been matured in its plans by a council of the House of Bourbon, was to be carried into effect by a British force of 40,000 men, whose operations were to be directed by Generals Pichegru and Dumourier. We have now the satisfaction of assuring our readers, that every statement of this kind is completely unfounded; that Government appreciates too highly the patriotism and gallantry of its own soldiery, to send them upon an expedition so idle and Quixotic. Can it, for a moment, be supposed, that His Majesty's Ministers would devote to great a number of troops, so essentially necessary, at the present crisis, for the defence of our own shores, to an enterprise, the issue of which must be anticipated by every man acquainted with the military state of the Republic? Has not experience demonstrated, not only to this country, but to all Europe, the futility of any attempt for the restoration of the House of Bourbon? If, at the commencement of the Revolution, a force of 70,000 Prussians, commanded by the ablest General of that time, was unable to make the slightest impression on the fragments of the old military establishment, but loosely connected with the raw and disorganized volunteer levies, can we reasonably hope that an army of 40,000 men will cope, with any chance of success, with the most numerous and best military establishment in the world, consisting, upon the lowest computation, of 400,000 men, who, in addition to their warlike habits, will feel one common sentiment in opposing one common foe?

If, even, His Majesty's Ministers were absurd enough to countenance so mad an undertaking upon the faintest chance of success, we would question much the policy of entrusting the command of the expedition to any Frenchman, much less to a man who, like Dumourier, has wavered with every caprice of fortune; been the tool of every party, without possessing the confidence of any; and who, in his exile, has condescended to every vile art to ingratiate himself with the Corsican. Such a man should be treated as one from whom much useful information may be gained, but whose advancement to authority and command would prove a degradation to the government that employed him. The character of Pichegru is free from the stigma which attaches itself to that of Dumourier; but we consider all foreign assistance, with respect to the employment of officers in superior situations as insult to the honour and the talents of this country.

Having stated so much from undoubted authority, we can also assure our Readers, that our Cabinet has determined to employ every means to annoy, and diffuse terror along the coast of France, consistent with our naval means of aggression. There is scarcely a vulnerable point along that coast which will not, in its turn, become the object of attack; and Bonaparte will feel that, while he threatens us with invasion, his authority and reputation must decline from the activity of offensive exertions.

Such enterprises alone are consistent with the nature of our situation, and that of the enemy. By keeping the troops of the First Consul continually on the alert, and by spreading terror and alarm among the inhabitants along the coasts, we shall diminish the confidence which they place in their ruler, and convince them that while they confine themselves to menaces, we possess the real power and facilities of invasion. But to land any considerable body of men in France would be nothing less than a revival of those rash and ill-advised measures which ruined the grand coalition against the Republic, and in its issue would probably give an additional eclat to the military glory of the tyrant.

ST. DOMINGO.

By recent and well authenticated intelligence, the state of the Island of St. Domingo is, beyond all that we have hitherto conceived of it, deplorable. In the vain and ill-conducted attempt to recover it, the First Consul has lost between sixty and seventy thousand of his best troops; if we conclude those still on the Island, which may be considered as lost. It will be remembered that General Rochambeau established his head-quarters at the Cape on the 22d of June. A few days before a reinforcement of 5,000 men had arrived from France. It is computed, therefore, that there may be yet remaining in the Island a French force of about twelve thousand. They have not provisions for about two months. They can obtain supplies neither by land or sea. On the land side they are completely inclosed by the Blacks; at sea they are so closely blockaded by our fleet, that not even a

boat can enter. In this situation the French have before them the most distressing prospect. In front they have an enemy that will give them no quarter; and we are sorry to say their conduct, on their own principles, does certainly deserve none. The cruelty they have exercised on the Blacks will be dreadfully retaliated. If they venture out, they are sure of a defeat; if they remain inactive they must perish with hunger. The greatest act of mercy they can expect will be, if the British fleet will condescend to receive them on board as prisoners of war. Yet it is even dubious how far this can be effected, for they cannot be received at Jamaica, and ships cannot be spared to convey them to Europe. As to their escaping to any of the other Islands, that is wholly impracticable, so strict is the blockade. This Island then remains a dreadful example of the consequences of bad faith, and wicked policy. If Great-Britain had occasion to regret the violation of the treaty of El-Arich, how much more occasion has France to deplore the perfidy of the First Consul towards the unfortunate Toussaint Louverture, a man to whose memory, posterity will do justice, while that of his European rival will be held in execration. Had the First Consul kept his faith, and observed the treaty made by the black General, and not rushed precipitately and violently into a war with England, the Island would have remained attached to the mother country, and the remnant of the Colonists might have existed in tolerable security. The Island was just beginning to recover from the unprecedented calamities it had experienced. But now, it is once more a scene of desolation, and is irrecoverably disunited from France.

SEPTEMBER 17.

The Secret Expedition under Sir Sidney Smith and Gen. Moore, having put back, had not again sailed on the 18th.—The troops to be employed in it were to consist of about 6000, including a small corps of Cavalry. The officers it is said are not allowed to take any baggage or clothes, and merely a few changes of linen.

Another paper says, that Sir Sidney Smith who is represented as commanding the secret expedition in concert with Gen. Moore, continues with the Antelope, now virtually a block ship, in Horsely Bay, and laments that the energy and enterprize of that officer are not called into action.

Lord Keith is advanced to the dignity of Baron of the United Kingdom by his present title. In default of male issue, the barony descends to his daughter, and to her heirs male.

Accounts from Portugal continued to express apprehensions of being attacked by France, several regiments had been ordered to the frontiers, and fresh enrolments for military service had been made. Gen. Lafes continued to harass the Portuguese court with propositions and menaces.

CHARLESTON, OCTOBER 20.

Arrived Schooner Peggy, Curtis, Kingston, 18 days, in distress, bound to Alexandria. October 10, off Cape Antonio, spoke a French privateer, who had just captured an English brig belonging to St. John, New-Brunswick, from Jamaica bound to New-York.

NEW-YORK, OCTOBER 29.

The French armed schooner La Sophie, which arrived at Charleston, from Cape-Nichola-Mole, is an advice boat with dispatches from the commercial agent of France in that city—she is commanded by Lieutenant Sacks, of the marine. She brings accounts that the English had bombarded Fort Dauphin, and St. Marks, which places had been compelled to surrender to them, and the brigands who aided in the reduction.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, dated September 17.

Our prices are the same as those contained in the price currents of the beginning of the month. As the suspension of trade with Hamburgh and Bremen continues, shipments have been made to the ports of Embden, Tonningen and Lubeck, eluding the restrictions. This has occasioned some flight export of sugar, but it cannot be much calculated on. Havannah sugar is abundant: muscovado and clayed, not considerable. Coffee has been brought in by prizes in large quantity. Cotton has been more brisk lately; but the arrivals have equalled the demand—and the stock on hand is considerable. Fine upland cotton is in demand, and very scarce. New-Orleans of good quality, goes off very briskly. Sea-Island dull. Our manufactures have had increased demands from the continent of late, in consequence of the shipments to the ports above mentioned: but the arrival of winter will probably stop this vent for merchandize.

The scarcity of money is very great, and bends the strongest houses: some more failures of consequence may be expected.

The restriction which has existed for about a month, on the exportation of fire arms, is taken off as far as respects fowling pieces and pistols."

By London dates of the 16th, we find that the French had made an experiment on a small scale of the practicability of sending out their gun-boats. On the evening of the 14th September, a flotilla of gun-boats left Boulogne, and got safe into Calais, was supposed, that when they could get an opportunity they would proceed to Dunkirk. One London account states, that the want of moonlight prevented the British cruisers from seeing them, another ascribe it to the wind and gives the following account of this circumstance:—

"Wednesday evening last, between five and six o'clock, there was descried from the heights above Dover, a small flotilla of French gun-boats, about 25 in number, escorted by a large sloop, steering close along the French shore for Calais. The Republican flag was plainly discernible.—This flotilla had come out of Dunkirk, and they anchored in Calais roads, waiting for the tide to carry them into the harbour. Our cruisers were unfortunately all to the westward, and the wind being from the eastward and northward, they had an opportunity of making this movement unobserved.—An express was sent from Dover to the Downs,

and intelligence was conveyed to the Admiralty by means of the Telegraph."

The French are practising in their ports, embarking and disembarking, in order, to perfect their troops in these necessary manœuvres.

SAINT JOHN, November 12, 1803.

Wednesday last arrived the Schooner Mercury, Capt. Beatty, in 3 days from Boston—Same day Sloop Dove, Capt. Wain, in 21 days from New-York.

Thursday the Schooner Phœbe, Captain Thomas, in 3 days from New-York—Same day Schooner Lark, Capt. Cronk, 4 days from New-York—Same day, Sloop Camperdown, Capt. Burtis, in 3 days from Boston.—And this morning the Schooner Mary, Capt. Belding, in 5 days from New-York.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

Last Saturday evening about 8 o'clock, the eldest son of Mr. LAWRENCE DOWLING, of this place (a promising youth, aged 18) unfortunately fell overboard from the Schooner Hope, lying in the stream, and was instantly swept out to sea by a strong current.

NEW-YORK, OCTOBER 31.

Account of the defeat of the French expedition against Antigua, from St. Kitts papers to the 26th of September.

The Antigua Gazette, of the 8th inst. gives the following account of the expedition fitted out at Gaudaloupe against that Island, frustrated by Capt. O'Brien, of His Majesty's ship Emerald.

On Monday night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, His Majesty's ship Emerald, Capt. James O'Brien, being off that part of Guadaloupe, called Englishmen's Head, discovered thirteen sail of enemies vessels, consisting principally of armed schooners fleeing in a direction towards English-Harbour which, as soon as they perceived the frigate, immediately tacked about and made for the shore, pursued by five boats well manned and armed from the Emerald; in this they presently succeeded, getting under the guns of their own batteries, by which an incessant fire was kept up upon the frigate's boats, assisted by, it is supposed, near 600 troops who lined the shore: Their exertions, however, could not prevent the capture of three of the Schooners, in which our gallant tars arrived safe in English-Harbour on Tuesday morning.—One of the Schooners mounted 6 Carriage Guns, the other two were unarmed. The boats of the Emerald were nearly destroyed, the Barge receiving a shot between wind and water, and the Gigg being cut almost in two.—We are sorry to add that the Launch with 80 men and 2 Officers is missing. The Emerald lost 2 men killed and had 4 wounded, amongst whom is Mr. Champion, Midshipman. 33 Prisoners were taken in the three Schooners, one of whom is a Republican Lieutenant. It has been said, that some of the Emigrants who had long resided in this Colony, formed a part of the expedition, the object of which, was undoubtedly the destruction of the dock-yards at English Harbour.

In addition to the above, we have been favoured with the following further particulars, sent down (we understand) by his Excellency Lord Lavington, for the information of General Vansittart previous to his departure—"On Tuesday, the 30th of August, an embargo was laid at Gaudaloupe, by General Ernouf.—On the 31st, the troops marched to l'Ance-du-Barque, a Bay at no considerable distance from Basseterre, and there embarked in vessels, and proceeded to La Haye.—The force consisted of 800 regular troops, and 70 coloured people, under the command of Mons. Merlin, Chef du Bataillon; and there were likewise employed in the expedition, a parcel of dismounted Cavalry, the number of which is not ascertained.—The object of the expedition was an attack on the Island of Antigua, on the West side of which, near the town, it was their intention to land, and after having possessed themselves of the Town and Harbour, to have plundered the former, then to have set fire to it, and have burnt all the vessels in the latter.—Orders had been issued by M. Merlin, (the commanding Officer of the Expedition,) to particular Officers, for the regulation of their conduct after landing at Antigua, and these orders were so rigorous and savage, that a Captain of Grenadiers, to whom a copy of the orders were delivered, tore them, saying, that he was a Soldier, and a Frenchman, and would not obey them. It was said at Basseterre, that Mons. Merlin was a man of so violent and cruel a disposition, that in his passage from l'Ance-du-Barque to La Haye, he actually cut down six of his men, and a Boatswain of one of the Privateers.—There was in the expedition a complete Staff, a Commissary, and 40 or 50 Marchauffers, or Police Officers, to be employed at Antigua, after they had taken possession of the Island."

On Tuesday, his Excellency General Vansittart arrived from Antigua to take passage in the Packet which failed yesterday (Sept. 16.) from this Island, (St. Kitts) for Tortola and Europe.

ASSIZE OF BREAD,

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 17th, 1803.

THE Sixpenny Wheaten Loaf to weigh 2 lbs. 2 1/2 ozs.
Ditto Rye gibs. 30z.

And other Loaves in proportion,
WILLIAM CAMPBELL, MAYOR.

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BRITISH MERCHANDIZE,
Suitable for the approaching Season—All of which, they will dispose of at reduced PRICES.

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