

Howe came over possessed of unlimited power, and was much concerned he had not arrived a few days sooner, which would have effected a reconciliation, &c. However it seems his unlimited power did not extend to the necessary preliminaries of a negotiation...

On Tuesday another flag from the fleet appeared, and was met as before, when a letter was again offered, but for the same reason as the former, rejected.

Capt. Johnston, in a small privateer from Boston, has taken and carried into Cape Anne, two ships, one of them a large sloop of war from Jamaica for London...

On Wednesday noon a sloop belonging to one of the regiments on Staten Island being in liquor, and having wandered from his companions, got upon the meadows near Elizabeth-town point...

TRENTON, July 8.

The declaration of independence was this day proclaimed here, together with the new constitution of the colony of late established, and the resolve of the provincial congress for continuing the administration of justice during the interval.

The members of the provincial congress, the gentlemen of the committee, the officers and privates of the militia under arms, and a large concourse of the inhabitants attended on this great and solemn occasion.

The people are now convinced of what we ought long since to have known, that our enemies have left us no middle way between perfect freedom and abject slavery.

In the field, we hope, as well as in council, the inhabitants of New-Jersey will be found ever ready to support the freedom and independence of America.

PHILADELPHIA.

In CONGRESS, July 11, 1776.

The marine committee, in pursuance of the order of congress, reported that they have called before them divers of the interior officers belonging to the ships Alfred and Columbus, and having heard their complaints against the captains Eaton and Whipple...

By order of Congress, JOHN HANCOCK, President.

In CONGRESS, July 19, 1776.

Resolved, That a copy of the circular letters and of the declarations they enclosed from lord Howe to Mr. W. Franklin, Mr. Penn, Mr. Eden, lord Dunmore, Mr. Martin, and Sir James Wright, late governors, sent to Amboy by a flag, and forwarded to congress, by general Washington, be published in the several Gazettes...

By order of Congress, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

"SIR, "EAGLE, off the coast of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, June 20, 1776. "BEING appointed commander in chief of the ships and vessels of his majesty's fleet, employed in North America, and having the honour to be by his majesty constituted one of his COMMISSIONERS for restoring peace to his colonies, and for granting pardons to such of his subjects therein as shall be duly solicited to benefit by that effect of his gracious indulgence...

"In the mean time I have judged it expedient to issue the enclosed declaration, in order that all persons may have immediate information of his majesty's most gracious intentions: And I desire you will be pleased forthwith to cause the said declaration to be promulgated, in such manner, and at such places with in the province of New-Jersey, as will render the same of the most public notoriety.

Assured of being favoured with your assistance in every measure for the speedy and effectual restoration of the public tranquillity, I am to request that you will communicate, from time to time, such information as you may think will facilitate the attainment of that important object in the province over which you preside. I have the honour to be,

With great respect and consideration, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, HOWE.

Since our last the militia of this city, with a number of companies from the other parts of the province, have marched for New-Jersey.

DECLARATION.

WHEREAS By an act passed in the last session of parliament to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and for other purposes therein mentioned; it is enacted that "It shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons, appointed and authorized by his majesty, to grant a pardon or pardons to any number or description of persons, by proclamation, in his majesty's name, to declare any colony or province, colonies or provinces, or any county, town, port, district, or place, in any colony or province, to be at the peace of his majesty; and that "from and after the issuing of any such proclamation in any of the aforesaid colonies or provinces, or if his majesty should be graciously pleased to signify the same by his royal proclamation, then, from and after the issuing of such colony or province, the said act, with respect to such colony or province, colonies or provinces, county, town, port, district, or place, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void."

And WHEREAS the king, desirous to deliver all his subjects from the calamities of war, and other afflictions which they now undergo, and to restore the said colonies to his protection and peace, as soon as the constitutional authority of government therein may be replaced, hath been graciously pleased, by letters patent, under the great seal, dated the sixth day of May, in the sixteenth year of his majesty's reign, to nominate and appoint me, Richard viscount Howe of the kingdom of Ireland, and William Howe, Esq; general of his forces in North-America, and each of us, jointly and severally, to be his majesty's commissioner and commissioners, for granting his grace and general pardons to all those who, in the tumult and disorder of the times, may have deviated from their just allegiance, and who are willing, by a speedy return to their duty, to reap the benefits of the royal favour: and also for declaring, in his majesty's name, any colony, province, county, town, port, district, or place, to be at the peace of his majesty, I DO, THEREFORE, hereby declare; That due consideration shall be had to the meritorious services of all persons who shall aid and assist in restoring the public tranquillity in the said colonies, or in any part or parts thereof; That pardons shall be granted, dutiful representations received, and every suitable encouragement given, for promoting such measures as shall be conducive to the establishment of legal government and peace, in pursuance of his majesty's most gracious purposes aforesaid.

Given on board his majesty's ship the Eagle, off of the coast of the province of Massachusetts-bay, the twentieth day of June, 1776.

By order of Congress, JOHN HANCOCK, president. CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Extract of a letter from the hon. major general PEE, dated Charleston, July 2, 1776, to the president of the Congress.

"I SHOULD have done myself the honour sooner of informing the Congress of the attack made by the enemy's squadron on Sullivan's island, and their repulse, but conjectured that by waiting a day or two, I might probably be furnished with the means of sending a more minute, full, and satisfactory account.

"My conjecture was right; for yesterday five seamen made their escape, one of whom is a more intelligent fellow than is commonly found amongst men of his level. Inclosed is a copy of their narrative [see our last week's gazette]. My venture to congratulate Congress on the event. Not only the advantage must be considerable, but the affair reflects no small credit to the American arms.

"On Friday, about 11 o'clock, the commodore (Sir Peter Parker) with his whole squadron, consisting of two line-of-battle ships and six frigates, the rates of which are marked in the inclosed narrative, anchored at less than half musket shot from the fort, and commenced one of the most furious and incessant fires ever saw or heard. It was manifestly their plan to land at the same time, their whole regulars, at the east end of the island, and of course invest the whole fort by land and sea. As the garrison was composed entirely of raw troops, both officers and men, thought it my duty to cross over to the island to encourage the garrison by my presence. But I might have saved myself that trouble, for I found on my arrival they had no occasion for any sort of encouragement. I found them determined and cool to the last degree; their behaviour would, in fact, have done honour to the oldest troops.

"I therefore beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms to the Congress, the commanding officer, col. Moutrie, and the whole garrison, as brave soldiers and excellent citizens. Nor must I omit, at the same time, mentioning col. Thompson, who with the South Carolina rangers, and a detachment of the North Carolina regulars, repulsed the enemy in two several attempts to make a lodgment at the extremity of the island.

"Our loss, considering the heat and duration of the fire, was inconsiderable. We had only ten men killed on the spot, and twenty-two wounded, seven of whom lost their limbs. But with their limbs they did not lose their spirits; for they enthusiastically encouraged their comrades, never to abandon the standard of liberty and their country. His I do assure you, is not in the file of gaudy romantic, usual after every successful action, but literally a fact. I with great pleasure mention the circumstance, as it augurs well to the cause of freedom. At eleven the fire ceased, having continued just twelve hours without the least intermission."

Published by order of Congress, JOHN HANCOCK, president.

By accounts from Canada we learn, that our troops a few days after the battle at Three Rivers, retreated to the Isle of Noix, but finding that an extreme unhealthy place, were obliged to retire to Crown-Point, where they are repairing that old fortification. That the English had got to St. John's, where they would have to build boats before they could cross the lakes, and that we had a schooner of six carriage guns, and four other

From the Royal Calendar, for the year 1776.

A List of Shipping on the North-American Station.

Third rates. Asia, captain George Van Lear, 64. Boyne, Brod. Hantwell, 70. Eagle, vice adm. Howe, H. Duncan, 64. Somerset, G. Ourry, 64.

Fourth rates. Britol, com. Sir Peter Parker, John Morris, 50. Centurion, Rich Braithwait, 50. Clatham, vice adm. Shuldham, J. Kayner, 50. Experiment, Robert Keeler, 50. Jersey, hospital ship, W. A. Halked, 69. Isis, C. Douglafs, 50. Preston, J. Robinson, 50. Renown, F. Banks, 50.

Fifth rates. Blonde, P. Pownal, 32. Brune, 32. Emerald, B. Caldwell, 32. Niger, G. Althor, 32. Orpheus, C. Hudson, 32. Pearl, J. O'Hara, 32. Phoenix, H. Parker, jun. 44. Kozbuck, Andrew Snape Hanond, 44. Thetis, 32.

Sixth rates. Acton, C. Atkins, 28. Active, W. Williams, 28. Boreas, C. Thomson, 28. Carryfort, Fanthaw, 28. Cerberus, 28. Deal Castle, Worth, 24. Fowey, G. Montagu, 24. Fox, Fotheringham, 28. Greyhound, 24. Glasgow, T. Howe, 24. Lily, T. Bishop, 20. Lizard, 28. Mercury, 24. Milford, J. Burr, 28. Role, J. Wallace, 20. Scarborough, Andrew Barclay, 20. Seaford, J. Colpoy, 20. Solebay, T. Symons, 28. Sphinx, A. Hunt, 20. Yren, T. Furneaux, 28. Tartar, 28. Triton, Skiff, Lutwidge, 28.

Sloops. Atlanta, T. Underwood, 16. Carcas, R. Dring, 8. Cruiser, F. Parry, 8. Falcon, J. Lindze, 16. Ferret, J. Codney, 18. Hawke, R. Coop, 10. Kingfisher, 16. Martin, W. Parker, 14. Merlin, C. Burnaby, 18. Nautilus, J. Collins, 16. Otter, M. Squire, 10. Savage, H. Bromedge, 8. Scorpion, J. Tolemache, 16. Senegal, W. Duddingston, 16. Swan, J. Ayscough, 14. Tamer, E. Thornborough, 16. Viper, D. Price, 10.

Armed vessels. Cancaux, Cherokee, Lieut. Ferguson, Diligence, Labrador, Magdalen, Lieut. John Nunn, Sultana.

Bomb-ketch. Thunder, J. Reid.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW-JERSEY.

WHEREAS all the constitutional authority ever possessed by the kings of Great-Britain over these colonies, or their other dominions, was by compact derived from the people, and held of them for the common interest of the whole society, allegiance and protection are, in the nature of things, reciprocal ties, each equally depending upon the other, and liable to be dissolved by the other's being refused or withdrawn. And whereas George the Third, king of Great Britain, has refused protection to the good people of these colonies; and, by assenting to sundry acts of the British parliament, attempted to subject them to the absolute dominion of that body, and has also made war upon them in the most cruel and unnatural manner, for no other cause than asserting their just rights, all civil authority under him is necessarily at an end, and a dissolution of government in each colony has consequently taken place.

And whereas, in the present deplorable situation of these colonies, exposed to the fury of a cruel and relentless enemy, some form of government is a necessity, not only for the preservation of good order; but also the more effectually to unite the people, and enable them to exert their whole force in their own necessary defence; and as the honourable continental congress, the supreme council of the American colonies, has advised such of the colonies as have not yet gone into the measure, to adopt for themselves respectively such government as shall best conduce to their own happiness and safety, and the well being of America in general: We, the representatives of the colony of New Jersey, having been elected by all the counties in the freest manner, and in congress assembled, have, after mature deliberation, agreed upon a set of charter rights, and the form of a constitution, in manner following, To-wit:

I. That the government of this province shall be vested in a governor, legislative council, and general assembly.

II. That the said legislative council and general assembly shall be chosen, for the first time, on the second Tuesday in August next; the members whereof shall be the same in number and qualifications as is herein after mentioned; and shall be and remain vested with all the powers and authority to be held by any future legislative council and assembly of this colony, until the second Tuesday in October, which will be in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

III. That on the said second Tuesday in October, yearly and every year for ever (with the privilege of adjourning from day to day as occasion may require) the counties shall severally choose one person to be a member of the legislative council of this colony, who shall be and have been, for one whole year next before the election, an inhabitant and freeholder in the county in which he is chosen, and worth at least one thousand pounds, proclamation money, of real and personal estate within the same county: That, at the same time, each county shall also choose three members of assembly; provided, that no person shall be entitled to a seat in the said assembly, unless he be and have been, for one whole year next before the election, an inhabitant of the county he is to represent, and worth five hundred pounds, proclamation money, in real and personal estate in the same county: That, on the second Tuesday next after the day of election, the council and assembly shall separately meet; and that the consent of both houses shall be necessary to every law; provided, that seven shall be a quorum of the council for doing business, and that no law shall pass, unless there be a majority of all the representatives of each body personally present and agreeing thereto: Provided always, that if a majority of the representatives of this province in council and general assembly convened, shall, at any time or times hereafter, judge it equitable and proper to add to or diminish the number or proportion of the members of assembly for any county or counties in this colony, then, and in such case, the same may, on the principles of more equal representation, be lawfully done, any thing in this charter to the contrary notwithstanding; so that the whole number of representatives

shall be and remain vested with all the powers and authority to be held by any future legislative council and assembly of this colony, until the second Tuesday in October, which will be in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

IV. That who are worth estate in the in which the arely beedci representative other public of the county V. That to choose a judges of the members; f bills to be speaker to occurrence VI. That pare bills to as the assemb dependent only, that the bill, which the the council sh governor or times when speaker of t ately after an or vice-presi house is adjoi VII. That first meeting jority of vot to be a gove president of proceedings; choose a vice-ence of the VIII. That vice-preside-ative power captain gene lita, and oth any three or a privy coun be ordinary IX. That shall be a q reform in all possess the pu condemnation offences. X. That the militia, spective coun council and XI. That to make the kept by the president of may require colony of Ne XII. That continue in a senior court justices of the of the inter sessions, the shall continue chial treasurer that they sh and assembly the governo of the coun- severally shal end of the te of the said o adjudged gui impeachment XIII. That to vote a electing their and one or m the same per three years, elapse before again. Wh or vice presi the county f immediately offices. XIV. That meetings for- bles for the d- judicially de- in case of pu- shall fo- times to be b- people by ad- XV. That following fly- val assembly- cularity of the governor- ay of New- writs shall li- that all ind- manner, viz- ment and dig- XVI. That same privile- gators are or- XVII. That troy their of- sited; but- way; nor sh- tally the dea- and, or in a- fortune. XVIII. That lony, be dep- shipping Al- dictates of l- tance whatso- ship, contr- shall any pe- ty tythes, b- building or