

Col. Patterson then said, that gen. Howe would not urge his delicacy farther, and repeated his assertions, that no failure of respect was intended. He then said, that he would endeavour, as well as he could, to recollect gen. Howe's sentiments on the letter and resolves of congress sent him a few days before. "That the affairs of Canada were in another department, not subject to the controul of gen. Howe, but that he and lord Howe utterly disapproved of every infringement on the rights of humanity." Col. Patterson then took a paper out of his pocket, and after looking it over, said he had expressed nearly the words. Gen. Washington then said, that he had also forwarded a copy of the resolves to gen. Burgoyne. To which col. Patterson replied, he did not doubt a proper attention would be paid to them, and that he (gen. Washington) was sensible that exactly was not the characteristic of the British nation. Col. Patterson then proceeded to say, he had it in charge to mention the case of gen. Prescott, who they were informed was treated with such rigour, that, under his age and infirmities, fatal consequences might be apprehended.

Gen. Washington replied, that gen. Prescott's treatment had not fallen under his notice; that all persons under his particular direction he had treated with kindness, and made their situation as easy and comfortable as possible; that he did not know where gen. Prescott was, but believed his treatment very different from their information. Gen. Washington then mentioned the case of col. Allen, and the officers who had been confined in Boston jail. As to the first, col. Patterson answered, that gen. Howe had no knowledge of it but by information from gen. Washington, and that the Canada department was not under his direction or controul; that as to the other prisoners at Boston, whenever the state of the army at Boston admitted it, they were treated with humanity and even indulgence; that he asserted this upon his honour, and should be happy in having an opportunity to prove it.

Gen. Washington then observed, that the conduct of several of the officers would well have warranted a different treatment from what they had received; some having refused to give any parole, and others having broke it when given, by escaping or endeavouring so to do. Col. Patterson answered, that as to the first, they misunderstood the matter very much, and seemed to have mistook the line of propriety exceedingly; and as to the latter, gen. Howe utterly disapproved and condemned their conduct. That if a remonstrance was made, such violations of good faith would be severely punished; but that he hoped gen. Washington was too just to draw public inferences from the misbehaviour of some private individuals; that bad men were to be found in every class and society; that such behaviour was considered as a dishonour to the British army.

Col. Patterson then proceeded to say, that the goodness and benevolence of the king had induced him to appoint lord Howe and gen. Howe his commissioners, to accommodate this unhappy dispute; that they had great powers, and would derive the greatest pleasure from effecting an accommodation; and that he (col. Patterson) wished to have this visit considered as making the first advances to this desirable object. General Washington replied, he was not vested with any powers on this subject, by those from whom he derived his authority and power. But from what had appeared or transpired on this head, lord Howe and gen. Howe were only to grant pardons; that those who had committed no fault wanted no pardon; that we were only defending what we deemed our indisputable right. Col. Patterson said, that would open a very wide field for argument. He then expressed his apprehensions that an adherence to forms was likely to obstruct business of the greatest moment and concern.

He then observed, that a proposal had been formerly made of exchanging governor skene for Mr. Lovell; that he now had authority to accede to that proposal. Gen. Washington replied, that the proposition had been made by the direction of congress, and having been there rejected, he could not now renew the business, or give any answer, till he had previously communicated it to them.

Col. Patterson behaved with the greatest attention and politeness during the whole business, expressed strong acknowledgments that the usual ceremony of blinding his eyes had been dispensed with. At the breaking up of the conference, gen. Washington strongly invited him to partake of a small collation provided for him, which he politely declined, alleging his late breakfast, and an impatience to return to gen. Howe, though he had not executed his commission so amply as he wished. Finding he did not propose staying, he was introduced to the general officers, after which he took his leave, and was safely conducted to his own boat, which waited for him, about four miles distant from the city.

Made public by order of Congress,  
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

July 29. On Friday evening arrived in this city from Canada, brigadier general Sullivan.

We hear that one of the continental frigates lately launched in this city is called the Delaware, and the other the Randolph, in honour of the late illustrious senator of that name.

The militia of this state continue to pass through this city daily in companies on their way to New-Jersey. It is thought that Pennsylvania will send not less than 8000 men to the assistance of our neighbours.

Yesterday brigadier general Ewing set off from this city to join the flying camp in New-Jersey.

August 3. The Congress privateer, capt. Craig, has taken and carried into Egg-harbour, a brig from Nevis. This prize is said to be worth near twenty thousand pounds.

Extract of a letter from the camp at Perth-Amboy, New-Jersey, July 26, 1776.

"Yesterday afternoon we had a smart cannonading with the enemy, occasioned by four or five shallops coming down the river. The general directed a small battery mounting two iron four pounders to fire at them; this brought on a heavy firing from the enemy's battery, from an eminence that overlooked ours. Capt. Moulder, with his two field-pieces, was ordered to the shore, but being encamped at some distance, before he could come up the shallops had all nearly past, however, he began a well directed fire, and

one of them. "When the vessels were passed, the firing ceased on both sides; We had the misfortune of losing one of the second battalion, and having another wounded. The young man's name who was killed is Owens, belonging to capt. Weed's company; he was shot right through the heart, the ball, a four pounder, entering his left side, and coming out of his breast; this morning he was buried with the honours of war. The other, who is wounded, is one Freeman, a serjeant in capt. Boyd's company; his wound is not dangerous, the ball having first taken the street, and rebounding struck the upper part of his right thigh, but has not broken the bone. There was a horse killed which was standing in a waggon near the general's door. The enemy appear to have some very heavy field-pieces---they sent some 23 pound shot among us---it is surprising they did not do more execution, as there were so many of our people on the bank opposite to them without the least covering.

"The enemy appear to be very strong, and are constantly reinforcing as our troops come in. They are throwing up breast-works along the shore to prevent our landing."

Extract of a letter from New-York, July 29.

"Yesterday one of our galleys, mounting one 38 pounder in her bow, and the other a New-London galley, mounting two 12 pounders in her stern, and two 18 in her bow, went up the North-River to Spikendivle, or Kingbridge-creek, with an intent to lay there till the ships come down the river.---Should that be the case, I make no doubt we shall be able to give a good account of them.

"This moment arrived a sloop, capt. Hawkins, from Rhode-Island, which gives the disagreeable news of capt. Biddle's losing his prize, the ship Nathaniel and Elizabeth, capt. Hoar from Jamaica, with 300 hogheads of sugar and a 100 hogheads of rum, &c. at Fishers Island reef, just entering the sound.

"Captain Hawkins says he saw the ship on the rocks last Friday, and saw one vessel take up an iron bound cask, which he took to be a hoghead of rum. There was a great number of people on board, and several vessels along side; and her masts were cut away. He does not know if any of the cargo is saved or not."

On Thursday last arrived here a vessel from Marseilles, with a large quantity of lead, powder, and arms---By a gentleman who came in her we are informed, that the British parliament was prorogued on the 23d of May to some time in August; and that the Irish parliament had been dissolved.

An ORDINANCE to prevent counterfeiting the paper money issued by the Honourable the continental congress, or by this or any other of the United American States.

WHEREAS great mischief may arise to the United States of America, and the property of the good people, inhabitants thereof, rendered precarious and insecure, by wicked and designing persons counterfeiting the paper bills of credit, issued by the honourable the continental congress, or by any of the United States of America, For remedy whereof, be it ordained and declared, and it is hereby ordained and declared, by the Representatives of the freemen of the state of Pennsylvania, in general convention met, That if any person or persons shall presume to counterfeit any of the bills of credit issued, or hereafter to be issued, by the honourable the continental congress, or by and under any laws or resolves of the assembly of Pennsylvania, or by the legislatures, or assemblies, or conventions, of this or any of the United States, by printing or procuring the same to be printed, in the likeness of the said genuine bills of credit; and also if any person or persons shall forge the name or names of the signers of the true bills of credit; to such counterfeit bills, whether the counterfeiting of the said bills be done within this state or elsewhere, or shall utter such bills, knowing them to be counterfeited as aforesaid, and being thereof legally convicted by confession, standing mute, or by verdict of twelve men, in any court of oyer and terminer hereafter to be erected within this state, he, she, or they, shall suffer death. And the discoverer or informer shall have, as an encouragement for his or her discovery, the sum of fifty pounds, to be levied out of the goods or chattels, lands and tenements of the person convicted; and if no such goods or chattels, lands or tenements, can be found, a reward of twenty pounds shall be paid out of the public treasury. And if any person or persons shall counterfeit any of the said bills of credit, by altering the denomination of the said bills, with design to increase the value of such bills, or shall utter such bills, knowing them to be so counterfeited or altered as aforesaid, and shall be thereof legally convicted in any court of record hereafter to be established in this state, such person or persons shall be sentenced to the pillory, and have both his or her ears cut off, and nailed to the pillory, and be publicly whipped on his or her bare back, with 31 lashes well laid on.

And moreover every such offender shall forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, to be levied on his lands and tenements, goods and chattels, the one half to the use of the state, and the other half to the discoverer. And the offender shall pay the party double the value of the damages thereby sustained, together with the costs and charges of prosecution; and in case the offender hath not sufficient to satisfy the discoverer for his or her damages and charges, and pay the forfeiture aforesaid, in such case the offender shall, by order of the court where he or she shall be convicted, be sold for any term not exceeding seven years, for satisfaction; and in such case the treasurer of this state shall reward the discoverer of such insolvent offender to the value of five pounds out of the public monies in his hands. And every such counterfeit bill shall be delivered to the said treasurer to be burnt and destroyed.

And be it farther ordained and declared, That the proper bills of credit issued by the honourable continental congress, or under the late laws, or by the resolves of the late assembly of Pennsylvania, shall be legal tender in all cases whatsoever within this state.

By order of convention,  
GEORGE ROSS, vice-president.

Passed August 15, 1776.  
Attest. JOHN MORRIS, jun. secretary.

In CONGRESS, July 23, 1776.  
Resolved, That the several commanders in chief in each department be directed to exchange any officer in

the British service, now a prisoner in any of these states, of or under the rank of colonel, for col. Ethan Allen. Resolved, That the persons taken prisoners with col. Ethan Allen be put upon the same footing as those in the continental service, and exchanged accordingly, as opportunity presents.

By order of Congress,  
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

The representatives of the state of Rhode-Island and Providence plantations have passed a resolve, That if any person within that state shall, under pretence of preaching or praying, or in any other way and manner whatever, acknowledge or declare their late king to be their rightful lord and sovereign, or shall pray for the success of his arms, or that he may vanquish or overcome all his enemies, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall therefor be presented by the grand jury of the county where the offence shall be committed, to the superior court of the same county; and upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay, as a fine, to and for the use of that state, the sum of 200 hundred pounds lawful money, and pay all costs of prosecution; and shall stand committed to goal until the same be satisfied.

Extract of a letter from the camp at Elizabeth-Town, July 25.

"Yesterday nine of our rifle-men crossed the river, in order to harass some regulars who were throwing up a kind of breast-work on a bridge, for their sentries, who kept firing on our men for some time, without doing any execution, till one of the brave fellows went within a few yards of the enemy, and desired them to surrender; at that instant he received a ball through his head, which killed him on the spot. The colonel sent over a flag of truce to the commanding officer on the island, desiring leave to bring off his man, which the officer very politely agreed to, and let him take man, rifle, and all his accoutrements. After talking a little, he enquired what news was stirring? On being told that gen. Clinton had been defeated at Carolina, he bore it very well; but on being acquainted that lord Dunmore had been driven from Gwyn's island, he looked very much confuted."

Another letter of the same date says, "This morning we had a deserter from the Asia, who says that 2000 highlanders have arrived within these few days, and that the enemy intend attacking New-York as soon as possible."

In the house of representatives for the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware, at Newcastle, Saturday, July 27, 1776, p. 2.

THE house taking into consideration the resolution of congress of the 15th of May last, for suppressing all authority derived from the crown of Great-Britain, and for establishing a government upon the authority of the people, and the resolution of this house of the 15th of June last, in consequence of the said resolution of congress, directing all persons holding offices civil or military to execute the same in the name of this government, until a new one should be formed, and also the declaration of the United States of America, absolving from all allegiance to the British crown, and dissolving all political connexion between them and Great-Britain, lately published and adopted by this government as one of those States, are of opinion that some speedy measures should be taken to form a regular mode of civil polity; and this house, not thinking themselves authorized by their constituents to execute this important work,

Do Resolve, That it be recommended to the good people of the several counties in this government, to choose a suitable number of deputies to meet in convention, there to ordain and declare the future form of government for this state.

Resolved also, That it is the opinion of this house, that the said convention consist of the number of thirty persons, that is to say, ten for the county of Newcastle, ten for the county of Kent, and ten for the county of Sussex; and that the freemen of the said counties respectively do meet on Monday the 19th day of August next, at the usual places of election for the county, and then and there proceed to elect the number of deputies aforesaid, according to the directions of the several laws of this government for regulating elections of the members of assembly, except as to the choice of inspectors, which shall be made on the morning of the day of election by the electors, inhabitants of the respective hundreds in each county.

Resolved, That every elector shall (if required by two or more of the judges of the election) take the following oath or affirmation, to wit: "I, A. B. will, to the utmost of my power, support and maintain the independence of this government, as declared by the honourable continental congress."

Resolved also, That it is the opinion of this house, that the deputies, when chosen as aforesaid, shall meet in convention in the town of Newcastle, on Tuesday the 27th day of the same month of August, and immediately proceed to form a government on the authority of the people of this state, in such fort as may be best adapted to their preservation and happiness.

Extra from the minutes.  
Published by order,  
JAMES BOOTH, clerk of assembly.

In a committee of inspection and observation for the county of York, July 12.

Resolved, That in case Mr. James Rankin makes suitable concessions (as he proposes) and gives sufficient surety for his good behaviour in future, he shall be restored to his liberty, and the confidence of his countrymen.

"As I have, in several instances, injured the committee of York county, by sundry public misrepresentations, as well as by personal insults, thereby obstructing the public measures now so necessary for the safety of our country; but being convinced of the bad tendency of my past conduct, and desirous of being restored to a good understanding and friendship with my countrymen, I do thus publicly ask forgiveness of them, and do promise, on the faith and honour of an honest man, that I will in future pay due regard to the rules and regulations of the honourable continental congress, and behave, in all respects, as becomes a good citizen of the United States of America."  
July 13, 1776. JAMES RANKIN.

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