

the tender got within good shot, they fired on the people.

We hear from Providence, that on Tuesday the 22d ultimo, his majesty's ships, the Rose, Swan, and Glasgow, attempted to go to Providence, and get within 3 miles of the town, when two of them ran ashore and the other came to an anchor. Soon after arrived a brig and a sloop, inward bound from the West-Indies, these were immediately chased by the men of war's barges and three cutters, till they ran ashore at Warwick, where they were boarded by the men of war's men in sight of a great number of the people who had assembled on the shore. There were in the harbour two armed schooners fitted out by the town of Providence for the protection of their trade, and were going to convoy a small fleet down the river. A smart engagement then began and lasted three hours and a half, during which an incessant fire was kept up between the two schooners and the brig and sloop, which the people on board often attempted to get off but as often were driven from the windlasses. But at last they cut the brig's cable and carried her off, with the captain on board, who refused to quit her; the sloop we retook and brought her into the harbour, tho' fired upon by the men of war as we passed them. We had not a man killed or wounded, which is surprising. Upwards of 30 cannon ball were picked up on the shore. It is supposed many of the enemy are killed. The men of war are at present in Bristol harbour, where they have begun to rob and plunder the plantation of Mr. William Westels.

Sept. 7. Yesterday afternoon two sloops, captains Holley and Hazard, from New-Fields or Poquonock, loaded with grain, flour, provisions, and live stock, came down the Sound to this city, and having no clearance or other necessary papers to produce, were taken into custody on suspicion of being intended for Boston, or to fall into the hands of the men of war. In their defence they said, that the committee of Fairfield knew of and did not disapprove their design; and that the reason of their want of a clearance, &c. was, that they could not obtain them in Connecticut, by reason of an embargo there upon all vessels, and that they came to New-York to clear out.

Tuesday se'night a small sloop came down the North river from a place called Little-Esopus, and anchored along side the Asia man of war, in order, it is supposed, to supply that ship with necessaries. A strict watch was kept on her from that day until Sunday morning, when she set sail and stood up the river, attended by an armed sloop and some boats from the Asia, but she was immediately pursued by a number of boats from the city, and soon taken, with 12 men in her, who were committed to gaol.

PHILADELPHIA.

We do not hear of any more British troops being destined for America.

The account of the taking of Ticonderoga, with the fire at Boston, and other accounts to the 25th of May, were arrived in London the 27th of June.

NORFOLK, August 30.

[The following letters have lately passed between the worshipful mayor and the captain of the Mercury man of war]

His Majesty's ship Mercury, Norfolk, Aug. 12, 1775.

SIR, I AM just informed, by his Excellency Lord Dunmore, that Mr. Andrew Sprowle has received a summons to attend a committee in Norfolk, on Thursday next. The accusations alleged against him are of a most extraordinary nature. In the summons he is charged with having harboured his Majesty's troops in the woods at Gosport. I am not surpris'd that a summons grounded upon such accusations should be alarming to Mr. Sprowle; particularly after the cruel and oppressive treatment Mr. Schaw lately received from a mob in Norfolk. As I do most earnestly wish, and shall, upon all occasions endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, I think it necessary to explain to you, as chief magistrate of the town of Norfolk, the conduct I mean to pursue, in hope of preserving that peace and obedience to the laws, so ardently to be wished for by all loyal subjects and good citizens. I am sent hither to be the guardian of a British colony; to protect his Majesty's governor, and all the loyal subjects in the province of Virginia. This is my duty, and should with it to be known that my duty and inclination go hand in hand. The same principles which have induced me not to harbour the slaves of any individual in this province, will operate with me to protect the property of all loyal subjects. As I have before observed, that I shall endeavour to promote the public peace of this province, it is hardly necessary to mention that I shall not remain an idle spectator, should any violence be offered to the persons or property of any of his Majesty's subjects. I have reason to apprehend that many gentlemen in this province, from their connections with government, or their readiness to supply his Majesty's ships or servants with provisions, stores, &c. are held up as objects inimical to the liberties of America, and unjustly censured for their loyal conduct. Men under these circumstances are more particularly entitled to my protection. I have not the least doubt from your desire and readiness upon a former occasion to preserve harmony in the town of Norfolk, but you will heartily concur with me in my endeavours to suppress all party jealousies and animosities, so highly injurious to the welfare of a country. More effectually to perform my part, I shall, the first opportunity, place his Majesty's ship under my command abreast of the town; and I must assure you, that notwithstanding I shall feel the utmost pain and reluctance in being compelled to use violent measures to preserve the persons and properties of his Majesty's subjects, yet, I most assuredly shall, if it becomes necessary, use the most coercive measures in my power to suppress all unlawful combinations and persecutions within the province of Virginia.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant, JOHN MACARTNEY.

To Paul Loyall, Esq; Mayor } of the town of Norfolk, Virginia. }

SIR, I JUST now received yours of yesterday's date, by Mr. Swan. The summons you mention, I believe, did not go from a committee of this borough. I will make the necessary enquiry, and will answer your letter to-morrow. In the interim, I am Sir,

Your most obedient servant, PAUL LOYALL.

To John Macartney, Esq; commander } of his Majesty's ship Mercury. }

Norfolk, Aug. 14, 1775.

SIR, SINCE writing you yesterday, I find upon enquiry, that the summons referred to in your letter, was sent from a number of gentlemen who are freeholders, and compose the committee of the county of Norfolk, and are therefore entirely without the jurisdiction of the magistrates of this corporation. I can only promise, that as the place of meeting for the purpose of considering Mr. Sprowle's conduct is said to be within the limits of this borough, I will take proper care that he shall not be molested or injured in his person by any riot or mob, if he shall think fit to attend on the committee. With respect to the treatment that Mr. Schaw received, I was a stranger to it till the disturbance was over; but can assure you, that as soon as he put himself under the protection of a magistrate, he was secured from danger. The conduct which you are pleased to explain to me, as chief magistrate of this borough, as your intention to pursue in preserving peace and obedience to the laws, in the station assigned you by his majesty, must be commended by every good man: By that care in your department, particularly in discouraging the elopement of slaves, which of late it is notorious has frequently happened, from the countenance shewn them by some enemies to this colony as well as to the British constitution, much mischief and confusion may be prevented. Your suggestion, that gentlemen are in danger by supplying his majesty's ships, &c. in this colony with provisions, I cannot account for. I am very sure the contractors for the navy in this town are under no apprehension of danger, as they have been assured to the contrary in the most explicit manner. I hope suspicions of this nature, prejudicial to the loyalty of a number of the inhabitants, who are as much attached to the just prerogative of their sovereign as any subjects in the empire, may not be hastily taken up and adopted, without full and satisfactory proof. I am obliged by your favourable opinion of my readiness to concur in the suppression of all animosities: It has hitherto been, and I trust ever will be, the tenor of my conduct. I have always found the authority of the magistracy sufficiently competent for the maintenance of government and good order; and while I thank you for your cheerful offers of assistance for that laudable purpose, yet I presume your intention is only to act within the line of your department. I confess I feel myself somewhat astonished at the last paragraph of your letter, which seems to me to imply a threatening that would eventually prove destructive to the persons and properties of his majesty's subjects. A personal insult offered to an individual, by the ill-guided zeal of a number of thoughtless youth, can never justify a hint of this nature. At any rate it is to be presumed, that gentlemen in military departments will not intermeddle in that capacity, unless particularly required by the civil authority; as I am determined, whenever I find any unlawful combinations or persecutions to prevail within the sphere of my jurisdiction, to take every legal method to suppress them. I have nothing further to add, but the strongest assurances of the earnest desire of the inhabitants of this borough, to live in the most perfect harmony with the gentlemen of the navy, and hope that no little incident may interrupt it.

Sir, your most obedient humble servant, PAUL LOYALL.

To John Macartney, Esq; commander } of his Majesty's ship Mercury. }

His Majesty's ship Mercury, Norfolk, August 15, 1775.

SIR, I WAS favoured with your letter of yesterday's date, and it gives me much real satisfaction to find, that the inhabitants of Norfolk are so earnestly desirous of living in harmony with his Majesty's servants. You are pleased to assure me that no violence or insult shall be offered to the person of Mr. Sprowle, and upon the faith of your letter I have requested of him to attend the committee to-morrow. For some days past I have been much indisposed, but if I find myself well enough to-morrow, I mean to accompany Mr. Sprowle to the committee, and will call upon you about 11 o'clock to-morrow morning. I must beg that you will go along with us. You, I am sure, will agree with me, that the summons sent Mr. Sprowle (a copy of which I have enclosed you) must be truly alarming to all good citizens. When any set of gentlemen assume to themselves the power of arraigning an individual for furnishing barracks for his Majesty's troops, and pretend to censure a conduct, which I must think highly laudable, it gives me but too much reason to apprehend, that the authority of the civil magistracy is not competent for the support of government and good order.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, JOHN MACARTNEY.

To Paul Loyall, Esq; Mayor } of the town of Norfolk, Virginia. }

SIR, NORFOLK, August 26, 1775. WHEN I had the pleasure of seeing you last, you mentioned having some letters that had passed between you and me published, which I gave you to understand might be done, since which, as those letters concerned the public, I have thought proper to lay them before the common hall of this borough. The hall has made some resolves on them, a copy of which I am directed to enclose you. My reason for not publishing the letters in this week's paper is, that as they are of a threatening nature, they might perhaps give the people of this colony great uneasiness; to prevent which, I think there cannot be too much precaution used, as I am willing to believe your intentions are only to act within your own sphere, and not to intermeddle with the internal policy of this corporation. If you still think proper to have the letters published, and will enclose them to me, I shall take particular care to have them put into the next gazette. My family joins in best compliments, hoping you have recovered your health.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, PAUL LOYALL.

To John Macartney, Esq; commander } of his Majesty's ship Mercury. }

[Resolves of the common hall, above referred to.] NORFOLK borough, &c. At a common hall summoned and held, August 21, 1775. SUNDRY letters from John Macartney, Esq; commander of his Majesty's ship Mercury, to Paul Loyall, Esq; mayor, were laid before the hall, and the hall taking

the same into their serious consideration, and being greatly surpris'd at the contents thereof, it was thereupon Resolved, That the letters from capt. Macartney, to the worshipful the mayor, were evidently intended to alarm and intimidate the inhabitants of this borough, and were disrespectful to the chief magistrate of this corporation, are an officious intermeddling in the government of the town, and contain an implied threatening which the hall conceive to be unjustifiable, premature, and indecent. Unjustifiable, inasmuch as no reason can be deduced from fact, or any authority be derived from law, to empower capt. Macartney, to be solicited by the magistracy, to interfere in matters within their jurisdiction alone, and much less to hold up to them the idea of violence and compulsion, in a transaction so intirely without the line of his department. Premature, as his conduct in this instance originates from ill grounded suppositions and mistaken apprehensions, and without any sanction from facts to support them. Indecent, because it implicitly charges the magistracy with a wilful remissness in the exercise of the powers legally vested in them; because the manage is as particularly pointed against them; as if they were the abettors of riot and persecution; because it operates towards the destruction of the persons and properties of a number of his majesty's subjects, chiefly on account of some accidental insults, alleged to have been offered by a few incautious youth, to an individual; because so little regard is shewn to the understandings and feelings of people, as, at the same time, ruin is denounced; it is pretended that the execution of it, is to preserve the persons and properties of his majesty's subjects; as if the utter destruction of their lives and estates could ever be deemed a preference of their persons and properties.

Resolved, That the military power, agreeable to the British constitution, is and ought to be under the controul of the civil; and notwithstanding the utterly defenceless state of the town, the body corporate of this borough will never tamely submit to the invasion of their privileges, by the dangerous and untimely interposition of military force.

Resolved, That this corporation will continue faithfully to adhere to those substantial principles of good government, which ought to actuate the minds of all his majesty's faithful subjects, and that they embrace this opportunity to make this public and solemn declaration, that, notwithstanding their exposed and defenceless situation which cannot be remedied, unless with fear, unappalled at the threats of unlawful power, they will never desert the righteous cause of their country, plunged as it is into dreadful and unexpected calamities.

Ordered, That a copy of this resolution be, by the mayor, transmitted to John Macartney, Esq; commander of his Majesty's ship Mercury.

JOHN BOUSH, T. C. His Majesty's ship Mercury, at Norfolk, August 28, 1775.

SIR, I AM much obliged for your polite favour, which enclosed some strictures by the corporation of Norfolk, upon my first letter to you. I must beg you will be pleased to publish the letters which have passed between us in the Virginia news-paper, that a candid public may judge of the motives which actuate my conduct.

When I first wrote to you, it was not my intention to draw on a political discussion with the inhabitants of Norfolk, or to ascertain in particular cases the limits of the civil or military jurisdictions. I was desirous that his majesty's subjects should know I ardently wished the peace of this province, to promote which, I shall strictly adhere to the tenor of my first letter. I beg my respectful compliments to all your family, and have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant, JOHN MACARTNEY.

To Paul Loyall, Esq; Mayor } of the town of Norfolk, Virginia. }

WILLIAMSBURG, September 1.

To the Hon. the PRESIDENT and the rest of the DELEGATES of the people of VIRGINIA, now sitting in convention, the petition of sundry merchants, and other natives of GREAT-BRITAIN, and resident in this colony, Humbly sheweth,

THAT your petitioners being chiefly agents, factors, and persons who from their youth have been bred up to, and employed in the business of commerce, have at no time interfered with the civil institutions of the country; but have always acted in conformity to the laws, under which they have enjoyed the best security for their persons and property. With this experience of the protection derived from salutary laws, as well as from the happy intercourse they have enjoyed with the inhabitants, many of your petitioners have formed connections of the most endearing nature, and have invested considerable proportions of their property in real estates, with a view of continuing their residence among a people with whom they have hitherto lived in such harmony. Your petitioners beg leave to represent, that their fears are much awakened from the ill-grounded prejudices which they are informed actuate the minds of some of the people of this colony against your petitioners, as a body who are not natives of the land; a circumstance which being accidental, cannot be imputed to them as a fault; and therefore, on that account, they hope to stand in the same light with other subjects who conform to the laws. They are sensible the unhappy differences subsisting between the parent state and her colonies have given rise to distinctions to their prejudice, among the natives of the country, and excited jealousies of them which otherwise had never existed. Discriminated from the rest of the society, and placed in a suspicious point of view, they presume to lay before this honourable house the hardships of their situation, and in the sincerity of their hearts, to declare, that they hold this people in the highest estimation as friends and fellow-subjects, and that in war or peace they will cheerfully contribute with them to the exigencies of this their common state; that, in all internal contentions and insurrections, they pledge their faith, at the risk of their lives and fortunes, jointly with their fellow subjects of this colony, to defend the country; and that in case of an attack from the troops of Great-Britain, they will not aid in any manner, or communicate intelligence to them by letter or otherwise. Permit your petitioners to assure this honourable house that they wish not an exemption from the hardships and burthens to

which the p... will conti... ing and rea... being born... by the near... range they... and the... of conduct... rous crisis... nity, witho... blood of th... coils, and w... allowed you... nesses to stan... country 23... part by the... the saprem... with wildo... and restore... sion witho... dutiful... The for... tion, and... mously ag... Resol... recommen... countries... of this col... resident h... common... to protect... of their c... national... power, in... union, h... of people... Resol... this resol... zette. (A copy... A M... At a... Anne-A... said city... Pref... CHA... RESO... jun. Jo... Matthi... Carroll... Hamm... Weems... Thoma... mas W... Wa kin... phrain... Gaither... Charles... vis, Be... Hamme... are her... this col... Resol... Johnfo... Ce... them... tion for... In co... Resol... Brice... thias B... and Jo... this co... Resol... T. B... Hamme... of cor... one ye... C... Ship C... Schoon... Schoon... Ship S... Ship A... Schoon... Ship T... Ship A... Ship L... Schoon... Brig M... Schoon... Ship R... Ship C... Schoon... Brig C... Schoon... Brig P... Ship C... Ship P... Sloop... At the... den... be fi... PA... in... acres... a toba... about... vicinity... indisp...