

or upon what foundation of justice, can more be demanded? This has been proposed, or what is the most clearly implied in the first article, or of what made by lieutenant-col. Harrison, and illiberal non sense. Painsful as it is, I am compelled to consider, as a fact not to be questioned, that the wages of prisoners whilst in your possession, the private as well as the concurrent testimony of all who came out in appearance sanctified the assertion—and melancholy stamped it with infallible certainty.

In respect to the second article insisted on, the discriminating major general Lee from other officers belonging to the American army, demanded particular attention. I was authorized to consider from your laying him under particular restraints, and your letter of the 23d of January last, that you considered him in a singular point of view; and to exclude him from the common rights of officers; and to treat him as a private soldier, and nothing more. This other inference to be drawn from it. It was a proposition was made since his captivity, to give a number of officers of inferior rank in exchange for him; but it was not claimed as a matter of right. What name then does that proceeding merit, which it is suggested that the immediate relief of Lee had been demanded, without having an officer of equal rank to give for him? The suggestion is not supported by the most tortured expositions, will it have credit where candor is deemed a virtue, words preserve their form and meaning.

The charge of delay in not returning the prisoners in our hands—the dispersed situation of those in a more early period of the war, through the different states, arising from the circumstances of their captivity, and a regard to their better accommodations, and their detention for a considerable time unacquainted with the agreement subsisting between us, and the speediest directions were given to have them exchanged, that an exchange might be effected. This done in part, and at a juncture when motives of expediency opposed the measure, but were made to yield to the maxims of good faith. We were pursuing the exchange, and continued our exertions to accomplish the miserable appearance, indicating an approaching catastrophe, of those sent out by you, made proper. For seeing that a difficulty might arise, that it might be expected I should account for the loss of them, which I by no means thought expedient became necessary that the matter should be settled, and the due proportion settled, for which I am to be responsible, before any thing further could be done on my part. Upon this ground stands the notion of those who have been since captured. Added to these considerations—the discrimination in the instance of gen. Lee, is to be regarded as irreconcilable to the tenor of our agreement, and an insurmountable obstacle to a compliance with demands.

I, Sir, have I explained the motives of my conduct, I trust, vindicated myself, in the eye of mankind, from the improper and groundless charges against you, and the gentlemen acting by your authority, been pleased to allege against me. If in doing so I have departed in the smallest degree from that character, which I always wished should form a part of my character, you will remember I have been forced to recrimination, and that it has become an act of every justice.

I now declare it to be my ardent wish, that an exchange may take place on generous and liberal principles, as far as it can be effected, and that the intent subsisting between us for that purpose should be fully observed; and I call upon you, by every notion of good faith, to remove all impediments in the way to the accomplishment of it. If however you do not consent, I console myself with a hope, that those who are now in your hands, whole lot it is to be your prisoners, will be your sufferers with becoming fortitude and magnanimity. I am, Sir, with due respect, your most humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.
 Excellency gen. Sir William Howe. (City)
 Published by order of Congress,

my will arise from the militia taking the field, induct the council to wait as long as may be consistent with the safety of the state, before they call them to arms. In justice therefore to yourselves and posterity, we treat you to an essay—for whenever the time shall come wherein you must either tamely submit yourselves to the immediate insults of haughty tyrants, whose lust and avarice will make a prey of every thing which human beings, while they retain their senses, esteem worth possessing—or bravely determine to oppose your enemies in the field—the notice will be short—the call must and will be sudden—and it is too probable may happen in a few days.

The militia of this state, it is feared, cannot be arranged under the law in time for the present emergency—yet we have not the least doubt but that the same spirit of liberty which blazed forth in the winter campaign, will animate every virtuous breast to act once more on the same generous principles which, in the depth of winter, led you forward to a harvest of glory on the hills of Princeton. The cause is the same. And the prize we contend for, far from losing its lustre, is become more valuable to us by the price which we have already paid for it.

Those who shall go into the field on the present occasion, will be considered as having taken their tour of duty, and will not be called upon again until the whole militia of the state shall have served in turn, agreeable to the spirit of the militia law.

Congress propose to form a camp near the city of Philadelphia, to which the militia of Pennsylvania will, when called upon, repair. Arms, tents, and the necessary camp equipage, are provided, and the utmost attention will be given to the measures necessary to make a spring campaign as agreeable to you as possible.

It is on your own virtue and firmness, next to the care and protection of Heaven, that you must depend for your liberty and safety; and a spirited conduct, in this time of danger, will fix your character both at home and abroad.

THOMAS WHARTON, jun. president.

APRIL 16.
Pennsylvania war-office, April 13, 1777.
 THIS board think it their duty to publish a letter received from Mr. Henry Fisher, at Lewistown, by the honourable the navy board of this state, as it is of importance at this critical period, that all the inhabitants be made acquainted as early as possible of the approaches of the enemy, that they may be guarded against a surprize, and every necessary precaution taken for the defence and security of this state.

By order of the board of war,
OWEN BIDDLE, chairman.

Lewistown, April 13.
 Gentlemen,
 Yesterday morning the ship Morris, capt. Anderson, was chased into the mouth of our bay by a frigate, the Roebuck, laying in the road, made sail after her. Capt. Anderson run his ship on shore about half a mile from the light house, the two ships continually firing at him, and he returned the fire for near three hours in the most brave and gallant manner. The ships sent three boats which were beat off by the Morris. Capt. Anderson landed his packet for the congress, which I have sent up by two French gentlemen, when sending he could defend her so long, he laid a train, and blew the ship up, and I am sorry to tell you that so brave a man has fell in the attempt. The mate and fourteen of the crew are safe on shore. The scene was horrible to behold. The cargo is in part blown on shore, viz. guns, cloaths, gunlocks, &c. &c. We have a number of men employed in saving the cargo. The Roebuck is now in the road, and two frigates at anchor upon the lower part of the Brown. There has been a second flag from the Roebuck. The officer says, they expect their whole squadron in shortly; and should they arrive, I will give you the earliest advice in my power. I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,
HENRY FISHER.

P. S. After writing the wishin, the two ships that lay at the Brown are making sail up the bay, the wind at N. N. E. therefore sent the alarm.

And the following intelligence is received this day, asserted by Henry Fisher, and express sent to Bombay Hook, to Benjamin Brooks, and from him to James Cameron, at Port-Penn, certifying that there are nine of the enemies ships of war in Delaware, viz. three in Whore-Kill road, three at the Middle, three at the Narrows.

Signed,
BENJAMIN BROOKS,
JAMES CAMERON.

Twelve o'clock, Monday the 14th.

Published by order of the board,
OWEN BIDDLE, chairman.

ANNAPOLIS, APRIL 24.
 On Sunday last the House of Delegates of this state adjourned to the second day of June next, and the Senate to the 18th day of August next, after having passed twenty-four laws, a list of which follow.

1. An act for laying the levy in Anne Arundel county.
2. An act to prevent desertion.
3. An act to promote the recruiting service.
4. An act to expedite the march of troops in and through this state.
5. An act to direct the forms of the commissions to the judges and justices, and civil officers of this state, and the oath of office to be taken by the governor, the chancellor, the judges, justices, and all civil officers of this state.
6. An act to direct in what manner all fines, forfeitures and penalties, shall be recovered, and in what manner fines, forfeitures, penalties and amerciaments, shall be applied.
7. An act relating to the public buildings in Harford county.
8. An act to establish orphan courts in the several counties of this state.
9. An act to make the bills of credit issued by congress, and the bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly, and resolves of the late conventions, a legal tender in all cases.
10. An act for the erecting barracks.

11. An act to revive the proceedings of Frederick county court.
12. An act concerning marriages.
13. An act for the more speedy and effectual recovery of common law fines and forfeited recognizances.
14. An act for quartering soldiers.
15. An act to open the courts of justice and for other purposes.
16. An act to enable the governor to issue commissions of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery, in certain cases.
17. An act to continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned.
18. An act concerning duties.
19. An act for holding an election for sheriffs in Somerset county, and to enable the governor and council to determine the validity of elections for sheriffs.
20. An act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of torjism.
21. An act to assess and impose an equal tax on all property within this state.
22. An act relating to the assessment of property in this state.
23. An act for the payment of the journal of accounts.
24. An act for enlarging the powers of the governor and council.

By the GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.
 April 19, 1777.

Resolved, That the justices of the several county courts of this state, or any three or more of them, may meet at the place of holding their respective county courts on the third Tuesday in May next, and may then and there elect and qualify the clerk of their court, and nominate constables and overseers of the road for their counties; but this resolve is not to extend to prevent any court, whose proceedings have been aided by acts of this session, from appointing their clerk or constable at their meeting, in virtue of such act.

Resolved, That the judges of the general court be, and they or any one or more of them are hereby empowered to meet, on the first Tuesday in June next, at the city of Annapolis, and on the third Tuesday in June next, at Talbot court-house, to appoint and qualify their clerks.

By order,
G. DUVALL, Cl. H. D.

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secret and traitorous conspiracies, and will please most endeavours to disclose and make known to the governor, or some one of the judges or justices, all treasons or traitorous conspiracies, attempts, or combinations, against this state or the government thereof, which may come to my knowledge. So help me God.

And be it enacted, That if any person now holding any office of trust or profit, shall not, within three months after the end of this present session, take, repeat, and subscribe, the same oath, or affirmation if a Quaker, Mennonist, or Dunker, he shall be, ipso facto, disqualified to hold such office, and the office of such person shall be filled agreeable to its institution.

WHEREAS several persons, late inhabitants of this state, have, since the 14th day of August, 1775, deserted the defence of this country in the present just and necessary war.

Be it enacted, That no person whatsoever, who has deserted as aforesaid, or any person who since the said time hath left this state without leave, shall at any time hereafter (unless he returns to this state within twelve months and during the present war, and takes and subscribes the oath of fidelity aforesaid, within ten days after his return) be capable of holding any office of trust or profit within this state; nor shall any person now a resident of this state, who hath refused or neglected to subscribe the association, and shall not take the said oath of fidelity, on or before the first day of August next, be capable of holding any office as aforesaid: PROVIDED always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to such persons who from religious principles have not subscribed, or shall not subscribe the association.

By order,
G. DUVALL, Cl. H. D.

By his EXCELLENCY THOMAS JOHNSON, Esq;
 GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND.

A PROCLAMATION.
 WHEREAS the general assembly have requested me to issue my proclamation, commanding all militia officers to train and discipline their several corps according to the resolutions of the several late conventions of this state. Wherefore I have issued this my proclamation, hereby requiring and commanding all militia officers to train and discipline their several corps according to the resolutions of the several late conventions.

Given at Annapolis this 21st day of April, 1777.
THO. JOHNSON,
 By his Excellency's command,
R. RIDGELY, Sec.
 GOD save the STATE.

In COUNCIL, April 24, 1777.
 THE general assembly having impowered the governor, with the advice of the council, to contract with any person or persons to furnish rations or provisions, either at a certain price for the ration, or by allowing an adequate reward for the trouble such contractor may be at in procuring and furnishing such provisions for the continental troops, while in this state, and the artillery companies and other troops in the pay and service of this state, for the particular defence thereof; every person who is desirous of contracting to furnish the troops in either manner, is requested to send in his proposals in writing, sealed up and directed to the clerk of the council, on or before the third day of June next, all which are intended to be opened and compared the morning following, and the preference given to the best offer.

R. RIDGELY, Clk. Co.

Alexandria, April 17, 1777.
 THE death of Mr. John Dalton dissolving the partnership of Carlyle and Dalton, there will be sold at public sale, in Alexandria, on Monday the 18th of May, being Fairfax court day, eight NEGRO men; six of them are good smiths, and have served regular times to the trade; they do all kinds of ship and planters work, shoe horses, &c. one understands a good deal of gun work and making nails; one of the others is a waterman and pilot in the river and bay, the other a plantation Negro. At the same time will be sold four complete sets of smiths tools, reel, old and new iron, two large tobacco flats, one of 45 hogheads, the other of 25 hogheads, with their rigging, sails, &c. The terms of sale to be agreed upon on the day of sale.

EIGHT DOLLARS REWARD.
Annapolis, April 18, 1777.
DESERTED from the ship DEFENCE, some time ago, BENJAMIN HOBBS, and was seen in this city the 16th instant: He is a thick, well-made fellow, about four feet five inches high, of a swarthy complexion, black hair that curls behind; had on a black jacket and a hunting-shirt under it, a pair of trousers, old stockings and shoes. Whoever takes up said Hobbs, and delivers him to the ship, shall be intitled to the above reward; and should the ship not be in the state, to be put on board some of the gallees.

GEO. COOK.

Port-Tobacco, April 16, 1777.
DESERTED from capt. Joseph Marbury's company, of col. Mordecai Giff's regiment, a certain ADAM RAINE, a well-made fellow, about twenty years of age, five feet seven or eight inches high; had on, when he deserted, a light coloured coat and osnabrig trousers which are much tarred, being a ship carpenter by trade. Whoever takes up the said man and delivers him to the subscriber, or secures him, so that I may get him again; shall receive a reward of eight dollars.

JOSEPH MARBURY.

April 19, 1777.
WENT adrift the 15th inst. from the sloop MOLLY, while aground on St. Thomas's point, a little below Annapolis, a black boat of about fifty bushels burthen, sealed tight for carrying wheat, and had a good deal of loose wheat in her bottom; there were about three fathom of threeshirt rope to her when she went adrift, with three oars. Whoever takes up the said boat, and delivers her to Mr. John Shaw in Annapolis, or to the subscriber, living on Wicomico river, in Charles county, shall receive a reward of 100.

EDW. SMOOT.