from Massachusetts Bay; and that nothing material has-lately happened at Quebec.

March 6. We are informed by a captain of a vessel from Rhode-Island, that last week capt. Wallace landed his marines on Conanicut, in the evening, and began to burn the buildings, but being discovered by one of the centinels, a number of our people concealed themselves behind the walls and fences until they came near them; but the commander, thinking it unfair to fire on them without giving them notice, called out, "Who comes there?" when he heard Wallace order his men to make ready, upon which our party instantly fired among them, and killed and wounded thirty of Wallace's people; among the flain was an officer of marines, and the drummer, who was killed by Wallace's fide, which was plainly feen by the light of the houses on fire. Those that were not wounded of Wallace's party retreated on board the ship with greater haste than they

Wednesday last Wallace and his fleet went down the bay to khode-liland on which they gave him a can-nonading as he passed, and on Saturday he returned again, when they paid him the fame compliment.

Extract of a letter from Montreal, Feb. 19, 1776.

" Capt. Graham, of the second battalion, is just arrived from Quebec --- nothing very material, but that the blockade is kept up completely, and frequent defertions from the town: I am told they had been feen to break up the veffels in the harbour for fire-wood: This absolutely does great honour to general Arnold and his little party, however they will now get case, as troops are coming in pretty fatt; one company of Pennsylvania troops arrived yesterday with some American manufactured gunp wder, and many of the New-England volunteers We now have, I imagine, about 1500 men before Quebec, but before the reinforcement arrived, the blockade was kept up with about 500 men, exclusive of a few canadians, in whom little or no dependance could at that time be put, nor indeed at any time, without a greater force of Continental troops.

We hear, by a gentleman from Rhode-island, that the Macaroni privateer had taken a transport ship from London: It is faid that there were found on board orders for general Howe only to act on the defensive, till

further orders.

We hear a number of troops are evacuating Boston, and embarking on board the transports; and it is thought they intend to visit New-York very shortly.

We are just informed that our army at Roxbury had regained possession of Dorchester Neck, and had broughtwith them fome mortars and battering cannon.

PHILADELPHIA, March o.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated March 6.

" A letter from Cambridge, of the 29th ult. informs, That preparations were still making for getting to work on Dorchester-Neck and Boston; that the enemy were well acquainted with their defigns, and had lately thrown up feveral works to weaken our fire; that en the 28th, they (the enemy) compleated a bomb battery and a gun fletch opposite Letchmore's Point, and promife our tolks a vifit at foon as they break ground on Dorcheiter; that the principal part of their heavy can non, hospital stores, &c. are on board ship; all the square rigged vessels in the harbour are taken up, and received two months advance to transport the troops and tory inhabitants, if necessary, to a less nostile shore; that Monday or i nefday next will be the important day; that we have forty-five batteaus, each to carry eighty men, and two floating batteries, stationed at the mouth of Cambridge river; if the enemy make a ferious affair of Dorchester, we may rush into the west part of Boston; the enemy's strength (marines, torics and negroes included) about 7000---our's about 20,000; that two of our privateers had fallen in with an armed brig of 13 guns, engaged her for three hours, and fent her off on the careen.

Extraa of a letter from Newhern (North-Carolina) February 13.

An express arrived here yesterday from the back country, informing us that the regulators and tories were making head there, and intended marching to Crofs-Creek, and from thence to Cape-Fear. I am of opinion they will get well flogged before they reach Cape-Fear, provided they will fight. Our minutemen, and part of the militia, march to-morrow, and will join col. Cafwell in Dobb's county, from which place he will march in two or three days with near a thousand men under his command. Col. Rutherford informed me this day, that col. Ashe, in New-Hanover county, was on his march two days ago against the regulators, &c. with near two thousand men. If three or four more of our colonels, in this province, raite as many men, which I expect will foon be the cafe, they will be able to attack ten thousand regulars, and beat them too, I think, as our men will fight with great refolution.

To the PEOPLE of PENNSYLVANIA. L' E T T E R L

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

THE wisdom of some nations has been greatly commended, because they never enacted any new law, nor suffered any innovation in their ancient constitutions, without first proposing the matter to the people, and giving them a full opportunity to express their approbation or dislike. It is true, we have never come up to the perfection of this rule, yet in the former happy days of the province, it was a good and falutary custom among us freely to discuss and examine all public affairs, in conversation as well as writing, when oc-casion required. And although, since the commence-ment of our present troubles, this rule could not always be observed, yet every unnecessary deviation from it has but added to the affliction of many real friends of

Grievous as the least restraint upon the press must always be, to a people entitled to freedom, it must be the more so, when it is not only unwarranted by those, to whom they have committed the care of their liberties, but cannot be warranted by them, confifent with li-berty itself. Nevertheless we readily submitted to it, while any colourable pretext could be offered for requiring such a submission. Nay, we have done more---we have too quietly yielded to a few, who have been claiming one abliver after another, till at length, encouraged by their fuccels, and profittiting the cry of public necessity to cloak an ambition, which needs as much to be checked in the lowest as the highest, they have now the aftonishing boldness to aim at a total destruction of our charter constitution, and seizing into their own hands our whole domestic police, with legislative as well as

executive authority. To prepare the way for effecting this most ruinous

defign, the MAJESTY OF THE PEOPLE OF PENN-SYLVANIA has been grievoully wounded, in the persons of their legal representatives, by repeated attempts to intimidate them in the discharge of the great trust committed to them by the voice of their country, and the most scurrious misrepresentation of patriotic exer-

tions which have not been exceeded by any other body upon the continent.

Since the Prefs is at length become so free, that such publications are thought tolerable on one fide, it cannot but be judged reasonable, that it should be equally free on the other fide also; especially, where charges are to be answered, and innocence defended. At all risks I am determined to make the experiment, and to offer one appeal to the remainder of our ancient virtue. Nor need any persons be alarmed; for an indecent or angry expression thali not dishonour my pen, nor yet a fingle fentiment, which is not calculated to cement all parties in the province, upon fafe and popular grounds, more firmly than ever, in executing the refolves of congress, and maintaining American liberty. So far as our committees confine themselves to the purposes of their appointment, which are merely executive; fo far as they are exerting themselves to effect what is well expressed in the Evening Post of last Thursday, to have been their original defign, viz. " a faithful execution of the affociation entered into by the continental congress, relieving and affifting those who may suffer by the suspenfion of trade, promoting reconciliation upon conflitu-tional principles between Great-Britain and her colonies; the encouraging the manufactory of fuch articles as are necessary for our existence, cloatning and defence; the preventing manufacturers or venders of goods and merchandife from felling the same at unusual and extravagant profit," and holding up transgressors of every rank to public censure, without rear or affection—so far, I say, they ought to have the thanks of their country for generously bestowing their time and attention to its fervice, and ought to be supported by all good men. In this view they deserve the greatest commendation for their late vigorous endeavours to rescue their injured fellow-citizens, from the avaricious gripe of engioffers and forestallers.

But if, instead of being confined to such purposes as these, any individuals of our committees, who I trust will never amount to a majority, should, by the bait of power thrown out to them by defigning men of this or any other province, be led out of their line, to inter-fere in matters foreign to their appointment, I am perfunded, that when they terioufly confider what may be offered on this head, they will perceive that fuch a conduct (as it never can be submitted to by the people of this province) would give a more effectual stab to our domestic harmony, and to the public cause, than all the efforts of all the disaffeded persons in America can

In carrying on our great controverfy with England, Pennsylvania has no need, either to make the least sacrifice of its constitution, nor yet to yield in zeal to the foremost of the colonies. It has been our fingular happiness from the beginning, that we have been able to grant, and have actually granted, as large fums for the common fervice as any or our neighbours, in proportion to our numbers; and that these grants have been made in a way to which the people were accordomed, and to which they have given their fanction, by reelecting the fame men, fince the contest with England had advanced into open war; thereby piedging thomselves to submit to whatever mode may be adopted, by, future affemblies for finking the immense sums with which the province is charged, as well as fignifying the fullest approbation of the measures which have been

concerted for our defence.

This great privilege which we enjoy, of giving our free unbiasted voice annually in the choice of an assembly, who, from that moment, by charter, become a conftitutional body, vested with the authority of the people, and can meet when they please, and fit as long as they judge necessary.—This privilege, I fay, and the ease and quiet with which our public business has been transacted, during the present contest, have been the envy and admiration of our neighbours, who, enjoying no fuch perfection in their civil constitutions, have been driven into the measure of conventions, and forced to hazard the emission of money, and other acts of stare, under disadvantages, which need not be mentioned. here, as we are yet happily free from them. Would any wife people, enjoying such a constitution, ever think of destroying it with their own hands; or does any other colony, whose assemblies can exercise their authority, ever think of committing the conduct of affairs to conventions?

But suppose our assembly really chargeable with any culpable neglect of duty, with what face could those of our present committee, who are so loud in their clamours against them; pretend to step into their seats? Were they chosen for that purpose? No. They were considered as chosen for the purposes already mentioned; and although they consist of a hundred members, they had not two hundred votes. Few people gave themselves any concern about the election, being well fatisfied, that any number of respectable citizens who would take the trouble of a committee of inspection, should be thankfully indulged with the office. But. would this have been the cafe, had it been imagined that any among them, would ever afpire at the powers vested in an assembly, fairly and constitutionally elected, to represent two or three hundred thousand people? For, whatever may be pretended about the necessity of a convention, it is certain, that if fuch a body were to meet, and could succeed in assuming the powers of government, they must all at length be vested, for the sake of execution, in the hands of a few men, who consider themselves as leaders, in the city of Philadel. phia; and the province in general have but little to. ay in the matter.

These are very serious and alarming considerations, to many; and therefore, after discussing a certain point of equal importance in my second letter, I will proceed in the succeeding ones, to enquire into the justice of such complaints, as have been made against the assembly.

In some instances, probably, these complaints may appeal to be well founded. Where they are fo. I have be ready to confess it; and as perfection is not to be expected, in the first hasty essays of any public bediet providing for new and unprecedented cates, I doubt not, they will readily make fuch amendments, as my appear necessary to themselves, or be suggested by refonable men. In fome inftances. I shall shew, the they deserve public thanks, for retusing to comply with some requisitions formerly made; and this others are now made, which they cannot affent to, without manifest violation of our constitution; such as blending the military and civil power, and giving field officen who may hold their places for life, the power of determining appeals, and discharging affessments, whith is now tafely lodged in the constitutional way, with commissioners choien by the people. CATO

WILLIAMSBURG, March r.

Extract of a letter from a member of the provincial con gress of North-Carolina, to col. Howe, deted at Halife's February 24, 1776.

" A gentleman of the name of Smith has just non lodged seven of the leaders of the Regulators in Halifa jail, among whom are four of the Fields. The names of the others I do not know, but neither Hanter nor Piles are amongst them. He informs me, that the in furrection is entirely suppressed with respect to the Re. gulators, and fays he thinks the Highlanders are difperfed before now. I do not give implicit credit to this last mentioned conjecture, because we have later accounts than Mr. Smith's (who was only as low down I believe, as Chatham c urt-house) which contradict it However, it is clear to me that there will not be a gua fired upon this occasion; for the number of our trough (not less, perhaps, than 5000) will undoubtedly awe to Highlanders into submission, if they are not already dis perfed. Governor Martin, it feems, had kept up a cor. respondence with the disaffected in the western part of this province, had formed a plan of infurrection, iffuel colonels commissions to many counties for this purpose and ordered that fuch men as should take arms should repair to the royal standard, at Brunswick, by the 15th of this month, promiting that they should be then at there supported by 5000 regulars.

"Your mind being relieved from all anxiety for u, you will be at full liberty to exert all your powers fx the good of Virginia; and I flatter myfelf that your conduct will bring credit to your country, and honour te

Extract of a letter from Hamiton, dated February 23.

66 General Clinton, with two men of war (the Mer. cury and Kingfisher) three trans orts, and four tenders, failed on Monday, I believe for fea; and this morning another king's thip, which I took to be the Liverpool, and a tender, came down from Norfolk, and I imagine are gone out of the capes;"

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY,

February 22, 1776.

About a week ago two minute companies arrived liere from Maryland, one from Kent county, under the command of capt. William Henry, the other from Cueen-Anne, under the command of capt. James Kent. They are two very fine companies, extremely well armed, have amongst them many gentlemen of family and fortune, and are examples of good discipline and fubordination. The day after their arrival the committee met, and addressed them as follows:

To Capt. WILLIAM HENRY, and Capt. JAMES KENT, and the troops under their command.

Gentlemen,

THE committee of Northampton county beg leave to congratulate you upon your fafe arrival into this county, after a fatiguing march, at this rigorous feafon.

When gentlemen of easy fortunes, such as the companies we have feen from your province, and who can enjoy at home every convenience and elegance of life, enter themselves-voluntarily to serve their country, by undertaking a tedious march at an inclement featon, and cheerfully summitting to every inconvenience confequent thereto, it cannot be doubted that they are actuated by the noblest principles. They are justly entitled to the thanks of their country, and we kupe Providence will ever crown them with honour and fuccels.

The peaceful state which this once happy county ever enjoyed, till the prefent unnatural though unavoidable contest, renders us totally unprovided for the proper reception of a number of armed men; and we hope, gentlemen, you will confider the very indifferent ac-commodations which you meet with here as folely ewing to this cause, and not from want of respect and attention to your circumstances. We however beg leave to affure you, that nothing in our power shall be wanting to promote your convenience and happines, which the figuation of our county would permit; in-full confidence that you will at all times, during your residence amongst us, cheerfully co-operate with this committee in maintaining good order and regularity in this place, and in opposing the dangerous designs of all the secret and avowed enemies of American liberty,

To: which the COMMITTER received the following ANSWER.

Head quarters, Northampton court-bouse, Feb. 22, 1776. Mr. President and Gentlemen of the COMMITTEE for Northampton county, Virginia.

WE return thanks for your very polite address to use and the companies under our command, upon our arrival at this place, as also for your attention in making the necessary provision for our reception. Impressed with a lively sense of the duty we owe to our country, and animated with the glorious cause of American liberty, we cheerfully left our habitations, thinking no difficulties too much for a people to encounter who were determined to die or live free, and shall esteem ourselves happy in proportion to the fervices we shall be able to render the colony, and this county in particular.

We are not insensible of the many inconveniencies attending the accommodation of soldiers in a country hitherto a stranger to war, and with pleasure we find your assiduity has conquered these dissiculties, and made our residence easy and agreeable.

Be affirred; gentlemen, we shall be always ready to give you any affiffance in our power, confittent with our

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