

great writer before quoted, observes of the Roman empire, that while liberty was at the center, tyranny prevailed in the distant provinces; that such as were free under it were extremely so, while those who were slaves groaned under the extremity of slavery; and that the same events that destroyed the liberty of the former, gave liberty to the latter.

The liberty of the Romans, therefore, was only an additional calamity to the provinces governed by them; and though it might have been said of the citizens of Rome, that they were the "freest members of any civil society in the known world," yet of the subjects of Rome it must have been said, that they were the completest slaves in the known world. How remarkable is it that this very people, once the freest of mankind, but at the same time the most proud and tyrannical, should become at last the most contemptible and abject slaves that ever existed?

PORTSMOUTH, July 27.

Last week arrived at Calco Bay, Sion Martindale, late commander of the brig Washington, fitted out by congress. He was taken the 3d of December last, and sent home to England; and there received his majesty's pardon for crimes never committed--from thence he was sent to Halifax, there taken up, confined in close prison, and treated in the most rascally manner for five weeks. The 19th of June last, with 13 others, broke gaol, and the next day six of them were retaken. Capt. Martindale, lieut. Turner, lieut. William S. Coote, of Petersburg, lieut. Childs, one Bridge, and one John Brown of Bolton, arrived safe at Calco Bay.

PROVIDENCE, Aug. 5.

Sunday last the Montgomery privateer, capt. Daniel Bucklin, of this port, returned from a cruise, during which she took three valuable prizes; also two others, in company with a privateer belonging to Salem; she brought in with her a snow of 180 tons, capt. Goodwin, bound from Nevis to London, having on board 219 hogheads, 137 tierces, and 20 barrels of sugar, 63 hogheads of rum, &c.

Extract of a letter from a planter at Tortola to his friend in Liverpool, dated July 1, 1776, found on board the last mentioned prize.

"If this unhappy dispute between Great-Britain and America should be brought to a conclusion, and they be once more united, there will be an opening for sale of rum, though to the windward the price keeps up, I hear, to 2s. 6d. per gallon, owing to government contracting with Mr. Blackburn for one hundred thousand gallons, for the troops in America. I am afraid many planters here suffer for want of lumber, as they have it not in their power to fend for it. I am informed there is a deal of good lumber to the southward of Georgia."

NEWPORT, August 5.

Last Friday se'ennight a sloop from Bermudas arrived at Nantucket, who the day before, to the southward of that island, saw 33 sail of square rigged vessels standing to the westward, which, it is likely, are part of the Hessian fleet.

Last Wednesday arrived at New-London, the sloop Betsy, capt. Benjamin Bigelow, in 15 days from St. Eustatia, with a large quantity of duck, 6 tons of powder, some small arms, &c. Mr. William Turner, of this island, came passenger in the above vessel, and informs, that a large number of troops have lately arrived at Martinico, and 9000 at Porto-Rico; that the people at St. Eustatia are very staunch for these states, &c.

NEW-YORK, August 12.

We hear from Elizabeth-town, that on a late alarm there, when an immediate attack was expected, and every man capable of bearing arms, was summoned to defend it; there were three or four young men, brothers, going out from one house, when an elderly lady, mother or grandmother to the young men, who, without betraying the least signs of timidity, had, with a resolute calmness, encouraged and assisted them to arm, when they were ready to go, and just setting out, addressed them thus: "My children I have a few words to say to you: You are going out in a just cause, to fight for the rights and liberties of your country--you have my blessings and prayers, that God will protect and assist you--but if you fall--his will be done. Let me beg of you, my children, that if you fall, it may be like me; and that your wounds may not be in your back parts."

PHILADELPHIA, August 17.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the second battalion of Philadelphia, dated Amby, August 12, 9 o'clock, A. M.

"We have now in sight upwards of 60 sail of top-sail vessels coming to Sandy-Hook;-- I suppose many more will appear, for every quarter of an hour they make their appearance round the highlands. I suppose this is their grand fleet. Our battalion is ordered for New-York. Saturday col. Miles's two battalions, and this morning col. Atlee's battalion, and part of the Jersey militia, marched for New-York; and in a few days most of the troops that are here will march for the same place, where they are in great want of men. "P. S. Half after ten o'clock, 90 sail in sight."

Extract of a letter from New-York, August 9.

"Yesterday a number of men went to Long-Island, to fend down all persons who are suspected as inimical to the states of America, and are doing the same in this city; numbers are already come to town, and are this day to have a hearing at the city hall before his excellency general Washington."

Extract of a letter from New-York, August 12.

"We expect to be attacked every tide, the ships have now got their sails all up. "I have just been informed that the two privateers out of this place (but now at Fire-Island) after an engagement yesterday afternoon, of a quarter of an hour, took and carried in there a brig (cannot tell where she is from, or what she contains) the privateers were seen to stand off; so that we hope they have before this another prize. We are informed that general Clinton, with his army, have left South-Carolina, and are arrived at

Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, vol. 2, Book 11, ch. 19.

stated-land to give an account of their shameful defeat. The same accounts say, that the two large ships belonging to that fleet are left behind, not being able to return over the bar.

A fleet of ten ships was seen, last Friday evening, within 26 leagues of our capes, standing to the northward, supposed for New-York.

By capt. Douglafs, from Cape Nichola, we learn, that the sloop Diana, capt. John Horne, of Providence, was cast away the 26th of July, the vessel and cargo lost; that the schooner Bacchus's Delight, capt. Sampson, of Savannah; the sloop Lydia, capt. Thomas Webb, of Long-Island, and the sloop Sango, capt. Thurston, were taken by the French guarda costas in June last, and condemned by a court of admiralty in Hispaniola; but the two first were released by the governor.

Last Saturday George Morgan, Esq. arrived in this city from the westward. On the 9th ult. whilst at one of the Shawanese towns on the Scunto, he received intelligence of three Six Nation warriors having passed by there with two prisoners they had taken 16 days before, from Virginia. Mr. Morgan followed, and got to their town before them, prevented the usual punishment of the prisoners on their entry, and insisted on their being immediately delivered up to him, unless they intended this breach of the peace as an open declaration of war. All the head men of the Six Nations, Shawanese and Delawares, who were called together on this occasion, behaved in a very friendly manner, and joined with Mr. Morgan in his demand made to the warriors, who soon complied therewith, and were promised forgiveness on condition of future good behaviour. These warriors told Mr. Morgan they had done no other damage, except they killed a young man they shot at when they took these prisoners, but he made his escape, though they believed the ball entered his breast. The prisoners are twin sons of Andrew McConnell, late of Pennsylvania, who removed last winter to Lees-Town, on Kentucky river, and were taken within a few yards of the town. Mr. Morgan brought them with him to Pittsburgh, and delivered them to their uncle in Westmoreland county, in this province. Since then, a small party of Shawanese, in returning from the Cherokee country, killed and scalped two persons near the Big Bone Lick; they were pursued by a few of the neighbours, who killed and scalped two of the Indians, the others escaped. This breach is also likely to be settled to the satisfaction of all parties, as the head men had expressed great concern at the conduct of their foolish young people, and promise to do all in their power to preserve our friendship. A treaty is to be held at Pittsburgh, with the Western Indians, the beginning of October, when it is hoped they will listen to and follow their true interest, as they have promised to do.

The chiefs of the Six Nations met in council at Onandago, on the 18th, 19th, and 20th days of last June, promised Mr. Morgan to call all their warriors from Canada, and to listen to the Thirteen United States of America, being convinced that their advice was for their true interest, as they have no business to join either side in the present war between Britain and America. They accordingly sent off a party for the above purpose the 22d of June, and another party to Niagara, to insist on col. Butler's bringing all their people back immediately. They likewise sent off two large belts to the Lake and other Western Indians, to inform them of their determination, and to desire they will also sit still.

Extract of a letter from Ticonderoga, August 5.

"I came over here from R--- to conduct a Canadian from St. Francois to head quarters. He assures me that the Indians in general have resolved not to join in the war. Things here begin to wear a different face. The greatest harmony reigns among the general officers. Order is taking place in the army, and the men in high spirits. Great numbers are coming in from New-England to Skenesborough. It is reported that gen. Carleton has used the Canadians who favoured us very barbarously, which has provoked them very much; some deserters are come over, and some of the foreign troops are said to be desirous of deserting."

Tower-Hill, May 22, 1776.

"Mr. ---'s compliments to Mr. ---, and begs his care of the inclosed letter. Mr. --- may rely on it that the French ministry is changed--the pacific men are turned out, and the spirited men, friends to America, are to come in, viz. duke de Choiseul, &c. &c. Therefore a French war, or submission to America, is inevitable. The stocks, from the battle of Lexington to this day, have fallen upwards of six per cent. a loss on the national debt of at least seven millions. These things should be publicly made known. To Mr. ---"

The above letter is from Mr. ---, of London, to Mr. Madison, one of the gentlemen mentioned in the letter from Elizabeth-Town, and cannot be doubted.

A French gentleman, and an American, a member of congress, are safe arrived in France.

WILLIAMSBURG, August 10.

A correspondent has favoured us with extracts of letters from officers of rank in Fincastle, from which we learn, that on Sunday the 21st of last month (the day before the engagement mentioned in our last) a large party of Indians attacked the Watauga fort, in which were 150 men. They fired on a great number of women who went out at day-break to milk their cows, and chased them into the fort, but providentially did not kill one of them. They fired briskly on the fort till eight o'clock, but without effect, and then retired with considerable loss, as was supposed from the quantity of blood found; but they returned to the attack, and were besieging the fort six days after, as a messenger who slipped out informed our men on Holstein. A detachment was sent to relieve the fort, and it was expected they would do so on Monday the 29th. A party of 300 men of the militia fell in with a party of 40 Cherokees, who were 50 miles on this side the island at one of the deserted plantations, and killed five, took one prisoner, and twenty guns. It is worthy of our observation that, in these several skirmishes with the Indians, in all of which we did more execution than in some of the principal actions of the last war, we lost not a man. No one can reflect on this, and many other circumstances which have attended the present war with the British tyrant, without acknowledging that he sees evident proofs of the Divine interposition in our favour.

A captain of a vessel, who is just arrived with powder

and arms, informs, that he met with lord Dunmore's fleet off the capes, standing out to sea in two divisions, one to the southward, and the other to the northward. They have been several days lying in Lynhaven bay, and have burnt some small vessels which probably they had not men to manage, or were unfit for a voyage. --May they never return.

ANNAPOLIS, AUGUST 21.

Extract of a letter from Ticonderoga, dated August 5, 1776.

"I have the pleasure to inform you that the greatest harmony subsists between the general officers in this department, as well as the field officers in general. We have 3500 effective men here, and the militia coming in fast, all under pretty good discipline; the sick, about 1500, are at Fort-George, and recruiting fast. Near two months salt provisions, and fresh arrives in great plenty.

"Our naval force consists of two vessels carrying twelve carriage and as many swivel guns each; two schooners eight carriage and eight swivels each; a row galley six carriage and ten swivels; five gondolas, carrying three nine and twelve pounders and eight swivels each; five other gondolas will be completed in ten days, and four row galleys in two or three weeks; each of the latter to carry four eighteen and twenty-four pounders. The fleet, when completed, will be superior to any thing the enemy can bring against us. Two days since, two French captains, of col. Livingstone's regiment, arrived here by the way of Cohoes, in 16 days, from St. John's, who say that a French fleet is arrived before Quebec, and that general Carleton with all the troops, except two hundred left at St. John's, are gone to Quebec. We expect soon to know the certainty of the matter by our reconnoitering parties, who are daily expected in."

Extract of a letter from New-York, August 15, 1776.

"I have just time to inform you that, by a deserter who came over to us last night, we have this intelligence:--That the enemy's reinforcement of Hessians has arrived; they are not suffered to land, but have taken three days fresh provisions on board. The troops on the island began yesterday morning to embark, the boats, &c. are all prepared to land them, with sand-bags for their protection; that we may hourly expect an attack. Their numbers, in the whole, amount to 25,000.

"I here are various conjectures as to their intended descent: Some imagine it will be on Long-Island, others about five miles above the city, and others up above gen. Mifflin's post. Our galleys went up yesterday again to try the Phoenix and Rose; we have not heard from them yet.

"If they wait a day or two longer we shall have near 2000 more of our Pennsylvania troops in."

IN CONVENTION, August 17, 1776.

AGREABLE to the order of the day, the Convention took into consideration the resolution of Congress, declaring the United Colonies free and independent States, and thereupon RESOLVED unanimously, That this Convention will maintain the freedom and independency of the United States with their lives and fortunes.

By order of the Convention,

G. DUVALL, clk.

INSTRUCTIONS

TO CHARLES CARROLL, barrister, BRICE THOMAS BEALE WORTHINGTON, SAMUEL CHASE, and RIZIN HAMMOND, Esqrs. representatives for Annapolis county.

Gentlemen, WE the subscribers, freemen of Anne Arundel county, taking into our most serious consideration the important business you are to meet upon the 17th of this instant, think it our indispensable duty to give you the following instructions. It is with much concern and displeasure we find, that the last convention excluded all such of our countrymen who did not possess fifty acres of land, or a visible estate of forty pounds sterling, in the election of representatives, thereby unjustly depriving near half of the free inhabitants of this state, of the inestimable right of free suffrage: nevertheless subjecting them to all the pains and burthens of government. This glaring injustice, hateful distinction and apparent impolicy, we are determined to use our utmost efforts to get redressed; and that our free, honest, well-affected brethren, as they proportionably bear with us every burthen and brave every danger, shall equally share every privilege: WE therefore direct and instruct you to move for, and use your utmost endeavours to establish, in the NEW GOVERNMENT, That all freemen, natives of this STATE, above twenty-one years of age, and well affected to the present glorious cause in which we are engaged, shall have the right of a free vote in the election of all officers who are to be chosen by the people, provided such persons shall have resided one year next preceding the election in the county, district, city, or town, where he shall offer to vote. Also that every foreigner, above twenty-one years of age, well affected to the present glorious cause, having a visible estate of thirty pounds currency, or a freehold of fifty acres of land, and who has resided as a freeman two years next preceding the election in the county, district, city, or town, where he shall offer to vote, shall have the right of free suffrage in the election of all officers who are to be chosen by the people. Also that all elections be free and made viva voce in the manner heretofore used in this state. Also that Annapolis be represented, but that the inhabitants thereof be not allowed to vote for the representatives for this county. That there be chosen by the people a lower and an upper house annually: these two houses to be distinct and independent of each other, and to form the legislative power. And also that the persons appointed to hold the executive power, have no share or negative in the legislature. Also that no person shall be eligible to sit in either house of legislature or congress, who holds any office of profit, or any pension, or receives any profit, or any part of the profits thereof, either directly or indirectly, or who holds any office in the regular military service, or marine service, either continental or provincial. That the trial by jury be held and kept sacred and the habeas corpus preserved. Also that justices of the peace, sheriffs, clerks of counties, and surveyors, be chosen by the people

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