

The Mercury man of war, and an armed sloop, sailed for Halifax, from Sandy-Hook, last Friday; having five vessels under convoy.

By sundry letters from St. Eustatia we are informed that markets are very high, and provisions scarce, in all the West-India islands.

The New-Orleans paper of June 7, says, "that a few days since a ship from Jamaica, bound to England, was taken by a privateer off George's banks, and carried into Old-town, in the Vineyard. She had on board a valuable cargo, part of which is two hundred hogheads of sugar. The same privateer was in chase of another ship at the time this prize parted with her."

One of the Philadelphia prize ships is arrived at Martha's Vineyard. Her cargo consists of three hundred and two hogheads of sugar, some rum, &c.

There are London papers in town to the 28th of March by which we learn, that the first division of the Hessian troops, destined for North-America, embarked at the 17th of March, and were to sail the first fair wind; and it was said the King of Prussia positively objected against the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel's forces going into the English service.

PHILADELPHIA, June 8.

In CONGRESS, June 3, 1776.

Resolved, That a flying camp be immediately established, and that it consist of ten thousand men, to make up which number,

Resolved, That the colony of Pennsylvania be requested to furnish of the militia 6000
Maryland of their militia 3400
Delaware government of theirs 600

That the militia be engaged to the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

That the pay of the militia commence from the day of their marching from home, and that they be allowed one penny a mile, lawful money, in lieu of rations, for travelling expenses, and one day's pay for every 20 miles, between home and the general rendezvous, going and returning.

That three provincial brigadier generals be employed for the flying camp, two from Pennsylvania, and one from Maryland.

CHARLES THOMSON, sec.

June 4.

Resolved, That it be recommended to assemblies and conventions of the colonies, requested to supply or furnish militias, by the resolutions of yesterday, to take particular care that the militias come provided with arms, accoutrements, and camp kettles.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated June 7.

"General Sullivan writes the general, that ten of our old friendly Oneida Indians had waited on him and stayed but two hours, going amongst the Canadian tribes to use their influence in preventing them from joining with the British troops, which they were afraid they would. I saw a letter at general Putnam's yesterday, from the colonel stationed at the Hook, informing of two or three vessels being arrived there; and that two or three deserters informed him that Sir Peter Parker was arrived at North-Carolina with 3500 troops, under convoy of a fifty gun ship, a twenty-eight and twenty (the names I forget); that col. Ethan Allen is on board the Mercury at the Hook, and capt. Proctor of your city in irons on board the same. A gentleman just come up says a very large ship arrived yesterday, not less than 74, but supposed a 50 gun ship, so that there are now at the Hook ten ships, two brigs, &c."

June 10. Last Saturday the hon. house of assembly gave the following INSTRUCTIONS to their delegates in CONGRESS.

Gentlemen,

WHEREAS, by our instructions of last November, we strictly enjoined you, in behalf of this colony, to dissent from and utterly reject any proposition should such be made, that might cause or lead to a separation from Great-Britain, or a change of the form of this government, our restrictions did not arise from any diffidence of your ability, prudence, or integrity, but from an earnest desire to serve the good people of Pennsylvania with fidelity, in times so full of alarming dangers and perplexing difficulties.

The situation of public affairs is since so greatly altered, that we now think ourselves justifiable in removing the restrictions laid upon you by those instructions.

The contempt with which the late petition of the honourable congress has been treated; the late act of parliament declaring the just resistance of the colonists against violence actually offered to be rebellion, excluding them from the protection of the crown, and even compelling some of them to bear arms against their countrymen; the treaties of the king of Great-Britain with other princes for engaging foreign mercenaries, to aid the forces of that kingdom, in their hostile enterprises against America, and his answer to the petition of the lord mayor, aldermen and commons of the city of London, manifest such a determined and implacable resolution to effect the utter destruction of these colonies, that all hopes of a reconciliation, on reasonable terms, are extinguished. Nevertheless, it is our ardent desire that a civil war, with all its attending miseries, should be ended by a secure and honourable peace.

We therefore hereby authorize you to concur with the other delegates in Congress, in forming such farther compacts between the United Colonies, concluding such treaties with foreign kingdoms and states, and in adopting such other measures as shall be judged necessary for promoting the liberty, safety and interests of America; referring to the people of this colony the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police of the same.

The happiness of these colonies has, during the whole course of this fatal controversy, been our first wish. Their reconciliation with Great-Britain our next. Ardently have we prayed for the accomplishment of both. But if we must renounce the one or the other, we humbly trust in the mercies of the Supreme Governor of the Universe, that we shall not stand condemned before his throne, if our choice is determined by that overruling law of self preservation, which his divine wisdom has thought fit to implant in the hearts of his creatures.

June 11. The following is said to be the contents of the cargoes of three ships, bound from Jamaica to London, lately taken by two privateers belonging to

this place, viz.—Twenty-two thousand four hundred and twenty dollars, one hundred and eighty-seven weight of plate, one thousand and fifty-two hogheads of sugar, two hundred and forty-six bags of pimento, three hundred and ninety-six bags of ginger, five hundred and sixty-eight hides, twenty five tons of cocoa, forty-one ditto of suttic, and one cask of turtle-shell. One of the above ships arrived here last Saturday; the others were ordered for New-England, being afraid to venture our capes.

Extract of a letter from New-York, June 10.

"On Saturday evening we had an extract from a New-port paper, published since the post came through, informing of the arrival of somebody from Halifax (a prisoner who made his escape) who said that, just before he came away, a vessel arrived at Halifax from England, which brought advice that the foreign troops had been stopped, on account of great disturbances in England. Yesterday a letter was received here from Providence, informing, that a French vessel was arrived there from Cape Francois which brought an account of the foreign troops being stopped, but that it was in consequence of a protest (by the king of France) against their being employed. Yesterday a sloop arrived here from Cape Nichola Mole, with the same account. I am told the captain adds, that he saw the protest in a French Gazette."

Extract of a letter from St. Eustatia, dated May 22.

"By a vessel arrived at Antigua last night, we hear for a certainty, that lord Howe was to embark with the last of the forces that were going this year, about twenty-five thousand; no Hessians. He has hoisted his flag on board the Eagle man of war, and twelve commissioners sail with him. This gives me some hopes of a reconciliation taking place, that we may live in quietness again. Flour is scarce among the English islands. They have laid an embargo at Antigua, which example, I suppose, the other islands will follow. Common flour sells for twelve dollars, superfine for fourteen, and corn for thirteen. The men of war, these two months, have only taken one prize, which is captain Davis, of Wilmington, upon Delaware."

Extract of a letter from New-York, June 10.

"Col. Fanning's negro man is taken up and sent to gaol; he is to be examined this day, and make no doubt some discoveries will be made: He says his master sent him up to take care of his horses. This matter is on board the Duke of Gordon. There are 150 Tories taken prisoners in Tryon county, and sent down to Albany. We hear from Albany that the mayor of that city, and fifteen other persons, are sent to gaol for drinking succets to the king of Great-Britain, &c. Friday last a boat was taken by our people, coming from the Luchets of Gordon; the men are taken care of; some letters were found on board, and news papers, for some of gov. Tryon's friends in this city: The latest date is the 28th of March. I could not possibly obtain one for you, but have extracted the following paragraphs from them:

"March 25. This day, by virtue of a commission from his majesty, the following bills received the royal assent, viz. The bill for punishing mutiny and desertion, and for the better payment of the army in North-America.—Saturday last three companies of the royal regiment of artillery embarked at Woolwich for North-America.—This morning the first division of the guards destined for North America, marched from their quarters contiguous to Wimbledon, for Portsmouth. The second division will march on Wednesday.

"Gosport, March 21. Arrived a transport with troops on board, and came into the harbour.—It is said that lord Howe will hoist his flag on board the Emerald frigate, and proceed without loss of time to Boston, and the Eagle to go after him.

"March 26. On the 17th inst. six sail of ships from Glasgow, with new raised recruits, and several transports from London, arrived at Cork, where they are to take in their lading of provisions, and proceed to America, under convoy.—His majesty's frigate Ambuscade of 32 guns is now fitting out at Chatham, to carry Sir George McCartney to his government of Dominica, she is afterwards to join the fleet on the North-American station.—Orders are sent to Cheerness for his majesty's ship Rainbow of 44 guns, to be fitted out for immediate service; she is already commissioned and the command given to Sir George Collier.—Last Sunday all the men in Deptford yard, and some additional hands, were employed in shipping war-like stores, &c. to America, and it will be some days before the many transports lying there can be loaded, such quantities are sending thither.

"March 28. Yesterday morning the guards destined for America were mustered on Wimbledon common by their officers, and immediately marched for Portsmouth. They had twenty field pieces with them, and thirty waggons, which carried all their baggage. They will arrive at Portsmouth to-morrow. The brigade of guards, now on their march for Portsmouth to embark for America, are to be quartered in the barracks of that place till the transports are ready for their reception.—All the general officers, and many others in military command in America, are, it is said, nominated as delegates in commission, to pardon the submitting colonies.—The transports which sailed with Sir Peter Parker, after they had landed the troops they had on board, were to sail for the leeward islands to take in two regiments of foot, which are to serve in America.—Upwards of 1500 tons of shipping, that were taken up in the river a few days since in government service, are discharged from the employ. Letters from Cork, dated the 19th inst. mention, that upwards of 12 sail of transports were then in sight of the Cove, and that a man of war came in that day.—The Eagle man of war, admiral Howe, has got no further than the Nore yet, but lies there to receive seamen from the ships in ordinary at Chatham.—The Lucretia, capt. Wilson, with recruits on board, bound to America, is put into Plymouth by stress of weather, having met with some damage.—The Woodland, capt. Manners, from London, with ordnance stores, bound for Quebec, is arrived at Portsmouth.—Yesterday the common cryer of this city, attended by other officers, read at the Royal Exchange, and at Holborn Bars, the king's proclamation, for a further encouragement to sailors to enter on board the ships of war. It was afterwards stuck up in divers parts of the city.

"March 26. All the eight British regiments, viz. 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 31st, 34th, 35th, and 64th regt.

are destined for Canada, except the royal Highlanders, the foot guards, and Burgoyne's light horse, which are to be sent to Gen. Howe.—To prevent, if possible, a famine among the king's troops this summer in America, every individual who is going out on service with the army, under sailing orders, has six months provisions put on board for him from hence. What an enormous expence for victualling and carriage only!—The two generals, Carleton and Howe, are each to be allowed four aid de camps.—Two of the Hessian major generals are to be appointed by our court lieutenant generals on the American service, and to have extra pay accordingly.—"though there is a clause in the Hessian treaty, that no soldier shall be suffered to settle in America without the consent of his commanding officer, it is generally believed that very few will ever return; as it is most probable that those who do not get their brains knock'd out, will insist upon staying among their own countrymen who have emigrated there."

Extract of a letter from Lewistown, June 10.

"The Liverpool still remains in the road, but the Kingfisher is gone to sea.

"June 11. I intended to have sent by land, but the Tories have cut off that communication. Last evening the Kingfisher returned with a brig, capt. Walker of Wilmington, but before the pirates boarded her, our brave capt. Barry had, in sight of the Kingfisher, taken out some powder and arms. This day a brig came into the road, but cannot learn who she is. You will please to inform the Congress of the proceedings of the Tories at the head of our county, as I think there will be occasion for some troops from upwards to quiet them. They are breaking out in a surprising manner."

To the worthy inhabitants of YORK-COUNTY.

My respected friends,

AS I find myself most injuriously treated by a resolve of your county committee, published in the several news papers, I must take the liberty to do myself justice, through the same channel—as you were freely pleased to chuse me one of your representatives in assembly, by so large a majority as near two to one against the opposite ticket, it would give me the greatest concern, if I could believe that the committee had known and spoken the sentiments of my constituents in their resolve, or that they will think I have violated the trust so lately reposed in me by them. I am conscious in my own heart, that I intended nothing but what I considered as my bounden duty to the good people I represent, in the circular letter to some of my friends. Had I acted otherwise, or kept back the necessary information from them, when they were to deliberate upon a matter of the greatest consequence to them and their posterity, I think I should then have stood justly chargeable with violating the trust reposed in me. The whole is pointed at in the resolve stand thus: The committee of the city of Philadelphia had taken upon them to determine two points, in their protest against the authority of that house of which you have chosen me a member, viz. 1st. That the Congress had absolutely enjoined the taking up and establishing new governments through all the colonies, and secondly, That they (the said committee) had a right, in exclusion of the assembly, to call a conference of committees; who were not to deliberate what changes in our government, or whether any were necessary, but (taking that for granted) they were to devise means for chusing a convention to establish a new form.

Now the express words of the Congress are these, viz. "That the respective assemblies and conventions, where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs has been established, adopt such governments, as shall, in the opinion of the representatives of the people, best conduce to the happiness of their constituents in particular, and America in general." These words, to my best understanding, left the assembly of Pennsylvania, who are the undoubted representatives of the people, to judge what changes, or whether any, might be necessary for the exigencies of affairs. Our charter does also declare, that the consent of six parts in seven of our assembly is necessary in this matter. I likewise found it to be the general sense of the house, confirmed by our own delegates, that where assemblies could actually sit as the representatives of the people, the Congress had them expressly in view, in the execution of their resolve, and did not point out any particular changes as necessary, except so far as regards the usual oaths and affirmations, which they considered as standing in the way of our just opposition to the oppressive measures of the British parliament; and the committee of York might have known that the house has dispensed with the oaths, &c. and is absolved from them by the crown's declaring them out of it's protection. It appeared further to me, that no other provinces that have considered the resolve of Congress, have taken it in the sense of the Philadelphia committee; namely, as a positive injunction for altering their governments, or injuring their charter rights farther than the respective powers of those governments shall think convenient for the public service. The province of Maryland has expressly determined on the matter as follows:

"Resolved unanimously, That the people of this province have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police of this province. New-York has declared to the same effect; and the charter governments of Connecticut and Rhode-Island have made no further alterations than respecting the oaths, &c. as our assembly have done."

Upon this state of things, having a love for the charter constitution of Pennsylvania; considering myself as chosen by you to support it, as far as possible, in the present exigency; finding that the public service had been, and might still be, carried on as vigorously by the assembly of this province, as by any other public body on the continent; and observing a remonstrance to that effect, signed by multitudes of the most respectable names in the city of Philadelphia, and the neighbouring counties, in opposition to the doctrines in the protest of the committee of that city, I thought it my duty to send you copies of those papers, that I might know the sentiments of the county I represent, in a matter of such consequence.—Whether I did wrong in this, or what censure they may deserve who dared to keep back the needful information from you, endeav-

At the time of writing this, the names to the resolve, already delivered in from the city and adjacent counties, amounted to about six thousand.

voicing to (which you a discord, I not only my rights as a your rights violated in t you, and th ing your sen I know the York, who not over val that I neithe tures, while that they w alio published is founded, it deferred exact copy o

"The trie vania think i their utmost are making assembly, an province; fo that as many sign the adv of the provin and sellers' p ter the prote therefore req tuous task, b bitants of ou sible, by whic oblige your fi

"P. S. Y stance sent to I have on county have of your repre against the a lows:— "We ther men and mea tinuance of t same. You sentiments of we trust you,

To James Erv As I have derived no a command the shall continue sentiments in spectfully,

CHARI The report rolina is void vince. It is s from England under lord C linians, by th stayed at the try, but were resistance, sho rived there.

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IN CONV Resolved un be directed to vention of M instant, expre ings of that C our reasons fo ing him a pass joining; that intermeddle in matter were a Maryland, by mittee of Saf Convention to That, cons George Germ whole condu and he is dire operations of a loss to accou their having r recommenda for the Conve sfit in our def to England, w he is not at li to Britain, it address presen character of a sion and disun quences the r the reasons as by the minist verment, are tion declare, old form, wil of state, wh such mandate corderings to fo der the mask priary intere that Conventi