

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, NOVEMBER 24, 1780.

By his excellency Sir HENRY CLINTON, knight of the most honourable order of the bath, general and commander in chief of all his majesty's forces, within the colonies lying on the Atlantic ocean, from Nova-Scotia to West-Florida, inclusive, &c. &c. &c.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS there are several deserters from the British and foreign troops under my command, who are serving with the enemy, &c. &c. &c. I have thought fit to issue this my proclamation, offering a free and unlimited pardon to all such deserters, who shall surrender themselves to any of his majesty's troops before the first day of November next.

And whereas there are many of his majesty's European subjects at this time serving in the army against their king and country, who being with remorse, and sensible of the heinousness of such an unnatural proceeding, would be anxious to return to their allegiance, did not their demerits, before their arrival in America, make them doubtful of meeting with protection and support within these lines. I do therefore hereby promise to all such who shall come in before the abovementioned first of November, in addition to the benefits, protection and support, to which they would be entitled under any other proclamations, to procure for them his majesty's most gracious pardon, for all felonies and treasons (murder excepted) which they have heretofore been guilty of, provided they will take up arms in his service, and give their assistance to the quelling this unnatural rebellion against his government.

Given under my hand at head-quarters, in New-York, this 23d day of September, 1780.

H. CLINTON.

By his excellency's command, JOHN SMITH.

THE above proclamation of Sir Henry Clinton's is taken word for word from Rivington's New-York paper of October 25, 1780, and we may now challenge all the records of the most licentious banditti, to produce its equal.

The first paragraph we admit. But in the second Sir Harry turns a recruiting agent, and that his speech may have all the swelling oratory it deserves, I have put it into its true file and meaning, viz.

All you gentlemen volunteers, who have been transported from England for picking of pockets, house-breaking, horse-stealing, sheep-stealing, perjury, high-way robbery, and street robbery. All you who ought to have been hanged, and are not hanged. All you who deserve to be hanged, and will yet be hanged. All you who are too bad to live and not fit to die. All you whom the laws of your country sent into banishment for being rogues and thieves, come and shake hands with his most gracious majesty. Come and assist the great pick-pocket of England, George the third, to pick the pocket of all America. And I do promise you, in addition to the benefits, protection and support you are entitled to under any other proclamation, to procure for you his majesty's most gracious pardon for all the crimes and felonies in which you were transported, upon condition that from being thieves, you will turn devils, and join George the third.

Now Sir Harry, do you feel no shame, no confusion of heart, or embarrassment of countenance in thus exposing the wretchedness of your cause. We know it is a bad one, and that none but pickpockets will join it: but are you not a fool to tell it yourself? How will you look in the eyes of Europe? How will you appear in your country, when it shall be read under the sanction of your own name, that you are courted by your assistance, the outcasts of your own nation, banished by your own laws, and by these very laws punished with death if they return. Here they have committed no crime, but against you and your laws only they are criminals.

Have you not published to Europe, have you not imposed upon your own nation, that the good and virtuous in America were your friends? That those good and virtuous were flocking to your standard; aiding your councils, and strengthening your arms?—And now it appears that those good and virtuous, O shame to your cause, are the pickpockets of London, the outcasts of St. Giles's, the scourgings of Rag-Fair, and the scum of Moorfields.

O! what a fine market the Tories have driven their hogs to—O! shame to human nature—Your friends, your worthy friends, who were not convicts, are now to keep company with transported pickpockets, foot-pads, house-breakers, horse-stealers, sheep-stealers, highway robbers and street robbers, and all this under the royal authority of Great-Britain.

Why, gentlemen Tories, lady Tories, gentlemen quakers, and gentlemen who are not quakers, do feel a little dignity for yourselves; do be above jacks of the mint, and moll trollops, for if one of you stir after this, by the lord, all the world will say, that you went in consequence of this proclamation for vagaabonds.

COMUS.

RICHMOND, Nov. 11.

An intercepted letter taken by one of our out posts from a person in disguise.

Portsmouth, (Virginia) Nov. 4, 1780.

MY LORD,

I HAVE been near a week establishing a post. I wrote to you to Charles-town, and by another messenger by land also. I cannot hear for a certainty where you are. I wait your orders. The bearer is to be handsomely rewarded if he brings me any note or mark from your lordship.

Lord Cornwallis. Major Ferguson's address to the inhabitants of North-Carolina, dated Denard's ford, Broad river, Tryon county, O. S. 1, 1780.

GENTLEMEN

UNLESS you wish to be eat up by an inundation of barbarians, who have begun, by murdering the unarmed son before the aged father, and afterwards lopped off his arms, and who by their shocking cruelty and irregularities, give the best proof of their cowardice and want of discipline: I say, if you wish to be pinioned, robbed, or murdered, and to see your wives and daughters in four days, abused by the dregs of mankind; in short, if you wish or deserve to live and bear the name of man, grasp your arms in a moment and run to camp. The Backwatermen have crossed the mountain, McDowell, Hampton, Shelby, and Cleveland, are at their head, so that you know what you have to depend upon. If you choose to be pillaged upon for ever and ever, by a set of Mongrels, say so at once, and let your women turn their backs upon you and look out for real men to protect them.

PAT. FERGUSON, major 71st regt.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 14.

We are happy to inform the public, and particularly the relatives of the unfortunate gentlemen who have been so long detained prisoners within the enemy's posts, that an exchange of prisoners has at length taken place, whereby all our privates who have been confined at New-York, and upwards of two hundred officers, are liberated; a few officers only now remain, for whom there were not similar ranks among the British prisoners to apply.

An account was yesterday received, that a ship is lately arrived at Bolton, which sailed from Europe in company with a French fleet of eight sail of the line, &c. destined for America. The above ship parted with the fleet in the latitude of Bermuda.

In CONGRESS, O. S. 4, 1780.

Resolved, That the board of war be and hereby are directed to erase from the register of the names of the officers of the army of the United States the name of BENEDICT ARNOLD.

November 3.

WHEREAS, congress have received information, that John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Vanwert, three young volunteer militiamen of the state of New-York, did on the 23d

of September last intercept major John Andrie, adjutant-general of the British army, on his return from the American lines in the character of a spy; and, notwithstanding the large bribes offered them for his release, nobly disdain to sacrifice their country for the sake of gold, secured and conveyed him to the commanding officer of the district, whereby the dangerous and traitorous conspiracy of Benedict Arnold was brought to light, the insidious designs of the enemy baffled, and the United States rescued from impending danger.

Resolved, That congress have a high sense of the virtuous and patriotic conduct of the said JOHN PAULDING, DAVID WILLIAMS and ISAAC VANWERT.

In testimony whereof,

ORDERED, That each of them receive annually out of the public treasury two hundred dollars in specie, or an equivalent in the current money of these states, during life; and that the board of war be directed to procure for each of them a silver medal, on one side of which shall be a shield with this inscription, "fidelity, and on the other the following motto, "vincit amor patrie," and forward them to the commander in chief, who is requested to present the same, with a copy of this resolution, and the thanks of congress for their fidelity, and the eminent service they have rendered their country.

Extra from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

AN ESSAY on the FREEDOM of SPEECH.

THE surprising changes and improvements that have of late years been wrought in the various pursuits of mankind, as well in matters of common civil intercourse, as in the more important subjects of science, and true-morals, have contributed so much to the ease and convenience of conversation and company, by rendering men more open and unreserved, and by freeing the mind from that restraint, which a licentiousness of censure and supposed abuse will ever impose upon a generous nature, are so apparent, and have been attended with such salutary consequences, that a period of the least discernment must instantly perceive the vast accession which is thereby gained to the glorious cause of general liberty. That this change should be now accomplished, is not so surprising, as that an improvement so obvious and interesting, and of such necessary concern to human affairs, should be so long neglected, or have baffled the efforts of every unceasing. The man, who adventures upon a reformation of manners, who endeavours to set up rules to regulate the intercourse of men upon the principles of decency and respect, will often prove a mere speculatist; though approved in theory, his doctrine will have little influence on practice. The reformation must spring from another source; there must be a general tendency to such observances; this is often effected by example, but seldom accomplished by precept. Every friend to society and social communication will agree with me, that there cannot be a greater blessing in a community than examples of this kind; especially when they proceed from those who are reputed, as the common expression is, of the better sort; those, who from their situation in life, their official distinction in society, education, or from some other cause, which gives them weight with observers, are commonly esteemed the standard of fashion and propriety. Gentlemen in these circumstances give the tone to conversation, their authority is quoted on all occasions, and their practice is a decision without appeal.

A celebrated author observes, that the manners and spirit of a nation are confined to, and to be collected from, the few, who feed, employ, and give laws to the many. This, though a position not altogether consistent with the idea of an universally free government, is however the real case of every one, and we have no reason to lament that the principle has so much influence in ours. The virtues and refined behaviour of the few who feed, employ, and give laws to the many, to use the expressions of that author, are a sufficient security of the true constitutional demeanour, and the decent and most respectful