THE SAINT JOHN GAZETTE.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1807.

Arrived at *Saint Andrews*, on Saturday the 18th inst. the Ship *Wilson*, Capt. *Simpson*, in 27 days from *Liverpool*, Eng.—By the above arrival we have been politely favored with a Liverpool paper of the 14th of *March*, containing the following *Highly Important and Interesting News from the Continent of Europe.*

LONDON, MARCH 9.

It is with heart-felt satisfaction that we are at length enabled to gratify the public mind with the official account of the memorable battle of Eylau, in which the enemy was repulsed and beaten on all sides.

Yesterday morning Mr. Vlick, the Messenger, arrived in town, with dispatches from the Marquis of Douglas, at St. Petersburgh. Mr. Vlick left St. Petersburgh on the 18th of February, and Gottenburgh on the 1st instant, on board the Amity packet. Government hastened to communicate this momentous intelligence last night in the following

GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8.

DOWNING-STREET, MARCH 8, 1807.

A dispatch, dated St. Petersburgh, 17th February, 1807, of which the following is an extract, was this day received from the Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Court of St. Petersburgh, by Lord Viscount Howick, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

I have the pleasure of inclosing, for your Lordship's information, two papers, giving an account of a signal victory gained by the Russians over the French.

Translation of a Letter from General De Budberg, his Imperial Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, to his Excellency the Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale, 3d (15th) February, 1807.

General Budberg, Minister for Foreign Affairs, hastens to communicate to his Excellency the Ambassador of his Britannic Majesty, the following intelligence, which arrived last night from the army.

General Benningsen, after having fallen back for the purpose of chusing a position which he judged better adapted for manœuvring the troops under his command, took up a position at Preussich-Eylau. During four days successively, his rear-guard commanded by Major-General Barklay de Tolly, had to withstand several vigorous attacks, and on the 26th Jan. (7th Feb.) at three o'clock in the afternoon, the battle became general throughout the whole line of the main army. The contest was destructive, and the night came on without the enemy having been able to gain ground. On the 27th Jan. (8th Feb.) early in the morning, the French renewed the attack, and the action was contested with great obstinacy on both sides; but towards the evening, the enemy was repulsed on all sides, and General Benningsen remained in possession of the field of battle.

Bonaparte commanded in person, and under him Marshals Augereau, D'Avoust, Soult, Ney, and Bessieres, at the head of the guards, who suffered the most. Our loss is from 6 to 8000 men; whilst that of the enemy is estimated at from 12 to 15,000. We have also taken 12 stand of colours, and about 1500 prisoners, among whom there are 30 officers.

The courier who brought the dispatches having been sent off immediately after the battle, the Ministers of his Imperial Majesty do not yet know all the details of the above-mentioned day.

GENERAL BUDBERG has the honour, &c.

Translation of a letter from General the Baron de Benningsen, to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, delivered by Lieutenant-Colonel Stavitzki, Aid-de-Camp to his Imperial Majesty.

On the Field of Battle, Preussich-Eylau, Jan. 27, (Feb. 8,) 1807.

SIRE,—I am truly happy to have it in my power to inform your Imperial Majesty, that the army, the command of which your Majesty has deigned to confide on me, has been again victorious. The battle which has just taken place has been bloody and destructive. It began on the 26th Jan. (7th Feb.) at three o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted until six o'clock in the evening of the 27th Jan. (8th Feb.)

The enemy was completely defeated; one thousand prisoners, and twelve stand of colours, which I have the honour herewith to transmit to your Majesty, fell into the hands of the conquerors. This day Bonaparte attacked me with his best troops, on my centre, and on both wings, but he was repulsed and beaten on all sides. His guards repeatedly attacked my centre without the smallest success. After a very brisk fire, they were repulsed at all points, by the bayonet, and by charges of the cavalry. Several columns of infantry and picked regiments of curassiers, were destroyed.

I shall not fail to transmit to your Majesty, as soon as possible, a detailed account of the memorable battle of Preussich-Eylau.

I think our loss may perhaps exceed 6000 men, and I certainly do not exaggerate when I state the loss of the enemy at considerably more than 12,000 men.

The Gottenburgh Mails which arrived this morning furnish no information respecting the progress of the French in Swedish Pomerania.

It is strongly reported in Paris, and indeed appears to be generally credited, that Marshal Murat—the Grand Duke of Berg, as he is called—has died of the wounds he received in the battle of Eylau; and we are the more induced to attach some weight to this report, as we understand that something of the same nature has been received by the Dorset packet. The Moniteur, indeed—the one to which we allude—does not mention it; but observes generally, that there are some very absurd reports in circulation respecting the late battles of the French armies—that, by the condescention of the Emperor, the French have regular and official narratives of whatever occurs—and that if they choose to believe more than is contained in these narratives, which are drawn up on the spot, and published in the face of the whole army, they deserve to be deceived for their folly and credulity.

Tuesday, March 10.]—In our last paper we laid before our readers an abstract which appeared in the Dutch papers, of the 56th, 57th, and 58th, bulletins. This day we have read these bulletins at length from the French journals. By comparing their contents, cautiously as they are drawn up, with General Benningsen's accounts, it appears plainly that the French actually sustained a severe defeat in the battle of Eylau, on the 8th ult. Indeed, in all affairs, from the beginning of the month to that decisive day, the Russians gained immortal honour by their steady conduct and manly courage.

The French state, that in the battle of the 4th—"the enemy's cavalry were repeatedly charged, but the obstacles presented by the unevenness of the ground operated against the effects of our cavalry." That is in plain language, they were completely foiled in their attempt. In the account of the battle of Waterdorf, it is simply stated, that "the Duke of Berg found 8 or 9000 of the enemy's cavalry before him. Several attacks were made and the enemy retreated." That is, several attacks had been made before the Russian corps thought proper to retreat, for the enemy does not even pretend to say, that they drove them out of their position, but merely that they retreated. In these skirmishes, three French Generals and two Colonels were wounded.

The 58th bulletin states, that the battle of Eylau was begun on the 7th, by Marshal Soult, who attacked an eminence, which defended the entrance of that place, but that at the same moment a column of Russian cavalry made a charge upon the left of the 18th, and threw some of its battalions into disorder. The bulletin also mentions, that the town was most obstinately defended, and that after a murderous affair on both sides, the position was not carried till ten o'clock at night.—Such is the French account of the battle of the 7th. The decisive battle, however, took place upon the 8th, when the Russians commenced the battle at day-break, by an attack on the division of St. Hilaire. It appears that the attack of the Russians threw two of the French divisions into great confusion. It is then mentioned, that a heavy fall of snow concealed both armies for half an hour, but that as soon as the weather cleared, the Duke of Berg at the head of the cavalry, and Marshal Bessieres at the head of the Imperial Guards, attacked the Russian main body.

This is represented as a very bold manœuvre, but it is stated in the bulletin "to have been rendered *necessary* by the *circumstances in which our* columns *were then placed.*" This shews clearly that the battle was in favour of the Russians from the beginning. This attack of the Duke of Berg is represented to have been so vigorous, that it would have decided the victory, if a wood, and some other obstacles of the ground, had not prevented it. It is, however, confessed, that it did not decide the victory; but that, although they had passed through two lines of the Russians, there was a third to receive them. The victory, however, is stated to have been gained by Davoust's appearance on the heights, and outflanking the Russians, who thereupon thought proper to retreat. It is not stated that Davoust made any attack on, but merely that he outflanked the enemy.

There cannot remain a doubt from all the circumstances compared together, that General Benningsen has rather under-rated than exaggerated the loss of the enemy. In the translation of his letter published in the Gazette, it is stated at 12,000, but in the German copy of the same letter the number is 15,000. The smallness of the number of prisoners taken compared with such a loss in killed, is easily accounted for. The French Bulletin, in which the Russian soldiers had been branded with many opprobrious epithets, had been translated into their own language, and read at the head of every division of the army. The soldiers, indignant at the calumny, resolved neither to give nor take quarter with such a foe, and had not their General humanely promised a reward of a rubic for every Frenchman taken alive, not a prisoner would have been taken.

Some private letters by the Mail of yesterday stated, that the Russians, on the day after the battle, buried 17,800 of the French left dead on the field, and that the prisoners taken were 2500.

Wednesday, March 11.]—This morning we received French papers to the 28th ult.—which is three days later than the Moniteurs last received. One of the Minor papers contains a letter from Thorn, respecting the battle of Eylau, in which the victory is attributed to the French, though it is at the same time confessed that this pretended victory has not been attended with any immediate result in favour of those who have obtained it.

The number of horses for which duty is paid in Great-Britain, is 1,178,000; their annual consumption is stated in the agricultural reports, to be the produce of 7,000,000 acres. The number of acres necessary to afford subsistence to 8,000,000 people in England, according to the present mode of living, is estimated at 21,000,000, including 12,000,000 as grass land for meat.

Some private letters are said to have been received from the Continent, which represent the success of the Russians as much more decisive, in the battle of Eylau, than it is stated to have been in the official accounts.

The assertion in the French Bulletin, that the reinforcements under Gen. Von Essen had joined the Russian army before the battle of Eylau, is unfounded. He did not join the Russians till after the 8th, and as his corps consisted of near 40,000 men, it would give the Russians a decided superiority.

Our Plymouth letter received this morning, gives a report of the loss of the Atalanta sloop of war, on the coast of France.

Portsmouth, March 9.—Sailed the Thisbe frigate, Capt. Shepheard; and the Hermes and Cormorant sloops, with a convoy of transports for South America. The 89th regiment, Col. Lord Blaney, a company of artillery, and a company of horse artilliery, are on board the transports—Ammunition, ordnance stores, and 4000 stand of arms are sent out. General Whitelocke, Commander in Chief in South America, and General L. Gower, went passengers in the Thisbe; and General Acland, Colonel Codogan, and the whole of the new Staff for South America, are on board the Cormorant and the Monarch transports. General Whitelocke and suite embarked this morning, and the whole fleet sailed at noon. Colonel Shork, commanding the royal artillery, and Captain Elphinston, the engineers, went with them. The wind was N. E. blowing fresh, which will carry them out of the channel in two days.

LONDON, MARCH 12.

Globe Office, Six o'Clock.—French and Dutch papers have been received in town this evening, of three days later date than those previously received. They contain an account of military operations to the 12th, being three days subsequent to the battle of Eylau. There has been much fighting in the interval. A battle still more sanguinary upon both sides than that of Eylau, took place on the 11th. We shall give the details to-morrow.

The trial of Sir Home Popham did not terminate until last evening, when the Court found the charges proved, and adjudged him "to be *only* SEVERELY REPRIMANDED."

LIVERPOOL, MARCH 14.

The Russian account of the sanguinary battle of Eylau has been received since our last publication, and has appeared in the London Gazette, (see the preceding page.) From comparing this account with the 58th French Bulletin, which professes to narrate the same action, an opportunity is offered of forming some estimate of the real results of that desperate though indecisive battle. The inconsistencies in the two accounts are certainly astonishing, and hardly to be accounted for, even when the fullest allowance is made for the known propensity of every military commander to exaggerate his own successes, and depreciate those of his adversary. All that can be done in this case, as we have before observed, is to examine into the credibility of the respective narrators, and the internal evidence which the details themselves may afford. Deciding on this principle, it seems to be the general opinion that Bonaparte has sustained a signal defeat, though with very heavy losses on both sides. He seems now in a fair way to teach the Russians to be as expert as himself in the arts of war, and probably in a short time (as formerly happened in the instance of Charles the 12th) the scholars will be enabled to beat their masters.

It appears that the Catholic claims are again agitating in Ireland, and probably will soon be discussed in the House of Commons. They are likely to sustain considerable opposition; but we have little doubt they will now be finally established in a short time. The nature of religious toleration begins every day to be better understood; and in the present universal diffusion of knowledge, there can be little to apprehend from the prevalence of any modes of faith, which are compatible with the rights of society, and the safety of the Constitution.

Two extraordinary discoveries have recently been made on the coast near Roscilly, about twenty miles from Swansea: the tides of late having receded much farther than usual, the wreck of a vessel has appeared, which was lost there about 50 years ago, and a cask of iron wire was last week recovered. A short distance from the same spot about 12lbs. of Spanish dollars and half dollars of the date of 1625, have been found amongst the sand, which are conjectured to have formed part of the cargo of a rich Spanish vessel from South America, called the Scandaroon galley, which was wrecked on that part of the coast upwards of a century ago. Several persons now living recollect their predecessors mentioning the circumstance of the latter being lost, and some families residing in the neighbourhood at the time, who suddenly became rich, were supposed to have derived their opulence from the wreck, notwithstanding every possible exertion was made by the then magistrates of Swansea to secure that part of the property which was saved, for the benefit of its owners.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Thursday, March 5.*

Lord Howick rose to move for leave to bring in a Bill allowing all persons who profess the Roman Catholic Religion to serve his Majesty in the Navy and Army; with the free exercise of that religion. The measure which he meant to propose was one of considerable magnitude, as it regarded his Majesty's subjects of Ireland; but he did not conceive that any objection would be stated to it, at present, when he described its object to be the extending to his Majesty's Catholic subjects in Ireland the same privileges enjoyed by his subjects in Great-Britain, but which had never been communicated to that Island. By a law of the Irish Parliament, Catholics were allowed to hold Commissions, and to serve as privates in regiments in Ireland; but beyond that country their privileges did not extend; he, therefore, thought it an anomaly in the law to make military service legal in Ireland, and illegal if performed in this country. That enactment arose from a law of relaxation towards the Catholic subjects of Ireland, passed in the year 1793, and it allowed Catholics to hold specific situations, with certain exceptions, such as the office of Commander in Chief of the Forces, the Master General of the Ordnance, or a General on the Staff. By the union of the two countries, their interests became identified, and the result of that Union ought to be, that the operation of that Act should not be confined to Ireland, but that the measure should be expanded and enlarged, in order to the Catholics in both countries being permitted to enter the naval and military services of the Crown. Supposing a case of emergency; or, an invasion itself, when it might be necessary to call these Irish regiments to the defence of Great-Britain. The law, as it stood, rendered these regiments liable to defend Ireland; but, bring them here, and it was contrary to law for them to be so employed. Thus would Officers of the Catholic persuasion, who might have raised themselves by their abilities to certain ranks in the service, which by law they were entitled to exercise in Ireland, the moment they might land in Great-Britain, become incapable of so doing,