

THE
Gentleman's Magazine:

A N D

Historical Chronicle.

For the YEAR MDCCCI.

VOLUME LXXI.

PART THE SECOND.

PRODESSE ET DELECTARE



E PLURIBUS UNUM.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, *Gent.*

LONDON, Printed by NICHOLS and SON,
at *Cicero's Head, Red Lion Passage, Fleet-Street;*
where LETTERS are particularly requested to be sent, POST PAID.
And sold by J. HARRIS (Successor to Mrs. NEWBERY),
the Corner of *St. Paul's Church Yard, Ludgate-Street.* 1801.

superiority of sailing, they closed with us so fast as to be nearly within gun-shot by two P. M. and as the ships astern were coming up very fast, I determined on bearing down and engaging the two ships and frigate to leeward, hoping to disable one of them before the whole squadron could be brought into action, and thereby effect our escape by getting to leeward of them: three o'clock I bore up, and steered to pass astern of the sternmost ship, all our steering-fails set on the starboard side, when the enemy tacked and stood toward us: at half-past three, the Indivisible, of eighty guns, bearing Rear-Admiral Gantheaume's flag, and the Dix Aout, of seventy-four guns, being in close order, and within half gun-shot of us, opened their fire, which was instantly answered, and a warm action ensued. Their great superiority in point of sailing gave them every advantage of position, and baffled all our attempt to get to leeward of them. At thirty-seven minutes past four, the Jean Bart and Constitution, of seventy-four guns, being within gun-shot, and closing upon our starboard-quarter very fast, the Indivisible almost on board of us on our larboard-bow, and the Dix Aout on our larboard-quarter, our fore-yard and fore-top-sail-yard shot away, all our running and part of our standing rigging cut to pieces, the fore-mast, mizen-mast, and main-yard badly wounded, our deck lumbered with the wreck and sails, all hopes of making our escape, or falling in with any succour, cut off, and only one of the enemy's ships apparently much damaged, I thought farther resistance, in our crippled state, would be exposing the lives of valuable men without any advantage to their country resulting from it; with pain, therefore, I ordered his Majesty's colours to be struck, after an action of one hour and seven minutes. Most sincerely, my Lord, do I lament our having been opposed to so very superior a force, as, from the steady and gallant conduct of the officers and men I had the honour to command on this occasion, and with whom I had been acting nearly four years on various services, I have not a doubt of what would have been the issue of a contest on more equal terms. Our loss has been principally in masts, yards, sails, and rigging, having only two men killed, Lieutenant Daves, and seven men wounded (two of whom are since dead of their wounds), the enemy's intention being to disable us in our rigging, in which they succeeded too well; at the commencement of this unequal contest, we were eighty-six men short of complement, and had fifty-nine sick, those who returned from the army, before Alexandria, having introduced a bad fever into the ship. Four hundred men were put on board the Swift-

GENT. MAG. Supplement, 1801.

sure on the evening of her capture, many of the prisoners removed, and the ship in so crippled a state as to render it necessary to take her in tow; the next day carpenters and seamen from all the ships were sent on board to repair her damages, and soldiers to complete her number to seven hundred; and with all their exertions, and the advantage of smooth water, it was six days before they were able to make sail. On the 4th of July, between Lampidosa and Pantalasia, they fell in with and captured the Mohawk, letter of marque, from Bristol to Malta, laden with various articles of merchandize; on the 22d they anchored in this road, in general very sickly, without having landed any part of their troops on the coast of Egypt or Barbary, although they attempted a debarkation at Derne, on the 23d ultimo, but from the hostile appearance and reception of the natives, they did not persevere, and returned to their ships without landing a single person.

I feel it a duty I owe to Admiral Gantheaume to mention to your Lordship the handsome manner in which we have all been treated by the officers of his squadron, and by him in particular, the strictest orders have been issued to preserve the property of every individual; and he has done every thing in his power to render the situation of the officers and men as comfortable as possible. BEN. HAWLOWELL.

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, Aug. 26. Mr. William Rogers, jun. of Hudson, being bound to Catskill in a small sail-boat, took with him his only son, a boy about four years old. While sailing down the channel of the river, finding it was necessary to go forward himself in order to adjust the sail, the sudden sweep of the boom, in the mean time, carried the child overboard. Instantly upon this the father plunged into the river, caught his son, and, being an excellent swimmer, swam with him for some time, by holding him under his arm. At length he advised and assisted him to crawl upon his back and shoulders, and to entwine his arms around his neck; and continued to swim with him in this position. His first object was to gain the drifting boat; but, after many desperate struggles, finding this impracticable, he directed his course towards the shore of the river. Opposed by the tide, and constantly drenched by the surges, the poor child dropped from his father's neck, and floated down the river as far as Catskill, where the lifeless body was soon after found. Mr. Rogers himself, exhausted and on the point of sinking (having been in the water, as he thinks, nearly an hour), was rescued from this hopeless condition by some people who discovered him

him and heard his cries, while they were at work in a field not far from the river.

Philadelphian, Nov. 2. "Trade has been very brisk for some time, especially to the Spanish and French colonies, notwithstanding we are quite deluged with English goods. It looks as if the English had no other nation to send their goods to. British goods of every sort, particularly muslins, linens, tapes, and thread, sell far lower here, I am certain, than they can be manufactured in Britain. Provisions are falling very fast. If there is no demand from Britain, they will be very low this year. Our crop was very great."

A wild rhinoceros has lately been killed near *Cape-town*, whose height was seven feet five in hcs, and its length, from the snout to the root of the tail, eleven feet six inches, supposed to be one of the largest of its species. The people at the Cape set a high value on the dried blood of this animal, to which they ascribe great virtues in the cure of certain disorders.

WEST INDIA NEWS.

Falmouth (St. Jago de la Vega), Sept. 23.

A most unprovoked and atrocious murder was perpetrated last Thursday night, in the lower part of St. Anne's, on the body of Mr. Alexander Urquhart, a very old and respectable inhabitant of this parish. It appears, that Mr. Urquhart, and Mr. William Gunn (also of this parish), were at a mountain settlement, the property of the latter, where they had spent the evening; as they retired into their respective rooms, and were going to bed, between the hours of nine or ten o'clock, the overseer, William Boyd, went to Mr. Gunn's room-door, and requested him to come out, that he wished to speak with him: Mr. Gunn, then undressed, immediately obeyed; and, in the act of coming out, was met by Boyd at the door with a loaded pistol, which he fired at Mr. Gunn, and wounded him in the left breast. Mr. Urquhart, in his room, upon hearing the report of the pistol, came out to Mr. Gunn's assistance; when Boyd, who had a second pistol ready, fired at him, and, melancholy to relate, the ball passed through his body, and he instantly expired. Mr. Gunn made his escape, wounded and bleeding as he was, to the neighbouring house of Mr. Alexander, where he was received, and every attention paid to him that friendship and humanity could dictate: sanguine hopes are entertained of his recovery. On Friday (in the absence of the Coroner) an inquest was taken on the body of Mr. Urquhart, by John Gayner, Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who immediately transmitted the proceedings to the King's Attorney-General. The murderer has been apprehended, and conveyed to the county gaol. No cause has yet been

assigned by the unfortunate wretch for taking away the life of his fellow-creature; a man, whose general character intitled him to a better fate, and who has, painful to tell, left an amiable widow and four young children to lament the unhappy fate of an affectionate husband and tender parent.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND.

Turriff, Dec. 14. Yesterday about 15 minutes before 11, P. M. we were alarmed with a flash of lightning from a cloud of sleet and hail, succeeded by a loud peal of thunder; about three minutes after, another more vivid flash, followed by the most tremendous clap of thunder ever heard here. The last shock struck the house of Wm. Nicholson, in *Easter Whitcraes* in this parish. All the family were from home, except himself and a daughter of about 17 years of age. She was in the kitchen, and the lightning burnt her face, neck, and arms, in a dreadful manner, but there are hopes of her recovery. The dog was killed at the kitchen fire. The farmer himself was in a room about 40 feet from the kitchen; the floor where he stood was driven to splinters; one of his shoes was torn, the upper leather from the sole, and his foot considerably hurt; the ceiling of the room broke to pieces; in the adjoining room, the clock-case, bedsteads, and every article of furniture, except a chest of drawers, either shivered or hurried from their places.—The glass of the windows was broken into small particles, and the frames driven to a considerable distance. The crook of the kitchen was divided into three places, and a copper kettle perforated in a hundred places. About 16 feet of the kitchen roof was blown off, and the rest took fire, but was soon extinguished. All was done, and all silent, in less than three seconds!

COUNTRY NEWS.

Dec. 23. The rectory-house at *Walsford*, near *Newbury*, was burned to the ground. The rector, Mr. William Fennell, was awakened about 2 o'clock by his chamber being filled with smoke; and, instantly rising, he found the house in flames. He had but just time to carry his wife in his arms down the stairs, which had caught fire. The nursery maid followed him with his youngest boy about 5 months old; but the flames were so rapid as to prevent his eldest child, a fine girl near seven years old, and an old lady, upwards of 80, his wife's mother, from escaping, or the saving a single article of their property, which was uninsured.

Plymouth, Dec. 27. In the gale of wind yesterday, about sun-set, as a Swedish and two American seamen were rowing up *Canal* water in their ship's boat, with a cable and a spare anchor to pay on board her, when off *Deadman's Bay*, a sudden squall

canoe