

14 On Sunday last col. Kirkland was brought to town from Cambridge, under a guard, and on Monday was committed to jail. This man was a ringleader of a gang of Tories in the back parts of South-Carolina; from thence he went to the Virginia negro chief, who sent him to gen. Howe, at Boston, in a tender, which was taken by capt. Manly, in the Lee privateer. In the same tender was taken Mr. Robinson, and capt. Matthews of Virginia, whom Dunmore was sending prisoners to Boston, under the guard of the above colonel. These gentlemen arrived in town also on Sunday night, having in their turn had the pleasure of escorting col. Kirkland.

The paper (on board of which is lord William Campbell, late governor of South-Carolina) having taken a sloop for Bermuda, with two hundred and sixty half-brothers, the property of a house in Charleston, the convention granted the injured an order to sell as much of his lordship's goods and chattels as would repay the money stolen from them; on which they sold his coach, hories, &c. and have wrote him word that they have a balance of thirty pounds, which they are ready to pay to his order.

CHARLESTOWN, (S. Carolina) Dec. 8.

We are glad to inform our readers, that the troubles which have lately disturbed our western frontiers are now, in a great measure, removed, and from the measures adopted by the provincial congress, and pursued by the council of safety, we have now a prospect of peace and quietness, in a very short time, being restored in these parts.

The following is the best account of the late transactions in that quarter, that we have been able to collect.

About six weeks ago, Mr. Robert Cunningham, of Ninety-six, who had taken a very active part in the disturbances last summer, and who refused to accede to the treaty concluded by the hon. William Henry Drayton with the insurgents, was taken prisoner, brought to town and put in jail, where he still remains. His friends upon being informed of this, gathered in a body, with his brother Patrick Cunningham at their head, intending as it is supposed, to make reprisals. Our late council of safety, at that time, had sent one thousand weight of gunpowder, and one thousand pounds of lead, to the Lower Cherokee Indians, who were in great want of ammunition for hunting, and who had given the strongest assurances of observing a strict neutrality in the present unhappy dispute. This Cunningham's party determined to take possession of, which they easily effected, it being escorted only by a few rangers, whom they allowed to depart. The congress was sitting when advice of this outrage was received, and they determined immediately to adopt such measures as would effectually prevent the like in future. They accordingly ordered cols. Richardson, Thompson, Neel, and Thomas, to march with a body of rangers, and major Andrew Williamson, with about 460 of the militia, hearing that the insurgents were increasing daily in numbers, and threatening, while there was no apparent opposition, to ravage the country, joined their forces; and, upon the 17th of last month, having received certain intelligence that the enemy were within a few miles of them, hastily erected a slight square breast-work of old fence rails, joined to a barn on a spot of clear ground, on which, in proper places, they fixed a few swivel guns. On the next day, and before the breast-work was quite finished, they were surrounded by about two thousand of the malecontents, that were led on by major Joseph Robinson, who sent a message to majors Maylon and Williamson, desiring that they and their men should lay down their arms, and surrender themselves prisoners, which was rejected with disdain. The jail, which is about three hundred yards distance from the fort, was taken possession of by Robinson's party, who had likewise cut off all communication between the stockade and the only spring of water near it. On the same day they took two men belonging to the rangers or militia prisoners, upon which there began a smart firing on both sides, and was continued, with little intermission, till Tuesday at sunset. Notwithstanding the party in the fort were without water near two days, yet, animated by the example of their commanders, they determined to endure every extremity rather than submit. On Tuesday evening, major Maylon received a message from major Robinson, offering a cessation of hostilities for twenty days, which was agreed to. At that time, majors Maylon and Williamson had nearly expended their ammunition, a circumstance they had the address to conceal from their men. Of our party fourteen were wounded, one mortally; of the enemy it is known several (some say fifty-two) were killed, and many wounded; but particulars are concealed. That their loss exceeds ours is not to be doubted, else why should two thousand men make advances for suspension of hostilities to five hundred, whom they had a few days before insolently demanded to surrender at discretion.

The last accounts from the back country inform us that col. Richardson was on his march, and near the habitations of rebels against liberty, with near three thousand men; and that col. Polk, of North-Carolina, had set out to join him with six hundred men; so that, when all our troops are united, there will be a body upwards of four thousand men, a force, without doubt, sufficient to restore peace and good order in those parts.

WILLIAMSBURG, (Virginia) Jan. 6.

Extract of a letter from col. Howe, to the hon. the president of the convention, dated Dec. 28, 1775.

"I am at present, sir, so indispensably engaged, that I have not time to be so particular as I could wish had I any thing of importance to communicate; but, except some salutes from the men of war, matters remain just as they did when I wrote you last; no effectual steps have been taken in respect to the exchange of prisoners, for which the enclosed copies of letters between lord Dunmore and myself will, I hope, account in such a manner, as to leave me, in the opinion of your hon. body, free from blame."

"SIR, In this moment received your's of the 24th, and in compliance with your request, have empowered the bearer Mr. Laurie, to agree to any one of your lieutenants in our custody, being exchanged in place of Mr. Batut, lieutenant of the 14th regiment, and to an equal number of your prisoners, in lieu of those of the 14th with you now.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

ROBERT HOWE, Esq;

DUNMORE,

Colonel HOWE's answer to the above.

"MY LORD, December 23, 1775.

"Desirous as we are to regain our friends in your custody, and to return to the army the officers and men of their corps who have fallen into our hands, we can by no means submit to place the officers and soldiers of the army, who have been taken in battle, upon a footing with those officers of militia and the peasants that you have thought proper to deprive of their liberty. We have, since our march from the Great Bridge, taken a number of those who were in action at that place, among them some who acted under your commissions as field-officers. Those I conceive may be equitably exchanged for those of the same rank in your hands; and, reluctant as I am to continue in confinement either your prisoners or ours, I shall consent to no exchange but such as equity shall warrant; I beg leave to refer you to Mr. Laurie for particulars. I should be glad to be favoured with a list of the prisoners you have in your hands, the rank they bear, and the manner in which they were taken. I am, my lord,

your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

His excellency lord DUNMORE. ROBERT HOWE."

The GOVERNOR's reply to col. HOWE.

"SIR, December 26, 1775.

"Your's of last night I received, and really am at a loss to know what your meaning is: you certainly, when you proposed an exchange of prisoners, could never have meant to pay your own people so poor a compliment, as not to look upon those, whom the convention thought proper to appoint to hold military commissions in any other light than officers; those you talk of as officers of militia and peasants, whom you say I have thought proper to deprive of their liberty, come under that predicament, and were taken armed against their liege sovereign. If the rank of officers in each army is not to be our guide, I own I am at a loss to know by what rule we are to be governed in an exchange of prisoners.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

DUNMORE."

ROBERT HOWE, Esq; in Norfolk.

Colonel HOWE's answer.

"MY LORD,

"I was not understood by your lordship last night, and it gives me concern. You do me justice, however, when you suppose I could not mean even by implication to degrade any commissions issued by conventions, whose authority I acknowledge, whose appointment I honour, and to whose service I have devoted myself. I am I find, to inform your lordship of what I really thought you before acquainted, that conventions, from the fatal necessities of the times, have been compelled to establish three different military bodies, militia, minute battalions, and regular regiments, and that they have made a distinction in the rank of each: what I said therefore in respect of militia officers, was not without its propriety, had my meaning extended no further than as to their rank. You, my lord, sometimes affect so much to despise any rank derived from conventions, that courtesy itself cannot induce you even in the common forms of address to admit those appellations which they have affixed to particular characters. Circumstances, however, at other times have so far an influence upon your lordship as to prevail upon you not only to admit that rank, but endeavour to carry it higher than even the convention intended. A colonel in the minute service ranks only with a lieutenant colonel of the regulars; a colonel of militia, only with a lieutenant colonel of minute-men. This must make it plain that a militia lieutenant, though your lordship had taken him in battle, cannot be deemed an equitable exchange for a lieutenant of regulars, much less, my lord, if a man should have been torn from his farm, and arbitrarily deprived of his liberty because a convention had nominated him an officer, without his having done any one act that could warrant his seizure, or continue his confinement longer than despotism prevails over rights and privileges: in this case I might compassionate his fate, but should betray the confidence reposed in me by my country should I attempt to release him by a prisoner of equal rank taken in battle, who it would be my duty to consider as a pledge in my hands for the redemption of some brave man that by the chance of war may happen to be captivated. The convention, in order to establish a militia, have appointed captains in particular districts to train and exercise in arms all persons from sixteen to sixty years of age, without instructing them to act against government: these may meet and go through the manual exercise, and then return home, surely, without the least guilt! Six months after, should some or all of these people be taken from their ploughs, made prisoners, and offered in exchange for those that are made prisoners of war, could an officer be justified who admitted of such an exchange? Or would you, my lord, should we seize upon the persons of the peasants, who come into this town every day, and who attended to your proclamation, and subscribed your test, admit of them in exchange for our officers and men, who, you assert, were taken in arms? Information had given me to think, and till your last letter, I had no reason to doubt that some of those officers and men you offered us were such as I have described, and it was to that I in part alluded when I said, that I could not put those prisoners taken in battle upon a footing with

the militia officers and peasants whom you say I should had thought proper to deprive of their liberty. I was explicit in my thought, when I told your lordship that I looked upon those officers who, under your appointment, fought at the Great Bridge, though taken since the action; as prisoners who would equitably be offered in exchange for those of ours of the same rank taken by you; and when I desired an exact list of the men in your custody, the rank they bore, and the manner in which they were taken, I imagined it would be granted me. I wish now to obtain such a list, my lord; and if I do, you will find that I shall not degrade those commissions issued by convention, the rank of which you seem so desirous I should maintain, but join you heartily if you choose it, in some measure at least, that of returning to their friends such prisoners as we have of yours, and restoring to the bosom of their country those that you have torn from it.

I have not had it in my power, till within this hour, to answer your favour of last night; the duty you will please to excuse.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

His excellency lord DUNMORE. ROBERT HOWE."

Yesterday were brought to this city, from the Great Bridge, lieutenant Barut and five or six privates of the 14th regiment, who were wounded at the late battle at that place; also several Tories, sailors, and negroes, prisoners, in the whole about 30.

Gosport, since our last, is burnt by our people, on which account old Sprowle has lost considerable property. No material news has been received from that quarter this week.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of the continental congress to a respectable gentleman in this city.

Poor Allen, with his party, who were taken at Montreal, is certainly sent to Great Britain in irons by general Prescott, who was the commanding officer at that fortress; and shall this injury go unpunished? No, I think I can venture to say that the congress will order Prescott into irons, to remain in them until we have favourable accounts of our colonel and his men. Montgomery, hearing of the treatment of our people, refused to see general Prescott when he was taken, which was shewing a soldier-like spirit.

Howe is carrying on the war at Foston in a manner that would disgrace savages. The very great scarcity of provisions in the town has obliged them to turn several of the inhabitants out, and, to his eternal shame be it spoken, he had them inoculated for the small-pox a short time before they were to come out, in hopes of spreading it among our troops. Is not this as bad as poisoning waters? But notwithstanding this vile scheme, by the vigilance of our people the disorder has been prevented from spreading.

The congress yesterday voted six battalions for the defence of Virginia.

The following is a List of the FIELD OFFICERS chosen by the convention.

- 1 Colonel Henry, William Christian, and Francis Eppes.
- 2 William Woodford, Charles Scott, and Alexander Spotswood.
- 3 Hugh Mercer, George Weedon, and Thomas Marshall.
- 4 Adam Steven, Isaac Read, and Robert Lawton.
- 5 William Peachy, William Crawford, and Josiah Parker.
- 6 Mordecai Buckner, Thomas Elliot, and James Hindricks.
- 7 William Daingerfield, Alexander McClannahan, and William Mellon.
- 8 Peter Mullenburg, Abraham Bowman, and Peter Helvenstone.
- 9 Thomas Fleming, George Matthews, and Matthew Donovan.

LONDON, October 23.

The following is, it is said, was the amendment proposed on Thursday last, in the house of lords, by the Members of R-----.

"That we behold, with the utmost concern, the disorders and contents in the British colonies, rather increased than diminished, by the means that have been used to suppress and allay them; a circumstance altogether sufficient to give this house just reason to fear that those means were not originally well considered, or properly adapted to answer the ends to which they were directed.

"We are satisfied, by experience, that the misfortune has, in a great measure, arisen from the want of full and proper information being laid before the parliament of the true state and condition of the colonies; by reason of which, measures have been carried into execution injurious and inefficient, from whence no salutary end was reasonably to be expected; tending to tarnish the lustre of the British arms, to bring discredit on the wisdom of his majesty's councils, and to nourish, without hope of end, a most unhappy civil war.

"Deeply impressed with a melancholy state of public concerns, we shall, in the fullest information we can obtain, and with the most mature deliberation we can employ, review the whole of the late proceedings, that we may be enabled to discover, as we shall be most willing to apply, the most effectual means of restoring order to the distracted affairs of the British empire, confidence to his majesty's government, obedience, by a prudent and temperate use of its powers, to the authority of parliament, and a satisfaction and happiness to all his people.

"By these means we trust we shall avoid any occasion of having recourse to the alarming and dangerous expedient of calling in foreign forces for the support of his majesty's authority within his own dominions, and the still more dreadful calamity of shedding British blood by British arms."

In the house of lords, on Thursday, before any motion could be made for taking his majesty's speech into consideration, lord C----- rose and presented a petition from the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of London. The petition was accordingly received, read, and ordered to lie on the table. The lord C----- rose, with some degree of warmth, and condemned the impropriety of the conduct of the noble lord who presented the petition; said that it had been always a rule in that house, on such occasions as the present, not to receive or enter upon any business whatsoever, till the speech from the throne was previously

into consideration uniformly passed upon. I looked upon it as a favour, since the power to depart from the petition presented the petition by the clerk. Sovereignty and assistance, and the Nova-Scotia supporters of the colony. I am, my lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant, His excellency lord DUNMORE. ROBERT HOWE. Yesterday were brought to this city, from the Great Bridge, lieutenant Barut and five or six privates of the 14th regiment, who were wounded at the late battle at that place; also several Tories, sailors, and negroes, prisoners, in the whole about 30. Gosport, since our last, is burnt by our people, on which account old Sprowle has lost considerable property. No material news has been received from that quarter this week. Extract of a letter from a gentleman of the continental congress to a respectable gentleman in this city. Poor Allen, with his party, who were taken at Montreal, is certainly sent to Great Britain in irons by general Prescott, who was the commanding officer at that fortress; and shall this injury go unpunished? No, I think I can venture to say that the congress will order Prescott into irons, to remain in them until we have favourable accounts of our colonel and his men. Montgomery, hearing of the treatment of our people, refused to see general Prescott when he was taken, which was shewing a soldier-like spirit. Howe is carrying on the war at Foston in a manner that would disgrace savages. The very great scarcity of provisions in the town has obliged them to turn several of the inhabitants out, and, to his eternal shame be it spoken, he had them inoculated for the small-pox a short time before they were to come out, in hopes of spreading it among our troops. Is not this as bad as poisoning waters? But notwithstanding this vile scheme, by the vigilance of our people the disorder has been prevented from spreading. The congress yesterday voted six battalions for the defence of Virginia. The following is a List of the FIELD OFFICERS chosen by the convention. 1 Colonel Henry, William Christian, and Francis Eppes. 2 William Woodford, Charles Scott, and Alexander Spotswood. 3 Hugh Mercer, George Weedon, and Thomas Marshall. 4 Adam Steven, Isaac Read, and Robert Lawton. 5 William Peachy, William Crawford, and Josiah Parker. 6 Mordecai Buckner, Thomas Elliot, and James Hindricks. 7 William Daingerfield, Alexander McClannahan, and William Mellon. 8 Peter Mullenburg, Abraham Bowman, and Peter Helvenstone. 9 Thomas Fleming, George Matthews, and Matthew Donovan. LONDON, October 23. The following is, it is said, was the amendment proposed on Thursday last, in the house of lords, by the Members of R-----.