

of seven voices only. — And people would take upon as many hundred thousands importance that ever came to your liberties can be no of your representatives in not inebriated with inde v, that the instructions fo ated by the true spirit of policy. Who so proper hofen by yourselves, not in and contumacious, but in the reflexion?" These words I published under the title I commend to your per judicious remarks upon the absurdities held forth in Common Sense.

I freely declared my pe- true interest of America Great-Britain upon constitu- I wish it upon none else. reasons for this declaration, n, that you should weigh that good sense for which ies have been hitherto dis- be under no apprehensions ough specious plans, which ur news papers and pam- judge right, when the efore them; but through ines for novelty in others, sition is agitated and per- ly deceive themselves, and d future dear-bought ex- nous.

ce have hitherto been the h these little colonies have nce. By them the face of from a barren wilderness eace and plenty. With- r existed as Americans, or e oaks would still have poi- arth, and never have ap- d houses. What are now rishing cities, would have- ants of wild beasts, or of felicity was owing to the o be denied; and that we ages from her protection. at too high a price, is e h enquiring, whether that e for her own sake than the case, more especially nsequence, I have not the a reason for our rejecting her I must utterly deny- aving, in her late conduct a cruel step dame, and not did not therefore quarrel from a connexion with her, ere else. If by her fleets the globe is deterrd from or on the high seas, in fo- n coats, ought we not in strength, and, without re- duct, embrace the op- d powerful in her friend- n it would cost us merely her power?

h be accommodated, there e will ever renew the late pt to employ force against atuated, at any future pe- us, either by the arts of ons of power, can we en- hall again, with a virtue n the weapons of defence convince her that we are nnection with her, to af- nefits; but although sub- ill not consent to be her and not for the purpose nment, "or erecting fe- at America embarked in On this ground, and upon on is formed. On this port among the true sons and lastly, upon this assurance of obtaining a and an ample security a- our just rights. And if e, it shall be necessary to ve birth: to our ance or; t manhood, when we can d protect our commerce without looking to any e.

nd, and these our views, origin of this contest, till some gleams of reconci- n upon us. If we now and reject all propositions are deterrd by every ad- Britain. We satisfy every eif's hath heretofore held ndon all prospect of pre- d and agriculture, the ced road to wealth and

ing all our former public affect independency as our early to the world to have a cruel hand of the parent e for union nor success is sidered as a faithless peo- d, and could scarcely ex- tion upon earth, or look e sentence. On the con- ant upon revolutions and untimely at emptied or li- portion; added to the loss n; the consequent decay d desolation; with an ex- shing condition of farmers eest, of hardy poverty as

the choice of adventurers who have nothing to lose, or by men exalted by the present confusions into lucrative offices, which they can hold no longer than the continuance of the public calamities. But can it be the wish of all that great and valuable body of people in America, who, by honest industry, have acquired a competency, and have experienced a happier life.—Can it be their wish, I say (for such considerations) to have destruction continually before their eyes; and to have enormous debts entailed upon them and their posterity, till at length they have nothing left which they can truly call their own?

I know the answers which will be given to these questions, and am prepared to reply to them, with that temper and gravity which so serious a subject requires. It will be asserted—indeed it has been already asserted—that the animosities between Great Britain and the colonies are now advanced to such a height, that RECONCILIATION is impossible. But assertions are nothing, when opposed to the nature of things, the truth of history, and all past experience. The quarrels of nations, being neither personal or private, cannot stir up mutual hatred among individuals. There never was a war so implacable, even among states naturally rivals and enemies, or among savages themselves, as not to have peace for its object as well as end! And, among people naturally friends, and connected by every dearer tie, who knows not that their quarrels (as those of lovers) are often but a stronger renewal of love?—In such cases, the tide of affection reverting to its course is like that of water long bent back, which, at length burst the opposing mounds, breaks forward through its native channel, and flows with redoubled vigour and increased velocity, so mix itself with its parent main!

It has been further asserted—that we are able, with our land forces, to defend ourselves against the whole world; that if commerce be an advantage, we may command what foreign alliances we please; that the moment we declare ourselves an independent people, there are nations ready to face the British thunder, and become the carriers of our commodities for the sake of enriching themselves; that, if this were not the case, we can soon build navies, to force and protect a trade; that a confederacy of the colonies into one great republic is preferable to kingly government, which is the appointment of the devil, or at least reprobated by God; that those denominated wise men, in our own and foreign countries, who have been so lavish of their encomiums upon the English constitution, were but egregious fools; that it is nothing better than a bungling piece of machinery, standing in need of constant checks to regulate and continue its motions; that the nation itself is but one mass of corruption, having at its head a royal brute, a hardened Pharaoh, delighting in blood; that we never can enjoy liberty in connection with such a country; and therefore all the hardships mentioned above, and a thousand times more, if necessary, are to be endured for the preservation of our rights.

If these things had been as fully proved, as they are boldly asserted by the authors of what is called Common Sense, I should here drop my pen; and through the short remainder of life, take my chance of whatever miseries Providence may have in reserve for this land, as I know of none else to which I can retire. But as these doctrines contradict every thing which we have hitherto been taught to believe respecting government, I hope you, my dear countrymen, have yet kept one ear open to hear what answer may be given in my future letters.

CATO.

CATO TO TIBERIUS, GREETING.

Questions civilly proposed deserve a civil answer, which shall be speedily given to those of Tiberius. Urbanity becomes us Romans; and Cato is proud to correspond with one assuming that character; although he is not fond of the imperial name. He has no quarrel with our committee as a public body, and regards many of the members as fit to fill any station to which they may be called by their country. If he cannot support his charges against the individuals who projected the convention scheme, he will cheerfully acknowledge his mistake. He never expected to finish these letters without opposition. The question is, whether the liberty and happiness of America can be best secured by a constitutional reconciliation with Great-Britain, or by a total separation from it? Cato is willing to be judged by his countrymen, when the whole of his arguments shall be submitted to them. Whatever may be intimated before that time he will scarce think worthy of regard; and it was rather unbecoming Tiberius, so early in the dispute, to suggest, that "the sentiments (in the letters) may resemble a modern (more than an ancient) Cato, who will consent to live a slave, rather than to die free." The inaccuracy of expression, in making sentiments resemble men, may be passed over; for where a person's meaning can be picked out, in such a contest as this, Cato despises a war about words.

N. B. The twelve queries in the evening post are, in substance, the same as the questions of Tiberius, and the same answer will serve for both.

WILLIAMSBURG, March 15.

At a committee held for Nansemond county, at the house of John Aspray in Suffolk town, on Wednesday the 22d of November, 1775, present Willis Riddick, chairman, and 11 members.

BETSEY HUNTER being summoned to appear before this committee, for writing certain letters to her mother, and brother (John Hunter, of Norfolk) informing him of the situation of our guards in this county, that the people were in arms at Norfolk and Smithfield, and that our troops were crossing the river on their march down here, and many other matters of importance, the said Betsey Hunter appeared, and said, that she did not intend them as letters of intelligence, but wrote them for her amusement. The committee, having heard the letters read, are of opinion that they were intended as letters of intelligence, and inimical to the American cause.

Ordered, therefore, That the said Betsey Hunter, with Mary and Martha Wilkinsons (who were privy to and assisting in the said letters), and were also summoned to appear before this committee) be advertised in the public papers, and looked on as enemies to America.

LEMUEL GODWIN, clerk.

Last Saturday an express arrived to the committee of safety, from the general congress, enclosing commissions

as brigadier-generals in the continental army. The express continued his route to North-Carolina, and we learn carried with him a brigadier-general's commission for col. James Moore of that province. Private letters by the same express mention, that major-general Lee was appointed commander in chief of the southern department; although letters, since received, say, that he had marched for Québec, at the head of 3000 men, to reduce that important fortress.

Letters from England, of Dec. 12th, say, that the packets are stopped, and of course all communication between Great-Britain and the colonies cut off; that 5000 troops were to be immediately embarked for Virginia, to be commanded by general Clinton; and that there was not the smallest prospect of an accommodation.

By letters from North Carolina, we have the pleasure to communicate the following important intelligence, giving an account of the total defeat of the Scotch Highlanders, Regulators, &c. who had lately become very formidable, and threatened much mischief to the southern colonies, as well as to the glorious cause wherein all America is engaged, in support of her invaded rights, and to oppose ministerial tyranny; so that we may now safely congratulate the public on the utter demolition of the tory interest in that province, which puts a finishing stroke to the farther machinations of master Martin, their wicked and unprincipled governor.—Col. Moore, with a body of 2000 men, having got within about six miles of the tory army, before they thought we were apprised of their scheme to join governor Martin and the tories he expected from Boston and England, they, to amuse him, sent a flag of truce, summoning him and his followers to lay down their arms, deliver up their ammunition and stores, and repair to the king's standard and take the oath of allegiance; and in the mean while, in order to avoid him, they crossed the river, not knowing that col. Caswell was on his way up, on the same side, to join col. Moore, with about 700 men. The colonel, being made acquainted with this manœuvre of the tories, immediately dispatched an express to col. Caswell who made a forced march, and got near five miles a-head of them, taking post between them and the governor, at a bridge over Moore's creek, where he knew they must pass, or fall in with col. Moore's main body. Col. Caswell, making use of his advantageous situation, threw up a small intrenchment on the opposite side of the creek, where he determined to wait for col. Moore, then between forty and fifty miles distant, or should the tories incline to attack him, to give them battle, although they were upwards of 2000 strong. In the mean while, however, to decoy them, he made a small breast-work on the other side of the creek, and began to treat with the tories, who had sent in a flag of truce with the like requisition they made to col. Moore, to lay down their arms, &c. in which case they should receive mercy, and be treated with gentleness. Col. Caswell's reply was, that he and his people were resolved to use their arms in the service of their country, and should not lay them down unless they were compelled to it. During this negotiation, he took care to let the officers, who came with the flag of truce, see his encampment, and the breast-work he had thrown up; and immediately on their departure caused it to be levelled, and crossed to his main post, leaving only a small guard behind, whom he ordered to keep up large fires, as if his whole army was there encamped. He did not fail to leave behind him all the marks of a precipitate retreat, taking up the planks of the bridge for about thirty feet, but suffered the sleepers to remain, that the enemy might have it in their power to come over, though but slowly, and then made dispositions to prevent his army from being discovered by them. Next morning, a good while before day, the whole tory army marched down to attack him, leaving only a small party behind to guard their baggage. Their disposition was a very good one, the main body being supported on each side by a column of flankers; the van led by col. Macleod, second in command, and the rear of the army brought up by brigadier-general Macdonald, both of whom were at the battle of Lexington, and afterwards sent by general Gage, at governor Martin's request, to head the North-Carolina insurgents. Upon their arrival, finding that col. Caswell had abandoned his camp, they determined to cross the bridge in pursuit of him; but as soon as they got upon it, his advanced guard discharged them, who were answered by Macleod with a discharge of his piece, which a sentinel returned. The enemy then began a heavy firing, although without being able to do the least execution; for col. Caswell lay still, till he thought a sufficient number of them had crossed to play upon with four field pieces, which he caused to be loaded with musket balls, and were so disposed on the intrenchment (in the form of a half-moon) as to rake the bridge on all sides. About 100 of the enemy having crossed the bridge, there ensued a most dreadful carnage, and they never fired a shot after the first discharge from the artillery, but, being seized with a panic, betook themselves to flight, in the most precipitate manner, notwithstanding every exertion of col. Macleod, who fell soon afterwards, and when found had 23 balls and a buck shot in him and through him. It is supposed that scarcely one of those returned who got over the bridge, about 30 being killed on the spot, between 50 and 60 wounded, and the rest fell over the bridge and were drowned, owing to the planks and sleepers being greased, which served to trip up their heels in their tumultuous flight, as was expected and intended. A party of horsemen were sent in pursuit of general M'Donald, who took him; and the Granville and Orange militia, who were likewise ordered to pursue the enemy, took about 400 prisoners, 30 of them officers, whom they delivered to col. Alexander Martin, then on his march from the western parts of the province to join col. Moore with 4000 men. The private men he disbanded, and set at liberty; but the leaders are to be sent to Halifax, where the provincial congress meets the second of April, and it is to be hoped will devise some method to put it out of the power of those tools of despotism, paricides to their country, and foes to the liberties of mankind, from pursuing their wicked and diabolical schemes in assisting to enslave America, now the only quarter of the globe where liberty triumphs over oppression; and that they may do so to the latest posterity, ought to be the daily wish, and fervent prayer, of all good men.—Providence, which hitherto has so remarkably interposed in our behalf, was, upon this occasion, equally favourable to our glorious cause; for, during the whole engagement, there was not

not badly.—Too much cannot be said in praise of the brave col. Caswell, who displayed such military skill as would do honour to any commander; and the officers and soldiers who fought under him, although raw and undisciplined troops, appear to have acted like veterans, thereby doing credit to their country, and adding lustre to the American arms, which God grant may always be successful against tyranny, its aiders and abettors.

A letter since come to hand say, that about 40 of the tories were killed, whose army consisted of at least 2500 men, most of whom were taken, with 32 baggage waggons, a quantity of dry goods, &c. also 1200 guns, chiefly rifles, with swords, dirks, and some powder and ball.

BALTIMORE, March 12.

To the public in general and the ladies in particular.

Our repose which we have hitherto enjoyed, in preference to our neighbouring colonies, is at last disturbed; and we are now called forth to our defence. The anarchy with which our brave countrymen assailable, and the determination to fight, visible in every countenance, demonstrate, that if the enemy should be hardy enough to encounter them; we have reason to expect some wounds. The necessity of taking all imaginable care of those who may happen to be wounded, (in the country's cause) urges us to address our humane ladies, to lend us their kind assistance in furnishing us with linen rags, and old sheeting for bandages, &c. to be delivered either to Dr. Wiensenthal, Dr. Boyd, Dr. Craddock, Dr. Wallace in Annapolis, or any member of the committee.

It is recommended to all the printers in this province to publish the above.

ANNAPOLIS, March 28.

The provincial adjourned court will be further adjourned to Monday before the second Tuesday in April.

We can now, with great pleasure, positively give the public an assurance of the late arrival of the ship Annapolis, captain Hanrick, in London, some time about the middle of November: The particulars of her voyage we are not yet favoured with, but shall be glad to communicate them when they come to hand, as they do great honour to the captain and his crew, as well as to the unwearied writers, who generously made a present to captain Hanrick of 150 l. sterling, and a handsome valuable medal; to the first mate, Mr. Wallis (since made captain of the Baltimore in the coal trade) 50 l. sterling, and in proportion to the gallant seamen.

In Committee of Correspondence, March 27, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the resolution of November session of convention, 1774, prohibiting BALLS during this time of general distress, be published in the Maryland Gazette, and that the clerk of this committee do transmit a copy of said resolve to the printer.

signed per order,

RINALDO JOHNSON, clk. pro temp.

In Convention, November 25, 1774.

RESOLVED, That during the present time of public calamity, BALLS be discontinued.

True copy from the proceedings,

RINALDO JOHNSON, clk. pro temp.

The printer is desired to insert the following extract from the Virginia Gazette of February 16, 1776.

At a committee appointed and held for Hanover county, at the court-house, on Thursday the 25th of January, 1776.

BENNET WHITE appeared before the committee, agreeable to a summons, to answer sundry charges lodged against him, which are as follows: "That he had been guilty of having a subscription ball; that he assured his subscribers, that if the committee should notice it, he would take the whole blame on himself; and that he had allowed gaming in his house." Which charges being examined into, were sufficiently proved; but the said Bennet White declaring his uneasiness for having done any thing that had caused the displeasure of the committee, begged that they would pass it over, as the first offence, and that he would pay the strictest regard to the association in future, as well as demean himself, in every respect, a firm friend to the rights of America. These concessions being deemed satisfactory, Mr. White was discharged from farther prosecution.

Extract from the proceedings,

WILLIAM BENTLEY, clerk.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an indented servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. Should he be taken ten miles from home I will give 20 shilling; reward on his return.

J. CLAPHAM.

March 20, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an Irish indented servant man, named Philip M'Donald, a barber by trade; about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high: had on when he went away, a brown coat, has black frizzled hair which he ties behind, is much marked with the small-pox; and is given to liquor. Whoever takes up said servant, so that I get him again, shall receive, if taken 10 miles from home, 20 shillings, if 30 miles 40 shillings; and if out of the province 3 pounds, besides what the law allows.

JUSTUS SIRBERT.

DESERVED from capt. Scott's company of regulars a spare fellow, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, named John Ashton, and appears to be about 27 years of age. Whoever will bring the above soldier to capt. Scott, or any officer of the said company, shall receive the sum of three pounds.