

The London Gazette.

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From Tuesday December 21, to Saturday December 25, 1779.

Westminster, December 23.

THIS Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Mol, neux, Knight, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act to repeal certain Acts made in Great Britain, which restrain the Trade and Commerce of Ireland with Foreign Parts.

An Act to amend an Act, made in the Eighteenth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intitled, An Act to explain and amend so much of an Act, made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, as relate to the preventing the clandestine Conveyance of Sugar, and Panels, from the British Colonies and Plantations in America, into Great Britain.

An Act to indemnify such Officers of the Militia as have not transmitted to the Clerks of the Peace Descriptions of their Qualifications, and Certificates of their having taken the Oaths as required; and for allowing further Time for the Delivery of Descriptions of Qualifications by such Officers of the Militia; and for obliging the Captain-Lieutenant to deliver in a Description of his Qualification.

And to Two Private Bills.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, December 25, 1779.

NOTICE is hereby given, That there will be no Levee or Drawing Room at St. James's till New Year's Day.

Whitehall, December 25, 1779.

EXTRACT of a Letter from Major-General Prevost, commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Province of Georgia, to the Right Honourable Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated Savannah, November 1, 1779: Received by Captain Shaw, Aid de Camp to Major-General Prevost.

AS I look upon it to be always of Importance, and my indispensable Duty, that your Lordship should directly be made acquainted with every material Occurrence in this Quarter affecting His Majesty's Service; and as it is probable the very unexpected Visit of the Count d'Estaing to this Coast, with so powerful a Squadron, and a considerable Body of Land Troops, when known, would have excited some Uneasiness for our Safety; it is with very sincere Pleasure I do myself the Honor to inform you, that we have seen the last of the French Fleet this Day depart.—we hope off the Coast,—got both them and their American Allies off our Hands, in a Manner which we humbly hope our Gracious Sovereign will not think unhandsome.

September 4th. When Intelligence was received from Tybee, that Five Sail of French Men of War, with some Sloops and Schooners, were off the Bar; as it was impossible to determine whether this was a Whole or only Part of a larger Force; whether they had landed Troops in Carolina, or this was their first Appearance on the Coast; Orders were sent to all the Out-posts to hold themselves in Readiness to join: And as it was very possible that the Enemy might push their Frigates into Port Royal Bay, and

cut off the Communication with Beaufort, an Order was sent to the Honorable Colonel Maitland, commanding there, forthwith to evacuate that Place, and cross to Hilton Head Island, from whence, if he was not stopped by a further Order, he was to proceed to this Place. The Officer who was charged with this Order was taken by the Rebels, going through Skull Creek; but this Accident was then judged of no other Consequence, as the French disappeared, and their coming on the Coast being hoped, for various Reasons, to be only accidental. Colonel Maitland was next Day directed to remain; but embarking all his heavy Baggage and other Incumbrances, to hold himself in constant Readiness to come away on the shortest Notice. Or if, through any other Channel, he received Intelligence which should induce that Measure, he was immediately to adopt it, without waiting the Ceremony of Orders, as best for His Majesty's Service; his great Care being always to run no Risque, possibly to be avoided, of being cut off from this Place, which was our principal Concern.

6th. The French Ships re-appeared with One of Addition, and from the Northward. Captain Moncrief, the Commanding Engineer, with One Hundred Men and a Howitz, was sent to Tybee to reinforce the Post and Battery there; and an Order to be forwarded to Colonel Maitland to join without Loss of Time.

7th and 8th. The Fleet of the Enemy increased to Forty-two Sail, the greater Part Men of War.—Expresses to all the Out-posts to join.

9th. Fifty-four Vessels off the Bar.—Appoint the Posts of Alarm out of Town, and make other necessary Dispositions for sustaining an Attack.—Repair and strengthen the Abbatis.—A very superior Force approaching the Bar, our Ships, the Fowey and Rose, of Twenty Guns each, the Keppel and Germain Armed Vessels, obliged to retire towards Town. The Battery on Tybee destroyed, the Guns spiked, and the Howitz and Stores carried off.—Four large Frigates came over the Bar.

10th. All the Out-posts in Georgia join. Lieutenant Colonel Cruger from Sanbury came by Land with all his Men able to march; his Sick and Convalescents he embarked on Board an Armed Vessel to come Inland.—By contrary Winds they were detained till the Passage was seized by the Enemy. They however put up Ogechy River, where, finding the Communication by Land also cut off, Captain French (commanding) landed and took Post, and for many Days continued to defend himself, until obliged, by Want of Provisions, to capitulate to a very superior Force. Began new Redoubts and Batteries, and strengthen the Abbatis. The Troops encamped.

11th. Busy in landing Cannon from the Shipping.—Making Fascines.—The Engineer hard at Work.

12th. Several French and Rebel Vessels come over Ossibau Bar.—At Ten o'Clock, Evening, the French landed at Beaulieu.

13th. Having confined our Views to the Defence of the Town, as our sole Object, which we determined, by the Blessing of God, to be vigorous, and worthy of British Troops, continued our Works with unremitting Ardour. Captains Henry, Brown, and Fisher came on Shore, their Assistance being required in the Defence of the Place, on which every Thing depended.—They cheerfully agreed, and proceeded directly to land their whole Force, Men, Guns, &c. Some Masters of Transports, and a Privateer with their Men, made voluntary Offers of their Services. Captain Watson of the Tweed,