

Extract of a letter from Cambridge, Dec. 15, 1775.

6 "Yesterday being dark and cloudy, gen. Putnam broke ground with 400 men, on Litchmore's Point, at ten o'clock in the morning. The mist was so great as to prevent the enemy from discovering what he was about until twelve, when it cleared up, and opened to their view our whole party at the point, and another at the causeway throwing a new bridge over the creek that forms the island at high water. The Scarborough ship of war, which lay off the Point, immediately poured in upon our men a broadside. The enemy, from Boston, threw many shells, and obliged us to decamp from the point with two men badly wounded. The bridge, however, was ordered to be raised by the brave old general, and was completed last night. The garrison of Cobble-Hill were ordered to return the ship's fire, which they did, and soon obliged her to heave tight upon her springs and to cease firing. But the battery in New-Boston kept up the fire of shells till twelve o'clock last night. Our party at the point renewed their work in the evening, and continued it all night. This morning, at day-light, by a signal of two rockets from Boston, the Scarborough weighed anchor, and has left the point clear. She is now anchored at Charles-Town, out of harm's way. The work at the point is well secured, and will be completed this night.

"Scarborough's flight is a proof of the enemy's weakness, and of the strength of our two last posts, Cobble-Hill and Litchmore's-Point."

Extract of a letter from Beverly, Dec. 18, 1775.

"You no doubt have heard of Capt. Manly, who goes in a privateer out of this harbour, because his name is famous, and as many towns contend for the honour of his birth, as there did for that of Homer's. Capt. Manly has brought into this harbour in the course of a fortnight two large brigs of 220 tons each, laden with military stores and provisions, two ships, 300 tons each, laden with English goods, porter, live hogs, &c. to the amount of 40,000 pounds sterling the whole. A sloop is just brought in here from Virginia, laden with corn, oats, potatoes, &c. the captain was a midshipman belonging to the Otter sloop of war there, she was bound to Boston, and has been out 14 days; of the people on board, are two members of their provincial congress, two other persons of note, whom lord Dunmore had taken prisoners, and ordered to Boston to be tried (tis supposed) for their lives. There is likewise a tory colonel, who had insisted 300 slaves and convicts, but was defeated and obliged to fly to lord Dunmore, who advised him to go to Boston, and recommended him to gen. Howe for a commission.

"The prisoners, with all the letters and papers (some of which are of great consequence) are just gone off to head quarters."

Extract of a letter from Montreal, dated Dec. 4, 1775.

"I have it once more in my power to write to you, as I find the communication from hence is again opened. I have just arrived here from Quebec, from whence I have been drove, on account of my refusing to take arms against the American troops. Before this can reach you, the news of Montreal having capitulated you will have heard. Gen. Montgomery's behaviour in this country will gain him great honour, as he has all along acted with the greatest humanity and integrity: he is now on his way to Quebec, with about 3000 men, and I suppose will be in possession of that garrison in a few weeks. Gen. Carleton has about 1200 fighting men with him; but the extensiveness of the walls, and the different places the troops must repair to, on an alarm, will so divide his force, that to me it appears certain they cannot hold long. His rigorous treatment of the Americans in Quebec, from the first entrance of the troops into this country, would take up more time than I can at present spare; but to crown the whole, he has turned us all out, giving us three days to prepare, but not suffering us to take any thing away but our cloaths, and making it death to be found within 100 miles of Quebec. There will certainly be a strong army to retake Canada in the spring, and the general has sent home a number of pilots to bring the fleet here early. I suppose the Congress will send men here to defend it; and indeed should they garrison it with ten or twelve thousand, it will not be in the power of Britain to retake it."

Extract of a letter from Dublin, dated September 29, 1775.

"Lord Bute's plan is to humble the Americans. Three regiments of Roman Catholics are to be raised in Ireland to send to America, which has bred a great deal of disturbance: but it is hoped the Protestants will put a stop to it."

"It is reported that the parliament will not listen to the proposals sent to London from the congress by Mr. Richard Penn, and that there are 30,000 troops to be in America before next spring, with a great fleet of ships. The 28th regiment is now at Cork ready for embarkation, two other regiments are under orders to sail for Boston from Gibraltar, and they are to be relieved there by troops from Hanover. There is a great stagnation of trade here, and a great noise in England on account of the disturbances in America. In Ireland we are mostly in great hopes the Americans will stand out as long as possible, if no, they may depend on the severest of usage from the parliament of England."

SEASONABLE THOUGHTS.

THE virtue of the British court seems to have swallowed up all the virtue of the island of Great-Britain. The common people are lost in a night of ignorance. They annex no ideas to slavery but wooden shoes and soup meagre. Even the Roman Catholic religion has now no terrors in it to Englishmen.

The American colonies are just beginning to emerge from Egyptian darkness, with respect to the rights of human nature. About two hundred years ago, the human heart discovered its folly and depravity upon the theatre of religion; about one hundred years they both appeared through the medium of science. We are shocked at our species when we read the history of the human understanding at these memorable periods. The present age shews equal absurdities and vices upon the theatre of politics. Here we discover, in other forms, every thing for which we condemn our ancestors. Posterity will tread most heavily upon our ashes, as the principles of government are more simple than the

principles of religion and science. They will wonder whether we were men or brutes.

There has always been such a mixture of monarchy and aristocracy in republics; they never have had fair play in the world. We can say but little from experience of their expediency or duration.

Most of the free states in the world have been formed by men just emerged from a state of slavery. No wonder, therefore, they have been liable to disorders, and a speedy dissolution. What sort of a government would the negroes in the southern colonies form, if they were suddenly set at liberty? Almost all the blood that has been shed in contests for liberty, has been to shake off a subjection to foreign states.

The British constitution with all its imperfections, even absolute monarchy itself, would insure more happiness to the colonies than they can expect (according to the usual operations of moral and natural causes) from an union with the people, or a dependence upon the ministry of Great-Britain.

WILLIAMSBURG, December 30.

We have just received an account of the taking of 24 whites and 2 slaves, which were on board a tender sent out, as it is thought, to plunder the inhabitants on the seaboard, and to pick up such other base wretches as might be found to join in this accursed trade, as they had eight stand of spare arms, besides other military stores, on board. On Friday the 23d instant, advice was received at Hampton, that the tender was at anchor between the lighthouse point and the mouth of York river. Capt. Alexander, with twelve privates of his rifle company, lieutenant Colmife, and ensign Holder, as volunteers, together with such other gentlemen volunteers from the Musquetto, were detached, under the command of the above-mentioned officer, who found the tender at anchor, as had been reported. The party continued reconnoitering the coast till about day-light, notwithstanding the great severity of the weather. In the course of the night, which was exceedingly tempestuous, she cut her cable and drifted on shore, when the crew left her, and betook themselves to flight. The party proceeded to examine, and after pursuing some distance, found the crew, whom they took, and brought to Hampton. On further examining the vessel, which could only be done by wading, as the storm continued, and the breakers were so violent that those in the attempt were frequently beat off their feet. Twenty-four stand of arms, some new regimentals, and some other particulars, were found on board.

Col. Howe, we understand, has taken upwards of 50 Tories in and about Norfolk, whom he intends sending to this city.

A remarkable instance of lord Dunmore's humanity.

A ship from Cameron, in North-Britain, with about 250 Highlanders, consisting of men, women, and children, was bound to Newbern, in North-Carolina, but forced, by bad weather and other accidents to put into Norfolk, in this colony. Lord Dunmore, whose troops had a few days before been defeated in the battle at the Great-Bridge, forced these poor people on shore, seized their ship for the accommodating his tory friends, who after the battle fled from Norfolk on board the ships, and other vessels, lying in the harbour, and left his other countrymen, with their wives and children, to perish, for want of subsistence, in a strange land. In this wretched condition they petitioned col. Woodford to take them under his protection. This petition was transmitted by that brave officer to the general convention sitting at Williamsburg, who immediately gave orders that the colonel should take them under his protection, relieve their immediate wants, and afford them all necessary assistance, to conduct them to North-Carolina, the place of their first destination. In consequence of these orders, col. Woodford sent the Highlanders in waggons, under a proper escort, to Suffolk, from whence, by order of the committee of safety, they are to be conducted to North-Carolina, agreeable to the order of the convention. The committee of safety of this colony have wrote to the committee of safety of North-Carolina, informing them of the distresses of these poor people, occasioned by lord Dunmore's cruel treatment, and requesting them to give directions for their relief and accommodation, till they shall arrive among their friends in that province, amongst whom they intended to settle.

Lord Dunmore had forced about 160 of these unfortunate people into his service; but upon being informed of the humane intention of this colony, they deserted him, and joined their wives and children, except two maidens, who were detained as bedmakers to his lordship.

Notwithstanding the convention had a return from col. Woodford after the battle of the Great-Bridge, from which, besides the colonel's own declaration in his letter to them, it appeared that not one of our men was killed, and but one slightly wounded; and add to these convincing proofs of the truth of this, we have seen officers of ferocity that were in the action, who declare the same thing; yet we hear that it was reported in Norfolk that we lost 150 men; and we have pretty good reason to believe that lord Dunmore has propagated a report amongst the few Tories now left in his interest, that 50 of the grenadiers, of the 14th regiment, had fallen into an ambush of 2200 rebels, that they fought bravely, killed 150 rebels, and retreated, leaving behind them 33 killed and wounded; that their loss was heavy, but that they sold their lives dearly; that the shirtmen have nothing to boast of, having with difficulty forced the 17 surviving grenadiers to retreat, although they had fifty to one. We may therefore expect, when the news of this affair arrives in England, that lord Dartmouth will publish lord Dunmore's letter, which will probably contain a more rational account, and may be to this effect: That finding the rebels had closely besieged a fort he had built to obstruct their passage to Norfolk; that a large reinforcement was daily expected by them from Carolina, and that they were procuring cannon, he thought it best to attack them before they could receive such assistance, especially as he was informed by a deserter that they were but 300; that he found that a favourable opportunity, having just pressed into his service some Scotch Highlanders, who had come over to settle in America; and this circumstance giving rise to a report, which he had taken care to propagate, that he had received a reinforcement of 300 Highlanders, he thought it advisable to make an attack as soon as possible; that he ordered capt. Leslie, with a company of light infantry, and capt. Fordyce,

with his company of grenadiers of the 14th regiment to take with them all the volunteers and slaves that were well armed, to march in the night of the 8th December to the fort, and to fall out by day-break and attack the rebels; that capt. Leslie did so, but being in a great measure deserted by the slaves and several of the volunteers, or they could not be prevailed upon to advance, and the rebels having near three times the number he had been informed they had, and behaving indeed, on that occasion, with more resolution than they ever had done, and capt. Fordyce and the advanced grenadiers being cut off by the rise-men, and capt. Leslie, being unable to rally the negroes, who could not stand the severe fire from hundreds of marksmen, retreated into the fort, and that night abandoned it; that he, finding the people of Norfolk were not to be relied on in case of an attack, thought it prudent to retire to the ships and wait for a reinforcement, which he hourly expected. Some such account as this we may expect to see in some future English paper, unless this anticipation of it should happen to be read or re-published in England before their lordships have patched up their story.

The last accounts from Norfolk were dated the 25th instant, when the Liverpool, with the Otter, Kingfisher, their tenders, and lord Dunmore's ship the Eilbeck and William, were lying before the town with springs on their cables. The captain of the Liverpool had very decently refused a supply of provisions, which was demanded by colonels Howe and Woodford. The express says that they heard cannon all day Wednesday and Thursday, and supposes that that had occasioned a cannonade. An incessant firing has been heard by many people from that quarter.

Intelligence is just come to town that we have taken a tender at Hampton, on board of which was Mr. Goodrich. It seems she is very valuable.

ANNAPOLIS, January 11.

On Friday the 15th of December, 1775, died, at his seat near Upper Marlborough in Prince-George's county, Mr. Peter Young. He was endowed with many good and amiable qualities, and his friends have the consolation of hearing his memory daily revered with the pleasing epithets of an honest man, kind friend, cheerful companion, and good neighbour.

IN PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

Annapolis, 27th December, 1775.

RESOLVED,

THAT a small salt-petre work be erected at a principal inspecting house, or in the neighbourhood of tobacco houses, or in some other public and convenient place in each county, at the public expence, for the making crude nitre; that thus, besides the advantage immediately accruing from carrying on so many works in different parts of the province, the good people thereof may be generally instructed in the art of making crude nitre; and as a farther inducement thereto, and that this art may be still more extensively diffused and practised, that a liberal price ought to be allowed for all crude nitre manufactured in private families; that all the crude nitre, whether made by individuals, or at the county manufactories, be carried to one refinery, where the same may be purified by a skilful refiner in large quantities, without waste, and made fit for manufacturing into gunpowder.

THAT seventeen hundred pounds common money be appropriated, one hundred pounds whereof to be placed in the hands of a discreet and active person in the lower district, and one hundred pounds in the hands of a discreet and active person in the middle district, of Frederick county; and the residue thereof, one hundred pounds for each other county, to be placed in the hands of a discreet and active person in each county, who shall be called a supervisor; and that so much of the said one hundred pounds as may be necessary, shall be laid out by the said supervisor in purchasing, procuring, and setting up proper kettles, tubs, and other necessary utensils and conveniences, for manufacturing rough nitre, at some such place as aforesaid, in his county; and also in erecting a rough shed convenient thereto, under which the earth, from which the ley shall have been drawn, may be placed, that the same may become again impregnated with nitre.

THAT each of the said supervisors be empowered to lay out the residue of his one hundred pounds, in hiring labourers to assist a skilful workman, who shall be employed in each of the said works, and in procuring and removing earth impregnated with nitre fit to be used at the said works.

THAT the supervisor of each of the said works employ a skilful workman to carry on, direct, and manage the process of making crude nitre at the said works respectively; and that the same supervisor pay to the said workman one shilling, common money, for each pound of good crude nitre that he shall manufacture and deliver at the same works, as his wages and reward for his skill and labour.

THAT the said workmen shew and explain to those who will attend the work, and may be desirous of instruction, the method and process of making crude nitre.

THAT each supervisor pay to any person who shall deliver to him good crude nitre, manufactured at any place within his county, other

than the said public, after money, for

THAT as building a portion of the erected conveyment of a And the several time, send a made at the their hands a finery.

THAT each surer of his pounds, as money, and nitre by him refinery.

THAT each account of his by the third that on such disbursements the crude nitre ble the sum of rough nitre and the sum of of crude nitre sent to the balance of the lic treasury f

THAT it be the good people cumstances a to pursue the open houses, cluding the r leaves of tobacco of stables mix the floors of to time to sp

ter, this colle to occasion the faction thereo fectly rotten up, and thoro out farther d attract more impregnated

Mr. Jere vifor for St. Mr. Thom Dr. Edwa Mr. Richa county.

Mr. Dan county. Mr. Thom trict, and M district of Fr

Dr. Charl county. Mr. Amos Mr. Henry Dr. John Mr. Will county.

Mr. James Mr. Thom county. Mr. Joshu Mr. Georg And,

Mr. Joshu THAT up pervisor, for the county wher pen, are re and appoint person in his

THE COUN ing the in the manufur arms, request on liberal eco arms, or to ere of Baltimore-t or salt, or salt-proposals in w council of safe speedily answer

THE brig N the first want to lead Wallace and D day. Very goo re to apply to