

38. The future legislature of this state shall regulate entails in such a manner as to prevent perpetuities.

39. The penal laws, as heretofore used, shall be reformed by the future legislature of this state, as soon as may be, and punishments made, in some cases less sanguinary, and in general more proportionate to the crimes. In the mean time the laws shall remain in full force as they now stand, except such as declare any allegiance to the king of Great Britain, or vest any authority in the proprietors or late governor of this state, or which are in any wise repugnant to or inconsistent with this constitution.

40. Houses ought to be erected for punishing by hard labour those who are guilty of crimes not capital, wherein the criminals shall be employed for the benefit of the public, or for reparation of injuries done to private persons.

41. No man, or set of men, of any denomination or profession, are intitled to particular privileges or exemptions from punishment for offences; therefore the words "without benefit of clergy," where the punishment is death, ought to be hereafter disused in legislation, and the punishments inflicted that shall be directed by law.

42. All officers shall take an oath or affirmation to endeavour to preserve this constitution inviolate, and together with the oath or affirmation pertaining to the office.

43. No money or goods shall be raised upon or paid by any of the people of this state, by way of public tax, custom or contribution, except by a law made for that purpose; and before any law be made for raising it, the purpose for which any tax is to be raised, ought to appear clearly to the legislature to be of more service to the community than the money would be, if not collected, which being well observed, taxes can never be burthens.

44. Every foreigner of good character, who comes to settle in this state, having first taken an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the same, may purchase, or by other just means acquire and hold land or other real estates; and after one year's residence, shall be deemed a free denizen thereof, and entitled to all the rights of a natural born freeman of this state, except that he shall not be capable of election as a representative until after two years residence.

45. The inhabitants of this state shall have liberty to sow and hunt, in seasonable times, on the lands they hold, and on all other lands therein not inclosed; and in like manner to fish in all boatable waters, and others not private property.

46. A school or schools shall be established in each county by the legislature, for the convenient instruction of youth, with such salaries to the masters, paid by the public, as may enable them to instruct youth at low prices: and all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities.

47. Laws for the encouragement of virtue and prevention of vice and immorality shall be made and constantly kept in force, and provision shall be made for their due execution.

48. No article of the declaration of rights of this state ought ever to be violated on any pretence whatever.

49. In order that the freedom of the commonwealth may be preserved inviolate for ever, there shall be chosen by ballot, on the first Monday in October, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, and on the first Monday in October in every seventh year thereafter, two persons in the city of Philadelphia, and two in each county of this state, to be called the council of censors, who shall meet together on the second Monday of November next ensuing their election, the majority of whom shall be a quorum, and whose duty it shall be to enquire whether the present constitution has been preserved inviolate in every part? And whether the legislative or executive branches of government have performed their duty as guardians of the people, or assumed to themselves or exercised other or greater powers than they are intitled to by this present constitution. They are also to enquire whether the public taxes have been justly laid and collected in all parts of the commonwealth; in what manner the public monies have been disposed of, and whether the laws have been duly executed. For these purposes they shall have power to send for persons, papers and records; they shall have authority to pass public censures, to order impeachments, and to recommend to the legislature the repealing such laws as appear to them to have been enacted contrary to the principles of the constitution. These powers they shall continue to have for and during the space of one year from the day of their election, and no longer. The said council of censors shall also have power to order the calling a convention to meet within two years after their sitting, if there appear to them an absolute necessity of amending any article of this constitution, which may be defective, explaining such as may be thought not clearly expressed, and of adding such as are necessary for the preservation of the rights and happiness of the people: but the articles to be amended, and the amendments proposed, and such articles as are proposed to be added or abolished, shall be promulgated at least six months before the day appointed for the election of such convention, for the previous consideration of the people, that they may have an opportunity of instructing their delegates on the subject.

L O N D O N, June 3.

A gentleman who arrived on Friday from the Hague says, "the people there, who have money in the English funds, begin to be very uneasy about the fate of it. They apprehend, that by next summer the Americans will have totally thrown off their dependency on England, consequently the credit of the nation will be lost, and the stocks sink to nothing. He declared he was commissioned by twenty capital people to draw their money out for them, and send it over."

June 26. Something very interesting is certainly at this moment in agitation, between our court and that of France. Lord Stormont has carried over a very sharp remonstrance, on the disingenuous proceedings of the latter, which have not yet transpired; however, in all probability the next mail will make the whole affair public.

Lady Stormont accompanied his lordship to France; they embarked in the utmost haste at Dover, on Sunday morning last at two o'clock.

Yesterday advice was received from governor Carleton, at Quebec, that gen. Burgoyne, with most of the ships that sailed with him, is safe arrived there; that

they were very plentifully supplied with provisions, and all in good health and spirits, and under the apprehensions of a further attack from the provincial army.

This morning some dispatches were received at lord George Germain's office from Virginia, but the particulars are not as yet made public.

The plan of operations laid down for the king's forces the ensuing campaign, is to attack the provincials on the back settlements, and the shipping at the same time to annoy the towns on the coast, whereby it is expected to cut them out more work than all the hands they have will be able to do.

The last dispatches from Versailles, we hear, contain the most positive assurances of the friendly disposition of that court towards Great-Britain, both in respect to our disputes with the American colonies, and the new arrangements his most christian majesty has thought fit to make in administration of public affairs.

On Thursday last arrived at Spithead, the transport with the Waldeck troops on board; and they are preparing for their immediate departure for America.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, June 23.

"Saturday night arrived at Spithead 16 sail of transports from Bremerlebe, with the last division of Hessian troops, amounting to 1500, who are all well; and this morning four transports from the Downs arrived at Spithead, which we hear are the last. We have now four men of war, four frigates, and several small armed vessels, who are to convoy the transports to America, which amount to about 60 sail in all, and are all ready to sail at an hour's notice."

Extract of a letter from Amsterdam, May 20.

"Since the beginning of March to the present time, no less than seven vessels have failed, and three are up, and will sail in eighteen days hence for Surinam, and other Dutch settlements, all loaded with German and Polish emigrants, to settle there, most of whom would have gone for British America, had it not been for the present disturbances."

Extract of a letter from Paris, June 15.

"It is said, that the ambassadors from Spain, Portugal and England, are to have a meeting with our ministers at Versailles, in order to endeavour to settle matters between Spain and Portugal, upon an amicable footing. A marriage is even said to be on foot between the princess Elizabeth, sister of the king, and the prince de Eira, of Portugal."

B O S T O N, Sept. 2.

At a general court marshal, held at Ticonderoga, the 26th day of July, 1776, by order of the hon. major general Gates.

Colonel Poor, President.

M E M B E R S.

The four eldest Colonels, the four eldest Lieutenant Colonels, and four eldest Majors of the northern army.

Captain Wentworth was brought before the court, and accused of "refusing to go on duty, when regularly warned by the adjutant of the regiment to which he belonged."

The court having considered the evidences, were of opinion, that capt. Wentworth was guilty—and sentenced him to be cashier'd, and advertiz'd in the public papers, as having wilfully neglected his duty, with a view of being discharged the service.

Agreeable to this sentence, Jonathan Wentworth, of Somersworth, in Strafford county, New-Hampshire, late captain in col. Poor's regiment, is published to the world as a scoundrel, guilty of neglecting his duty evidently with a design of obtaining a discharge from the service of his country.—A crime till this day unheard of!

His countrymen, 'tis hoped, will treat him with the contempt merited by so infamous a conduct.

By the general's order,
JOHN TRUMBULL,
deputy adjutant general of the northern army.

Head Quarters, Ticonderoga, Aug. 25, 1776.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, Sept. 17.

In C O N G R E S S, Sept. 14, 1776.

Resolved, That all continental troops and militia going home from service, restore all continental arms and other property, and also all ammunition remaining in their possession at the time of their being about to return; their pay to be withheld until they produce certificates from the commissary of stores, or quarter-master general, or their deputies in the department where such continental troops or militia shall serve. And if any continental property or ammunition be carried away by the militia before this Resolve, stoppages to be made from such as have not received their pay, and that measures be taken with those who have been paid by the council of safety or legislatures of each state, for the restoration of such continental property and ammunition.

By order of Congress,
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

On Friday last arrived here from Martinico, the continental ship of war the Reprisal, Lambert Weeks, Esq; commander. On board of said ship came passengers several French officers, who we hear are strongly recommended to the honorable the congress by the governor of Martinico. One of them it is said is an accomplished engineer.

The honourable continental congress have promoted the colonels Gaddis and Moultrie, of South-Carolina, and colonel Macintosh, of Georgia to the rank of brigadiers general.

On Thursday evening and Friday morning the honourable Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge, Esquires, returned to this city from Staten Island, where they spent three hours in a conference with lord Howe, upon the subject of his propositions to the congress. We hear that his lordship possesses no other powers to accommodate the dispute between Great-Britain and the United States than those mentioned in the act of the British parliament for appointing commissioners to grant pardons, &c.

Since our last vessel arrived in this port with 2000 bushels of salt. The whole of it was immediately

bought up by a respectable merchant of this city, who is now selling it out in small quantities, at a very moderate advance, for the benefit of the public.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the country.

"Though absent I have not been unmindful of the great matters committed to our charge; it is indeed no less than to determine whether the inhabitants of this state shall be many or few, happy or miserable. If they are happy they will be numerous; but if by any contracted notions, or for want of the true spirit of government, we cramp our constitution in some of the most essential points, in order to please bigots, either to the world or religion, we may without the spirit of prophecy foretel, that the future inhabitants of this land will be few, and those few poor and despicable. I most heartily wish that some men of very good sense amongst us could unfetter themselves from the shackles of education, I will however make great allowances for those unaccountable prejudices."

Sept. 18 The following papers are published by order of congress.

Extract of a letter from general Washington to the president of congress, dated New-York August 28, 1776.

I have the honour to inclose you for the perusal and consideration of congress, sundry papers, the whole of which, except No. 2 and 7, I received yesterday evening by a flag, and to which I beg leave to refer congress."

"Sir
"August 17, 1776.
"Being deeply interested in the welfare of America, I think it my duty to communicate a matter of intelligence, which I flatter myself may be rendered conducive to the restoration of a desirable peace. And in this view I request your excellency's permission to land at New-York, to go directly to Philadelphia, in order to lay the same before the general congress."

"In the course of a conversation I have had with lord Howe, I perceive that the powers he is vested with, as well as his disposition for establishing an equitable and permanent peace, are altogether misunderstood by the colonies."

"For in consequence of a sketch of some propositions being offered for his consideration, he very frankly assured me he was willing to confer upon those grounds with any gentlemen of the greatest influence in this country."

"As I am at liberty to declare his sentiments, I have the honour to inclose for your excellency's information a copy of my correspondence with his lordship, and of the propositions referred to in his letter, which are the motives of my present request."

"Attending in the boat to be indulged with your answer, I have the honour to be, your excellency's most humble servant,
DRUMMOND.
General Washington, &c. &c. &c."

"My Lord,
New-York, August 17, 1776.
"I have your lordship's favour of this day, accompanied by papers on subjects of the greatest moment, and deserving the most deliberate consideration."

"I can allow much for your lordship's well meant zeal on such an occasion, but I fear it has transported you beyond that attention to your parole, which comprehends the character of a man of strict honour, how your lordship can reconcile your past or present conduct, with your engagement, so as to satisfy your own mind, I must submit to your own feelings, but I find myself under the disagreeable necessity of objecting to the mode of negotiating proposed, while your lordship's line of conduct appears so exceptionable."

"I shall by express forward to congress your lordship's letter, and the papers which accompanied it. The result will be communicated as soon as possible. I am sorry to have detained your lordship so long, but the unavoidable necessity must be my apology. I am, my lord, your lordship's most obedient and very humble servant.
G. WASHINGTON.

"Lord Drummond,"
"My Lord,
"I take the liberty of sending inclosed the sketch of propositions, referred to in my late conversation with your lordship, which propositions, I have understood, the colonies were disposed, not many months ago, to make the basis of a reconciliation with Great-Britain. I have the honour to be, with great respect, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,
Sloop Polly, Aug. 12, 1776. DRUMMOND.
To Lord Howe."

SKETCH OF PROPOSITIONS communicated to Lord Howe, on the 12th of August, 1776.

1. "That it shall be ascertained, as far as can be determined by calculation, what supply towards the general exigency of the state each separate colony can furnish, consistent with its ability."
2. "When such supply is thus ascertained, that each colony shall, by acts of its own assembly, impose such taxes as they shall find expedient for the raising of the said supply."
3. "In consideration of the fluctuating state of all young countries, that such taxes may not, in their operations, become partially or accidentally burthensome on the one hand, nor on the other hand gradually become deficient in producing the aid intended by the colonies towards the general exigency of the state, such articles shall be chosen, as the objects of imposition, as they shall deem the most likely to keep pace with the growth or decline of the said colonies."
4. "That these taxes, so imposed, shall, as in the customs, be levied by officers of the appointment of the king; and that a perpetual grant, of the produce of these taxes, shall be made by the respective assemblies to the crown of Great-Britain."
5. "As the direct means of removing the fatal grounds of this contention, by establishing a security against the apprehended invasion of property, by parliament, a formal relinquishment shall be made, on the part of Great-Britain, of all future claim to taxation over these her colonies."
6. "To remove all future suspicions from the minds of the colonists, that under the appearance of retaining commerce, duties may be imposed for the further purposes of revenue, an application of the produce of duties imposed on articles of trade by the British parliament, shall be made towards defraying the expenses of the separate treasuries, and to be subject to the disposal of the respective houses of assembly."