

Majesty, or by the Governor of the said Settlement, and of the Territories and Dependencies thereof, by virtue of Authority derived from His Majesty; and in the mean Time subject to such Duties, Rules, Regulations and Restrictions as subsisted and were in Force before and at the Time of the Conquest of the said Settlement by the Arms of His Majesty, with such Alterations as have been since made under the Authority of the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces at the said Settlement: But it is His Majesty's Pleasure that no Goods, Wares or Merchandize, which shall be imported into the said Settlement, or the Territories or Dependencies thereof, from any Part of His Majesty's Dominions, shall be subject to any Duty.

And it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that no Goods, Wares or Merchandize, the Growth, Produce or Manufacture of the Countries to the Eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, be imported into the said Settlement, or the Territories or Dependencies thereof, except by the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies; and that no such Goods, Wares or Merchandize, be permitted to be exported from thence, except for Sea Stores only, or by the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, or by their Licence.

But it is His Majesty's Pleasure that nothing in this Order contained shall extend to prevent Ships or Vessels employed in the Southern Whale Fishery from carrying on the same in such and the same Manner as might have been done if this Order had not been made.

And it is also His Majesty's Pleasure, that no Arms or Artillery, Gunpowder or Ammunition, of any Sort, be allowed to be imported into the said Settlement, or the Territories or Dependencies thereof, except by the said United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, or by Licence from His Majesty.

And it is His Majesty's further Pleasure, that the Trade and Commerce to and from the said Settlement, and the Territories and Dependencies thereof, shall be subject to such of the Laws of Trade and Navigation as would have affected the same if this Order had not been made, except so far as such Laws are contrary to this present Order.

And the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, are to give the necessary Directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

*Steph. Cottrell.*

*Lord Chamberlain's Office, December 30, 1796.*

Notice is hereby given, that there will be no Drawing-Room at St. James's till the 18th of January, 1797, when Her Majesty's Birth-Day will be kept.

*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 Ultimo, 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 Dalrymple, 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 Seafield 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 it's 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, January 3, 1797.*

*Copy of a Letter from Captain Sterling, of His Majesty's Ship Jason, to Mr. Nepean, dated off Cape Clear the 24th of December, 1796.*

S I R.

I Had the Honor 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 Conforts.

The Prisoners have since informed me, that she sailed on the 16th, in Company with Sixteen 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.