

answered by a number of the inhabitants who lined the docks at the time.

*A circumstantial account of the late battle at Chelsea, Hog-Island, &c.*

ON Saturday last, a party of the American army at Cambridge, to the number of between 2 and 300 men, had orders to drive off the live stock from Hog and Noddle's Island, which lie near Chelsea and Winnefiummet, on the N. E. side of Boston harbour. From Chelsea to Hog-Island, at low water, it is but about knee high, and from thence to Noddle's Island about the same. The stock on the former belonged to Mr. Oliver Wendell, at Boston, and Mr. Jonathan Jackson, at Newburyport; that on Noddle's Island was owned by Mr. Williams, of Bolton, who hires the island.

About 11 o'clock, A. M. between 20 and 30 men went from Chelsea to Hog-Island, and from thence to Noddle's Island, to drive off the stock which was there, but were interrupted by a schooner and a sloop, dispatched from the fleet in Boston harbour, and 40 marines, who had been stationed on the island to protect the live stock. However, they sent off two fine English stallions, two colts, and three cows; killed fifteen horses, two colts, and 3 cows, burnt a large barn full of salt hay, and an old farm-house. By this time they were fired on from the schooner and sloop, and a large number of marines in boats, sent from the several men of war; upon which they retreated to a ditch on the marsh, and kept themselves undiscovered, till they had an opportunity to fire on the marines, when they shot down two dead, and wounded two more, one of whom died soon after. They then retreated to Hog-Island, where they were joined by the remainder of their party from Chelsea, and drove off all the stock thereon, viz. between 3 and 400 sheep and lambs, some cows, horses, &c.

During this there were firings between the provincials and the schooner, sloop, boats, and marines on the other island. Having cleared Hog-Island, the provincials drew up on Chelsea neck, and sent for a reinforcement of 300 men, and two pieces of cannon (4 pounders) which arrived about 9 o'clock in the evening; soon after which General Putnam went down and hailed the schooner, told the people that, if they would submit, they should have good quarters, which the schooner returned with a cannon shot; this was immediately answered with a cannon from the provincials. Upon this a very heavy fire ensued from both sides, which lasted till 11 o'clock at night, when the fire from the schooner ceased, the fire from the shore being so hot, that the people were obliged to quit her, and take to the boats, a great number of which had been sent from the ships to their assistance, and also a large reinforcement of marines sent to Noddle's Island, with 12 pounders.

The schooner being thus left, drove ashore, where about break of day the provincials carried some hay under her stern, and set her on fire, the sloop keeping up a small fire upon them; at which time a heavy cannonading was begun at Noddle's Island hill with the twelve pounders upon the provincials; also Gen. Putnam kept a heavy fire upon the sloop, which disabled her much, and killed many of her men, so that she was obliged to be towed off by the boats, when the firing ceased excepting a few shot which were exchanged between the party at Chelsea, and the marines on Noddle's Island. Thus ended this long action, without the loss of one provincial, and only four wounded, one of whom was wounded by the bursting of his own gun, and another on'y lost his little finger. The loss of the enemy amounted to 20 killed and 50 wounded. The provincials took out of the schooner 4 double-fortified 4 pounders, 12 swivels, chief of her rigging and sails, many cloths, some money, &c. which the sailors and marines left behind, they having quitted in great haste.

PHILADELPHIA, June 5. IN CONGRESS, Monday, May 27, 1775.

On motion resolved, That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be exported to the island of Nantuxet, except from the colony of Massachusetts-bay; the convention of which colony is desired to take measures for effectually providing the said island, upon their application to purchase the same, with as much provision as shall be necessary for its internal use and no more.

The congress deeming it of great importance to North-America, that the British fishery should not be furnished with provisions from this continent, through Nantuxet, earnestly recommend a vigilant execution of this resolve to all committees.

A true copy from the minutes. CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

IN CONGRESS, June 8, 1775.

Upon motion resolved, That no bill of exchange, draught, or order of any officer in the army or navy, their agents or contractors, be received or negotiated, or any money supplied to them by any person in America. That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be furnished or supplied to or for the use of the British army or navy in the colony of Massachusetts-bay—and that no vessel employed in transporting British troops to America, or from one part of North-America to another, or warlike stores or provisions for said troops, be freighted or furnished with provisions or any necessaries—until farther orders from this congress.

A true copy from the minutes. CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

WILLIAMSBURG, June 1.

Last Monday morning, about 10 o'clock, the Williamsburg troop of horse left this city, well accounted, in order to meet our good and worthy speaker on his return from the continental congress. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, these hardy friends and supporters of American liberty pursued their journey with the utmost eagerness, whilst the most unfeigned joy diffused itself in every countenance.

For order, good discipline, and regularity, this company was greatly applauded. Kuffen's ferry was the place where they met the object of their wishes, whom, after giving three hearty cheers, they conducted until they arrived within about two miles of the city, when they were joined by the company of foot, who also gave three cheers, and showed every other mark of decency and respect. The pleasing deportment of the speaker, on account of this peculiar honour done him, animated, in the highest degree, every person that attended; and

on Tuesday, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the whole body arrived here, surrounding the father of his country, whom they attended to his house, amidst repeated acclamations, and then respectfully retired.

This day the general assembly of this colony met, pursuant to the governor's proclamation.

The speech of his excellency the Right Honourable John Earl of Dunmore, his majesty's lieutenant and governor-general of the colony and dominion of Virginia, and vice-admiral of the same, to the general assembly, convened at the capitol, in the city of Williamsburg, on Thursday the 1st of June, 1775.

Gentlemen of the council, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.

I HAVE called you together to give you an opportunity of taking the alarming state of the colony into your consideration, and providing remedies against the evils which are encreasing therein; and I am induced to it at this time particularly, because as the declarations of the king and parliament, contained in the joint address of the lords and commons on the 7th of February last, and his Majesty's answer, no longer admit of a doubt that your well founded grievances properly represented, will meet with that attention and regard which are so justly due to them; so likewise the resolution of the house of commons, which followed on the 27th of the same month, will, I trust, have the effect of removing the jealousy which has been the principal source of disquiet and uneasiness in the minds of the people. Therefore I entertain the strongest hopes that nothing will remain, after a just consideration of the nature and tendency of that resolution; to prevent your seriously exerting yourselves to bring the disputes which have unhappily raged between the mother country and the colonies, to a good end; to which the step already taken by the house of commons must be considered as a benevolent, tender, and, I hope, auspicious advance on the part of the parent state.

It must now be manifest to all dispassionate people that the parliament, the high and supreme legislature of the empire, far from having entertained thoughts so inconsistent with the wisdom and public virtue which have ever distinguished that august body, of oppressing the people of the colonies, or of promoting the interest of one of the expense of another part of their fellow-subjects, have only been extending their care, that the whole, in consideration of the enjoyment of equal rights, privileges, and advantages, should be obliged, according to their abilities and situation, to contribute that proportion towards the burthens necessary for the support of the civil government, and for the common defence, which the subjects of the same state cannot, with any justice, or consistent with their own welfare, refuse to grant; the principle of which, having never, I believe, been denied by the people of his Majesty's dominion of Virginia, I hope you will think it reasonable now to acknowledge the propriety, and to engage to fulfil your part of the obligation it concludes.

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the house of burgesses,

No specific sum is demanded of you for these purposes that (as I think obviously appears) your justice and liberality may be left to their full scope, and that your gift, if you should be induced to offer any, may be, in the completest manner, free. The civil government of this country being already provided for, you will only have to declare what proportion, and by what means you are willing to contribute towards the public burthens of the state, burthens to which the mother country hath cheerfully submitted, to secure the colonies from the encroachments of a dangerous and vigilant enemy: And I am warranted to say, that as it is never intended to require you to tax yourselves, without parliament's taxing the subjects of Great Britain on the same occasion, in a far greater proportion, no prudence which you shall think necessary to observe for your security in that particular can be disapproved of.

And I can likewise assure you, that if you should judge fit to adopt the principle, and imitate the example of justice, equity, and moderation in your proposals, which actuated the house of commons in their resolution declaring at once what was ultimately expected of you; such a compliance on your part will be considered by his Majesty not only a testimony of your reverence for parliament, but also as a mark of your duty and attachment to your sovereign, who has no object nearer his heart than the peace and prosperity of his subjects in every part of his dominions.

I must recommend to you to fall upon means of paying the officers and privatemens employed in repelling the late invasion and incursions of the Indians, as I make no doubt you will think their services on that occasion, deserving of your attention.

Gentlemen of the council, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of burgesses.

You may be assured of my cheerful concurrence in all measures, and ready assent to all laws, which it may be found expedient to adopt for the present peace, tranquillity, and advantage of the country, and I hope you will think it necessary to these ends that the courts of justice should forthwith be opened, in order that the laws may again have their due course.

I cannot conclude without exhorting you, in the most earnest manner, to enter upon the subject matter, now recommended to you, with that patience, calmness, and impartiality, which its great importance requires, and to reflect upon the benefits this country hath received from the support given to it by the parent state, which I hope will animate your zeal, now you have it in your power, to restore that harmony and mutual confidence which rendered both countries so flourishing; and, in short, to pursue your true interest, which will convert our present gloomy apprehensions into prospects of peace, happiness, and lasting security.

To the Hon. PEYTON RANDOLPH, Esquire. SIR,

WE the members of the volunteer company in Williamsburg, embodied, to support the constitutional rights and liberties of America, are exceedingly alarmed to hear, from report, that the same malevolent designs, from whom have originated all the evils of America, are now exerting their utmost treachery to endanger your life and safety. The friends of liberty and mankind have never escaped the fury of arbitrary despots. No wonder, then, that you should be selected as

a proper victim, to be sacrificed to the malice of the present administration.

Permit us therefore, attached to you by the noblest ties of gratitude and fellow-citizens, to entreat you, in the warmest manner, to be particularly attentive to your own safety, as you regard the interests of this country. We now proffer to you our services, to be exerted in the defence of every thing our country ought to hold dear, as you may think most expedient, in the defence of your person, and constitutional liberty, and will most cheerfully hazard our lives in the protection of one who has so often encountered every danger and difficulty in the service of his countrymen. May heaven grant you long to live the father of your country, and a friend to freedom and humanity.

To which his Honour was pleased to return the following Answer.

Gentlemen,

THE affection you have expressed for me demands the warmest returns of gratitude, and I feel very sensibly the happiness resulting from the kind attention of my worthy fellow-citizens to my security and welfare. Your apprehensions for my present safety arise from reports, which I hope have no foundation. Such unjust and arbitrary proceedings would bring on the authors of them the reprobation and indignation of every honest man in the British empire. I shall endeavour to deserve the esteem you have expressed on this occasion, and shall think it the greatest misfortune that can attend me if ever my future conduct should give you any reason to be displeas'd with the testimony you have now offered of your approbation.

ANNAPOLIS, June 8.

At a meeting of the committee of observation for Prince-George's county, at the house of Richard Carnes, in Piscataway, on Monday the 10th day of April, 1775, were present 13 members.

BY a letter from the committee at Baltimore, of the 15th ult. it appears, that a brig, called the Sally, William Moat, master, from Bittel, having 400 bushels of salt on board, imported since the first of February last, arrived there lately, consigned to Dr. John Stephenson; that part of the said salt was put on board three or four crafts, supposed to be intended for sale in the different rivers in this province; and that one Bailey, in a sloop, took part of said salt; and it appearing to this committee, from the information of Messrs. William Lyles, jun. George Fraser Hawkins, and Ezekiah Wheeler, that they had, on or about the 15th of March, purchased of one Thomas Bailey, a parcel of fine salt, since suspected to be part of the above; the aforesaid Thomas Bailey appears, and being informed of the above, declares his concern that he should have been unguardedly led into a step that he now finds to have been wrong; and that, to shew the sincerity of such his declaration, voluntarily consents and requests, that the salt sold as above be destroyed, on which he had fully given up all claim against the persons to whom he had sold the same, and requests the determination of the committee be postponed, as he can furnish evidence from Baltimore to prove his innocence; on which it is referred to this day fortnight. Mr. Carnes, Mr. Thomas Dent, Mr. Richard Dent, Mr. Edward Edelen, and Mr. George Diggs, or any two of them, are appointed to see the salt destroyed.

At a meeting of the committee of observation for Prince-George's county, at the house of Mr. Richard Carnes, in Piscataway, on Saturday the 27th day of May, 1775, were present 19 members.

THE said Thomas Bailey failing to appear, according to the former reference, with the evidence proposed from Baltimore, the committee proceeded to consider the charge against him; and as it appeared, from the said Bailey's own declaration, that he was informed at Alexandria, before he landed the aforesaid salt, that the ship load of salt which arrived at Baltimore, consigned to Dr. John Stephenson, was declared to be illegally imported, and ordered to be destroyed—they do resolve, that the said Thomas Bailey has committed a wilful violation of the continental association, by selling and landing salt imported in the Sally, captain Moat.

The committee being informed, that Mr. John Baynes, of Piscataway, had killed a lamb, contrary to the resolve of the provincial convention, held at Annapolis in December last, Messrs. Luke Marbury and George Diggs were sent to inform him, that the committee desired his immediate attendance. Mr. Baynes appeared, and being informed as above, acknowledged that he had killed a lamb, and conceived that he had not thereby violated the continental association, which he purposed to adhere to, and thought it superior to the provincial convention, which, he conceived, was only intended to carry the resolves of the continental congress into execution.

Resolved, that the said Mr. Baynes, in killing the said lamb, has violated the resolve of the provincial convention, that such measures may be of mischiefous consequence, as tending to create a disregard to public regulation, formed for preserving the liberties of America.

ORDERED, That a copy of these proceedings be signed by the chairman, and sent to be published in the Maryland Gazette.

Signed, by order of the committee, JOSIAS BEALL, chairman.

Charles county, June 3, 1775. INFORMATION being made to some of the members of the committee for this county, on Monday the 29th May last, That certain persons had imported, and were privately selling, goods in a daring and direct violation of the continental association. A meeting of the committee was immediately called, and but few members attending, a general meeting was publicly requested this day, when a very full and respectable number attended at the court-house, in Port-Tobacco, to make enquiry into this affair, and it was clearly and satisfactorily proved, that a certain John Baillie, who last May came a passenger in the ship Lady Margaret, capt. William Noble, from Scotland, had brought sundry dry goods with him, which appeared by the testimony of Baillie and Patrick Graham, living in Port-Tobacco, to have been put on board and landed, without the consent or knowledge of the captain, though Baillie swore that capt. Noble knew of it.