

The Count himself has personally shown the most undaunted courage, and the most ardent zeal in our service. If he has not accomplished all that his good-will had prompted him to wish to accomplish, yet he has left behind him the finest position, in the mind of every American, that he is anxiously disposed to promote; the great object of the alliance, our independence; and that he will endeavour to be yet more essentially useful to us, whether by striking a blow in the West-Indies, or by returning to the continent in a proper season.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

BOSTON, Nov. 11.

WE hear that all continental troops have orders to repair to head-quarters—I hope who were under general Gates at Rhode-Island, last that place last week.

By Captain Adams, the beginning of this week from Martinico, we are informed, that the day before he sailed several vessels arrived there from France, and that it was reported a most naval engagement had taken place in the channel of England, between the combined fleets of France and Spain, and the English fleet, in which the latter, were very roughly handled.

TRENTON, Nov. 17.

A gentleman from Elizabeth-town informs, that the enemy, to the number of 8000, have embarked, and part of them sailed, supposed to be bound to South-Carolina, or the West-Indies.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20.

Last Wednesday an entertainment was given by congress to the minister plenipotentiary of France, at which were present by invitation several foreign dignitaries, and gentlemen of public character.

IN CONGRESS Nov. 17, 1779.

According to order the honourable the chevalier de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary of his Most Christian Majesty, was introduced to an audience by Mr. Mathews and Mr. Morris, the two members for that purpose appointed, and being seated in his chair; the secretary of the embassy, delivered to the president a letter from his Most Christian Majesty, directed on the outside, "To our very dear great friends and allies, the president and members of the general congress of the United States of North-America;" and which is in the following words:

*Very dear, Great Friends and Allies,*

The bad state of health of the Sieur Gerard, our minister plenipotentiary to you, having laid him under the necessity of applying for a recall, we have made choice of the chevalier de la Luzerne, a colonel in our service, to supply his place. We have no doubt but he will be agreeable to you and that you will repose entire confidence in him. We pray you to give full credit to all he shall say to you on our behalf, especially when he shall assure you of the sincerity of our wishes for your prosperity, as well as of the constancy of our affection, and of our friendship for the United States in general; and for each one of them in particular. We pray God to keep you, our very dear, great friends and allies, in his holy protection.

Done at Versailles, the 31st May 1779.

Your good friend and ally,

(Signed) LOUIS.

(Underneath) DE VERGENNES.

The minister was then announced to the house; whereupon he arose and addressed congress, in a speech, which when he had finished the secretary delivered in writing to the president; and is as follows:

GENTLEMEN,

The wisdom and courage which have founded your republic, the prudence which presides over your deliberations, your firmness in execution, the skill and valour displayed by your generals and soldiers, during the course of the war, have attracted the admiration and regard of the whole world. The king my master was the first to acknowledge a liberty acquired amidst so many perils and with so much glory. Since treaties dictated by moderation have fixed upon a permanent basis the union of France with the American republic, his majesty's whole conduct must have demonstrated how dearly he tendered your prosperity, and his firm resolution to maintain your independence by every means in his power. The events which have successively unfolded themselves shew the wisdom of those measures. A powerful ally hath acknowledged the justice of those motives which had compelled the king to take arms, and we may reasonably hope for the most solid success, from the operations of the united fleets. The naval force of the enemy, have been diverted from your continent. Com-

pelled to flee to the defence of their own possessions, all their efforts have been too feeble to prevent our troops from conquering a considerable part. The other British islands feared the same lot, when the French general stopped the current of his success, to seek new dangers here. In conforming to his majesty's intentions, he has complied with his own inclinations, the desires of the French, and the request of the Americans, who invited him to join his arms to those of your republic. Events have not completely answered his courage and his efforts, but his blood and that of my countrymen, shed in a cause so dear to us, hath cemented the base on which the alliance is founded, and impressed on it a character as indelible as are all those by which it is already consecrated.

That alliance, gentlemen, becomes daily more indissoluble, and the benefits which the two nations derive from it have given it the most perfect confidence. The relations of commerce between the subjects of the king my master, and the inhabitants of the Thirteen United States, continually multiply; and we may already perceive, in spite of those obstacles which embarrass the reciprocal communication, how natural it is, how advantageous it will be to the two nations and all who participate in it, and how much the monopolizing spirit, the jealous attention and prohibitory edicts of the enemy to your freedom, have been prejudicial to your happiness.

It is under these circumstances, gentlemen, that the king my master, hath been pleased to appoint me his minister plenipotentiary to you. You have seen in the letter which I had just now the honour to deliver from him, fresh assurances of his friendship. I consider as the happiest circumstance of my life, a mission in the course of which I am certain of fulfilling my duty when I labour for your prosperity; and I felicitate myself upon being sent to a nation whose interests are so intimately blended with our own, that I can be useful neither to France nor the American republic, without rendering myself agreeable both to the one and to the other.

It was certainly desirable that the affairs with which I am charged, had remained in the hands of that enlightened minister whom I succeed; and whose health compels him to return to France. I have not his abilities, but like him, I have an unbounded zeal for the welfare and success of the common cause; like him I am directed to concur in every thing which can be useful or agreeable to your republic. I have the same attachment to the people you, gentlemen, represent, and the same admiration of their conduct. I have the most fervent wish to give you proofs of it, and I hope by these different titles to merit your confidence and your esteem.

LE CHE DE LA LUZERNE.

To which the president returned the following answer.

SIR,

The early attention of our good friend and ally to these United States is gratefully felt by all their virtuous citizens; and we should be unfaithful representatives if we did not warmly acknowledge every instance of his regard, and take every opportunity of expressing the attachment of our constituents to treaties formed upon the purest principles.

His Most Christian Majesty, in rendering himself protector of the rights of mankind, became entitled to assistance from the friends of man. His title could not but be recognized by a monarch whose diadem is adorned with equity and truth: that monarch by joining his arms to those of our great ally hath given a fatal blow to the common enemy; and from the justness of the motives which unite the combined fleets, we expect the most solid benefits will crown their operations; nor can we doubt that other powers will rejoice to see that haughty nation humbled in proportion as they have been insulted by her presumptuous arrogance.

We well know, and all the world must acknowledge the moderation and friendship of the Most Christian King, in neglecting conquests which courted his acceptance for the benevolent pleasure of succouring his allies. In this as in every other instance, we perceive his strict adherence to the principles of our defensive alliance. We are sensible of the zeal of the French general, in executing his majesty's orders: we esteem his courage, we lament his wounds, and we respect that generous valour which hath led your countrymen to contend with ours in the same common cause, in the same field of glory. A noble emulation which hath poured out the blood of the two nations, and mingled it together as a sacred pledge of perpetual union.

The consequences which have followed from the appearance of the French fleet upon our coasts, particularly by disconcerting the enemy's plans of operation, and destroying a considerable part of their naval force, demonstrate the wisdom

of the measure. That they have not been more beneficial, is to be attributed to those incidents which in the hand of Omnipotence determine all human events; but our disappointment is compensated by reflecting on the period of money that subsisted between the general, and the troops of the two nations.

The prosperous course of this campaign, and a pleasing hope that the moment of peace may soon arrive, when the reciprocation of mutual good offices shall amply recompense our mutual labours and cares; and we doubt not, but that moment the commerce between the two nations, now struggling under great inconveniences, will throb forth with vigour and advantage, and happily demonstrate the injuries which were suffered from the restraints of our enemies.

While we lament, sir, the loss of your worthy predecessor, we are led from your personal character to the pleasing expectation that you will possess that confidence and esteem which he enjoyed. They are due to the servant of our benefactor: we are happy in his choice, and being thoroughly convinced of the intimate connection between the interests and views of the allied nations, cannot but persuade ourselves that the more attentively you shall perform your duty to your sovereign, and the more sedulously you shall guard and promote the welfare of your country, the more agreeable and respectable you will render yourself to the citizens of America.

The secretary of congress delivered to the printer a copy of the foregoing reply dated in congress, November 17, 1779, and signed Samuel Huntington, president. Whereupon the minister withdrew, and was conducted home, in the manner in which he was brought to the house.

Extracts from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secy.

A letter has been received by the executive council and house of assembly of this state, from a convention of commissioners for five states assembled at Hartford, proposing that a convention of commissioners from all the states, as far southward as Virginia inclusive, do meet at Philadelphia on the first Wednesday on January next, to settle a limitation of prices, the proposal has been approved, and on Monday next commissioners will be appointed for that purpose.

IN CONGRESS, Oct. 30, 1779.

RESOLVED,

THAT the managers be directed to make sale of the tickets of the third class of the lottery of the United States without delay; that the drawing thereof commence the first day of March next, and be completed as soon as may be; and that the tickets then unfold be the property and at the risk of the said states.

Lottery-Office, November 2, 1779.

IN consequence of the above resolve the managers give this public notice, that on the first day of March next the drawing of the lottery will commence at the old city vendue store, and be continued from day to day with all possible expedition until finished. Each person therefore as choote to become purchaser is to apply before said date, at the different offices throughout the United States.

The printers are requested to publish the above, and continue it, till the first of March next, the day of drawing.

IN CONGRESS, November 12, 1779.

RESOLVED,

THAT regimental pay-masters not being of the rank of captains, quarter-masters and adjutants, be entitled to receive the same subsistence money as is allowed to captains by the act of congress, of the eighteenth of August last, this subsistence to commence on that day.

Extracts from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secy.

Nov. 23. Last Sunday returned from a cruise the privateer sloop Comet, captain Deane, and brought with him the express boat from St. Augustine, mentioned in our paper of the 16th instant.

Several ships of force belonging to Count d'Estaing's fleet, lately arrived in Chesapeake bay, for the purpose of landing a few sick and wounded men, and taking in provisions;—this being accomplished, they are immediately to proceed to their station in the West-Indies.

We are well assured, that on Thursday last, when the bill depending before the general assembly of this state, for the gradual abolition of slavery, was ordered to be engrossed for the third reading, there were only eight votes against the bill, and that two of the members, who appeared against it, afterwards explained their views, by alleging they thought the age of 23 years for the entire freedom of the young blacks hereafter born, was unreasonably long.