

by the delegates of this province sitting in convention, or at any time when they are not sitting in convention, by the council of safety in the name of the convention; which officers shall rank and martial the companies of their respective battalions.

To be continued in our next.

L O N D O N, June 17.

We hear that four regiments of foot will be shortly sent to reinforce the army under Gen. Gage, and that orders will be given to the lord lieutenants of sixteen counties, to cause the militia to be embodied within their respective commanderies.

Extra of a letter from Portsmouth, dated June 14.

Last night arrived at Spithead the Earl of Dunmore Capt. Lawrence, from New-York, which place she left the 6th ult. in great confusion. We are informed by some passengers who came home in that ship, that the Americans have taken possession of the garrison, and compelled the king's troops to embark on board the ships with great loss; that the provincials treat all those with great inhumanity that declare themselves for government, by cutting off their ears, &c.

Extra of a letter from Portsmouth, June 13.

Sailed the Navy sloop of war, captain Sutherland, for Plymouth. The shipwrights who left off work yesterday, on account of their grievances not being redressed, (Lord Sandwich being called on important business to town) amounted to 400; so that this town is in a state of confusion.

Extra of a letter from Portsmouth, June 11.

This morning Sir Peter Parker hoisted his broad pendant on board his Majesty's ship Royal Oak, which is to be joined by the Worcester and Exeter of 64 guns each; and the Argonaut of 74 guns is ordered in the room of the Kent, who got on shore coming from Plymouth, and proves leaky. It is expected they will sail on their cruise the beginning of the week. A large train of artillery is now preparing at Woolwich, to be shipped off with all speed for America.

Extra of a letter from Portsmouth, June 16.

Yesterday morning an express arrived here from the admiralty, with orders for the following six ships of the line to be got ready with the greatest expedition, viz, the Neptune, of 90 guns--Superb, 74--Firm, 60--Essex, 64--and Windsor and America of 60 guns. The destination of the above ships is kept a profound secret.

We hear that Gen. Gage has sent home for more light ordnance and stores; in consequence of which the necessary orders have been given. A transport failed about three weeks or a month since with some of the above from the tower, for the use of the troops in America. Orders are given for all the artificers in the dock-yards to work double tides, to fit out the men of war wanted for immediate service.

Extra of a letter from Dublin, June 12.

The post assembly, which is to be held to-morrow, for the purpose of considering an address to the king, in behalf of our distressed American brethren, is likely to be the fullest ever known.

Dublin, June 10. We hear the following regiments of foot are ordered to get ready to embark for America; the 15th regiment, commanded by major general Sir C. Thomson; 27th, by Col. Eyre Massey; 28th by major general Thomas Erle; 42d, by lieutenant general Lord John Murray; 46th, by colonel Hon. John Vaughan; and 55th by major general Richard Earl of Cavan.

P O R T S M O U T H, August 8.

We hear that four gentlemen, late captains in the militia army, at Boston, have resigned their commissions to general Gage, from a conviction that the service they were employed in was derogatory to their honour, disgraceful to humanity, and subversive of the common rights of mankind.

C A M B R I D G E, August 10.

Since Monday last eight companies of rifle men, of about 100 men each, have arrived from the southward. Four more are daily expected.

Col. Thompson, of the Pennsylvania regiment of rifle men, and a number of young gentlemen, volunteers, from Philadelphia, are arrived. Also capt. Morgan's company in 3 weeks from Virginia, being 600 miles.

N E W B E R N, (in North-Carolina) August 6.

In COMMITTEE, August 3.

From the late conduct of Gov. Martin at Fort Johnston, and intelligence since by this committee, it appears, he intends erecting the king's standard, and commencing hostilities against the people of this province. It is therefore resolved, that no person or persons whatsoever have any correspondence with him, either by personal communication or letter, on pain of being deemed enemies to the liberties of America, and dealt with accordingly. And that no person or persons presume to remove him or themselves from hence to Core Sound, or any other part of the province where the governor resides, without leave of this committee, as he or they will not be suffered to return here.

By order,

R. COGDILL, chairman.

By a gentleman just come to town from Cape-Fear, we have a certain account that the armed force which lately went down to burn Fort Johnston have effected the same by destroying all the houses and rendering the fortifications entirely useless. Capt. Collier, who commanded that fort, 'tis said, had a number of slaves which he had incited to revolt from their masters, actually concealed in the fort, which were again recovered by their several owners; for this treachery they burnt his dwelling-house with all his furniture, and every thing valuable he had not time to get on board the men of war,

P H I L A D E L P H I A.

To the KING'S Most Excellent MAJESTY.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, in behalf of ourselves, and the inhabitants of these colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in GENERAL CONGRESS, entreat your majesty's gracious attention to this our humble PETITION:

THE union between our mother country and these colonies, and the energy of mild and just government, produced benefits so remarkably important, and afforded such an assurance of their permanency and increase, that the wonder and envy of other nations were excited, while they beheld Great-Britain rising to a power, the most extraordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals observing that there was no probability of this happy connection being broken by civil dissensions, and apprehending its future effects, if left any longer undisturbed, resolved to prevent her receiving such continual and formidable accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the growth of those settlements from which they were to be derived.

In the prosecution of this attempt, events so unfavourable to the design took place, that every friend to the interest of Great-Britain and these colonies, entertained pleasing and reasonable expectations of seeing an additional force and exertion immediately given to the operations of the union hitherto experienced, by an enlargement of the dominions of the crown, and the removal of ancient and warlike enemies to a greater distance.

At the conclusion therefore of the late war, the most glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by British arms, your loyal colonists, having contributed to its success, by such repeated and strenuous exertions as frequently procured them the distinguished approbation of your majesty, of the late king, and of parliament, doubted not but that they should be permitted, with the rest of the empire, to share in the blessings of peace, and the emoluments of victory and conquest.

While these recent and honourable acknowledgments of their merits remained on record in the journals and acts of that august legislature, the parliament, undisturbed by the imputation or even the suspicion of any offence, they were alarmed by a new system of statutes and regulations, adopted for the administration of the colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies; and to their inexpressible astonishment perceived the danger of a foreign quarrel quickly succeeded by domestic dangers, in their judgment, of a more dreadful kind.

Nor were these anxieties alleviated by any tendency in this system to promote the welfare of the mother country. For though its effects were more immediately felt by them, yet its influence appeared to be injurious to the commerce and prosperity of Great-Britain.

We shall decline the ungrateful task of describing the irksome variety of artifices, practised by many of your majesty's ministers, the delusive pretences, fruitless terrors, and unavailing severities, that have from time to time been dealt out by them, in their attempts to execute this impolitic plan, or of tracing, through a series of years past, the progress of the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and these colonies, that have flowed from this fatal source.

Your majesty's ministers, persevering in their measures, and proceeding to open hostilities for enforcing them, have compelled us to arm in our own defence, and have engaged us in a controversy so peculiarly abhorrent to the affections of your faithful colonists, that, when we consider whom we must oppose in this contest, and, if it continues, what may be the consequences, our own particular misfortunes are accounted by us only as parts of our distress.

Knowing to what violent resentments, and incurable animosities, civil discords are apt to exasperate and inflame the contending parties, we think ourselves required by indispensable obligations to Almighty God, to your majesty, to our fellow subjects, and to ourselves, immediately to use all the means in our power, not incompatible with our safety, for stopping the further effusion of blood, and for averting the impending calamities that threaten the British empire.

Thus called upon to address your majesty on affairs of such moment to America, and probably to all your dominions, we are earnestly desirous of performing this office, with the utmost deference for your majesty; and we therefore pray, that your majesty's royal magnanimity and benevolence may make the most favourable constructions of our expressions on so uncommon an occasion. Could we represent in their full force the sentiments that agitate the minds of us your dutiful subjects, we are persuaded, your majesty would ascribe any seeming deviation from reverence in our language, and even in our conduct, not to any reprehensible intention, but to the impossibility of reconciling the usual appearances of respect with a just attention to our own preservation against those awful and cruel enemies, who abuse your royal confidence and authority, for the purpose of effecting our destruction.

Attached to your majesty's person, family, and government, with all devotion that principle and affection can inspire, connected with Great-Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and deploring every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we solemnly assure your majesty, that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these colonies may be restored, but that a concord may be established between them upon so firm a basis as to perpetuate its blessings, uninterrupted by any future dissensions, to succeeding generations in both countries, and to transmit your majesty's name to posterity, adorned with that signal and lasting glory that has attended the memory of those illustrious personages, whose virtues and abilities have extricated states from dangerous convulsions, and by securing happiness to others, have erected the most noble and durable monuments to their own fame.

We beg leave further to assure your majesty, that notwithstanding the sufferings of your loyal colonists, during the course of this present controversy, our breasts

retain too tender a regard for the kingdom from which we derive our origin, to request such a reconciliation, as might in any manner be inconsistent with her dignity or her welfare. These related as we are to her, and our duty, as well as inclination, induce us to support and advance; and the apprehensions that now oppress our hearts with unpeakable grief, being once removed, your majesty will find your faithful subjects on this continent ready and willing at all times, as they have ever been, with their lives and fortunes, to assert and maintain the rights and interests of your majesty, and of our mother country.

We therefore beseech your majesty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies, occasioned by the system before-mentioned, and to settle peace through every part of your dominions, with all humility submitting to your majesty's wise consideration, whether it may not be expedient, for facilitating those important purposes, that your majesty be pleased to direct some mode, by which the united applications of your faithful colonists to the throne, in presence of their common councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that in the mean time measures may be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your majesty's subjects; and that such statutes as more immediately distress any of your majesty's colonies may be repealed.

For by such arrangements as your majesty's wisdom can form for collecting the united sense of your American people, we are convinced your majesty would receive such satisfactory proofs of the disposition of the colonists towards their sovereign and the parent state, that the wished for opportunity would soon be created to them, of evincing the sincerity of their professions, by every testimony of devotion becoming the most dutiful subjects and the most affectionate colonists.

That your majesty may enjoy a long and prosperous reign, and that your descendants may govern your dominions, with honour to themselves and happiness to their subjects, is our sincere and fervent prayer.

N O R F O L K, (Virginia) August 2.

On Monday last arrived here from St. Augustine about 60 soldiers, on board the sloop tender, some time since belonging to Mr. Rowdoin, of the Eastern shore. These, with about 40 more, which are hourly expected, are to compose a body guard for his excellency the governor, at his intended place of residence, on board the ship William. The troops above-mentioned are under the command of a captain and two lieutenants; the ensign, it is said, is on his way over land.

W I L L I A M S B U R G H, August 4.

Lord Dunmore reviewed his 60 body-guardmen lately arrived from St. Augustine, last Tuesday, at Gosport; and we hear that he daily expects an additional reinforcement of 40 more soldiers from the same place. His lordship, it is said, as soon as they arrive, and when joined by the marines from the Mercury and other men of war, and a number of other sea friends in different places, intends coming round to York town; from whence, if not prevented, it is likely he will pay us a visit in this city, although he cannot expect the same cordial reception as on former occasions, but will probably be received with just demonstrations, &c. as may make him forget his way to the palace. The good people of Virginia now consider Lord Dunmore as their mortal enemy, and will no longer brook the many gross insults they have received from him, which are daily repeated; and the damned spirit, as they are emphatically called by some of his minions, is more than probable, will make some rue, before long, their ill-timed, base, and ungenerous conduct.

The men of war's officers, we are credibly informed, have been guilty of many outrages, both at Norfolk and Portsmouth; which ungentle behaviour lately exposed one of them to the resentment of a certain Mr. Oshields, who drubbed him handsomely.

A N N A P O L I S, August 24.

The general assembly of this province is further prorogued to Tuesday the third day of October next.

Annapolis, August 23, 1775.

THE members of the committee for this county are requested to attend a meeting of the committee of observation for this county, on Wednesday the 30th instant, to chuse, by ballot, seven of the committee for licensing suits in this county; and to appoint proper persons to insist four companies of minute-men in this county, agreeable to the resolves of the last convention.

Signed, by order of the committee,

G. D U V A L L, clerk.

On Monday the 14th instant, died at his house in Upper-Marlborough, in the 65th year of his age, JOHN HERBURN, Esq; for many years one of the judges of the provincial court, which important trust, he executed with the fidelity and uprightnes becoming a good magistrate—in private life, he approved himself the tender husband, the affectionate and indulgent parent, the humane master, the beneficent neighbour, the faithful friend, the polite companion, and the man of nice honour, and unshaken integrity.

A Preparation for collecting NITRE.

I SWEEP one quarter of a tobacco-house floor, ambeered and spread it over with the trash leaves, stalks &c. of tobacco; this to lay about 14 days. In the mean while I tried a lye drawn from earth dug from the tobacco-house, which proved rich in nitre, and looks lay, it may be so from six, or eight feet deep. I also tried a lye from the rubbish of the floor, which was also rich in nitre. I then took off the trash from the quarter floor, after sweeping this floor clean, and letting it rest a few days, nitre shot up like hoar frost; I am now sweeping up these shoots, sometimes morning, and evening, at other times once a day or every other day, and even four times a day, and have been a week without any shoots, according as the vicissitudes of the weather produce the nitre. When enough shall be obtained for the lye-tub, it is to be used for making salt-petre. In the mean while the other three quarters of the floor have been swept clean, levelled, ambeered, and covered with tobacco.

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