

Personal, and continuing the same so long as may be necessary for the Defence and Security of the Nation.

Not less sensible of the incalculable Value of our Constitution than of the faithful Adherence which your Majesty has invariably manifested to it, and animated by the same Sentiments which your Majesty has lately been pleased to declare to your Parliament and People, we are ready to discharge the Duty we owe to your Majesty, our Country and ourselves, and to stand or fall with your Majesty in Defence of our Religion, and of the Independence, Liberty, Constitution and Commerce of these Kingdoms.

Signed, by Order of the Meeting,

Sam. Waterhouse, Chairman.
John Hudson, }
Roger Swire, } Constables.

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Wakefield, humbly beg Leave to approach your Majesty with unalterable Assurances of the warmest Attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government, and of our fixed Determination vigorously to unite in every public Measure for repelling the Attacks of an insulting and inveterate Enemy, whose declared Object is to ruin the Commerce and destroy the Independence of this Country.

At this important Crisis, when every Thing we esteem dear and valuable is at Stake, we are desirous to express our firm Reliance on the Wisdom and Judgment of the Legislature for adopting the proper and salutary Means of raising such Supplies, within the Year, as the Exigencies of the State may be found to require, and for effecting such Plans as may best accomplish an equal Taxation on all Real and Personal Property. With these Resources we have the fullest Confidence, that the united Exertions of a brave and free People will, under Divine Providence, be fully sufficient to frustrate the malignant Designs of an invading Enemy, and to transmit to Posterity that happy Constitution which they have so long enjoyed under your Majesty's paternal Government.

Wakefield, Jan. 22, 1798.

Admiralty-Office, March 3, 1798.

Extract of a Letter from the Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B. to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated the 27th of February, 1798.

Herewith you will receive, for their Lordships Information, Copies of Two Letters of the 21st Instant from the Hon. Captain Stopford, of His Majesty's Ship Phaeton, stating the Capture of La Legere French Ship Privateer; also with the Capture of the American Ship Eliza, from Boston to Amsterdam, with a valuable Cargo on Board.

These Letters were transmitted to me by Captain Frazer, of His Majesty's Ship Nymphe, who saw the above Vessels into Plymouth in Safety.

Phaeton, at Sea, February 21, 1798.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that on the 19th Instant, in consequence of the Vigilance of Captain White, in keeping Sight of and making Signals for a Sail in the S. E. in very thick

and squally Weather, I was enabled, in His Majesty's Ship under my Command, to come up with and capture a French Ship Privateer, called La Legere, out Twenty-four Hours from L'Orient, bound to the West Indies, mounting 14 Eight-Pounders and 4 Thirty-two lb. Carronades, and manned with 130 Men. La Legere was built for a Corvette, and has been employed as such until these few Months, when she was fitted for a Privateer, and sails so well, that her Capture would have been considerably delayed, if she had not carried away her Fore and Main Topmasts during the Chace.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

ROB. STOPFORD.

Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B.

Phaeton, at Sea, February 21, 1798.

My Lord,

IN Addition to my Letter to your Lordship of this Day's Date, I have to inform you, that the Mermaid and Sylph being in Chace in the S. W. have returned with an American Ship from Boston to Amsterdam, that had been taken by a French Privateer. The American Ship (called the Eliza) is originally from Batavia, with a valuable Cargo, and stopped at Boston for fresh Papers, without changing her Cargo. I send the Nymph into Port with the Two captured Vessels.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

ROB. STOPFORD.

Right Hon. Lord Bridport, K. B.

Copy of a Letter from Robert M'Douall, Esq; Captain of His Majesty's Ship Ganges, to Evan Nepean, Esq; dated at Yarmouth, the 27th of February, 1798.

S I R,

BE pleased to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the Marquis Cobourg Cutter arrived here this Morning, after an Engagement with La Revanche French Privateer, of 16 Guns and 62 Men, which Vessel sunk soon after she struck, and, greatly to Lieutenant Webb's Honor, he saved the Prisoners, and has brought them in here.

I herewith inclose Lieutenant Webb's Letter to me for their Lordships further Information.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

ROB. M'DOUALL.

His Majesty's Armed Cutter Cobourg,
February 26, 1798.

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inform you, that Yesterday Morning, at Seven o'Clock, having Cromer bearing S. 67 W. distant Sixteen Leagues, we fell in with, and, after Nine Hours Chace, (during which we ran One Hundred Miles, one Half the Time blowing a hard Gale of Wind at W. N. W.) we came up alongside and captured La Revanche French Lugger Privateer, of 16 Guns and 62 Men, after a running Fight of Two Hours, close alongside.

She attempted to board us twice, but being repulsed, and a well-directed Broadside having brought her Main and Mizen Masts by the Board, and shot her Fore Yard away, they called for Quarter.

We had no sooner taken Possession of her, than, with the utmost Difficulty and all the Exertion we possibly could make Use of in getting the Prisoners shifted;