

dated in the year 1757; but Oapt. Elliot's being the eldest, he took the command. We are informed that these three frigates were lying in Kinsale harbour on Sunday se'ennight, when they received the certain intelligence of M. Thurot's having landed his troops in the north of Ireland; that they immediately consulted together, and agreed that they could not perform a more useful service to the government, than by directly sailing in quest of him. One of the frigates wanted a topmast, which was got with the utmost expedition. They set sail; and, in a few days, with rather an inferior force, have delivered the west coast from the alarm of an enemy, by taking M. Thurot's whole squadron, who has been so much celebrated, both in Britain and France, for his courage and conduct.

By a letter from a priest on board M. Thurot's fleet, to a friend of his in Scotland, we are informed, that the four companies of Strode's regiment made a very gallant defence in the barracks of Carrickfergus, where they killed about 100 of the French, among which were several officers; and that their commander in chief was shot through the leg; that they afterwards retired into the castle, where they were obliged to surrender for want of ammunition.

Though it is now pretty certain that M. Thurot's people did not land at Kirkcubright, as was reported in our last; yet there are letters in town, bearing, that, after his departure from Carrickfergus, five of his people landed from a boat near Whitehorn in Galloway, who asked the way to Scotland. This circumstance is thought to be the foundation of the aforementioned report.

On Thursday the 21st of February, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, as preses of the Annual Committee of the boroughs, wrote the following letter, by order of the Committee, to every Royal Borough of Scotland.

"Gentlemen,

"I am directed by the Annual Committee of the Royal Boroughs of Scotland, to communicate to you the unanimous resolution which they this day came to, in regard to a national and very important measure, which has been for some time in agitation; I mean the procuring a law for establishing a militia in Scotland, upon the same footing as that lately established in England; and I cannot better express the sentiments of the Annual Committee, than by sending you, subjoined to this letter, a copy of their resolution.

"During the greatest part of last summer, all the boroughs situated upon the sea-coast of Scotland continued under the justest apprehensions of being insulted, or even destroyed by Capt. Thurot's squadron: We are now informed he is on the coast of Ilay; and the enemy must always have it in their power, by an inconsiderable force, to distress and alarm the inhabitants of this country, whilst they remain unarmed and undisciplined. The Annual Committee are therefore persuaded, that the Royal Boroughs of Scotland will show a becoming zeal in a matter which so nearly concerns the well being of the

state, and the preservation of the happy government under which we live, and will immediately send proper instructions to their members in parliament in favour of this national measure.—I shall hope to hear from you in course what resolution your borough is come to in consequence of this letter, and the steps you have taken to promote the establishment of a militia in Scotland; and am most respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Edinburgh, Feb. 21.

G. DRUMMOND, P."

Edinburgh, Feb. 21. 1760.

The which day the member for the borough of Annan represented to the Annual Committee, That as at present there appears to be a prevailing spirit in the nation for having a militia established in this part of the united kingdom, upon the same footing as that lately established in England; and that as such a measure was of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service, and wherein the security and well-being of Scotland is deeply interested, he judged it his duty to move to his brethren of the Annual Committee, that if they be of the same sentiments with him, they should use their utmost endeavours, so far as their example and interest does reach, to carry this measure into execution; and particularly that they should appoint their Preses to write to all the different boroughs, intitled to send members to the Annual Convention, recommending it to them, in the strongest manner, to declare their approbation and zeal in regard to this national measure, by sending instructions to their several representatives in parliament, without loss of time, desiring them to endeavour, to the utmost of their power, to procure a bill to be brought into parliament for the establishment of a militia in Scotland, upon the same footing with that now established in the southern part of the kingdom, where the good and salutary effects of that institution had been already felt, to the great satisfaction of his Majesty's subjects, and all the zealous friends of the present happy constitution. Which being considered by the Annual Committee, they unanimously approve of the said motion, and appoint their Preses, in their name, to write to all the boroughs, warmly recommending it to them to use their utmost endeavours to procure a law for the purpose above mentioned, which they apprehend to be so much for the interest and security of this part of the kingdom.

The boroughs of Perth, Stirling, Air, Dundee, Cupar, Montrose, New Galloway, Renfrew, Haddington, Northberwick, &c. &c. have returned answers to the above letter, signifying their hearty approbation, their unanimity and zeal, in favour of the important scheme for establishing a militia in Scotland, in imitation (as one letter expresses it) of the noble example set them by their mother-city of Edinburgh; and that they have accordingly wrote to their several

representatives in parliament, enforced with the warmest recommendations to them to do every thing in their power to obtain such a law.

Answers are expected from the other Royal Boroughs in course of post. Indeed the unanimity of all ranks was never so observable, as in favour of this national measure.

On Monday last, the 25th of February, Mr Gilbert Elliot, member of parliament for Selkirkshire, and Lord of the Admiralty, acquainted the Hon. house of Commons, that on Tuesday next, the 4th of March, he was to move the house for leave to bring in a bill for establishing a militia in Scotland.

A quarterly communication of the GRAND LODGE of Scotland lately held in Mary's chapel, having taken into consideration the prevailing practice of giving vails or drink-money to servants, did unanimously resolve to do every thing in their power to remove the same.

The zeal of FREE MASONS for the welfare of the public, and their readiness to promote every laudable purpose, will easily prevail in them to endeavour to discourage this practice, as by it the virtues of many servants have been destroyed, and their pride and licentiousness increased; and, besides, as it has a tendency to obstruct that kind hospitality and disinterested friendship which the fraternity always wish to diffuse. The GRAND LODGE reckon themselves obliged to declare, to all under their jurisdiction, their dislike of any custom prejudicial to the principles of masons; and require the officers of every LODGE in Scotland to intimate and recommend the above resolution in the first meeting after it comes to their hands.

By command of the Right Honourable and Most Worshipful David Earl of LEVEN GRAND MASTER MASON of Scotland,

ALEX. M'DOUGALL, G. Secretary.

Leith, March 1. Arrived the Busy Bee of Dunbar, Anderson, from Kirkwall, with merchant-goods: the Jean of Caithness, Oig, from Caithness, with beef and merchant-goods; the Europa of Dylart, Normand, from Lisbon, with wine and salt; the Elisabeth, Hodge, and the Edinburgh, Hay, both from London, with merchant-goods; the Euphame of Aberdeen, Bar, from Craill, the Jean of Dundee, Caithness, from Anstruther, the Pappy, of and from Anstruther, and the Bachelor of Kincardine, Scotland, from Dunbar, all four with barley; the Margaret of Dundee, Candy, from Dundee, with wine and fruit; and the Cockburn, of and from ditto, with merchant-goods.—Sailed from the harbour, the Thomas, Gray, for London, and the Hopetoun, Crawford, one of the transports for the Nore.

We thank the writer of a letter dated Feb. 27. and signed *A friend to your undertaking*, for his kind hints. These shall be properly attended to. Mean time, it would be obliging if this gentleman would inform us how a letter may be conveyed to him.