

ourselves Philadelphia. Hard money is not to pass here any more; we have lately hung up and burned in effigy a dealer in hard money.

"P. S. I just now hear that all our districts have chosen committees, and are regulating the prices of country produce."

July 2. The sloop Hornet, a few days ago, off Egg harbour, took the sloop Clinton, captain Parks, from New-Providence for New-York—She had some days before fallen in with the Hammond, of New-York, who had taken possession of her, and put a prize matter on board, suspecting she was bound for this port.

By captain Wilson, who arrived here last Wednesday in fourteen days from the Havannah, we are informed, that Spain, on the 11th of April last, acknowledged the independence of the United States of America.

BALTIMORE, June 29.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated June 24, 1779.

"Our present situation is truly alarming, and is briefly as follows:—A juncto early formed in congress, have, by some means or other, contrived to keep their principal leaders, either actually in the house, or in some of the most important departments; and by acting constantly in concert, have at last brought it about, that a minority, and a small one too, can retard, delay, and even obstruct, every proceeding. The foundation of this juncto was laid during the sitting of the first congress. At that period there were many real grounds, as well as some pretended ones, for suspecting New-York, and one or two others of the middle states. This naturally led the northern and southern ones to unite the more strictly in the measures then pursuing, to obtain the great objects in view. It is not my intention to give you the history of this juncto at present, but will only inform you, that for upwards of twelve months past, a club has been formed of certain of the delegates from New-England, New-Jersey, and this state, and of two or three members from the southward.—They meet regularly, debate upon, and adjust the manner of their proceedings; and congress, at all times, being a fluctuating and changing body, these men, acting in concert, are able to keep back or obstruct any measure whatever, until, by the absence of some members, and the division of others, they can, with a small majority, carry the vote as they please.

"By accident I have had a fight and perusal of Mr. Deane's narrative, and I find that the first thing done by him, after his return, was to inform congress, that a foreign loan, if early and properly applied for, might be obtained; but that every day's delay rendered it more uncertain and difficult.

"The necessity of our procuring a foreign loan is generally acknowledged; and, as we now experience paper currency to be no real property, but only the representative of money, it seems to be the desire of the people, that this measure should be adopted; but already a jealousy has arisen, and the question is, who shall have the negotiating of it?—This has produced already much canvassing in secret, relative to the plenipotentiary to be sent abroad on this important business.

"The character with which Mr. Deane returned from the court of France, and the reputation, it was apprehended, he would acquire from the treaties, and the fleet solicited for and obtained by him, together with the little attention (much too little for his interest or peace) which he paid those who formed this cabal, and who he knew had been secretly his enemies, set these men to move every engine in their power, to prevent his either receiving the approbation of congress for what he had done, or having any opportunity to serve his country further. Effectually to do this, every artifice was made use of to delay a decision on his affairs, and to spread, in the mean time, calumnious insinuations against him, among the people. Unjustly and ungratefully indeed he has been treated! but had he only suffered, if this had been all, we might have been happy. Many are the evils the public have laboured under, in consequence of this—the parties and factions raised on his and Mr. Lee's account, have retarded and put off matters of infinitely greater importance; and, in fact, brought us into our present disagreeable situation. It is certain that France does not wish a continuance of the war; Spain has long since been arming, and as early as in November last, formally offered her mediation, and plainly declared, she could no longer remain an inactive spectator of the ruin of the commerce of France, if her mediation should be refused. France, justly supposing that England would, on this, incline to peace, and apprehensive that application might be made to congress, to treat separately, immediately sent to their minister here, to apply to congress, and to urge them (if they needed urging) to lose no time in coming to resolutions on what terms they would treat, and to appoint a person, or persons, to repair to Europe, with ample powers for that purpose; at the same time the strongest assurances were given of the friendship and assistance of France, and even of Spain, if their resolutions, as to the terms of a treaty of peace, were such as should be honourable and just.

"The minister waited on congress early in February, with a message and information, to this purpose; and, in a long interview with them, pressed on them dispatch, in the most forcible terms. This was really the subject, which gave rise to the report of great and good news; with which the whole continent was for some time amused.

England, on her part, rightly judging that Spain would not take an active part, until her mediation should be rejected, and that she could not, without knowing the terms of America, have any grounds to go on; with certainty, and doubtless finding other means to amuse and delay Spain, determined to exert her whole force, during this interval, and try the fortune of another campaign, in which such events might arrive as might enable them to treat with more advantage on their side. They were further induced to this, by having the supplies cheerfully voted in the house of commons, and having no continental war in Europe, they had no fear of losing any thing, and might gain much. In discuss-

ing what had been communicated and proposed by France to congress, two objects are said to have been in view; the first, what the terms should be, and then who should be sent out charged with them. What and how many terms congress have agreed upon, I know not; but though the minister has been every week urging them to finish, they have, to this hour, delayed the giving him any answer. The difficulty arises from the New-England delegates insisting, as I am informed, on making our right to fish on the banks of Newfoundland, &c. a sine qua non. They are, as is credibly whispered, joined in this, by some gentlemen from the other extremity of these states, and who firmly stand by each other, as they doubtless mean mutually to serve and carry on each others purposes. Thus, as far as I can learn, the matter rests at present; and thus have the people of these states been deceived with the hopes of peace, whilst by these measures, they will be exposed to suffer all the extremities of the reverse.

"You will justly be surpris'd, when I tell you, that our commissioners at Paris appear totally ignorant of what is doing in either France, Spain, or England; for it is impossible they should be informed, and never write one syllable about it.

"But what must be your surpris'e, when I assure you that congress was informed, and that by two of their members, in writing, that the French minister had expressly declared, and wrote, that he could place no confidence in Mr. Lee, for he feared, or suspected him, and those about him—What, I say, must be your surpris'e, to find this party able, after this, to counteract a large majority of congress, and prevent his recall! It is well known this gentleman's former private secretary was of a very suspicious character; that after going several times privately back and forth from Paris to London, he took up his residence in London, under the protection of the British ministry; and that the man who succeeded him, as Mr. Lee's secretary, was one Ford, a most infamous tory, and refugee parson, from London, whither he had fled from Virginia, to avoid the vengeance of his countrymen, and where he lived, like other refugees, until he went over to Paris, and entered on his secretaryship, under Mr. Lee. You will hardly credit this, but they are facts, and have long since been well attested and laid before congress. By this one instance, you will be able to judge of the strength of this minority, and to what lengths they will go in promoting private views, and supporting of their party, family connections, and interest. Were I to give you all the instances which have come to my knowledge, of transactions of a similar complexion, and of the wretched deranged state of our finances, and other departments; and also of the trifling subjects which have repeatedly engaged congress, for days and weeks together, during the last important six or eight months, I should fill a volume, and might, with great propriety, entitle it, 'The Book of Lamentations.' But to lament is to no purpose; and unless different measures are pursued, I dread the consequences.

"Governor Johnson, you must remember, openly declared in parliament, that he had made use (when in America) of other means than those of persuasion and argument, to effect the purposes of his commission. What those means were, the present times demonstrate—they already begin to have their dreadful effects—anarchy is now labouring to rear her tattered but bloody standard in this capital. In a word, unless this party and faction can be broke (for until it is, the same measures will be pursued) we shall be in danger at least of being ruined, and that suddenly, by ourselves.

"You will communicate the contents of this, to whom you think proper; but I fear, at this time, that the public at large, should know even the truth in its full extent; and yet it is cruel to keep them in suspense and ignorance, whilst accumulated ruin is preparing to burit on them from every quarter.

"I will give you one instance with what industry this party, this select phalanx, conduct their manoeuvres: 'I he night before it was expected the question on Mr. Lee's recall was to be put, an express was sent off into Jersey, to call Dr. W—n and Dr. S—r; Dr. W— was alarmed at 3 o'clock in the morning, and set off instantly, to be in congress before the question should be put; and Dr. S—, who lived more remote, followed the same day, each of them with as much expedition as if they had been flying before the enemy. They arrived in season, and by the paper sent you herewith you will see how they voted.—O tempora! O mores!"

The following agreement was entered into by the second battalion of Maryland militia, met at the Head of Elk, June 21, 1779; agreeable to law.

BEING deeply impressed with the growing evils that threaten not only this state, but the United States in general, from the exorbitant prices of every necessary of life, the venal practices of monopoly, engrossing and forestalling, which hath depreciated our currency, and counteracted every virtuous measure adopted by our most worthy citizens, in direct violation of the laws of the state, wishing as much as possible to coincide with our brethren in the neighbouring states to restore things again to rights, and to recover the credit of our currency.

And as we trust the constitution and the laws of the state are very sufficient (if properly executed) or if not, we look on it as the only safe way of remedy, to remonstrate and petition to our legislature in a constitutional way, for such amendments as from time to time may be thought necessary.

We therefore bind ourselves to each other, under the strictest ties of virtue and honour, that we will support the civil authority in the execution of the laws (inviolable) to see them duly executed by the proper officers, as appointed by law; nor shall any man or set of men usurp the power of legislation, or executing the laws, but such as have authority by the constitution and from the legislature of the state; and that we will use our utmost endeavours to prevent all monopolizing, engrossing and forestalling of every sort whatsoever, and will present all persons guilty of any of them to the executive

powers; and earnestly recommend it to the magistrates, grand-jurors, and all other persons in authority, to exert themselves at this crisis, informing against and prosecuting all such persons as may be so lost to virtue as to attempt to prey on their brethren the honest citizens; and we pledge ourselves that we will, by the strictest aid aforesaid, support them in the same.

And we earnestly entreat all traders, merchants, farmers, mechanics and others, to conform to the laws of the state, and sympathise with, and contribute to, the relief and necessities of their distressed brethren, and do caution all traders in goods of every sort to conform to the regulations as directed by the acts of assembly, as we hold ourselves bound, they must answer for the contrary to the penal laws of the state.

The above being unanimously agreed to by the battalion, was ordered immediately to be made public, that all persons concerned may govern themselves accordingly.

Signed by order of the battalion, H. HOLLINGSWORTH, col.

July 6. The electors of Washington county have instructed their delegates in general assembly not to agree to the passage of the bill, published by order of the last session, for the consideration of the people, and entitled, "A bill for the relief of certain nonjurors, on the terms therein mentioned;" as they consider it fully calculated to relieve the notorious offenders, as well as the ignorant and deluded; at the same time they express their desire, that those who may be relieved have not had an opportunity of capacity to judge for themselves, and have been misled by disaffected and designing men.

ANNAPOLIS, July 9.

On Monday last Mr. William Goldsmith and Mr. Samuel Harvey Howard were chosen of the common-council of this city, in the room of Mr. John Bullen and colonel James Brice, who are chosen aldermen in the room of Samuel Chase, Esq; appointed recorder, and Thomas Jennings, Esq; resigned.

Captain John M'Kirdy, in the brig Tom Johnson, arrived here this morning from Nantes; but last from Brett, which port he left about the first of May, under convoy of five ships of the line, three frigates, and seventy transports, said to have on board from ten to fifteen thousand men, and bound for Martinico. He parted with them in the latitude of Madeira. Captain M'Kirdy, in company with the ship General Washington, arrived in Patowmack, fell in off our capes with a small privateer of six guns and twenty-five men, which they took and brought in with them.

Extract of a letter from commodore Grafon, on board the Chester galley, to his excellency our governor.

"On Monday morning (the 8th of June) we weighed and stood out to sea; at 8 o'clock saw a ship and a schooner standing in for cape Henry, and immediately gave them chase, till within about two leagues of them; they then tacked and stood towards us, which gave me an opportunity of getting nearer the cape, and in shoal water; when we were about three leagues from cape Charles, and four miles from the ship, it fell almost calm. I then anchored, hoping she would have done the same, but she still kept under way; finding the tide driving her farther from us, as soon as the people had dined, which was 1/2 past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, we weighed, and row'd down on her; at 4 we fired a shot, which she returned with a broadside; in about 10 minutes the action became general, and continued without intermission till after sun-set, when the wind sprung fresh up southerly; she then made all the sail in her power, and stood to sea; we continued the chase till near 10 o'clock, at which time she was quite out of gun-shot; we then hauled in for the land. She was quite a clean ship, just out of port, mounted with 18 4 and 6 pounders, and two stern chaces, on one deck, 4 carriage guns and several swivels on the quarter deck and fore-castle. I have the greatest pleasure in assuring your excellency, that the officers and men behaved with great conduct and bravery, and that we had not one man killed or wounded, except captain Dahill, who received a slight wound on his hip bone by a cannon ball."

LOST by the subscriber,

THE PROCEEDINGS of the ancient TUESDAY CLUB, bound in parchment; several of the leaves are loose. Whoever will deliver them to him, at his office, shall receive forty dollars for their trouble. FREDERICK GREEN.

THE creditors of JAMES MAWE, late of this city, carpenter, deceased, are requested to bring in their accounts legally proved, in order to be settled; and those indebted to the said estate are hereby informed, that unless they make immediate payment, compulsory means will be made use of by the subscriber to enforce a compliance. JUDITH DOYLE, administratrix.

THE subscriber takes the liberty to inform all persons indebted to the estate of his mother, the late Mrs. Anne Catharine Green, that unless they speedily settle and pay off their respective accounts, compulsory measures will be taken in every instance; and in a particular manner he requests those sheriffs under the late government, who are indebted, to pay the several sums with which they stand chargeable, or their office bonds will be put in suit.—All persons having claims on said estate are desired to make them known to F. GREEN, adm.

Worcester county, Maryland, May 13, 1779: NOW, in the year of this county, a NEGRO man called COLLINS, belonging to a gentleman (he says) living in New-Virginia, whose surname is Bell, and that he left him at Dover, in Kent county, in Delaware, some time in October, 1778; he is a small black fellow, about 25 years of age. His master is desired to come and pay charges and take him away. BENJAMIN PURNELL, clerk.