



THE
Edinburgh Gazette.

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FROM *TUESDAY*, JAN. 3. TO *FRIDAY*, JAN. 6. 1797.

At the Court at *St James's*, Dec. 28. 1796,

P R E S E N T.

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty having been pleased to appoint Geo. Earl of Macartney to be Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the settlement of the Cape of Good-Hope, in South Africa, with the territories and dependencies thereof, his Lordship this day took the oaths appointed to be taken by the Governors of his Majesty's plantations.

WHITEHALL, *January 3. 1797.*

By dispatches received on Sunday evening from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by his Grace the Duke of Portland, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, it appears that a part of the French fleet, consisting of eight two-deckers, and nine other vessels of different classes, had anchored in Bantry Bay on the 24th ult. and had remained there, without any attempt to land, till the 27th in the evening, when they quitted their station, and have not since been heard of. The wind, at the time of their sailing, blowing hard at S, S, E.

From their first appearance, every exertion was made by General Darymple, the Commanding Officer of the district; and a considerable force was collected to repel the enemy.

The accounts further state, that the yeomanry and volunteer corps displayed the utmost zeal and alacrity, in undertaking the guards in those places from whence the regular troops were withdrawn; and the universal readiness shewn by all descriptions of people to forward the preparations for defence, left no doubt of the event, in case the enemy had ventured to make

a descent. In particular, the spirit, activity, and exertions of Richard White, Esq. of Seafeld Park, deserve the most honourable mention.

An officer and seven men were driven on shore in a boat belonging to one of the French ships; and were immediately made prisoners. This gentleman was conveyed to Dublin, and, upon examination, states that the fleet, upon its leaving Brest, consisted in all of about fifty sail, having an army of 25,000 men on board, commanded by General Hoche, and that it was destined for the attack of Ireland.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, *Jan. 3. 1797.*

Copy of a letter from Capt. STERLING, of his Majesty's ship *Jafon*, to Mr NEPEAN, dated off Cape Clear the 24th of December 1796.

SIR,

I had the honour to inform you, on the 20th instant, by *Le Suffrein*, a French vessel, armé en flute, which we had taken with 250 troops, arms, &c. on board, that my intentions were to cruize some days, to endeavour to intercept any of her convoys.

The prisoners have since informed me, that she sailed on the 16th, in company with 16 sail of the line and transports, having 20,000 troops. As the wind has been easterly since the date of my letter, and blowing very hard, I hope they have not reached a port; and as the troops had only ten days provisions, they must be badly off.

I saw a large ship of war last night, and I am persuaded the body of the fleet cannot be far from me. A rudder and other pieces of wreck have floated past us to-day.

For remainder of Gazette, &c. see last page.

(R.)

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