

rior flag officer at Jamaica, or elsewhere, the said superior flag officer shall have no right to any share in the prizes taken by them before they arrive within the limits of his command, and actually receive some orders from him. Fourthly, that a chief flag officer returning home from Jamaica, or elsewhere, shall have no share of the prizes taken by the ships left behind to act under another command. Fifthly, that if a flag officer is sent to command in the out ports of this kingdom, he shall have no share of the prizes taken by ships that failed from that port by order of the admiralty. Sixthly, That when more flag officers than one serve together, the eighth part of the prizes taken by any ships of the fleet or squadron shall be divided in the following proportions, viz. if there be but two flag officers, the chief shall have two third parts of the said one eighth part, and the other shall have the remaining third part; but if the number of flag officers be more than two, the chief shall have only one half, and the other half shall be divided equally among the other flag officers. Seventhly, That commodores, with captains under them, shall be esteemed as flag officers, with respect to their right to an eighth part of the prizes taken, whether commanding in chief, or serving under command.

Given at our court at St. James's, the twenty-second day of December, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the sixteenth year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Lord viscount Mahon and Sir Watkin Lewis have presented to his majesty at St. James's, the following petition, signed by 500 of the principal gentlemen, merchants, freemen, and inhabitants of the city of Worcester.

To the KING's most excellent MAJESTY.

The humble Address and Petition of the gentlemen, merchant, and inhabitants, of the city of Worcester.

"May it please your majesty,

"At a time when a PART of your majesty's subjects, and a F. W. of our fellow citizens are approaching your royal presence, with addresses, which are SUPPOSED to convey to your majesty the genuine sentiments of the people of Great Britain; Will your majesty permit your dutiful and loyal subjects of one, not the most inconsiderable city in your majesty's dominions, with unfeigned assurances of attachment to your royal person, and the illustrious house of Hanover, thus publicly to bear testimony against them, as we hold ourselves bound, by every tie of duty to your majesty, to ourselves, and to our country.

"We think ourselves more particularly called upon, lest the same delusive arts of misrepresentation should be practised here, with the same success, as in America, which has involved that country in a civil war; nor are we without apprehensions, that should the same unfortunate measure be pursued, when this kingdom is drained of its forces, some power in Europe, our natural enemies, may avail themselves of the opportunity, and transfer the seat of war into this country.

"We desire likewise to represent to your majesty, the melancholy de line of our trade and manufactures (owing in a great measure, as we apprehend, to the unhappy disputes with America) and the gloomy situation of our artificers and their families.

"We should be far from wishing to wound your royal ear with the lamentations of distress, but truth obliges us to approach your throne, and humbly to beseech your majesty to adopt such measures as in your royal wisdom shall seem most expedient, for putting a stop to the further effusion of blood, for reconciling Great Britain and her colonies, for reuniting the affections of your now divided people, and for establishing, on a permanent foundation, the peace, commerce and prosperity, of all your majesty's dominions."

Extract of a letter from Quebec, Nov. 7.

"In my last I hinted to you the situation this country was in. Since that period things have grown worse, insomuch that the country is now invested in three different places. Our friends above will inevitably fall a sacrifice to a rebel banditti, being unable to withstand such powerful opponents; while we in this place are making every preparation for an obstinate defence, being resolved to hold out to the last. So soon as this vessel sails, which I imagine will be the last this year, every citizen will betake himself to arms, as all kinds of business will then in a great measure cease. For these three months past, the inhabitants have already been doing garrison duty, as militia, in which corps I have also the honour to serve, and this day mounted guard, which comes round every fourth day.

"We have at this time about forty pieces of cannon on our ramparts, and every avenue leading to the town properly repaired. The only thing we want is men, there being no regulars in the garrison; however, what with sailors, British settlers, and French (though the latter cannot be much depended upon) we nearly muster 2500. With this force we hope to hold out till we have a reinforcement in the spring; but should that be late in arriving, I am afraid we shall at last be obliged to yield. Indeed, would you believe it, the French, whom the government has done so much for, and relied upon, have taken up arms against us, several of whom are now prisoners amongst us, having been taken in a late engagement near the town. As I shall have no opportunity of writing to Great-Britain till perhaps June next, unless matters are settled at home, you will not be surpris'd at my silence."

Dec. 29. General Burgoyne is arrived from Boston. An express brought the news to lord George Germaine about twelve o'clock yesterday morning.

The provincial cruisers have taken a transport which had ordnance stores on board for the use of the king's troops at Boston; amongst other articles are 500 barrels of powder.

It was debated in council to send ships to the relief of Quebec, but was given up as impracticable at this season—so that the first news likely to come from that quarter will be that all Canada is in the hands of the united colonies.

The privy council, which was to have been held on Wednesday evening at lord George Germaine's office on American affairs, was held at the earl of Suffolk's office in Cleveland Row, and did not break up till one o'clock in the morning; all the ministers of state were present.

Yesterday morning about eleven o'clock, a privy council was held at the council chamber, at the Cock-

pit, Whitehall, on the result of several bills that have passed in the Irish parliament, and are brought over for his majesty's and the ministry's inspection and assent. The messenger who brought them arrived at lord Weymouth's office on Wednesday.

General Boscawen, lately arrived from America, is nephew to the late general Boscawen, who died about four months since, and came to England in order to take possession of the estate and effects left him at the demise of his late uncle.

It is an absolute fact, says a correspondent of an evening paper, however secret the junta keep from the public the many feats of the Americans, that the latter were in actual possession of Quebec and Montreal when the last vessel failed from Canada. This intelligence administration received on Saturday, and on which account a cabinet council was the same day held at Lord G. Germaine's office. The vessel left Canada the 22d of November.

Yesterday one of the transport ships lying off the Tower, after having taken on board clothing and arms for 3000 men, fell down the river to Gravesend, and was to sail the first fair wind for Ireland, to take on board a regiment of soldiers waiting at Corke to embark with all expedition for America.

They write from Cadix, that a squadron of men of war which had failed from that port with an intent to bombard the port of Santa Cruz, on the coast of Barbary, belonging to the Emperor of Morocco, had met with a storm, wherein two of the largest ships were lost and their crews perished.

Wednesday night arrived from Quebec by way of Falmouth, Col. Guy Johnson, Superintendent of Indian affairs, and yesterday morning waited on Lord George Germaine; also arrived Dan. Claus, Esq; with his lady and family, from the same place.

When all the intended reinforcement arrives in America, the provincial camp will not be attacked. The plan laid down is said to be this: To destroy every town on the sea coast, to draw their army from one place to another, and harass and starve them if possible; but to be very careful about coming to a general engagement: But if by any means, the provincial army can be divided, then the regulars are to attack them.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Dec. 26.

"Arrived here the Elizabeth, capt. June, from Quebec she sailed from England the beginning of September, with a cargo of the following stores for general Carleton's army, viz. 20,000 stands of arms, clothing for 10,000 men, 500 barrels of gunpowder, and a large quantity of ball. On her arrival at Quebec, the governor would not suffer the stores to be landed, but ordered the ship to sail immediately for England, lest they should fall into the hands of the provincials."

It is said that gen. Burgoyne, who is lately arrived, has opened the eyes of the ministry, both with respect to the personal courage of the Americans, and the number of well disciplined troops which our armies will have to beat [them] if this war is continued.

Sir Peter Parker, who was stationed to the four northern provinces in America, and with whom lord Cornwallis was to go out, has received counter orders; and it is said he arrived in town last night.

CAMBRIDGE, March 6.

The continental army, assisted by a large body of militia, are now carrying on the siege of Boston with great vigour. Last Saturday night our artillery at the fortresses of Cobble-hill and Letchmore's-point, below this town, and at Lamb's dam in Roxbury, bombarded and cannonaded the town; the following night the same was continued with great briskness; and the whole of Monday night the artillery from all the above fortresses played incessantly. Our shot and shells were heard to make a great crashing in the town, but we have not learnt any particulars of the execution done thereby. The enemy returned the fire, from their batteries at West-Boston, and from their lines on the Neck, very vigorously. They threw many shells into the battery at Letchmore's point, one into the fort on Prospect-hill, and one or two as far up as fort No. 2, within a quarter of a mile of the college. On Monday night we had two killed, lieut. Mayo, at Roxbury, by a cannon ball; and a man at Letchmore's-point, by a shell, which, with one or two wounded, is all the loss of any consequence that we have sustained. We have but little firing since Tuesday morning.

On Monday night a large body of the continental troops took possession of two large hills at Dorchester, about a mile from the south part of Boston, where they are now strongly fortified. These are two of the heights which general Burgoyne said in a letter to a noble lord, commanded the town of Boston, and which, he also said, it was absolutely necessary the British troops should be possessed of.

NEW-YORK, March 13.

On Sunday last the Swallow packet, capt. Coupeland, arrived at Sandy hook, with the mail, in nine weeks, from Falmouth; the letters not being come on shore, we can only favour the public with the following accounts from several gentlemen that came came passengers, viz.

That the restraining bill, whereby all American property, wherever found, would be confiscated, had passed both houses, and had come in this vessel to the respective governors; that commissioners to the number of twenty were about embarking at the time they left Falmouth, in a ninety gun ship, supposed to be bound to Philadelphia, and it was also conjectured they would have unlimited powers to make peace with the different assemblies, but not certain that they would have powers to treat with the continental congress. Lord Howe was fixed for one of the commissioners, and Sir Jeffery Amherst wanted certain conditions if he came on that business; that the French ambassador had informed the ministry that, although his master had only been a spectator of the differences with the colonies, yet, if Great-Britain took foreign troops into pay, they might be assured his master would take an active part in the matter. General Burgoyne, on his arrival at Portsmouth, reported, that he had brought peace in his pocket from the Americans, which is supposed to be the letters that passed between him and our general while at Boston; the people of England are very desirous of peace; the minority increasing very fast.

The brave col. Allen, with about 30 others, who was unfortunately taken prisoner by gen. Carleton, were

confined in Pendennis castle, but were ordered to board to work their passage and do duty on board the fleet that failed about the time this packet did, with seven regiments from Corke for Virginia, under the command of general Cornwallis.

Extract of a letter from Montreal, Feb. 26.

"We have nothing material new, from camp before Quebec, except a few deserters now and then, who report, that there is a scarcity of provisions, and that gen. Carleton has promised the sailors in town 100 pounds each and 200 acres of land, whenever they choose it, if they will defend the town till a reinforcement comes in the spring. Capt. Lamb and the rest of the prisoners we hear are well."

PHILADELPHIA.

In CONGRESS, March 9, 1776.

Resolved, That no oath, by way of test, be imposed upon, exacted or required of any of the inhabitants of the colonies, by any military officer.

Extract from the minutes,

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the West-India to his friend in this city, dated Feb. 14.

"We have just heard that a brig and a sloop from some part of America, laden with lumber, are taken by one of the English cruisers clove in with St. Pierre, Martinico. This conduct enraged the French general, who immediately gave orders for one of his frigates to cruise and protect every American vessel within their limits."

Philadelphia, March 11, 1776.

The hon. general assembly have voted 1500 men for the immediate defence of this province, viz. two battalions of rifle men, and one battalion of musket-men.

Yesterday the sloop Fanny, captain Hayman, arrived here from Ocracock, in North-Carolina, which he left about 13 days ago. By him we learn, that governor Martin, at the head of about 700 regulators and Tories, had got between the two provincial armies, commanded by the colonel's Ath and Caswell, in order to prevent their joining, but it was thought he would not be able to accomplish his design, as great numbers from both parts were daily going to the assistance of the colonies. He also informs that the Tories and regulators had not been joined by so considerable a number of Scotch settlers as was expected.

Intelligence is received from the camp at Cambridge, that a cannonading and bombardment had begun on the night of Saturday the 2d instant, and continued the two following nights; during which time a vast number of shot and shells were thrown into the town, under the cover of which the general possessed himself of the heights of Dorchester. On the enemy's perceiving this on Tuesday morning, they were in the greatest confusion, hurry and bustle, and embarked their troops in order to attack us before we had made our lodgement; but the violent storm which came on that day prevented them from receiving, and us from the honour of giving them a good drubbing. Our troops are now forming a battery upon Nook's-hill, which commands the south of Boston, and to which their shipping lie much exposed.

General Howe, in his great tenderness to preserve the town of Boston from destruction, has, by a flag of truce sent out by the select men, asked permission to embark his troops, and sail without molestation. This permission it is possible he may obtain, on condition that he leaves his whole artillery and military stores behind him. It is supposed that general Howe intends to remove his quarters to the city of New-York; and it is hoped that every proper measure will be taken for his reception.

Extract of a letter from New-York, March 15.

"To-day an express arrived from the eastward, to-night the post. My advices are, that on the night of the 2d instant (Saturday) we threw three bombs into Boston from Letchmore's-point, the enemy returned a number. Two seven inch, ten inch mortar, and the Congress, buss; the latter after firing twice or thrice. Two or three bombs thrown in from Roxbury, and two 24 pounders fired--nothing in return. Monday 4th, at night, took possession of Dorchester with 2000 men, under gen. Thomas, and 300 carts; before morning had an astonishing work completed on the top of each of the two greatest heights; some of the carts made three trips, others two, without interruption; the night amazingly favourable--three of our men killed--firing on both sides. I he two hills we have taken possession of command the front of Boston and south side of the harbour. At noon (the 5th) the enemy made a weak ineffectual fire for two hours. In the evening they embarked about 2000 men in 5 transports, and sent them down towards the castle; a floating battery was also towed down; before they reached the castle the wind blew up, fresh at south and forced three of the transports ashore on Governor's island, where they lay all night. The 6th all quiet. In the evening many soldiers were landed from the transports in front of the town. The select men of Boston, or some of the principal inhabitants, apprehending Howe was about to embark, desired him not to destroy the town upon his leaving it. He told them he would not, if general Washington would not disturb them in their embarkation; they desired leave to go out with a flag to tell him so;--granted--don't hear that he made any promise, and I do not suppose he will, for it is undoubtedly a trick of Howe's, in order to get away his cannon and stores as well as men. A letter to our congress, I am informed, intimates that general Washington apprehends the enemy will decamp and steer for this city:--our works are going on, and if they come, hope we shall be ready for them.

By capt. Bernard, from Nantucket, we hear that a ship of 300 tons burthen, which had arrived at Sandy-hook from England, and was ordered from thence to Boston; had got aground, in a gale of wind, between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, when some people from Martha's Vineyard fitted out an armed sloop, and with sundry small boats engaged the ship, and after a obstinate battle took her, wounded the captain with several of the men, and carried them into Martha's Vineyard. We also learn, that a transport, bound from Boston to New-York, was cast away on Cape Cod, and boarded by our people, who found on board her a quantity of dollars with ten ton of lead and shot.

Extract of a letter
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To the PEOPLE
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