

...for whosoever, even for the commander in chief, are to be delivered to the provost-marshal, that, unread and unopened, they may be buried by the hands of the common hangman: At the same time the commander in chief expects, that neither the assassination of brigadier-general Gordon, nor the late notorious breach of faith, in resolving not to return the troops and Canadians taken at St. John's, in exchange for those rebels who fell into the hands of the savages at the Cedars and Quinchin, purchased from them at a great price, and restored to their country on those express conditions, be imputed to the Provincials at large, but to a few wicked and designing men, who first deceived, then step by step misled the credulous multitude to the brink of ruin, afterwards usurped authority over them, established a despotic tyranny over them not to be borne, and now wantonly and foolishly endeavour to provoke the spilling the blood of our unhappy countrymen of this continent, in hopes of covering their own guilt, or confirming their tyranny, by the general destruction of their country. Let their crimes pursue those faithless, bloody minded men, who assert that black is white, and white black; it belongs to Britons to distinguish themselves not less by their humanity than their valour; it belongs to the king's troops to save the blood of his deluded subjects, whose greatest fault perhaps is having been deceived by such men to their own destruction; it belongs to the crown, to rescue from oppression, and restore to liberty the once happy, free and loyal people of this continent.

All prisoners from the rebellious provinces, who choose to return home, are to hold themselves in readiness to embark at a short notice; the commissary, Mr. Murray, shall visit the transports destined for them, and see that whatsoever provisions necessary clothing, and all possible convenience for their passage, be prepared for these unfortunate men; they are to look on their respective provinces as their prison, and there remain till further enlarged, or summoned to appear before the commander in chief of this province, or any other commander in chief for his majesty, for the time being, which summons they shall obey.

Gen. Howe will regulate their place of landing.
E. FOY, deputy adjutant gen.
FRANCIS CARR, clerk,
Aid de camp to lieut. gen. Burgoyne.

(A true copy.)

Extra of a letter from New-York, dated August 26.

"On Saturday a letter was discovered, which was written by lieut. col. Zedwitz to Fryon; he says that, having consulted him, he had accepted a commission through necessity, and now commands part of the rebel army; that the discovery of Forbes and the mayor had like to have ruined his scheme; that he had been at gen. W——n's, who wanted him to translate an advertisement to be dispersed among the Hessians, the purport of which was, that he would give each deserter among them, if they would join our army, 500 acres of land, a horse, and a cow; and the land only, if they did not join our army; that a person at head-quarters could be prevailed on to give a weekly return of the number and state of our army for 4000. in hard money, and he was not to be discovered, even if Zedwitz left his life in the scheme; that he said he did not think 4000. would be given; but he would promise him 5000. that he, Zedwitz, was now lieutenant colonel, but daily expected a full commission, when he was to go and have the command of the forts up North-River, &c.—He was tried this morning, and confessed the writing, said he did it to deceive Fryon, and get some money which was due to him from the crown, for services performed in Germany. Sentence is not pronounced. Our people at Elizabeth-town, and the enemy at Staten-Island, cannonaded each other yesterday afternoon, without doing any damage, but disturbing the congregation."

Extra of a letter from an officer in col. Atlee's battalion, of Pennsylvania, August 27.

"Yesterday about 120 of our men went as a guard to a place called Red-Lyon, on Long-Island; about 11 o'clock at night the sentries descried two men coming up a water-melon patch, upon which our men fired upon them; the enemy then retreated, and about one o'clock advanced with about 2 or 300 men, and endeavoured to surround our guard; but they being watchful gave them two or three fires, and retreated to alarm the remainder of the battalion; except one lieutenant and about 15 men, who have not been heard of as yet. About four o'clock this morning the alarm was given, by beating to arms, when the remainder of our battalion, accompanied by the Delaware and Maryland battalions, went to the place where our men retreated from. About a quarter of a mile on this side, we saw the enemy when we got into the woods (our battalion being the advance guard) amidst the incessant fire of their field-pieces loaded with grape shot, which continued till ten o'clock. The Marylanders, on their left flank, and we, on their right, kept up a constant fire amidst all their cannon, and saw several of them fall; but they being too many for us we retreated a little, and then made a stand. Our lieut. col. Parry was shot through the head, and I was under the necessity of retreating with him to this place, in order to secure his effects, since which I have heard the enemy are within 600 yards of our lines; which I think will cost them some number of men before they gain them."

Extra of a letter from New-York, August 27.

"I sit down in the midst of confusion to tell you that our people have been engaged with the enemy, on Long-Island, all this morning, and are at it yet; we cannot get at particulars. Those who have come over say, the enemy have lost the most men. Lieut. col. Parry, of one of the Pennsylvania battalions, is killed; he died heroically, urging his men on against the enemy. Your kinsman, Hermanus Rutgers, was killed yesterday. Several of the enemies ships have attempted coming up this morning, but both wind and tide a-head, and they are hitherto baffled. Our men on the island behave bravely: Heaven send them victory.
"Thirty-five minutes past twelve noon. Firing still

It is impossible to conjecture what is meant, in this extraordinary production, by "the assassination of brigadier general Gordon," the public having never been informed of any thing concerning any such person.

continues with intermission. A man of war coming up laid to be the Roebuck, has just lost, by a flaw, all she gained last tack. Several fires have been kindled on the island. I believe our people set fire to hay, grain, &c. to prevent the enemy's getting possession of them. Capt. Farmer, of col. Miles's regiment, is slightly wounded in the foot, and brought to this city. I think some men of war will be up next tide.

"P. S. The first battalion of New York, colonel Lather, and the Pennsylvania and Maryland battalions, behaved with the greatest bravery, even to a fault: They were commanded by lord Sterling. I fear some of our bravest officers from the southward are among the slain. We forced the enemy into their lines. Parry is killed, capt. Farmer is slightly wounded, and major Abel of New-York, killed."

A letter from New-York, August 27, 8 o'clock, p. m.

"This minute returned from our lines, on Long-Island, where I left his excellency the general.—From him I have it in command to inform congress, that yesterday he went there, and continued till evening, when, from the enemy having landed a considerable part of their forces, and many of their movements, there was reason to apprehend they would make, in a little time, a general attack. As they would have a wood to pass through, before they could approach the lines, it was thought expedient to place a number of men there on the different roads, leading from whence they were stationed, in order to harass and annoy them on their march. This being done, early this morning a smart engagement ensued between the enemy and our detachment, which being unequal to the force they had to contend with, have sustained a pretty considerable loss, at least many of our men are missing, among those that have not returned are gen. Sullivan and lord Sterling. The enemy's loss is not known certainly, but we are told, that such of our troops as were in the engagement, and that have come in, say that they had many killed and wounded. Our party brought off a lieutenant, serjeant and corporal, with 20 privates, prisoners. While these detachments were engaged, a column of the enemy descended from the woods, and marched towards the center of our lines, with a design to make an impression, but were repulsed. This evening they appeared very numerous about the skirts of the woods, where they have pitched several tents; and his excellency inclines to think they mean to attack and force us from our lines by way of regular approaches, rather than in any other manner. To day five ships of the line came up towards the town, where they seem very desirous of getting, as they turned a long time against an unfavourable wind; and on my return this evening, I found a deserter from the 23d regiment, who informed me, that they design, as soon as the wind will permit them, to come up to give us a severe cannonade, and to silence our batteries, if possible."

Extra of a letter from Long-Island, Wednesday, day-break.

"I have the pleasure to inform you I have survived a very warm engagement yesterday. Our battalion has suffered much; a great number of both officers and men are killed and missing. We retreated through a very heavy fire, and escaped by swimming over a river, or creek rather; my height was of service to me, as I touched almost all the way. Numbers of men got drowned. I have lost no officer and but few men. Capt. Veazey and lieut. Butler fell early in the engagement. We are now all safe in our lines and forts. The affair yesterday was only a skirmish on the island, about three miles from our works. The particulars I cannot give you, but we were decoyed, and at once surrounded, I am convinced, with 10,000 men."

Extra of a letter from New-York, August 28.

"Yesterday proved a very distressing one on Long-Island.—Great numbers killed on both sides, and I fear (though we cannot get certain accounts) that numbers of our people are taken; however, I am told they continue in high spirits. The generals Sullivan, Sterling, and Parsons, went out of the lines too far, and were all missing this morning with many others. An intelligible man just now come over the ferry says, gen. Sullivan got in this morning, and brings an account that gen. Sterling is killed, but he don't know any thing of gen. Parsons. It appears as difficult getting certain intelligence here as it can be with you. On the whole, I believe our troops behaved with spirit, and have not yet given way in their skirmishing to any equal number of the enemy, and have kept them from getting up to their lines and forts, which are well manned to receive them, should they get so far. I believe the enemy have got all the force they can spare from Staten-Island on Long-Island."

Copy of a letter from New-York, Aug. 29, 5 o'clock, A. M.

"I am told the court martial divided about Zedwitz, and have sentenced him to be broke, and rendered for ever incapable of holding any military office, but I do not learn that the sentence has been confirmed by the general. It is a hard matter to get general intelligence from Long-Island. Every man's attention seems confined solely to his own regiment. I have a line from head quarters this morning, informing me that nothing of moment has turned up. There was a constant firing all yesterday afternoon, and till I went to bed last night; it appeared to be platoon firing, and now and then a field piece."

From sundry other letters from New-York we collect the following particulars.—that col. Grant, member of the house of commons, is killed, his hat with two bullet holes and marked with his name was found, also his gold watch; 'tis supposed the enemy had lost about 500 men; that there are about 300 of our men missing, and that gen. Parsons had returned safe into the fort with a few men; also that two frigates and a transport had got up to Brook-Haven, and were killing the cattle and salting them.

Extra of a letter from Skeinborough, August 28.

"By the last accounts from St. John's we learn, that the enemy had not more than 40 batteaux built, and two gallees or gondolas.—If this is true, I hardly think they will venture down the lake this fall.—We are determined however to be prepared for them.—Five other gallees are to be built here, as soon as those which are on the stocks are launched."

Extra of letters found concealed on board the ship Jane and Elizabeth, in which went passengers HAMSON, EVANS, &c.

"Should you receive no letters from any of col. Corbin's family, you must not impute it to want of regard or respect. They are all afraid to write, even to their brothers. It is impossible to tell you how much they are persecuted and afflicted. Your old shipmate is banished, and confined to a negro quarter, where he is in want of every necessary of life. His friends dare not go to see him, or even write to him: His poor father is under the greatest affliction, and his lady in a situation illy able to bear a separation from him. Oh! my friend, my own misfortunes seem lost, for a moment, in those of others. I know what it is to part with you, and I imagine every body must suffer what I do on the like occasion. Surely we feel as much, and often more, for others than we do for ourselves. One thing, however, every body but myself can hope for a return of their happiness.—mine is gone for ever; and when I see them all happy around me once more, then again I shall have leisure to lament my own misfortunes. When Mr. Corbin took his trial, he made his defence exceedingly spirited and clever; and had it been spoken before sensible or good men, it must have done honour to him, but I am sorry to say there are few such among my countrymen; and our convention does not particularly abound with them, consisting chiefly of the lowest class of people. The provincials depend on their numbers, and on the mean opinion the English entertain of their prowess, which they are in hopes will lull them into security, and by that means they will gain the victory. They are, besides, in great expectations of the French joining them. The destruction of Norfolk was partly owing to the party rage that so long subsisted among them (the whigs, Sampson like, destroyed themselves with their enemies) and partly to an unfortunate manoeuvre of I. D.—re.

"Banishment and confiscation are now become common, and your family seem marked out for their vengeance. J. T. C. is now under sentence of banishment for only two unlucky words, *sat verbum*, in a letter wrote seven months before. The hon. Mr. W. was seized by a party of 200 men, and his confidential papers taken from him and exposed, only for writing a letter to Mr. J. G.—s, giving his reasons for not attending I. D.—re. C. N.—n is also banished to the back counties. I could tell you many horrible tales, but fear I have said too much.

"All her (i. e. your sister's) amusements are at an end; her books, her shells, and her paints, are thrown by as useless things, and her spinning-wheel employs the chief of her time. Nothing but melancholy reigns in that once peaceful and happy family. Even your natural cheerfulness, would forget to sing, or whistle any other than a psalm tune. Their nearest relations have forsaken them, either through fear or want of affection, and it is from strangers they must hope for and claim protection. The gentlemen that are indebted to your father have not honour or generosity enough to pay even the interest of what they owe, and by that means they cannot get common necessaries. Indeed they are every way distressed, and there is no family in the country more to be pitied than they are. It may truly be said they live in as much dread and fear as the Turkish Spy did at Paris."

ANNAPOLIS, SEPTEMBER 5.

Extra of a letter from New-York, dated Aug. 28, 1776.

YESTERDAY morning the enemy stole through the wood I mentioned to you in my last, our men were posted in; it is so extensive, we could not sufficiently guard it; they have gained a little ground, but have bought it almost as dear as they did Bunker's-hill. Our army, at least that small part that was engaged, behaved most manfully, they as it were surrounded our people, and we were obliged to fight our way through them; col. Smallwood's battalion has gained immortal honour, he was not with it himself, lord Sterling commanded it and the Delaware battalion, as part of his brigade; they fought the enemy treble in number, in open field, several hours, till at last, surrounded on the side of a small creek, they were obliged to make the best retreat they could; most of them swam the creek; lord Sterling, at the head of three companies, attempted to force his way through the enemy. Captains Bowie, Veazey, lieutenants Steret, Wright, Courfey, Dent, Butler, Praul, ensigns Furnandes, Courts, are missing, and about 150 men of Smallwood's battalion. The officers give lord Sterling the character of as brave a man as ever lived; we are very sorry for his loss, and are fearful that he is killed, from the danger he was seen in. Gen. Sullivan is likewise missing, and many other officers, with about three hundred men; however we are still in hopes of seeing many of them, as they are constantly coming in, having got round through the country; gen. Parsons has come in the same way, after being out till this morning.

I assure you there has been severe work on both sides—our people who have come in say, the fields and woods are covered with dead bodies, and a deserter informs, the enemy have lost near six hundred men. I have the pleasure to inform you, among their slain is gen. Grant, lately col. Grant, of the house of commons, who gave the Americans the character of cowards. Gen. Parsons saw his body, but the soldier who killed him and got his papers, &c. is missing. The enemy once attempted to force our lines, but were repulsed, and are now encamped about a mile from us.

Col. Smallwood and col. Ware were necessarily detained here on a court-martial for the trial of col. Zedwitz, who is sentenced to be broke, and rendered incapable of ever holding any military office.

Extra of another letter from New-York, of the same date.

AS I expected, we had a general attack on Long-Island yesterday. The day before, our battalion, with the Delaware battalion, cross'd over. The next morning, before day-light, the alarm guns on Coobleskill fort fired; lord Sterling's brigade (to which we belonged) were under arms, and ordered to march down the island about four miles, to engage a party of the enemy that had landed the night before, and were marching towards our lines. About sun-rise we were formed in line of battle, the enemy doing the same in front of us. They tried to surround us, but a detachment of our men repulsed them with considerable loss. They did

not attend... raked us... by which... my in gen... and had to... retreated... were attack... bers were f... 300 men, l... gade cross... The major... never to f... with the m... got stuck i... general; w... him ride t... Captain V... Wright F... of our batt... lieve. Our... fortitude b... such raw t... well. Cap... companies... could not... and killed... Gen. Sulliv... vaunting g... papers the... the lines... sort, but w... another att... movements... Major G... ther he wa... that he wa... I have o... so can't be... of the cann... attack is b...

Extra of

YOU w... particular... troops and... formation... are in the... ing not y... gence. F... I can colle... it appears... troops on... vantageou... and havin... some dista... heavy colu... morning o... vanced gu... column, m... ed a fire, r... of the first... Delaware... mand of ge... enemy, a... had retreat... distance, t... poffe, surro... ment enfor... to our tr... Island; th... galled on... tillery in... hours; ho... cing proof... taiged con... superior nu... well as the... was pushed... parties. O... some 300... wounded... both missi... ington, T... Miles and... ligen... killed, who... enemy, upo... of a very... ment.—Sm... distinguish... the most re... ament of t... as became... their righ... powered a... them on a... battalion b... through; th... proved fata... but presum... much expo... field for a... nant hutler... hear of any... or taken... had got in... Since this... wishes betw... which we h... to each oth... general en...

By the p... formed, th... treated fro... most of the... enemy wer... possession b... camp at L... divan are b... lost 1000 m... They sent... two missi... so that the... lost 100 me... our whole l...