

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1777.

LONDON, May 5.

By a gentleman just returned from Portsmouth, we are informed, that when the Exeter was cruising in the channel, in a hard gale of wind, she drove into the bay of Biscay, where she met with the Robuste, a French ship of the line, four guns, who hailed her, and enquired what she was doing in those seas; she answered, a hard gale of wind had drove them from their station, being on a cruise after the American ships bound to France; she informed the Exeter, that her orders were to cruise there, and protect the Americans against the English. The gentleman also says the French captain offered a copy of his instructions for that purpose, and was prepared to execute them with rigid attention. He had his tops manned, the swivels loaded ready for engaging, the tompons out of his great guns, and the matches lighted. This, the gentleman informs us, is a true state of the matter.

Extract of a letter from Rotterdam, March 30, 1777.

Yesterday the prince of Anspach arrived here with a regiment of chaceurs, to guard the recruits going to America, and prevent mutiny and desertion. Never was there exhibited, in any age or country, a more shocking spectacle; the poor wretches were many of them bound hands and feet, and transported in waggon and carts; but, notwithstanding this precaution, many of them found means to desert, and others were shot by the chaceurs in attempting to do it. No words can express the indignation which I felt from the barbarous treatment of these poor peasants (none of them were soldiers) thus torn from every attachment of country, of contiguity, and of friendship, and sold to suffer and perish by the fatigues, diseases, and dangers of a long voyage, and distant cruel wars. Their prince too discovered some emotions; but they were from vexation for the loss he was likely to sustain by those of his recruits, who either deserted, or were shot, before their actual delivery to the purchasers. At length however, the greatest part of these wretches were embarked, and the prince, like a true father of his people, returned to enjoy the price of their blood; which may not only enable him to recover his lost credit with his tradesmen, but perhaps, like the worthy prince of Hesse, to make the tour of Italy.

It is said that the German troops lately sent to America, in passing through a part of the Prussian dominions, came to a bridge where his Prussian majesty had been used to receive a toll for all the cattle passing over it; and that the king's officers, considering the troops who were thus sold to foreign service as no better than beasts, actually rated them as cattle, and refused them a passage until the toll was paid.

BON MOT. Lord Stormont, whose time is chiefly employed in circulating reports to discredit the Americans, having in a very serious manner lately told a French nobleman that six battalions in Washington's army had laid down their arms, the nobleman applied to L. Franklin, to know whether the story was a truth (une verite) to which the doctor answered, "Non, Monsieur, ce n'est pas une verite, c'est seulement un Stormont." No, Sir, it is not a truth, it is only a Stormont. This answer was afterwards handed about amongst the wits of Paris, and the word Stormont has since become a cant phrase for a lie.

Dublin, May 24. We hear from Berty, that the American vessel lately put into that harbour with flaxseed, and other commodities, is under an arrest till it can be determined whether her clearance from New York, now under his majesty's obedience, and a passport signed by gen. Sir William Howe, shall be allowed as exemptions from the late act for the confiscation of American property.

A gentleman, who was formerly lord chief justice of this kingdom, lately died here, and, it is reported, has bequeathed to his majesty a fortune in money and estates to the amount of three hundred thousand pounds, to enable him the better to carry on the war against his rebellious subjects in America.

BOSTON, August 14.

An officer at Albany writes his friend here thus, "The next time you hear of some I shall have conquered, or shall be in the world of spirits, for we are determined never to give up the fort, while any of us are alive. And I think there are small hopes for any of us to surrender, for while there are a number of savages with them, there will be no quarters given. Burgoyne intimates we need expect no quarters; I hope it will learn us to defend our forts, and not run away and leave them like children."

Thursday last arrived safe in port, the prize brig Devonshire, laden with about 230 hogheads of rum, and 22,990 slaves, bound from St. Kitt's for Corke, lately commanded by William Fisher, of Corke, and taken about the 5th ult. by the captains Oaks and Freeborn, who were in charge of a large sugar ship and a brig when the prize left them.

Capt. Freeborn engaged a sloop out of Newfoundland, with 12 double fortified four pounders, and near double the number of his own hands, two masts, when he obliged her to bear away, much damaged. Captain Freeborn burst one gun and one swivel, and had four men slightly wounded.

Capt. M'Daniel, prize-master of the above brig, informs, that on the 19th ult. he spoke with the brig Pluto, Brown, and schooner Harlequin, Dennis, in concert, who had then been out 14 days, and had taken a brig from Jamaica for Quebec, laden with rum.

The next day capt. Oaks, above mentioned, returned

safe in port. We hear he took a brig, after the above prize, laden with fish, and sent her for the West Indies.

NEW-YORK, August 4.

Wednesday last the Syren frigate arrived here from Halifax, and has brought captain Fotheringham of the Fox, and about 40 of his seamen, with capt. Manly and his first lieutenant; the latter commanded the Fox when taken by the Flora. We hear Mr. Manly is on board the St. Albans.

Last Wednesday morning two wood boats from Long-Island were taken by a rebel privateer in the round, near Hempstead harbour, and carried into Norwalk, in Connecticut.

STATE of VERMONT.

In council of safety, Bennington, August 16, 1777.

Brigadier-general Stark, from the state of New-Hampshire, with his brigade, together with the militia and companies of rangers raised by this state, with part of Symmons's regiment of militia, are now in action with a number of the enemy's troops assembled near this place, which has been for some time very severe. We have now in possession (taken from them this day) four brass field pieces, ordnance stores, &c. This minute 4 or 500 prisoners have arrived. We have taken the ground, although fortified by entrenchments, &c. but after being drove about one mile, and the enemy being reinforced, made a second stand, and still continue the action. The loss on each side is doubtless considerable, but the numbers not ascertained. You are therefore in the most pressing terms requested by general Stark and his council, to forward the whole of the militia under your several commands to this place, without one minute's loss of time. They will proceed on horseback, with all the ammunition that can be provided conveniently. On our present exertions depends the fate of thousands.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

JONAS FAY, Vice President.

PHILADELPHIA, August 26.

Last Sunday morning part of the continental army, amounting to about ten thousand men, with his excellency general WASHINGTON at their head, marched through this city, and immediately proceeded over the river Schuylkill, on their way, it is said, to the eastern shore of Maryland, where the enemy's fleet have lately been seen, and it is thought will make a descent upon that state. And yesterday morning general Nash's brigade of North-Carolina forces, and Colonel Proctor's regiment of artillery, passed through this city, and we hear are to pursue the same route, in order to join our most illustrious general.

Extract of a letter from general SCHUYLER to his excellency general WASHINGTON, dated Forts, five miles below Stillwater, August 15, 1777.

"I am just informed that Lieut. col. Willet is arrived at Albany. He advises that after the engagement which gen. Parkiner had with the enemy, col. Gansewoort ordered a sortie with two hundred and six men, commanded by Lieut. col. Willet, that he made a successful attack on part of the enemy's lines, drove them across the river, and killed many. I had Sir John Johnson, he is informed, was among the slain. That he took and brought off a considerable quantity of baggage. That on his return to the fort he was ambuscaded, and attacked by a body of regular troops, who, after a fire by which Willet did not lose one man, were charged with fixed bayonets, and drove. He farther informs, that between three and four hundred Indians were killed, wounded, and left the besiegers after the engagement. That the militia with gen. Parkiner lost about 160 killed and wounded. That gen. St. Ledyard, who commands the enemy's forces in that quarter, sent in a flag to demand the delivery of the fort, offering that the garrison should march out with their baggage, and not be molested by the savages. I had if this was not complied with, he would not answer for the conduct of the Indians, if the garrison fell into their hands; and that they would certainly fall on the inhabitants; that gen. Burgoyne was in possession of Albany. [The public are desired to take notice, that Lieut. col. Willet did not inform, that gen. Burgoyne was in possession of Albany, but that gen. St. Ledyard sent this false information to col. Gansewoort, in order to induce him to surrender the fort.] That col. Gansewoort, after animadverting on the barbarity and disgraceful conduct of the British officers, in suffering women and children to be butchered as they had done, informed the flag that he was resolved to defend the fort to the last; that he would never give it up as long as there was a man left alive to defend it; that he was well supplied with provisions and ammunition.

"Col. Gansewoort being informed, that the militia were dispirited, expecting that the fort would soon fall, sent Lieut. col. Willet out to cheer up their spirits; that he found the militia of Tioga county collecting with great alacrity, and as gen. Arnold, with the troops marched under his command, will probably reach the German flats on the 16th or 17th, I have great hopes that the siege will soon be raised."

Published by order of congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

The following is Burgoyne's pompous proclamation, under which, many of the credulous have lost their scalps.

By JOHN BURGOYNE, Esq, Lieut. gen. of his majesty's armies in America, col. of the queen's regiment of light dragoons, governor of Fort William in North Britain, one of the representatives of the commons of Great Britain, and commanding an army and fleet employed on an expedition from Canada, &c. &c.

THE forces entrusted to my command are designed to act in concert, and upon a common principle, with the numerous armies and fleets which already display, in every quarter of America, the power, the justice, and, when properly fought, the mercy of the king.

The cause in which the British arms are thus exerted applies to the most affecting interests of the human heart; and the military servants of the crown, at first called forth for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of the constitution, now combine with love of their country, and duty to their sovereign, the other extensive incitement, which form a due sense of the general privileges of mankind. To the eyes and ears of the temperate part of the public, and to the hearts of suffering thousands, in the provinces, he the melancholy appeal, whether the present unnatural rebellion has not been made a foundation for the complete system of tyranny that ever God, in his displeasure, suffered for a time to be exercised over a froward and stubborn generation.

Arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property, persecution and torture, unprecedented in the inquisitions of the Romish church, are among the palpable enormities that verify the affirmative. These are inflicted by assemblies and committees, who dare to profess themselves friends to liberty, upon the most quiet subjects, without distinction of age or sex, for the sole crime, often for the sole suspicion, of having adhered in principle to the government under which they were born, and to which by every tie, divine and human, they owe allegiance. To consummate these shocking proceedings, the profanation of religion is added to the most profligate prostitution of common reason; the consciences of men are set at naught; and multitudes are compelled not only to bear arms, but also to swear subjection to an usurpation they abhor.

Animated by these considerations, the head of troops in the full powers of health, and valour, determined to strike where necessary, and anxious to spare where possible, I by these presents invite and exhort all persons, in all places where the progress of this army may point,--and by the blessing of God I will extend it far,--to maintain such a conduct as may justify me in protecting their lands, habitations and families. The intention of this address is to hold forth security, not depredation to the country. To those whom spirit and principle may induce to partake the glorious task of redeeming their countrymen from dungeons, and re-establishing the blessings of legal government, I offer encouragement and employment; and upon the first intelligence of their association, I will find means to assist their undertakings. The domestic, the industrious, the industrious, and even the timid inhabitants, I am desirous to protect, provided they remain quietly at their houses, that they do not suffer their cattle to be removed, nor their corn or forage to be scattered or destroyed; that they do not break up their bridges or roads; nor by any other act directly or indirectly endeavour to obstruct the operations of the king's troops, or supply or assist those of the enemy.

Every species of provision, brought to my camp, will be paid for at an equitable rate, and in solid coin.

In consciousness of christianity, my royal master's clemency, and the honour of soldierlyship, I have dwelt upon this invitation, and wished for more persuasive terms to give it impression, and let not people be led to disregard it, by considering their distance from the immediate situation of my camp. I have but to give stretch to the Indian forces under my direction, and they amount to thousands, to overtake the hardened enemies of Great-Britain and America. I consider them the same, wherever they may lurk.

If notwithstanding these endeavours, and sincere inclinations to effect them, the phrenzy of hostility should remain, I trust I shall stand acquitted in the eyes of God and men, in denouncing and executing the vengeance of the state against the wilful outcasts, the murtherers of justice and of wrath await them in the field; and devastation, famine, and every concomitant horror that a reluctant but indispensable prosecution of military duty must occasion, will bar the way to their return.

JOHN BURGOYNE.

Camp near Ticonderoga, July 2, 1777.

By order of his excellency genl. ROB. KINGSTON, sec.

By Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne, commanding an army and fleet of Great-Britain, against the revolted provinces of America.

To the inhabitants of Castleton, of Hubbardton, Rutland, Timmough, Pawlett, Wells, Granville, with the neighbouring districts bordering on White-Creek, Cambden, &c. &c. &c.

You are hereby directed to send, from your several townships, deputations consisting of ten persons or more from each township, to meet col. Skeene at Castleton, on Wednesday July 16th, at ten in the morning, who will have instructions not only to give farther encouragement to those who complied with the terms of my late manifesto, but also to communicate conditions