

frigates all armed and ready to sail on the shortest notice.

March 5. Altho' it is known that before the end of next April we shall have 50 ships of the line ready to sail; yet it is hoped the king will not give up his design of keeping peace. It is said that the Count d'Artois is to make a tour to England soon.

L O N D O N, February 14.

The Asia capt. Vandeput, is arrived off Plymouth, and gen. Clinton came passenger in her.

A letter from capt. Flynn of the Sovereign, dated at Rhode-Island the 4th ult. says that the King Fisher sloop had arrived there two days before from New-York, by which they were informed that our army were within a day's march of Philadelphia; that 800 of the Hessians had been taken prisoners and rescued by a party of our soldiers, who, in return, took 7 or 800 of the rebels.

Extra of a letter from Portsmouth, March 10.

"This day, at eight minutes before one o'clock, was executed on the common, opposite Cock Lane, for the setting fire to Portsmouth dock yard, John the painter, as he is called, on a gibbet near 60 feet high, which I believe is the highest ever erected in England; it was the mizen-mast of the Arethusa man of war."

The "Fine Fellow," as John the painter called Mr. Silas Deane, was one of the two deputies to the congress from Connecticut, in New-England; who was deputed by the congress to transact certain affairs for them at Paris.

March 13. Dr. Franklin (says a correspondent) is certainly set out, or on the point of setting out, upon a journey to Vienna.

However the people of France may be disposed, there is nothing more certain, than that the king continues immutable in his resolutions of peace, and has frequently spoke of American perfidy with evident marks of indignation.

Yesterday instructions were signed by his majesty, for gen. Sir Wm. Howe, in America, and sent off express to Portsmouth, where a ship is ready to sail with them the first fair wind.

Scarcely a sloop or frigate but what is under repair, is to be seen at either of the dock-yards, the American service having taken up the whole.

On the trial of John the painter, commissioner Gambier produced an exact translation of his passport, which was read in court, and is as follows: "To all governors and lieutenant-generals of our provinces and armies, governors particular, and commanders of our towns, places and troops, and to all other our officers judiciary, and subjects to whom it may or shall belong, Health.

"We will and command you, very expressly, to let pass safely and freely, Mr. James Aiven, going to England, without giving him, or suffering him to have any hindrance, but, on the contrary, every aid and assistance that he shall want, or have occasion for. This present passport to be valid for one month only, for such is our pleasure.

"Given at Fontainebleau, the 19th of Nov. 1776."

March 15. Yesterday a full board of admiralty was held, at which time 23 lieutenants upon half pay, were put into commission, and ordered immediately to their respective stations.

Extra of a letter from on board his majesty's ship Daphne, at New-York, Jan. 18.

"I have very little news about our army, as we can hardly believe any thing we hear, it being mostly contradicted, and told contrary ways; but for certain, gen. Washington summoned fort Constitution (about 14 miles from hence) with 700 men, to surrender to him yesterday, which was refused. A reinforcement was sent this morning, and they had smart work, but we have not heard who were the conquerors. The general opinion is, that the rebels will give us more trouble than was expected; that the Hessians are not to be depended upon; that they will not fight, &c."

March 18. A draught of 20 men is ordered to be made from every regiment in Ireland, to reinforce the regiments in America, which are to be replaced by recruits to be raised immediately for that purpose.

Extra of a letter from Gosport, March 17.

"Saturday arrived at St. Helens, his majesty's ships Courageux and Royal Oak, capt. Faulkner. Capt. Faulkner, is said to have dispatched his lieutenant to town, with an account that they saw 6 sail of French ships with an admiral, but what more respecting them, or whether they were bound, do not hear. The Royal Oak will this day or to-morrow proceed to sea."

March 20. Yesterday morning a large fleet of colliers arrived at their moorings in the river. As soon as the press-gang had received information of the arrival of the above vessels; they went and swept away near 200 men, whom they put on board the tender at the Tower.

Last night a cabinet council was held at lord Mansfield's, at which all the great officers of the state were present, which sat near five hours, said to be on the subject of some advices received from Madrid.

This morning messengers were dispatched from the admiralty, to Portsmouth and Plymouth, to hasten the ships fitting for sea at those ports.

No battalion of the guards goes out this season to America; what possibly gave rise to the reports, was a draught from that corps, of about 200 men, to supply the vacancies in the battalion at New York.

The real name of John the painter, who was executed at Portsmouth on Monday last, was James Aitken, he was son of a tradesman formerly of Edinburgh.

It is said that general Howe's army in America, when joined by the troops from England, will consist of 35,000.

From the LONDON GAZETTE.

Extra of a letter from general Sir William Howe, to lord George Germaine, dated New-York, Dec. 29, 1776.

ON the 25th instant, in the evening, a party of the enemy attacked an out-guard from the post of Trenton, where col. Rall commanded with three battalions of Hessians, 30 chasseurs, and 20 light dragoons, having with them 6 field-pieces; which party was beaten back. On the succeeding morning, at 6 o'clock, the rebels appeared in force with cannon, evidently intending to attack the post. Col. Rall having received intelligence of their design, had the troops under arms, and detached

his own regiment to support an advanced picket. This picket being forced, and falling back upon the regiment, threw it into some disorder; which occasioned them to retire upon the other battalions; no advantage being taken of this, they recovered themselves, and the whole formed in front of the village.

The rebels, without advancing, cannonaded them in this situation, and col. Rall moved forward to attack them with the regiments of Losberg and Rall; in which attack col. Rall was wounded, and the regiments were made prisoners. The rebels then advanced to the regiment of Knyphausen, and also made that corps prisoners.

The rebels re-crossed the river Delaware immediately with the troops and cannon that they had taken. This misfortune seems to have proceeded from col. Rall's quitting his post, and advancing to the attack, instead of defending the village. Some few officers, and about 200 men of the brigade, with the chasseurs, and a party of dragoons, retreated to col. Donop's corps at Bordentown, 6 miles distant. Several officers were wounded, and about 40 men killed and wounded.

Extra of a letter from gen. Sir William Howe to lord George Germaine, dated New-York, Jan. 5, 1777.

In consequence of the advantage gained by the enemy at Trenton, on the 26th of last month, and the necessity of an alteration in the cantonments, lord Cornwallis deterring his going to England by this opportunity, went from hence to Jersey on the first inst. and reached Princeton that night, to which place gen. Grant had advanced, with a body of troops from Brunswick and Hillsborough, upon gaining intelligence that the enemy, on receiving reinforcements from Virginia, Maryland, and the militia of Pennsylvania, had repassed the Delaware into Jersey.

On the 2d, lord Cornwallis, having received accounts of the rebel army being posted at Trenton, advanced thither, leaving the 4th brigade, under the command of lieutenant-col. Mawhood at Princeton, and the 2d brigade with brigadier-general Leslie at Maidenhead. On the approach of the British troops, the enemy's forward posts were driven back upon their army, which was formed in a strong position, behind a creek running through Trenton. During the night of the 2d, the enemy quitted this situation, and marching by Allen's Town, and from thence to Princeton, fell in, on the morning of the 3d, with the 17th and 35th regiments, on their march to join brigadier-general Leslie at Maidenhead.

Lieutenant-colonel Mawhood, not being apprehensive of the enemy's strength, attacked and beat back the troops that first presented themselves to him, but finding them at length very superior to him in numbers, he pushed forward with the 17th regiment and joined brigadier-general Leslie. The 35th regiment retired by the way of Hillsborough, to Brunswick, and the enemy proceeded immediately to Princeton; the 40th regiment also retired to Brunswick.

The loss upon this occasion to his majesty's troops is 17 killed, and nearly 200 wounded and missing; capt. Leslie, of the 17th, is among the few killed, and for further particulars, I beg leave to refer your lordship to the enclosed return. Capt. Phillips, of the 35th grenadiers, returning from hence to join his company, was on this day betwixt Brunswick and Princeton, by some lurking villains, who murdered him in a most barbarous manner; which is a mode of war the enemy seem, from several late instances, to have adopted, with a degree of barbarity that savages could not exceed.

It has not yet come to my knowledge how much the enemy has suffered, but it is certain there were many killed and wounded, and among the former a general Mercer, from Virginia.

The bravery and conduct of lieutenant-colonel Mawhood, and the behaviour of the regiments under his command, particularly the 17th, are highly commended by lord Cornwallis. His lordship finding the enemy had made this movement, and having heard the fire occasioned by col. Mawhood's attack, returned immediately from Trenton; but the enemy being some hours march in front, and keeping this advantage by an immediate departure from Princeton, retreated by King's Town, breaking down the bridge behind them, and crossed the Millstone river at a bridge under Rocky hill, to throw themselves into a strong country.

Lord Cornwallis seeing it could not answer any purpose to continue his pursuit, returned with his whole force to Brunswick, and the troops upon the right being assembled at Elizabeth-Town, major general Vaughan has that command.

Return of the killed, wounded and missing, of the following corps of his majesty's forces in the Jerseys, Friday January 3, 1777.

- 17th regiment. 1 captain, 12 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 4 serjeants, 46 rank and file, wounded; 1 serjeant, 1 drummer, 33 rank and file, missing.
- 40th regiment. 1 lieutenant wounded; 1 ensign, 3 serjeants, 1 drummer, 88 rank and file, missing.
- 55th regiment. 1 serjeant, 4 rank and file, killed; 1 ensign, 1 serjeant, 2 rank and file wounded; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 1 serjeant, 2 drummers, 66 rank and file, missing.

Total. 1 captain, 1 serjeant, 16 rank and file, killed; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 2 ensigns, 5 serjeants, 48 rank and file, wounded; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 2 ensigns, 5 serjeants, 4 drummers, 187 rank and file, missing.

W. HOWE.

Hon. capt. Leslie, of the 17th regiment of foot, killed. Capt. Phillips, of the 35th grenadiers, killed on his way to join the battalion.

N. B. Since the above return many of the men missing have joined their corps.

It appears by the muster-master general, Sir George Osborn's return of the Hessian troops, after the affair of the 26th of December, at Trenton, that the prisoners and missing amounted to about 700.

CHARLESTOWN, (S. C.) May 22.

Accounts are received from the West-Indies, that some time last month a small American privateer, commanded by a capt. Forbes, having been beat off by a large Guineaman, the captain removed his guns and his crew on board a French schooner, and in her renewed the attack, and would in all appearance have succeeded, had not a British man of war fell in with him. There being no possibility of escaping, the lieutenant of the

privateer, a Frenchman, fired a fuse into the magazine, whereby the vessel was blown up and all the crew, excepting capt. Forbes and eleven sailors (who were taking up by the main of war's boat) perished.

On Sunday the Rutledge privateer of this port, commanded by capt. Jacob Muregan, returned from a cruise, in which she took, in sight of Carlisle bay, on the 4th of March, the brig. Endeavour, Thomas Lwyer, master, from Africa, bound to Barbados; on the 2d of April, near Dominica, the brig. Lucia, Heylin Mayberry, master, from Cork, bound for Martinico; on the 30th of April, close to Sambarao, an uncommissioned cruiser of Antigua, a schooner, of 6 swivel guns, called the Royal George, and commanded by Matthew Moffat; she was in company with another Antigua cruiser, a sloop of 8 guns, commanded by one Grant, which got away; and on the 3d instant, the sloop Nancy, George Baker Gibbs, master, from Penacola, bound for Jamaica, laden with lumber.

On Tuesday last week, capt. Millegan fell in with the Greyhound British frigate, which, from the colour she came, and steered, he imagines had been at St. Augustine, and might be going to New-York; he fired three shot at her, and was so near as to read the name in her stern; she was disguised like a merchantman, but did not offer to chase the privateer.

Extra of a letter from Dewitt's Corner, on the western frontiers, May 15.

"The commissioners appointed by the states of South-Carolina and Georgia to treat with the Cherokees are here; there are 600 Indians come in, and more daily coming in, to that it is expected the talks will soon come on. The Indians are in great want of provisions, and I believe are heartily sorry for their rashness."

F I S H - K I L L, June 5.

Extra of a letter from Middle-Brock, dated June 1.

"On Monday last, a party of our men fell in with a considerable body of the enemy, when a pretty smart engagement ensued, which ended much to our satisfaction. We killed one lieutenant colonel, three light-horsemen, four highlanders, and wounded (it is said) a great many. Our loss was only two men slightly wounded. Since that, they have been pretty quiet, not being able to pay so dear for so little travelling."

Capt. David Hawley, of Stratford, has taken four small vessels, in the Sound, one loaded with provisions going to New-York; fourteen Tories were taken on board, among whom was a certain capt. Rice of New-Haven, now in gaol in that town, the others are in safe custody.

P H I L A D E L P H I A.

Extra of a letter from Raritan, dated May 24, 1777.

"Dear brother, This comes with my love to you and all the family, hoping it will find you all in good health. As to myself, I have been in a poor state of health most part of the winter; first with grief, then lame, and these ten or twelve days past have had a bad cold, which has thrown me into my bed, but am better, blessed be the lord. My wife has been sick all winter, and is poorly yet, occasioned by an affright when the Hessians came on the first of December last. General Washington's cannon sent two balls through my house, which struck her into a panic, and I believe it will carry her to the grave, with the continual insults she daily meets with from one and another.

I suppose you would gladly hear how we have fared the winter past with the regular soldiers; which, in a word, is beyond my tongue or pen to express. I could not have thought there was such a set of blackguards in the world. I have said, and have no reason to recel it, "That if the Devil had a permission to send the worst crew from Tophet, these people, if they may be allowed the title, would outdo them in swearing, lying, stealing and blackguarding." The last thing when they go to bed, and the first in the morning, is to remind God to damn their eyes, tongues, liver, pluck, heart and soul, and this they do more than a thousand times a day; they have stole the chief of my loose estate, all my meat and flour, hay, horses, a hundred and more bushels of wheat, two hogheads of lamp-black, beds and bedding.

I bought sixty or seventy sheepskins of the regular butchers that they had stole in the neighbourhood; they afterwards stole twenty-two of them from me. I am not alone; all my neighbourhood, that had any thing to lose, fared the same fate. You would hardly know the landing. Not a pannel of fence left standing in a mile, all the wheat fields open, some houses burnt down, some pulled down and burnt. They came into my room in the middle of the day, and stole my watch. We have nothing comfortable to eat or drink, every thing dear; veal one shilling, York butter four shillings, sugar ten-pence, and cheese one shilling and three-pence per pound; rum eight shillings per gallon.

"They burnt all my garden fence, but this spring I made a slight one of sod. Some salad seed, which my wife found, she sowed, and was to have half the salad." She accidentally went with a pint cup, this week, to pick some; but a serjeant, or a devil, damned her, ordered her away, kicked over the cup and broke it. If such people are to rule and reign on earth, then the Devil must be stiled God of this world; I wish I lived in a cave on bread and water, rather than live as I do."

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at camp, dated Jan 9.

"We have it from New-York by good authority, that the following mode is adopted for raising and supporting the new levies recruited there, &c. Two subscriptions are set on foot, one for five and the other for ten pounds, and the inhabitants sign either, according to their circumstances in life. Those who are not willing to subscribe (of which there is a great majority) are compelled to it, notwithstanding which, I have no doubt but their public prints will exhibit to the world the great zeal and loyalty of his majesty's well affected subjects of that city, so strongly manifested by voluntary subscriptions in support of the righteous cause he is engaged in.

"It is imagined the next step taken, will be to embody them for the defence of the city; as in case of any expedition, they cannot spare their regular troops for that purpose. These matters render the inhabitants exceedingly unhappy; and, I think, mark is freely