

PORTSMOUTH, MAY 9.

The following letter has been read to the Crews of His Majesty's Ships at this Port, —and it had the most desirable effect, —our brave fellows felt extremely gratified, by the handsome notice taken of their services:—

ADMIRALTY, MAY 30.

The lords Commissioners of the Admiralty cannot announce to the Fleet the termination of Hostilities with France, without expressing to the Petty Officers, the Seamen and Royal Marines of his Majesty's Ships, the high sense which their Lordships entertain of their gallant and glorious services during the late war.—The patience, perseverance, and discipline; the skill, courage, and devotion with which the Seamen and Marines have upheld the best interests, and achieved the noblest triumphs of their country, entitle them to the gratitude not only of their native land, which they have preserved inviolate, but of the other nations of Europe, of whose ultimate deliverance their successes maintained the hope, and accelerated the accomplishment. Their Lordships regret that the unjust and unprovoked aggressions of the American Government in declaring war upon this country, after all the causes of its original complaint have been removed, does not permit them to reduce the Fleet at once to a Peace establishment, but as the question now at issue in this war is the maintenance of those maritime rights, which are the sure foundation of our naval glory, their Lordships look with confidence to that part of the Fleet which it may be still necessary to keep in commission, for a continuance of that spirit of discipline and gallantry which has raised the British navy to its present pre-eminence. In reducing the Fleet to the establishment necessary for the American War, the Seamen and Marines will find their Lordships attentive to the claims of their respective services. The reduction will be first made in the crews of those ships which it may be expedient to pay off, and from them the Petty Officers and Seamen will be successively discharged, according to the length of their services: beginning in the first instance with all those who were in His Majesty's service previous to the 7th of March, 1803, and have since continued in it. When the reduction shall have been thus made, as to the ships paid off, their Lordships will direct their attention to those which it might be found necessary to keep in commission, and, as soon as the circumstances of the war will admit, will bring home and discharge all persons having the same standing and periods of service, as those before discharged from the ships paid off; so that in a few months the situation of individuals will be equalized; all men of a certain period of service will be at liberty to return home to their families; and the number which it may still be requisite to retain, will be composed of those who have been the shortest time in the service. An arrangement in itself so just, cannot, in their Lordships' opinion, fail to give universal satisfaction; and they are induced to make this communication to the Fleet, because they think that the exemplary good conduct of all the Petty Officers, Seamen and Marines, entitle them to every confidence, and to this full and candid explanation of their Lordships' intentions. Their Lordships cannot conclude without expressing their hope, that the valour of his Majesty's Fleets and Armies will speedily bring the American contest to a conclusion, honorable to the British name, safe for British interests, and conducive to the lasting repose of the civilized world.

"By command of their Lordships,
"J. W. CROKER."

FALMOUTH, APRIL 19.—We are informed there will be no discharge of seamen out of his Majesty's service, until a definitive treaty of peace has been signed. Many ships, ere this event takes place, will be paid off. *Devonshire, Elephant, Fylla, Mi-*

norca, and Musquedobet, are under those orders.

UNION OF THE Ancient and Modern Masons.

LONDON, MAY 20, 1814.

On Monday last the installation of his Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX, as Grand Master of Ancient Freemasons of England took place at Freemasons Hall.—The whole was conducted with strict regard to the ancient solemnities, and was a magnificent ceremony. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, his Grace the Duke of Athol, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, his Excellency the Count de la Gardie, and other illustrious and distinguished persons, assisted in the procession, and in the business which can neither be printed nor described. The Right Honourable Lord Dundas was at the same time installed as Deputy Grand Master. There were present a number of Provincial Grand Masters, visitors from the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, and the representatives of the Lodges holding of the United Grand Lodge of England. The spectacle was heightened by the happy union which has taken place between the two Fraternities, so successfully brought about by the fraternal and conciliatory efforts of the two Royal Dukes, under the sanction of the PRINCE REGENT, the Patron of the Order, and to which the truly disinterested conduct of the Duke of Athol, who had been the Grand Master of the one body for a period of near 40 years, mainly contributed.

QUEBEC, JUNE 8.

PEACE WITH AMERICA.

Peace between Great-Britain and the United States of America cannot be far distant.

The inhabitants of the British Colonies and the Indian Allies of Great Britain have a right to expect that their interests at that Peace will not be neglected. Under the able direction of SIR GEORGE PREVOST, and supported by the bravery and discipline of the few British troops in the Colonies, they have preserved these possessions to the Empire. They ought not to be again exposed to the evils which their fidelity has warded off for the present.

The Treaty of 1783 was made under peculiar disadvantages. Britain had to contend with France, Spain, and Holland; the People, and even the Parliament had become clamorous for Peace. It was concluded without deliberation, or without sufficient information. Large Tracts of Country in which no American had ever set his foot, were ceded to the United States. They were put in possession of numerous points of future aggression against the British Colonies and the Indians, which were of no value to them in any other view. A Treaty of Peace, under such circumstances, is but a Truce, till the hostile purpose can be more readily accomplished.

Accordingly, the facilities which these points of aggression offered for the entire expulsion of the British Government from North America, were, probably, among the most powerful inducements to the present War.

The Treaty of 1783, and the subsequent arrangements relating to the boundary of St. Croix, enabled the Americans to push their pretensions for extending their boundary to within 12 or 15 miles of the St. Lawrence, near Bic. This boundary cuts off a large part of the River St. John, and intersects the only land communication between the Canadas and New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia. The progress of the American settlements, alone, would, in a few years, sever the British Provinces, at this point, and leave the Canadas six months in the year, without any communication with England.

The same Treaty gives the United States the heads of the waters of the St. Francis River, and enables them

to make use of that communication, by an advance to the St. Lawrence, to threaten the communication between Quebec and Montreal, and alarm the whole of the Lower Province. A party for this purpose was actually ordered during the last Campaign.

The 45th degree of latitude, established as a boundary by the same Treaty, intersects Lake Champlain in the narrow part, at the north end of the Lake, thereby putting it in the power of the Americans to maintain an exclusive dominion on its waters, and make it a safe communication for supplying an Army destined for the Invasion of Lower Canada. The same line cuts off the only outlet by water from Missisquoi Bay, and leaves the whole of that Frontier at the mercy of the Enemy.

The prolongation of the line 45, reaches the St. Lawrence at St. Regis, giving the Americans a footing on Lake St. Francis. From St. Regis, to opposite Kingston, the Southern Bank of the River belongs to the United States. It is well known, that this River is the only communication between Upper and Lower Canada. It is rapid and narrow in many places. A few Cannon, judiciously posted, and even Musketry, could render the Communication impracticable, without powerful escorts, waiting and parcelling the force applicable to the defence of the Provinces. It is needless to say, that no British force can remain in safety, or maintain itself in Upper Canada, without a ready communication with the lower Province.

The Eastern Bank of the River at Niagara, also belongs to the Americans. Their position there, has the same effect on that part of the Provinces above Niagara, including the whole Indian Country, as their occupation of the Southern Bank below, has upon the whole Province. The facility which the Rivers and Lakes offer for concentrating and supplying an American force for the Invasion of Lower Canada, has been demonstrated last Campaign. It takes nine days to go up from Montreal to Kingston, and only three to come down.

The Country, to the North West, from the vicinity of Sandusky, at the Western end of Lake Erie to the Mississippi, was guaranteed to the Indians, by a solemn Treaty of Peace in 1794. The general conduct of the United States to the Indians shews, that they can have no military posts within that territory, consistent with the safety and independence of the Indian Nations.

It has been proposed to establish the Boundaries of Canada as they were in the time of the French. This would be a measure of doubtful policy, if it could even be accomplished, without greatly prolonging the war. It would, in fact, be adding Canada to the United States: for the American Population within the old limits of Canada is much greater than the whole Population of British North America. If that Population were to declare itself independent, it might have the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi secured to it under the influence of Great-Britain, together with other advantages, which the only grant and ensure to a people in their local situation and circumstances.

It would probably be sufficient, for the security of the British possessions in North America, that the Boundary, from the St. Croix were to follow the highlands which separate the waters falling into the British dominions from those that fall into the United States, till it reach Lake Champlain, between the Islands called North and South Hero, and from thence crossing the said Lake, and following the said Highlands to Gravelly Point on Lake Ontario, opposite Kingston. The Communication at Niagara would be sufficiently secured by a line running from a small Bay on Lake Ontario, near Fort Niagara, to Eleven Mile Creek on Lake Erie,

From the vicinity of Sandusky, at the West end of Lake Erie, the Indian Boundary ought to run according to the Treaty of 1794, to Kaskaskias River, and down that River to the Mississippi. The Spaniards will probably insist upon the restoration of Louisiana and the Eastern Bank of the Mississippi; according to the old Treaties.

On the side of the Canadas, the proposed line would not deprive the United States of a population exceeding 20,000 souls; they would even gain territory on some parts of the line, not diminish their own security against invasion, and contribute to a good understanding in future with their neighbours in the British possessions, amongst whom they have so lately threatened to carry fire and sword.

BOSTON, JUNE 6.

Arrived, the Portuguese brig *Amizade*, Capt. Maccodo, from Lisbon. Markets very dull for American produce. Flour 9, no demand.

A great many Dutch vessels from Holland, with cheese, gin, &c. &c. had arrived at Lisbon, and completely glutted the market.

The *Ramilies*, after putting her water on board the *Junon* and *Nymphé*, left Providence on Thursday morning, bound to Bermuda.

Arrived at Portland, on Sunday morning, the private armed brig *Grand Turk*, Breed, from a cruise of 4 months, having manned 4 prizes, made a cartel of 1 and burnt 1. She has on board a cargo of dry goods, and has brought in 30 prisoners.

An English schooner, prize to a Baltimore privateer, arrived at Newport on Saturday last—said to have a cargo of wine and brandy.

Arrived, at Wiscasset, 3d inst. British ship *Upton*, from Cork, bound to Newfoundland, prize to the privateer *sehr* *Diomede*. She was captured on the 20th May, off Newfoundland, after an action of an hour and 20 minutes, in which she had 1 man killed and 1 wounded. The prize mounts 16 guns (6's and 9's). Two days after leaving the *Diomede*, she fell in with the British letter-of-marque ship *Here*, from Cork, loaded with provisions, which bore down and engaged her 20 minutes, when she struck to the *Upton*—but not having a sufficient number of men to man her, permitted her to proceed.

SALEM, JUNE 6.

Arrived this forenoon, British cartel ship *Matilda*, (Transport No. 68) from Halifax, with 358 prisoners, and 14 passengers.

JUNE 7.

Arrived, yesterday, cartel ship *Perseverance*, Dill, 8 days from Newport, with 40 prisoners, for Halifax, to make up her complement here.

Arrived at Chatham, on Wednesday, Spanish ship *Piudencia*, Capt. Pimpelo, from Cadiz. No vessels had arrived there from the U. States. Flour was 9 dollars, but no sale for it in consequence of the great supplies of grain, &c. brought from the Mediterranean.

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M'COLL & BONNETT.
Halifax, March 1, 1813.

JUST LANDING

From on board the Brig *MARY-ANN*, JOHN RICHARDS, Master, from JAMAICA,

90 Puncheons of High Proof Jamaica SPIRITS,

For sale on reasonable terms by

EZEKIEL BARLOW.
St. John, N. B. 11th June, 1814.