

What many friends, turn your backs on your enemies in three or four weeks time? Is it worth putting the continent to the expense of equipping and marching a body of men for the service only of a few days, and half that time spent in going and coming? Besides, can you expect any thing less than that the enemy will follow you to your homes, joined by a large body of Tories, that will flock to them the moment you leave this spot? But we have wives and families you'll say, and our business is at stake. The more reason then you have to stay, you are the very men whose duty it is not to go—here is the spot to make your defence—if you have a mind to keep the enemy from ravaging your country, fight them on the sea-shore—if you would preserve your property and families in peace, then let not those who would destroy the one and distress the other, set their foot upon your shores. And if any of you have wives, connections, friends or relations, who urge you to return, they may just as well invite the enemy to come along with you. There is no difference, in effect, between retreating and being defeated—consider it well, gentlemen—think for your country's good—lock bolt across the water, and, for your honour sake never let it be said that an army of sixpenny soldiers, picked up from prisons and dungeons, freed from transportation, the whipping-post and the gallows, fighting in the worst of causes, and for the worst of kings, bore the fatigue of war with stouter hearts than you.

That we have left a number of disaffected men behind us, who have contributed nothing, or no just proportion, to the service of the country which gives them bread, and which has raised them from poverty to plenty, is true, and too true; and that there are others who are meanly seeking to enrich themselves by your absence is equally true; but let not their vices be our example: if they have failed in duty it is no reason we should—And I have the pleasure of informing you that the convention has taken that matter under consideration, as appears by the following extract from their proceedings:

**IN CONVENTION. July 23.**

"WHEREAS the associators of this state, on the requisition of the honourable continental congress, have freely and bravely come into the field for the defence of the common liberties of America, while the non-associators remain at home in peace and security, without affording, by personal service or otherwise, the just and necessary assistance they owe to the state for their protection.

"Therefore Resolved, That this convention will take the most effectual measures to render the burthen and expense of the inhabitants of this state just and equal."—I have now, gentlemen, to remind you of the condition on which you marched and engaged in the present service, which was, to continue therein "until the flying camp of ten thousand men could be collected to relieve you, unless you should be sooner discharged by congress."—These, gentlemen, are the express words. I have wrote to the convention to hasten the completion of the flying camp, and I need not point out to you the ruin and destruction that would follow, were any of you to quit your station before you are relieved; the enemy, in that case, would be encouraged to attack, either those who were brave enough to remain, or the army at New-York, and perhaps a thousand of your brethren may fall for every hundred of you which at this time should wither raw from duty; a circumstance, gentlemen, you would never, through life, be able to reconcile to your consciences, especially as it is possible that, by our formidable numbers and unanimous spirit, the enemy may be disheartened from attacking us.

I am desirous, gentlemen, of having the matter plainly understood among you all, and I should be deficient in duty, both to you and the public, were I to speak a language that might tend to amuse or deceive you. I have no interest distinct from yours to make my entreaties necessary—the cause is as much your's as mine—you have the same at stake which I have.—I am ready at any time to go with you through every necessary difficulty or danger, and I expect from you the same disposition.—Only consider the duty you owe to yourselves, to your families, and your country, and you need no other inducements; when you forget these, which I think is impossible you should, every other will be in vain.—And as a necessary companion to your bravery, I would recommend to you, gentlemen, a strict observance of the discipline and duty of a soldier; a true spirit of liberty is a spirit of order; there can be no liberty preserved without order. The English army derive all their strength from a close attention to discipline, with them it supplies the want of virtue. In short, gentlemen, though our cause is the most noble that man ever fought to defend, yet bravery, without order, will not be sufficient for the work we have to do. As we abound in the first, let us add to it the advantages of the last; and, with those united, under the smiles of heaven, we have no reason to fear a glorious issue to our righteous cause.

We are informed, by a captain of a vessel belonging to this city, who escaped a few days ago from Staten-Island, that the German troops lately arrived from Halifax are landed on the island, where it is said they are to wait the arrival of another reinforcement (which is hourly expected) before the attack will be made on New-York. He adds, that the British troops speak with great contempt of general Washington's army, and are assured that they will have the pleasure of soon meeting and spending the winter with gen. Burgoyne and his troops in New-York.

**Extract of a letter from St. Eustatia, dated July 28.**

"I have acquainted you, by my former, from Martinique, of the good disposition the French are in towards the continent of America, and how willing they are to admit and welcome all vessels from thence, for which purpose they have now by them, and daily import, all sorts of goods in demand with you, particularly powder and other warlike stores, which you may purchase and ship without any difficulty, and it is more than probable that, if the congress declares its independency to the European states, and offers to open their ports to foreigners, your ports will be crowded with them from all parts. And it seems that France waits only for that event to assist you in your defence.

"We have at present no other news than what is brought by a Dutch ship arrived within two days here from Amsterdam, viz. that the French, Spanish, and Portuguese, are making great preparations for war, by

land and by sea, as well as the States general. That the Spaniards had marched an army to the frontiers of Portugal, and had sent to sea a fleet of sixteen sail of the line, the destination of which was not known; and that they send considerable numbers of troops to their colonies. The states of Holland had absolutely refused to renew the prohibitions for the exportation of powder, &c. to the colonies, or to cede to the English the four Scotch regiments the states have in their service, nor furnish them with a number of men of war which the British court had required of them. The vexation occasioned by this in the British ministry induced them to take several Dutch ships, amongst which are two that sailed from this island, which were carried to London, and another to St. Christopher's. In consequence of this the Dutch have armed forty ships of war, and ordered sixty more to be built, with the greatest diligence in their different ports, and to raise twenty thousand men to augment their land-forces, &c."

The above is a true translation of the original, which is and remains in my possession at Philadelphia. PAUL FOOKS, Interpreter of the French and Spanish languages.

We hear that lord Dunmore, with the remains of his Ethiopian regiment, joined his Britannic majesty's troops on Staten-Island on the 13th of this month. In CONVENTION for the state of Pennsylvania, Friday, August 6, 1776.

WHEREAS this convention hath received information that several associators of this state have deserted the camp in the face of the enemy, and returned home before the formation of the flying camp, and without the leave of their commanding officers, to the great damage of the public, and evil example to others: It is therefore

Resolved 1. That all such associators as shall rejoin their respective corps at the camp from whence they came, in eight days from this date, with such arms and accoutrements as they may have brought away with them, shall be exempted from any punishment; and those who neglect so to do shall be apprehended and sent under a guard to the camp, there to be tried; and in case of absconding, or concealing their arms, that they be advertised in the public news-papers, and the reward of three pounds offered for apprehending every such person: And every associator who shall hereafter desert his colours, shall be treated as those who have already deserted, and neglect to rejoin their respective corps, agreeable to this resolve.

Resolved 2. That the commanding officer of the companies or battalions of the militia of this state, who are now on their march to New-Jersey do apprehend all deserters they may meet on the road, and convey them under a guard to the camp.

Resolved 3. That notwithstanding the foregoing resolutions, it is not the intention of this convention to detain the militia unnecessarily from home; the associators are therefore assured, that as soon as the flying camp is formed, and the public safety will admit, they shall be permitted to return home.

Extract from the minutes, JOHN MORRIS, jun. secretary.

**From the NORWICH PACKET. To the PRINTER.**

Observing your inclination to have your paper entertaining and FREE, I find you Aristophanes's character of a sausage-maker, whom the abused Athenians had raised to be a prime minister, with monsieur Le Clerc's observations thereon—and as none but sausage-makers can take umbrage thereat, please to insert it in your useful paper, and you will oblige your reader,

SARCASTICUS.

ARISTOPHANES, in one of his comedies, introduces a chief person of his play endeavouring to persuade a man that made sausages to resolve upon meddling with affairs of state. The man was surprised at this discourse, and asked, why he would despite and laugh at a poor fellow who had never employed his thoughts or time in any thing but making sausages? Upon which the poet instructs his other person to speak thus: Behold all these ranks of people; you shall be a great leader and chief among them; you shall tread upon the senate, and tie up the hands of our rulers. Who, it? says the sausage-maker: Yes, you shall do it, quoth the other person. Get upon this table where you make your puddings, and look all about you: Do you see in that scene the custom-house, and all those ships that are laden there with merchandise? See them: Yes, says the fellow, what then? Why all those things shall be sold by you; the oracle says you shall be a very great man. How shall that be, for God's sake, cried the fellow, how shall I be a great man, that am but a pudding-maker? Because, said he, you are bold and wicked. But I think myself unworthy of greatness, said the fellow. What does that signify, answered the other? Do you think yourself a good man or an ill man? Nay, for that matter, said he, I am bad enough. I wish you joy, replied the other, you will find yourself so much the better qualified when you come to do business; for our commonwealth will shortly have nothing to do with men of learning and probity, but will be wholly governed by the ignorant, impure, and immoral: I therefore do not despise what the gods tell you by their oracles, which prophesy very great honours that will be done to persons of your trade. But how, said he, is it possible that I should govern the people? With all the ease in the world, answered the other: Do only what you are used to do: MIX, JUMBLE, DISTURB AND CONFOUND ALL MATTERS; feign and invent any thing to please and delude the rabble; for the rest you have a great many talents that are proper to gain their favours. You have a false tongue, and a mischievous unlucky understanding: You have some little smattering also in the law: in short, you have all the qualities that our republic wants at this time, and that are necessary to make you a very great person.

Monsieur Le Clerc, taking notice of this scene, says, the character was drawn for Cleon, who was a troublesome orator, an enemy to the best men of the country, and to the greatest rulers of that government. He says the poet very justly exposed this person in his play; who having never given the least proof of his sincerity, or love of his country, had yet made himself considerable, by affecting a false zeal for the interest of the people,

and by living at open variance with the nobility and the senate. Monsieur Le Clerc says further, that the Greek and Roman histories have many illustrious examples of great men, to whom the country had infinite obligations, ruined or banished; not for having been found guilty of any crime, but only for having been accused by such orators as this Cleon.

Those that fought the great employments, and were resolved to get them, had need, he says, but of two things; one was, to affect an air of popularity, which was easily enough maintained; the other was, to affirm any thing boldly that suited with the present taste of the multitude. Proved they had these two qualities, no vice, he says, of their own, could hurt them: It was no matter if they were ignorant, malicious, saucy, revengeful, violent, and cruel; they covered all these faults under the specious veil of zeal for the public good; their ready gift of speaking passed for sense and understanding in the minds of the multitude, who had still less knowledge than themselves. And though in reason they ought to have made themselves odious by the faithfulness of their accusations, the blind and credulous people did not find it out; but took their most envenomed passions for an extraordinary regard to the safety of the state. And doubtless it was this very same Cleon that Plutarch mentioned in his political precepts, who had a hundred heads of fawning flatterers licking about him, as the comedian speaks, and who debased himself to court the favour of the multitude, doing all things to humour them, and joining himself with the worst, and most DISTEMPLED of the people against the BEST.

**ANNAPOLIS, AUGUST 29.**

Extra of a letter from St. Pierre, dated August 1, 1776.

"Capt. Wickes has added much glory to the American flag. When entering this harbour, he fell in with the British ship Shark, capt. Chapman, a fine new vessel of equal force, that was dispatched, we hear, for the express purpose of intercepting him. An engagement immediately commenced, and was continued with spirit on both sides for about thirty minutes, when it terminated in the disgraceful and precipitate flight of the latter. Wickes then triumphantly entered this port, and landed amidst the acclamations and caresses of a multitude of people, who had been anxious spectators of the combat. There was not a man killed in this action on our side—on the other we know not what damage was sustained.—The very friendly and polite treatment capt. Wickes experienced from the governor will, I doubt not, be highly pleasing to the congress."

CAMP; Long-Island, July 13, 1776.

Dear brother;

WITH the greatest difficulty I have procured this small piece of paper to inform you of my being very well, notwithstanding the miserable situation we are in. We have been encamped on this island for this month past, and have lived upon nothing else but salt pork and pease—we sleep upon the sea shore, nothing to shelter us from the violent rains, but our coats, or miserable paltry blankets. There is nothing that grows upon this island, it being a mere sand bank, and a few bushes, which harbour millions of muskatoes, a greater plague than there can be in hell itself. By this sloop of war you will have an account of the action, which happened on the 28th of June, between the ships and the fort on Sullivan's Island; the cannonade continued for about nine hours, and was perhaps one of the briskest known in the annals of war: we had two fifty gun ships and five frigates, from twenty-four to thirty guns, playing upon the fort, I may say without success—for they did the battery no manner of damage, and killed only fifteen and wounded between forty and fifty—our ships are in the most miserable mangled situation you can imagine—the Adleon, a thirty gun frigate, run aground during the action, and as it was impossible to get her off, we were obliged to burn and blow her up. Our killed and wounded amount to betwixt two and three hundred—numbers die daily of their wounds—the commodore is wounded in two different places—his captain lost his left arm and right hand, and was wounded in different parts of the body; he lived but two days after the action—capt. Scott, of the Experiment of 50 guns, died of his wounds, and numbers of officers—if the ships could have silenced the battery, the army was to have made an attack on the back part of the island, where they had about one thousand men intrenched up to the eyes, besides a small battery of four guns, one eighteen pounder, and three four pounders, all loaded with grape shot, so that they would have killed half of us, before we could make our landing good. We are now expecting to embark for New-York to join gen. Howe with the grand army. My anxiety to inform you of bad news, had well nigh made me forget to mention our passage to Cape Fear, where we arrived safely the first of May, after a passage of three months. Though it was long, yet it was not disagreeable, after we got out of the bay of Biscay, where we met with the worst weather ever known at sea, and continued in that situation for sixteen days; after that time we had very fine weather all along; sometimes we were becalmed for four or five days together, not going above ten knots a day. Upon our arrival in Cape Fear we disembarked, and were encamped in the woods until the 27th of May, when we went on board again and sailed for this infernal place—the oldest of the officers do not remember of ever undergoing such hardships as we have done since our arrival here. I hope you will be so good as to watch every opportunity to let me hear from Mrs. Falconer and you, and at the same time to inform me how I shall do in case I shall be obliged to purchase my lieutenantancy. I beg you will make my excuse to my dear sister for not writing to her at this time—it is not owing to want of affection but to the want of proper materials—I am obliged to write on the ground—you will be so good as to let capt. Falconer know the same thing. I shall write again from New-York. I am, dear Sir, Your most affectionate brother,

WILLIAM FALCONER.

To the hon. Anthony Falconer, at Montrose, Scotland. The above letter was wrote by an officer in South-Carolina, and found on the island after embarkation.

In CONVENTION. Annapolis, August 27, 1776. RESOLVED, That an election of three delegates for Anne-Arundel county be held on Wednesday, the fourth of september next, at the city of Annapolis, by John

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