

We are favoured with the following authentic detail of the cause of the failure in the attack made upon a fort near Morn Carbet in Martinique, and of the consequent re-embarkation of the British troops.

An attack upon a battery near Morn Carbet having been resolved upon, the British troops to the amount of 1300 men, artillery and marines included, were ordered to advance from Morn Decasse, with 600 Royalists under the chief command of Monsieur Gimat, in order to make the assault in different columns before day break on Tuesday morning the 18th.

A detachment of artillery with one six pounder had been pushed forward with great difficulty through bad roads the evening before, and having reached its ground, was there attacked, but being supported by the advanced pickets and light infantry, the enemy were driven back with the loss of many men. In this attack Captain Dunlop of the 60th and 7 men were killed.

Between one and two o'clock, the English who were advancing, were informed that the Royalists who had marched in two columns, the one commanded by Mons. Montrose, and the other by Mons. Du Baraille, had unfortunately crossed in their line of march, and not passing the patrol had exchanged their fire with great fury and continuance before the fatal mistake was discovered, many of both columns being killed and wounded; and that M. Gimat being desperately wounded and disabled, all the Royalists were thrown into confusion, and had given up all for lost.

This information was soon afterwards confirmed, by the Royalists retreating into the English posts; and the British General, finding the enterprize no longer practicable, ordered a retreat, which was completed without the least attack or attempt from the enemy.

The troops were embarked at Fond Capot on Wednesday morning.

It is supposed that not less than 1000 emigrants are already arrived in this Island from Martinico, and more are now on their passage under the protection of the men of war.

NEW YORK, JULY 9.

MELANCHOLLY NEWS.

Capt. John Fanning, of the brig Union, arrived on Sunday, in 14 days from Cape Francois, gives us the following melancholly particulars respecting the fate of that unhappy island:

"On the 18th June the Civil Commissioners, Mess. Sonthonax and Polverel, arrived at the Cape from Port au Prince; they immediately suspended Mons. Galbau, the Governor and Commander of the troops at that place, and sent him on board a ship; on the 19th a number of Mulattoes were encouraged by the e Gentlemen to come into the town, who, by unfair means, armed all the negroes belonging to the citizens, and

stimulated them to assist in destroying the whites, which scene, it is said, actually began on the 20th about noon, when a most horrid massacre began, neither women nor children were spared, upwards of 10,000 white inhabitants were butchered, and 2,000 saved themselves in the French and American vessels in the harbour; the wretches then began to plunder the town; after which they set fire to it, and on the 23d, when Capt. Fanning sailed, the burning was going on, and there was only the Church, government house, and one other, saved; they left there the Amerique of 74 guns. Capt. Fanning sailed in company with about 15 sail of vessels, bound to different ports in America, under convoy of two 74's and four frigates, who were bound, as supposed, to Boston or Newport, so that we may soon expect to hear of their arrival. On Sunday last he fell in with the Embuscade, off Bar negat, who detained him for three hours, and then ordered him to proceed on. Capt. Fanning's register and all his papers were burnt at the Cape.

Cape Francois was a neat, well built city, the buildings chiefly of stone—said to be as large as New York. The large Church has escaped the flames, being all of stone, and covered so as the fire cannot make any impression. The Government House has suffered much from the cannon shot; the soldiery were still engaged in fighting in town. It is supposed that this disastrous affair proceeded entirely from the difference between the two Commissioners, who assumed the power, and the Governor Galbau, who thought his rightful authority invaded. He headed a number of sailors from the ships, who made the first attack, and repulsed the mulattoes, but they having at hand a number of negroes with arms, repulsed the sailors and whites.

Captain Fanning observes, that he could have carried off loads of plunder when he came away, as the inhabitants had left their houses and property to save their lives—Capt. Fanning left the fleet the 30th June.

OPINIONS OF THE FEDERAL COURT RESPECTING THE PAYMENT OF THE BRITISH DEBTS.

On the 6th ult. the Honourable Judges of the Federal Court, held in Richmond, (Virginia) gave their opinions on the important subject of the payment of the British debts, (which had engrossed the attention of the Court for several days previous.)

The points before the Court were,

1st. Whether the British debts were recoverable in that State, the act of the Virginia Assembly having prohibited the recovery; which acts passed prior to the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

2d. Whether the payments made into the Loan Office, were not complete bars to the Plaintiff's action for so much as was paid?

3d. As the Dennitive Treaty had been broken by the Government of Great Britain, whether the Treaty of Peace should

be carried into effect on the part of America?

And lastly, Whether the debtor was annihilated by the dissolution of the Government on the 4th day of July, 1776?

The Court were unanimously of opinion on the first, third, and last points, for the Plaintiff, considering the adoption of the Constitution as a repeal of all laws in opposition to the Treaty of Peace, which by that adoption had become the Supreme law of the land—and upon this ground gave judgment for the plaintiff on the first point. On the third they were of opinion, that the Court could not take notice of a breach of a treaty, if such did exist, without a declaration to that effect from the Congress of the United States. On the last, gave judgment for the Plaintiff, as the plea of the defendant could not be supported by the laws and usages of nations. On the 2d point, the Court were divided, Mr. Jay, Chief Justice of the United States, for the plaintiffs, Mr. Iredell and Mr. Griffin, for the defendants—upon that plea then, judgment was entered for the defendants, a majority of the Court supposing, that as the law had been carried into complete effect before the treaty of peace, and as by that law, the defendant was discharged from the debt, the treaty of peace could not again charge him.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 22.

The ships on the Newfoundland station, under Admiral King, consist of 1 ship of 64 guns, 4 of 32, and 2 sloops of war.

By a vessel arrived yesterday from New York, we learn, that the French fleet, consisting of 2 ships of the line, 3 frigates, and 2 armed brigs, all badly manned, had left New York, and was bound for the West Indies.

Extracts from the New York Papers to the 10th inst. received by the above vessel.

From an account received from Philadelphia, taken by a judicious person in that city, we learn that the burials from the 19th of August to 4th October amount to 4064. The fever has spread nearly over the whole city, and is as violent as ever.

Extract of a letter from Charleston, Sep. 11.

"The gentlemen and militia are obliged to mount guard constantly, and the troops of horse parade the streets by turns quite up to the magazines, for there has been two letters intercepted, in which it appears that the negroes and mulattoes intended to serve us as the people at the Cape were served. They had heard from the French negroes much about it, and about Liberty and Equality, together with the people indiscreetly talking before them on those subjects; that they absolutely intended to rise on the white people. The day was fixed, and it was to have been on the 14th of August. They were trying to get arms and ammunition, and an attempt was made on one of the magazines; and a letter was intercepted by some person in North Carolina, wherein