Belfast Newsletter.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.

NEWS-LETTER OFFICE, Half past Four o'Clock.

We ſtop the preſs to ſtate, that an Expreſs has juſt arrived, ſtating, that Martial Law has been proclaimed in Dublin

By Letters received in town on Wedneſday we learn, that an inſurrection was on the point of breaking out in Dublin on the ſame day, but which has been fortunately fruſtrated by the vigilance of Government. A general ſearch for arms having taken place, in one ſtreet, (Dorſet ſtreet) *five hundred ſtand of arms* were ſeized.

On Tueſday evening a meſſage was ſent to the Houſe of Lords, requeſting the Houſe immediately to take meaſures for the general ſafety. A bill was brought in, read, and ſent to the Commons and paſſed, and ſent to Britain by expreſs for the Royal Aſſent, permitting the Courts of Oyer and Terminer to ſit during term.

We congratulate our countrymen on this fortunate diſcovery of a plot, which would have involved this country in a civil conteſt, and been of fatal conſequences to thouſands of deluded people, who now may have time to repent of their temerity, and prize the bleſſings of a well-regulated government.

The following are official communications upon this buſineſs:

EXPRESS.

"Sir, Drogheda, May 24, 1798.

"In compliance with Mr Cooke's orders, I have forwarded his intelligence with as little delay as poſſible, of which the following is a copy.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your very humble ſervant,

"HENRY LESLIE,

"Capt. Commanding Fermanagh Reg

To General Nugent, Blaris Camp. } "at Drogheda."

"Sir, Public Caſtle, Thurſday morning.

"This city was to have been attacked laſt night; but by precautions taken, that deſign was prevented. The Northern Mail Coach was attacked by Rebels, and burnt, at Santry—the Southern at Lucan. There is every reaſon to believe that no ſecond attempt will be made. Their Northern leader, Neilſon, who had been let out of gaol, is taken. You will pleaſe to forward this intelligence to General Nugent with all expedition, and have it publiſhed as much as poſſible.

"I am, Sir,

"Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

To the Officers Commanding at Drogheda } "E. COOKE."

General Poſt Office, May [illegible] 1798.

"Sir,

"Information has been received at this Office, that the Mail Coach which was diſpatched with the Mail for the North laſt night, was ſtopped by a numerous banditi near Santry, who ſet fire to and conſumed the Coach and entire Mail. I am therefore commanded to deſire you will make this event as publicly known as poſſible to the inhabitants of your town and neighbourhood.

"I am, Sir,

"Your humble ſervant,

To the Poſtmaſter of Belfaſt. } "JOHN LEES, ſecretary."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MAY 22.

The Right Hon. Lord Viſcount Caſtlereagh acquainted the Houſe that he had a Meſſage from his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to this Houſe, ſigned by his Excellency; and he preſented the ſame to the Houſe, and it was read by *Mr Speaker*, and is as followeth:

"CAMDEN,

"I am to acquaint the Houſe of Commons, that in conſequence of the diſorders which have taken place in "the neighbouring Counties, and of the preparations "which appeared to be making by the diſaffected in the "metropolis and its vicinity, the Magiſtrates thought "it proper to apply to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy "Council to place the city under the proviſions of the "act paſſed in the thirty ſixth year of his Majeſty's reign, "more effectually to ſuppreſs inſurrections and prevent "the diſturbance of the public peace: this application "has been complied with, and I am now with the utmoſt "concern to inform the Houſe of Commons, that I have "received information that the diſaffected have been deſigning enough to form a plan for the purpoſe of poſſeſſing "themſelves in the courſe of the preſent week of the "metropolis, of ſeizing the Seat of Government and "thoſe in Authority within the city. In conſequence "of this information, I have directed every Military "precaution to be taken which ſeemed expedient. I "have made full communication to the Magiſtracy for "the direction of their efforts, and I have no doubt that "by the meaſures which will be purſued the deſigns of "the rebellious will be effectually and entirely cruſhed.

"I have taken the earlieſt opportunity of making this "communication, and have the fulleſt confidence that I "ſhall be ſupported by the Commons in ſuch meaſures as "ſhall be neceſſary finally to ſuppreſs the rebellious con"ſpiracy which exiſts in this kingdom."

Ordered—That the ſaid meſſage be entered in the Journals of this Houſe.

Reſolved, *nem. con.*—That an humble Addreſs be preſented to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to return his Excellency our ſincere thanks for the Meſſage he has ſent this day to the Houſe; the intelligence it communicates fills us with indignation and horror, whilſt it rouſes in us a ſpirit of determined reſolution and energy; we rely upon the vigilance and vigour of his Excellency's Government, which, we truſt, will continue unabated until the Conſpiracy which ſo fatally exiſts be utterly diſſolved; ſenſible of the danger which ſurrounds us, we are fully prepared to meet it under his Excellency's auſpices; and we feel aſſured, that his ſucceſsful efforts in the cauſe of our Sovereign and the Conſtitution will ſoon be crowned with univerſal gratitude, not only from the loyal who have ſtood their ground with firmneſs, but from the deluded who have been traitorouſly ſeduced.

Reſolved, *nem. con.*—That Mr. Speaker with the Houſe do forthwith attend his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant with the ſaid Addreſs, and preſent the ſame to his Excellency as the Addreſs of this Houſe.

Mr. Speaker reported that the Houſe had attended his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant with the Addreſs of this Houſe to his Excellency, and that thereupon his Excellency was pleaſed to return the Anſwer following:

"The manner in which the Houſe of Commons has expreſſed its approbation of my conduct, calls for expreſſions on my part to which no language I can uſe is equal.

"The wiſdom, the firmneſs, and the ſpirit which have been manifeſted during the whole of this eventful period by the Houſe of Commons, and the peculiar promptitude, alacrity and unanimity, which have now been evinced, muſt tend in the moſt effectual manner to cruſh rebellion and to ſave the ſtate."

Ordered—That his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's Anſwer be entered in the Journals of this Houſe.

Being repeatedly called on by the Proprietors of the Belfaſt News-Letter, and Northern Star, to pay the expence (amounting to 54l. 1s. 4d.) of publiſhing the Addreſs of the Gentlemen of Killultagh and Derryvalgal to the Rev. Philip Johnſon, with his Anſwer annexed, offering a Reward for the Apprehenſion of the Aſſaſſin who attempted his Life—I requeſt the Gentlemen who came forward on that occaſion, will have the goodneſs to pay ſuch ſums as they may think proper for defraying ſaid expence, into the hands of the following Gentlemen, viz.—Dugherty Gorman, Eſq. Glenavy—Stafford Gorman, Eſq. Brewmount, Portz Stewart, Eſq. Derriaghy, and Mr. Archibald Muſſen, Liſburn

The only ſums already paid are as follows, viz.—W. Smith, P. Stewart, Philip Stewart, Wm. Rogers, D. Gorman, S. Gorman, G. Vaughan, J. Watſon, E. Wakefield, J. Ridgeway, R. Duncan, W. Gregg, W. Kennedy, R. J. Smyth, Eſqrs. Rev. P Fletcher, and Rev. T. Higginſon, half a guinea each.

Liſburn, May 19, 1798. R. J. SMYTH.

Mr Secretary Pelham ſailed yeſterday evening from Donaghadee for Portpatrick, on board the Palmer packet.

The Fencible Regiment, commanded by Colonel Mackay, who marched from hence to Cavan a few days ago, have received a route for Dublin; the firſt diviſion reached there yeſterday.

On the 16th inſt. Mr. Roſe, in the abſence of Mr. Pitt, ſubmitted to a committee of the Britiſh Houſe of Commons, a reſolution to prevent ſhips from ſailing in future without convoy; and, in recompenſe for the protection to be thus afforded by government, he propoſed the following taxes:—A tax of 2½ per cent. on manufactured ſugar and tobacco, exported—of ½ per cent. on all other exports to Europe, Ireland excepted—of two per cent. on all other exports to America and the Weſt Indies—of three per cent. on all imports, excepting on rice and tobacco from America. And the following duties on tonnage—To America, 2s. per ton; Eaſt Indies 4s.; Ireland, 1s. 6d.; Ruſſia and the Baltick, 1s. 6d.

The Executive Directory of France ſhew their regard to civil liberty, by tranſporting men to the wilds of South America without trial; to political liberty, by annulling at pleaſure the choice which the people have made of repreſentatives; and to republican purity, by accepting to enter Amerſe bribes in a Houſe of Commons newly elected with a free, neutral, uncorrupting, and even friendly ſpirit.

Miſſionary Intelligence.—A letter is received from Captain Wilſon, addreſſed to the Treaſurer of the Miſſionary Society, dated Canton, in China, the 16th of December laſt, informing him, that through the bleſſing of Divine Providence, he had been enabled to ſettle eighteen Miſſionaries on the iſland of Otaheite, together with the women and children, where their reception was diſtinguiſhed by the greateſt hoſpitality and kindneſs on the part of the natives.—Ten of the other Miſſionaries were ſettled at Tongataboo, one of the Friendly Iſlands, and one of them, (viz. Mr Crook) at the Marqueras.

Captain Wilſon had the opportunity of viſiting the Miſſionaries at Otaheite and Tongataboo, after having left them among the natives for a conſiderable interval, and they continued to experience the utmoſt kindneſs, and aſſurance of protection. It was intended to have left two Miſſionaries at the Marqueras, where the Chief of the iſland manifeſted the greateſt deſire to receive them: But one of them preferring to return to Otaheite, Captain Wilſon propoſed that Mr Crook alſo ſhould return, but could not prevail on him to leave the natives, who diſcovered ſo ſtrong an affection to him, and ſo great a deſire to retain him.

LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD.

Information having been received, that Lord Edw. Fitzgerald was concealed in the houſe of Mr Murphy, a feather-merchant, in Thomas-ſtreet, Dublin, Mr. Juſtice Swan, Major Sirr, and Captain Ryan went there between the hours of ſix and ſeven o'clock, on Saturday evening laſt, with a party of ſoldiers in two carriages. Whilſt Major Sirr and Captain Ryan were placing the guard to prevent an eſcape, Mr. Swan got into a ſmall outer office, and from thence into the lower part of the houſe, up ſtairs, where, meeting a woman, he puſhed her down and got into a room on the firſt floor, where he ſaw [illegible] breakfaſt with the remains of ſome wine, and glaſſes on the table, with chairs round it; meeting no perſon there, he puſhed into a back room, two ſtories high, where he found Murphy, the owner of the houſe, ſtanding in the room, Lord Edward lying in the bed with his coat off, and his breeches and ſtockings on. Mr. Swan informed his Lordſhip he had a warrant againſt him for high treaſon, was ſorry for his ſituation, but he ſhould receive from him every polite treatment ſuitable to his rank. His Lordſhip immediately roſe up in the bed, darted at him, and he, Mr. Swan, feeling ſomething, as if a piſtol was ſnapped at him, ſaw Lord Edward ſnatch a dagger from under the clothes, with which he made ſeveral ſtabs at him, which paſſed through his clothes without wounding him: His Lordſhip then cloſed upon Mr. Swan, ſhortened the dagger, and gave him a ſtab in the ſide, under the left breaſt, having firſt changed it from one hand to the other over his ſhoulder (as Mr. Swan think); although ſeverely wounded, he was unwilling to take his Lordſhip's life, and deſired him frequently to ſurrender, and endeavoured to arreſt the dagger from him; in the ſcuffle his Lordſhip made many violent attempts to repeat his blow; finding the blood running from him, and the impoſſibility to reſtrain him, he was compelled, in defence of his life, to diſcharge a double barreled piſtol at his Lordſhip, and wounded him in the ſhoulder; he fell on the bed, but recovering himſelf, ran at him with the dagger, which Mr. Swan caught by the blade with one hand, and endeavoured to tuip him up. Capt. Ryan, directed by the report of the piſtol, ran up into the room, and found Mr. Swan bleeding and entangled with Lord Edward. Mr. Swan ſaid to Ryan "he has murdered me!" on which Ryan threw himſelf upon Lord Edward and Swan, and was then diſabled by his Lordſhip. On Captain Ryan's approach, Lord Edward made a ſtrong effort, and diſengaged himſelf from Mr. Swan, and purſued [illegible] deſperate wounds [illegible]

"On the 23d, at Clondalkin, about four miles from Dublin, on the Naas road, a party of the 5th Dragoons and Yeomen Cavalry, fell in with 400 of the Rebels, whom they diſperſed, killed many, and brought in nine, who will be brought to a Court Martial this evening. Three others were hanged this morning in Berwick ſtreet, being condemned by Martial Law.

"A Party of the Racy Fencibles coming to town with the baggage of the regiment, were beſet and murdered on this ſide Donboice: in that town, four houſes and the owners (Proteſtants) were laſt night (23d) murdered.

"Near Kilcullen there has been a very ſerious action, an officer of the 5th Dragoons and ſeveral men were killed and wounded by the inſurgents, who were at laſt routed and above 200 of them were killed. At Naas there was another very ſerious action, in which as many more of the Inſurgents were killed, without any loſs on the part of the military. A great number of arms of every deſcription, are brought to the Capital hourly, and there is no doubt that this rebellion will be cruſhed in a very few days. *The uſe of the Yeomanry at this moment is incalculable.*"

FROM THE DUBLIN EVENING POST OF THURSDAY, MAY 24.

Five perſons, ſuſpected of being engaged in burning the Northern Mail Coach, by placing the obſtruction of the carts, have been taken by the Attornies Cavalry, who happened to be patroling the neighbourhood, and brought into town.

In conſequence of ſome information of an alarming nature received by Government, the drum beat to arms about 12 o'clock laſt night, and the ſeveral corps of Yeomanry in this city repaired to their alarm poſts—cannon were placed in the avenues leading to the Caſtle—the military preparations were the moſt awful appearance—and a conſiderable degree of conſternation prevailed throughout the night.

This morning led us further into the cauſe.—A large body of inſurgents had aſſembled between Crumlin and Tallagh, in the neighbourhood of Seggard, all armed, and moſt of them mounted: they were oppoſed by the Yeomanry in that quarter, who fired on them, but without effect, and were obliged to retreat. An expreſs having been ſent in the interim, a reinforcement of Cavalry (the 5th Dragoons) arrived, between whom and the inſurgents a conflict enſued, in which three of the latter were killed, and about 30 taken priſoners.—A quantity of pikes were alſo taken, and two carts.

The dead bodies were expoſed throughout the whole of this day in the Lower Caſtle-yard; and the 5th dragoons, in returning to camp, carried through the city as trophies, the horſe and boots belonging to one of the deceaſed. The inſurgents were armed with piſtols, ſwords, blunderbuſſes, and pikes.

Yeſterday the Yeomanry continued their reſearches after concealed and other arms, great quantities of which, ſuch as muſkets, pikes, halberts, ſwords, and other weapons, were lodged in appointed *depots*. Several ſuſpected perſons were alſo taken into cuſtody.

A meſſenger was ſent off on Tueſday night with the bill for holding Commiſſions during the ſitting of Term, which paſſed both Houſes of Parliament on Tueſday.

For theſe two days paſt the puniſhment of whipping has been inflicted on ſeveral ſuſpected perſons, to induce them to make confeſſions of their guilt, its extent, and their accomplices: a great number of blackſmiths have been of the number, one of whom was carried through the city on horſeback, his bellows borne before him, and his perſon hung over with pikes which had been found with him.

LONDON.

TUESDAY, MAY 22.

We are ſorry to ſtate, that we received, this morning by expreſs, the very ſimple firſt intelligence of the failure of the ſecret expedition.—*Courier.*

A brig belonging to the Armament which ſailed laſt week from Margate Roads, arrived in the Downs laſt night. The Lieutenant who commands her ſays, that the ſhips proceeded to Oſtend, and arrived there on Saturday evening, when they immediately began to land the troops; and that ſhortly after the landing had been effected, our ſmall force was attacked by a large body of French troops, who, as ſoon as the alarm had been given, were very ſoon collected on the coaſt. After a ſhort though an obſtinate and bloody action, the Britiſh troops, many hundred men having been killed and wounded, were obliged to ſurrender themſelves priſoners of war.—General Coote, with moſt of the other officers, we underſtand, is taken.—On board the ſhips, we are happy to ſtate, there are only five perſons killed—four ſailors, and a Captain of a gun brig, Captain Popham, it is ſaid, did not leave his ſhip, and of courſe is ſafe.

The whole of the fleet is expected to arrive this day. The Lieutenant of the brig which is already arrived, proceeded with his diſpatches to the Admiral at Deal, as ſoon as he came on ſhore at Dover.

The number of land troops employed on this expedition amounted to 2800, not one of whom, it is ſtated, has eſcaped.

The naval force conſiſts of the Romney of 50 guns, Captain Lawford, who is ſenior officer, and conſequently Commodore; a 44, two frigates of 28 guns each, the Woolverine gun-veſſel, and ſmaller gun boats and veſſels.—No ſhips of the line, as was at firſt ſtated, we now underſtand, were employed.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

ſtates, that diſpatches were, early this morning, brought to the Admiralty from Captain Popham, lying off Oſtend, which contain an account that the object of the expedition had been nearly accompliſhed, by the deſtruction of ſeveral of the gun-boats prepared for the invaſion of this country; but before it was entirely completed, the French had collected a very ſuperior force, attacked our troops, and completely defeated them, with the loſs of 50 men killed—It is ſaid that 600 of our men had re-embarked.

FOR LONDON,

THE BROWNLOW,

JAMES CAUGHEY, Maſter;

WILL be clear to ſail in FOURTEEN DAYS.

HENRY HASLETT, Agent.

Belfaſt, 22d May, 1798.

MUSLIN BLEACH GREEN.

To be Sold by Auction, on Friday the 1ſt June next, at Drew's Tavern, at One o'Clock;

THAT extenſive BLEACH GREEN in Caſtlereagh, occupied by Robert Wilſon and Co. within a mile and a half of Belfaſt; in which there has been lately erected a Drying Houſe, with a Stove on the neweſt and moſt complete plan—held by Leaſe under the Marquis of Downſhire, and now in moſt complete order in every reſpect. Terms of payment will be declared at the ſale.

Belfaſt, 14th April, 1798.

EXTRACTS.

Extract of a Letter from Dublin, dated May 24.

"Laſt night the rebels attempted to force the gaol of Naas, an engagement took place between them and a party of the Armagh Militia, Ancient Britons, and 5th Dragoons—One Hundred and Fifty of the rebels were killed.—Lieutenant Barlow wounded; two of the Ancient Britons killed and four wounded. I ſaw ſeveral of the rebels dead bodies hanging to-day from the lamp irons at the Barracks, and in the Lower Caſtle-Yard; many have been taken into cuſtody and ſeverely flogged. The buſtle and commotion in every part of the city is beyond deſcription; and the arms and pikes taken up immenſe. I ſaw juſt now about one hundred complete pikes, and a cart load of pamphlets of a ſeditious nature."

By Letters received in town laſt night, we learn the following particulars:

"A whole Company of the City of Cork Militia, and a detachment of the Ancient Britons, were ſurpriſed and maſſacred in the neighbourhood of Dublin by a large party of the Rebels, excepting an Officer and five privates of the Ancient Britons, who were ſaved by the great exertions of the Duke of York's Highlanders.

Subſcribe