

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1777.

HARTFORD, August 25.

LAST Thursday night Gen. Parsons, with 7 or 800 men, went on Long-Island, to bring off a party of the enemy posted at Stratket, which he intended to have taken by surprise; but it seems that, by means of some infernal story, they had been apprised of his coming for many days, and were so strongly fortified as rendered the attempt ineffectual. However he took a number of blankets, and 12 or 13 horses belonging to the British troops, and returned the next day in safety. This shows how much we suffer from infernal foes, who get knowledge of our most secret movements, and find means to convey it to the enemy.

KINGSTON, August 25.

An express came to town last night from our northern army, commanded by gen. Gates, at Stillwater. From letters brought by the express we learn the following particulars, viz. That the late Bennington battle began about seven miles west of the meeting-house; that the number of the enemy at first was about 1300, who were soon after reinforced by 1500 more; that after the engagement had been continued warmly for some time, the enemy beat a parly, which not being understood by our people, they rushed forward on the enemy with fixed bayonets, took great part of them, and totally routed the rest, pursuing them for five or six miles. The number taken 669, besides 100 wounded (including 32 officers). The number killed, besides many that it is supposed are not yet found, 222. Total 991. Col. Baum, who commanded the whole of the enemy's forces, is among the slain. We have taken 500 swords of the dragoons, upwards of 1000 stand of arms, four brass field-pieces, viz. one 12, two 9, and one 4 pounders. Our loss 20 or 30 killed, and not more than 50 wounded. A deserter from the enemy, lately examined, reports, that there were only 300 of them escaped from the battle of Bennington.

PHILADELPHIA, September 3.

SIR, Head-Quarters, August 25, 1777. A messenger is just arrived with the enclosed letters from gen. Arnold and col. Gansevoort; I am happy in communicating them to your excellency. Great honour is due to col. Gansevoort, lieut. col. Willet, and the officers and soldiers of the garrison under their command; I cannot too warmly recommend them to congress. The gallant defence of Fort Stanwix must convince all the western nations of Indians of the superiority of the American arms.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, HORATIO GATES.

His excellency JOHN HANCOCK, Esq; pref. of cong.

SIR, Head-Quarters, August 28, 1777.

In the packet, I have the honour to transmit to your excellency a copy of a letter I received last night from maj. gen. Arnold. The defeat and disgrace with which the enemy have been obliged to retreat from Fort Schuyler, added to the complete and brilliant victory gained by gen. Gates, and col. Warner at Bennington, gives the brightest lustre to the American arms, and covers the enemies of the United States with infamy and shame. The horrid murders and scalping paid for and encouraged by lieut. gen. Burgoyne, previous to his defeat at Bennington, will, for ever stain the honour of the British arms. In one house, the parents, with six children, were most cruelly butchered; and this polite macaroni-eater sold dollars for each of their scalps. Heaven has done us justice some punishment for such unheard of crimes.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, HORATIO GATES.

The hon. JOHN HANCOCK, Esq;

Dear Sir, Fort Schuyler, August 22, 1777.

This morning at 11 o'clock I began a heavy cannonade upon our enemy's works, which was immediately returned by a number of shells and cannon. About 3 o'clock several deserters came in, who informed me that gen. St. Ledger, with his army, was retreating with the utmost precipitation; soon after which, I sent out a party of about 60 men to enter their camps, who soon returned and confirmed the above account. About 7 o'clock this evening Hanratty Schuyler arrived here, and informed me that gen. Arnold with 2000 men were on their march for this post; in consequence of which I send you this information.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.

PETER GANSEVOORT, colonel. To the hon. gen. Arnold, or officer commanding the army on their march to Fort Schuyler.

Mobuck River, ten miles above Fort Deten, August 23, 1777. Five o'clock, P. M.

Dear general, I wrote you the 21st inst. from the German Flats, that from the best intelligence I could procure of the enemy's strength, it was much superior to ours, at same time enclosed you a copy of the resolutions of a council of war, and requested you to send me a reinforcement of one thousand light troops. As the enemy had made their approach within two hundred yards of the fort, I was determined at all events to hazard a battle, rather than suffer the garrison to fall a sacrifice; this morning I marched from the German Flats for this place; the excessive bad roads, and necessary precautions in marching through a thick wood, retarded us so much, that we have but this moment reached this place, where I have met an express with the enclosed letter from col. Gansevoort, acquainting me the enemy had yesterday retired from Fort Schuyler with great precipitation; I am at a loss to judge of their real intentions, whether

they have returned home, or retired with a view of engaging us on the road. I am inclined to the former from the account of the deserters, and from their leaving their tents and considerable baggage, which our people have secured. I shall immediately detach about 900 men, and make a forced march to the fort, in hopes of coming up with the rear, and securing their cannon and heavy baggage. I am, dear general, Your affectionate, obedient humble servant, Hon. maj. gen. Gates. B. ARNOLD.

Fort Schuyler, August 24, 1777. Ten o'clock at night.

Dear general, I wrote you yesterday that the enemy had retreated from this place; at 5 o'clock this evening, by a forced march of 22 miles thro' a thick wood, I reached this place, in expectation of harassing the enemy in their retreat; col. Gansevoort had anticipated my design by sending out a party, who brought in four royalists, and a considerable quantity of baggage, with a number of prisoners and deserters; the enemy went on with the greatest precipitation, leaving their tents standing their provisions, ammunition, &c. &c. which have fallen into our hands. I am, dear general, your affectionate, Hon. maj. gen. Gates. B. ARNOLD.

Published by order of congress, CHARLES THOMPSON, secretary.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth in New-Hampshire, dated August 14.

Arrived in this port capt. Ezekiel Hand, in the schooner Advance, who sailed from Great Egg Harbour on the 11th inst. and on the third, in lat. 35, long. 66, came on a violent gale of wind, or hurricane, from the westward, when they scudded under their fore-sail with the bonnet off. The very heavy sea running, the vessel over-ruled and soon filled; they then attempted to cut away the main-mast, and in doing lost their axe; shortly after, the fore-mast working loose in the partners, they cut away the shrouds and stay, and cleared the wreck, when the righted, having lost every thing off the deck except the boat; the gale still continuing, they lay in that condition for thirty hours before they could begin to free her. In this dismal situation they lost their dead lights and hatchets, and the round houts sitting up with the sea, every thing was washed out of the cabin, together with all their books and papers. It was something very extraordinary, they lost both their compasses, but after some time they saw a compass floating at a distance, when they sent out the boat and saved it, which proved of great service, as they then shaped their course for Bolton; they made the file of shoals ten days after they freed the vessel, with no other subsistence than raw meat and water, being seven in number, and arrived in the harbour of Hingham, having lost their fore-mast, fore-sail, fore-top-sail, with the rigging belonging to the same, and their cable.

A gentleman arrived in town last week from New-Jersey informs us, that general Sullivan, with 1500 men, under general's Smallwood and Burre, went from Morris-Town last Thursday evening at noon, crossed at Elizabeth-town point, and was on Staten-Island at day-break the next morning. One party went towards New-York till they got in sight of it, the other went towards Amboy. In their course killed many of the new levies, and took colonels Allen, Patton, and Donagan, 2 majors, 4 captains, 6 lieutenants, 2 surgeons mates, and 203 privates, with which they crossed to Amboy about two o'clock. About three o'clock the rear-guard of our army, consisting of 126 men, was attacked, and twice repulsed the assailants, who suffered much in killed; but our party having expended all their ammunition, were obliged to surrender; among which the col. Antin, major John Stewart, or Maryland, a major of col. Jazen's regiment, and two other majors, with six or seven other officers. Four officers of ours are missing.

On the 15th of June died at Jamaica, his excellency Sir Basil Keith, governor of that island. We hear that since the enemy have landed at the Elk, the number of prisoners and deserters from them amount to sixty. Friday last several were brought to this city.

By the accounts of deserters from the enemy, their situation must be very disagreeable and distressing, as the number of sick is considerable, having increased greatly since they landed, and they are so closely observed by the militia, that they dare not venture out far to procure fresh provisions. That numbers of teamen as well as soldiers are determined to desert the first opportunity; the latter, in particular, are greatly dissatisfied, on account of their bad provisions, for which even best part of their pay is stopped, as they do not receive more than twopenny-halfpenny a day, and when that happens to be paid them it is not in their power to purchase any vegetables, which the poor fellows are now more desirous of than ever they were of liquor. And that soon after their landing they lost near thirty horses, having turned them into a corn field, where the creatures eat to such excess that they expired before the English farmers could discover their disorder, and administer any thing to their relief.

Extract of a letter from a principal house in Bilbao, who have distinguished themselves by their zealous attachment to the American cause, and successful endeavours to serve it. Dated May 30, 1777.

We have only time at present to inform you of our having this day received permission from the court of Spain to land and dispose of, or ship for any foreign port, all the tobacco that may be consigned to us from the Thirteen United States of America. As this is a privilege granted only to our house, we must beg the

favour of your having it inserted in your news-paper that it may be done, the knowledge of which we are willing to speculate in the article, aforesaid. We are, &c. JOSEPH GARDOU, and SONS.

New-Castle county, N. C. THIS day came Francis Alexander, a reputable resident in the county aforesaid, before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace, and made oath, that he was an eye witness to several brutal ravages committed by the merciless troops of the tyrant of Great-Britain, on their late landing on the Head of Elk; that he particularly saw one of them, in the presence of divers others, ravish, or attempt violently to effect it, on the person of a young woman of spotless character, lying at his house, notwithstanding her cries and resistance to the contrary; at the same time making use of severe menaces in case of refusal, and sundry other acts of barbarity he saw there perpetrated, shocking to humanity, and which cry aloud for vengeance. FRANCIS ALEXANDER. Sworn before me this

31st August, 1777, GEORGE LATTIMER. The above deposition was taken in our presence, A. MAXWELL, b. g. A. MARTIN, col. 2d batt. N. C. troops. THO. BLAND, col. 1st. regt. I. d.

In CONGRESS, June 14, 1777.

Resolved, That the FLAG of the United States be THIRTEEN STRIPES alternate red and white; that the Union be THIRTEEN STARS white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMPSON, sec.

In CONGRESS, August 27, 1777.

Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the mode of conducting the enquiry into the causes of the evacuation of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, and into the conduct of the general officers in the northern department at the time of the evacuation; whereupon,

Resolved, That a committee of three members of congress be appointed and authorized to correspond with public bodies, or private persons, by letter or otherwise, in this and the neighbouring states, in order to collect the clearest and fullest evidence of the state of the army in the northern department, and also of the state of the troops, military stores and provisions, at the 11 posts, before and at the time when the evacuation was determined upon.

To call for and examine the minutes of the council of war; and to enquire what orders were given, from time to time, by the commander in chief of that department.

To enquire particularly if the barracks and stores were destroyed, or left standing.

To enquire of the quarter-master general, and commissary-general, what quantity of provision had been laid up at Ticonderoga, or near it, for the use of the garrison, and what measures were taken or taking for throwing in farther supplies.

To inform themselves, as fully as possible, of the number, appointment, and movements of the enemy from the time of their landing to the time of evacuating the fort; and also of the number, quality, and condition of the garrison, and if any and what measures were taken to gain intelligence of the strength of the enemy, by the commander in chief, or the commanding officer at Ticonderoga.

To enquire of the clothier-general what clothing, from time to time, had been issued for the use of the northern department; and from other public officers, into the expenditures of such general issues.

To enquire into the number, equipment, and behaviour of the militia, and the time of service for which they were engaged, at and before the time of the evacuation; into the situation and condition of the lines at Ticonderoga, and its fortifications upon Mount Independence; what works had been thrown up by the enemy, what posts they had taken, and the distance of their works; what orders had been given by the commanding officer for directing and regulating a retreat, and the manner in which the retreat was conducted; what orders were given relative to the sick, and what care taken of them. Whether any continental troops, and what number, were at Albany, or in the neighbourhood; how long they had been there, and why they were not ordered to Ticonderoga.

To enquire into the number and size of cannon, and whether any were removed before the evacuation; the quantity and species of military stores; the state of the arms, both of the continental soldiers and militia; whether the troops were furnished with bayonets, and whether there were any, or what number of pikes or spears proper for detaching lines.

That upon such enquiry and collection of facts, a copy of the whole be transmitted, by the said committee, to general Washington, and that thereupon he appoint a court-martial for the trial of the general officers who were in the northern department when Ticonderoga and Mount Independence were evacuated, agreeable to the rules and articles of war.

August 27. Congress proceeded to the election of the committee to collect evidence and facts relative to the evacuation of Ticonderoga, &c. and the ballots being taken, Mr. Laurens, Mr. Richard Henry Lee, and Mr. John Adams, were elected.

Published by order of Congress, CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec.