

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1776

CAMBRIDGE, February 1.

The following is the form of government lately assumed by the colony of New-Hampshire.

In CONGRESS, at EXETER, Jan. 5, 1776.

WE, the members of the congress of the colony of New-Hampshire, chosen and appointed by the free suffrages of the people of said colony, and authorised and empowered by them to meet together, and use such means, and pursue such measures, as we shall judge best for the public good; and in particular to establish some form of government, provided that measure should be recommended by the continental congress: And a recommendation to that purpose having been transmitted to us from the said congress, have taken into our serious consideration the unhappy circumstances into which this colony is involved, by means of many grievous and oppressive acts of the British parliament; depriving us of our native and constitutional rights and privileges; to enforce obedience to which acts, a powerful fleet and army have been sent into this country, by the ministry of Great-Britain, who have exercised a wanton and cruel abuse of their power, in destroying the lives and properties of the colonists, in many places, with fire and sword, taking the ships and lading from many of the honest and industrious inhabitants of this colony, employed in commerce, agreeable to the laws and customs a long time used here.

The sudden and abrupt departure of his excellency John Wentworth, Esq; our late governor, and several of the council, leaving us destitute of legislation; and no executive courts being open to punish criminal offenders, whereby the lives and properties of the honest people of this colony are liable to the machinations and evil designs of wicked men.

I therefore, for the preservation of peace and good order, and for the security of the lives and properties of the inhabitants of this colony, we conceive ourselves reduced to the necessity of establishing a form of government, to continue during the present unhappy and unnatural contest with Great-Britain; protesting and declaring that we never fought to throw off our dependence upon Great-Britain, but felt ourselves happy under her protection, while we could enjoy our constitutional rights and privileges—and that we shall rejoice if such a reconciliation between us and our parent state can be effected as shall be approved by the continental congress, in whose prudence and wisdom we confide.

Accordingly, pursuant to the trust reposed in us, We do resolve that this congress assume the name, power, and authority, of a house of representatives or assembly, for the colony of New-Hampshire. And that the said house then proceed to choose twelve persons, being reputable freeholders and inhabitants within this colony, in the following manner: viz. Five in the county of Rockingham, two in the county of Stafford, two in the county of Hillsborough, two in the county of Cheshire, and one in the county of Grafton, to be a distinct and separate branch of the legislature, by the name of a COUNCIL for this colony, to continue as such until the third Wednesday in December next; any seven of whom to be a quorum to do business.

That such council appoint their president; and, in his absence, that the senior counsellor preside.

That a secretary be appointed by both branches, who may be a counsellor, or otherwise as they shall choose.

That no act or resolve be valid, and put into execution, unless agreed to and passed by both branches of the legislature.

That all public officers for the said colony, and each county, for the current year, be appointed by the council and assembly, except the several clerks of the executive courts, who shall be appointed by the justices of the respective courts.

That all bills, resolves, or votes, for raising, levying, and collecting money, originate in the house of representatives.

That at any sessions of the council and assembly, neither branch shall adjourn for any longer time than from Saturday till the next Monday, without consent of the other.

And it is further resolved, that if the present unhappy dispute with Great-Britain should continue longer than this present year, and the continental congress give no instructions or directions to the contrary, the council be chosen by the people of each respective county, in such manner as the council and house of representatives shall order.

That general and field officers of the militia, on any vacancy, be appointed by the two houses, and all inferior officers be chosen by the respective companies.

That all officers of the army be appointed by the two houses, except they should direct otherwise in case of any emergency.

That all civil officers for the colony, and for each county, be appointed, and the time of their continuance in office be determined, by the two houses, except clerks of courts, and county treasurers, and recorders of deeds.

That a treasurer, and a recorder of deeds, for each county, be annually chosen by the people of each county respectively; the votes for such officers to be returned to the respective courts of general sessions of the peace, in the county, there to be ascertained, as the council and assembly shall hereafter direct.

That precepts in the name of the council and assembly, signed by the president of the council, and the speaker of the house of representatives, shall issue an-

nually, at or before the first day of November, for the choice of a council, and house of representatives, to be returned by the third Wednesday in December then next ensuing, in such manner as the council and assembly shall hereafter prescribe.

The following are the gentlemen chosen counsellors for the colony of New-Hampshire, viz.—County of Rockingham, hon. Meshech Weare, Matthew Thornton, William Whipple, Nathaniel Folsom, and Josiah Bartlett, Esqrs.—County of Stafford, hon. Ebenezer Thompson, and John Wentworth, Esqrs.—County of Hillsborough, hon. Wyseman Claggett, and Jonathan Blanchard, Esqrs.—County of Cheshire, hon. Samuel Ashley, and Benjamin Giles, Esqrs.—County of Grafton, hon. John Hurd, Esq.

NEW-YORK, February 8.

Extract of a letter from Colonel (now Brigadier-general) Arnold, dated Camp before Quebec, Jan. 6, 1776.

"Before this reaches you, I make no doubt you will have heard of our misfortune of the 31st ult. and will be anxious for my safety. I should have wrote you before, but a continual hurry of business has prevented me: the command of the army, by the death of my truly great and good friend Gen. Montgomery, devolved on me; a task I find too heavy under my present circumstances. I received a wound by a ball, through my left leg, at a time I had gained the first battery, at the Lower Town, which by the loss of blood rendered me very weak. As soon as the main body came up, with some assistance, I returned to the hospital, near a mile, on foot, being obliged to draw one leg after me, and great part of the way under the continual fire of the enemy from the walls, at no greater distance than 50 yards. I providentially escaped, though several were shot down at my side.—I soon learned the death of our general, who attacked the town at the side opposite to me: he behaved heroically—marched up in the face of their cannon, and when he had nearly gained the pass—received the fatal shot—the town would have been ours. This occasioned the disaster that afterwards happened to my detachment, which, after the general defeat, had the whole garrison to encounter, under every disadvantage of ground, &c. to return was impossible, as the route was within 50 yards, and exposed to the fire of the whole garrison, who had brought several field pieces out of one of the gates, which our people would have been obliged to pass. In this situation they maintained their ground near three hours, but being overpowered with numbers, were obliged at last to lay down their arms; about 300, including Capt. Lamb of New-York and part of the train, were taken prisoners, and as near as I can judge about 60 killed and wounded. Captain Oswald is among the prisoners, he was with me in a selected party of about 25, who attacked the first battery: he behaved gallantly and gained much honour. The prisoners are used politely, and supplied with every thing the garrison affords. Governor Carleton sent to let me know, that the soldiers baggage, if I pleased, might be sent to them, which I shall immediately send. Though the enemy now are double our number, they have as yet made no attempt to come out. We are as well prepared to receive them, as we can possibly be in our present situation, divided at a distance of two miles. I expect Gen. Wooster from Montreal in a few days with a reinforcement—I hope we shall be properly supported with troops by the Congress—I have no thoughts of leaving this proud town, until I first enter it in triumph. My wound has been exceeding painful, but is now easy, and the surgeons assure me will be well in eight weeks. I know you will be anxious for me. That Providence, which has carried me through so many dangers, is still my protection; I am in the way of my duty, and know no fear."

Extract of another letter from the same, dated Jan. 14.

"The charge which has devolved upon me, has been a most arduous task; our last disaster so disheartened the troops, that I have had the greatest difficulty to keep them together. Our whole force, since the attack, amounts to no more than 700 men. We were for some time in expectation of an attack from the garrison, which consisted of 1500, but they have as yet thought proper to continue in their strong hold and we have effectually blockaded them up. Gen. Wooster whom I for some time expected, acquaints me he cannot leave Montreal, but will send me a reinforcement as soon as possible. Our duty has been extremely hard and fatiguing in this inclement climate, where the snow is now four feet deep on a level; but what cannot soldiers do, who are fighting for liberty and their country? I make no doubt of a large reinforcement being sent us, as early as possible, and of being in Quebec before the spring."

Sunday last arrived the Mercury sloop of war from Boston, with whom came Gen. Clinton, in his way to the southward, on a friendly visit to his excellency governor Tryon.

The two armies from Connecticut and New-Jersey are arrived in town.

PHILADELPHIA, February 17.

Last night arrived here capt. Souder from Grenada. On his passage he spoke a vessel from Corke, the master of which informed him, that 25 transports, with 4000 troops on board, had sailed from Corke for America. Capt. Souder says, before he left Grenada a London paper arrived there, of the 30th of November, with a list of thirty-nine commissioners, that were appointed to treat with the congress, among whom were lord Howe and governor Johnson.

A gentleman, who arrived Wednesday night from

Cadiz, says that the English consul, at that place, told him he had received a letter from lord Weymouth, in which his lordship informed him that lord Howe and captain Barrington were to go to America, in order to treat with the congress.

WILLIAMSBURG, Feb. 9.

By advices from the army under Col. Howe, we learn, that they abandoned Norfolk last Tuesday, after removing the poor inhabitants, with what effects they could carry along with them, and demolishing the intrenchments which lord Dunmore threw up a little before he fled on board the fleet now lying before that place. What few houses remained after the late bombardment were likewise destroyed, (after being valued, to prevent our enemies taking shelter in them. Thus, in the course of five weeks, has a town, which contained upwards of 6000 inhabitants, many of them in affluent circumstances, a place that carried on an extensive trade and commerce, consequently affording bread to many thousands, been reduced to ashes, and become desolate, through the wicked and cruel machinations of lord North and the junto, aided by their faithful servants, my lord Dunmore with his motley army, and the renowned capt. Bellew, commodore of his Britannic majesty's fleet in Virginia, and his generous and valiant crew. Truly may it be now said,

Never can true reconciliation grow Where wounds of deadly hate have pierc'd so deep.

The troops are now stationed at Kemp's landing, the Great Bridge, and in about Suffolk.

The cannonading heard last Thursday se'nnight, at Norfolk, was occasioned by a detachment of our troops under major Eppes, attacking a number of black and white people from the men of war, who had landed to steal tobacco. Major Eppes drove them back, after killing four negroes and two white men, upon which the ships began to fire. We hear lord Dunmore and his friends are exceedingly uneasy, and a good deal frightened, upon hearing that the continental fleet is designed against them; and indeed they have very good reason, for, as sure as a rifle (and that they well know is pretty true) commodore Hopkins will pay them a visit so soon as he is joined by the Maryland Squadron.

Feb. 10. Col. Henry received the following letter last night, by express, from Col. Grayton at Hampton: "Yesterday evening the Kingfisher went down towards the Capes, and this morning she returned, in company with a fifty gun ship and some tenders. They are all now at anchor, just below the light-house."

Last Thursday night a great light was seen towards Portsmouth, which was supposed to be that town in flames.

A schooner from Salem, and another from Ipswich, both in ballast, the latter with 200 l. on board, in continental dollars, were taken last Tuesday, by two tenders, and carried into the harbour of Norfolk. They were bound in here for corn.

A party from the men of war went on shore at Norfolk, under cover of their cannon, and took out of the warehouses five hogheads of tobacco, notwithstanding the rifle-men kept an incessant fire on them the whole time. At night col. Howe ordered his people to burn the houses, when they received another heavy discharge of cannon from the ships.

The town of Norfolk is now said to be totally consumed; and that our troops have abandoned the place, and are gone to the Great-Bridge. Portsmouth was in flames last Thursday night.

A brig, laden with linens, this week luckily escaped the vigilance of the tenders (with which, it is said, the bay swarms) and fell into the hands of our people.

One Mr. Ker, a prisoner on his parole in Northampton county, went off last week, and carried with him seven negroes. A few days after, seven negroes broke out of Northampton gaol, and went off in a pettianger. It is imagined they are all gone on board the men of war.

The prisoners of the 14th regiment, and others, in all twenty-five, were this week removed to Richmond-town.

Some of the tenders went up to Nansemond a few days ago, and took a vessel with about 200 barrels of pork on board. Our people at that place had a small skirmish with them, but we cannot learn that any lives were lost on either side. Before their departure, they burnt down a house belonging to Mr. Wills Cowper, in which was destroyed about 100 barrels of corn.

There is a 50 gun ship now lying in Hampton-road; she came in yesterday, and it is said three more vessels have been seen off the coast.

LONDON, November 16.

As the ministry have, for some time past, deprived us of all information from America, they now shut out all information at home as much as possible, and have begun it in locking up the gallery door of the house of commons, on the very day, for the first time this season, when it was expected Mr. Burke would give to the public, and to his country, a plan for the conciliation with the colonies. The ministry were aware this plan would be relished much better by the public, than that decided on by the cabinet, and for this purpose were determined to prevent all comparisons. Surely such a conduct in a free state has but one obvious interpretation which is, that the ministers are conscious to themselves that their actions will not bear the approbation of reason or justification.

The general difficulty of recruiting extends even to the Highlands, inasmuch that lord John Murray's battalion wants above a third of the number to complete it.

REWARD. The subscriber, on Tuesday, a dark bay or brown horse, about 15 hands high, upwards of 15 years of age, and has a few gray hairs in his mane and tail, and when trotted and galloped, and when ridden, has a hanging mane, and a short back; his tail was very lately, was intended for the unskillfulness of the person who almost as short as a long bob, and were broken on the inside, and shoes about half worn, but if he is it, it is very probable that one of this time. Whoever takes up both at the thief be convicted, and the reward, or 20 shillings for the horse should be a great distance, will be allowed if brought home.

JAMES RAWLING. George's county, May 24, 1775. Given to all persons indebted to either by bond, note, or open account, to come and settle their respective accounts, to give no longer in his requisition will be advertised, to the compulsory methods to enforce respect to persons.

JOSEPH DUVAL. April 30, 1775. REWARD. The subscriber, living in Kent county, the 8th of this instant, two horses, each of which has about three

years, about thirty years of age, a fellow, about five feet ten inches high, short dark hair; had on and a pair of black breeches, and a pair of black and yellow metal buttons; a pair of large sleeves, shirts, shoes and a dicker or brickmaker.

about 26 years of age, five feet tall made, fair skin, ruddy complexion; had on and took with him, a sailor fashion, a purple under shirt, or two check-shirts, much a black silk handkerchief, round white kersey breeches; and a pair of one pair of Scotch Kilmarnock, all ribbed hose mixed black and of worn shoes, and square feet good hand; and they have both parts of Pennsylvania. Whoever aid servants, and secures them to may have them again, shall receive if taken out of the province, if in hands, or half the above reward for

RICHARD GRAVES. Calvert county, October 24, 1775. The subscriber, the 20th instant, a red Leven, about 26 years of age, high, his head has lately been had on and took with "curry a gray with ofsnabright, with metal buttons, dry cloth ditto without buttons, and a pair of tolerable good shoes. I will give one guinea for appearing him in any jail.

W. SMITH. Patapsco Neck, April 3, 1775. DOLLARS REWARD. A runaway slave, sometimes known by the name of commonly answers to the on abrupt leave of his overseer has not yet returned; he is a 5 feet 9 inches high, strong made, deceptive in conversation, firm in ports to perpetrate villainy, tho' plausible in speech; he has frequented a considerable part of this province of Pennsylvania; is supposed, in the borough and county of Philadelphia, to be acquainted with Philadelphia before re-visit those places. He is a home manufactured long cloth, and breeches, yarn stockings, good shoes, nailed with heels; he is taken with him a blue German broad cloth vest, two pair of cotton thread stockings, two white shirts, a good caftor hat with band and pumps, with a pair of double shoes. He has a mark of distinction, or some other motive, he is known of his ears (but which is forgot) the other. The above reward could be taken up out of the province from Baltimore town in the province; five pounds if at the distance of three pounds if 30, and forty shillings reasonable travelling expenses, charge under the act of assembly.

THOMAS JONES. to be sold at the Printing-Office.

THE MARYLAND ANNALES AND MEMORIALS. Year of our Lord 1776.

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