

in whole favour a di... (not be made) as shall suffer... the authors of our com... AND RESOLVE as... tants of these colonies be... vessels, to cruise on the... other vessels, their tackle... goods, wares and mer... inhabitant or inhabitants of... high seas, or between high... armed vessel fitted out by... and to whom commissions... belted and prosecuted in any... maritime affairs in any of... and adjudged to be lawful... and paying the wages the... of such captures as are... all be entitled to, according... until the time of the ad... ed to and for the use of the... ers, marines, and marin... ing to such rules and pro... Provided always, that... ind, or be confined to ex... tleters, arms, ammunition... the use of these colonies; or... of, who are friends to the... warlike stores, or to the ef... vessels, with their tackle; ap... resels and merchandizes be... Great-Britain as aforesaid... of the vessels of war of these... deemed forfeited, one third... the wages of seamen and ma... officers and men on board... the United Colonies; or... or vessels with their tackle... s, wares and merchandizes... of Great-Britain as afores... any vessel of war fitted out... of the United Colonies, ad... divided, after deducting... men and mariners as afores... proportion as the assembly or... their tackle, apparel and fur... vessels which may be em... to the ministerial armies... ken near the shores of any... ople of the country, or de... shall be deemed lawful prize... within the said colony, is re... ereof, to adjudge, that all... may attend the capture and... monies arising from the sale... der equally divided among... actually engaged and em... nize: Provided, that where... y shall have been employe... prize-money shall be dif... proportion to the pay of the... the minutes,

I received an express from col. Caiwell, informing that the Tories had raised a flag, which had been sunk in Black-river about 5 miles above him, and by erecting a bridge had passed it with their whole army. I then determined, as the last expedient, to proceed immediately in boats down the N.W. river to Dollison's landing about 60 miles, and to take possession of Moore's creek bridge, about 10 miles from them, at the same time acquainting col. Caiwell of my intentions, and recommending to him to retreat to Moore's creek bridge if possible; but if not, to follow on in their rear. The next day by four o'clock we arrived at Dollison's landing, but as we could not possibly march that night for want of horses for the artillery, I dispatched an express to Moore's creek bridge, to learn the situation of affairs there, and was informed that col. Lillington, who had the day before taken his stand at the bridge, was that afternoon reinforced by col. Caiwell, and that they had raised a small breastwork, and destroyed a part of the bridge. The next morning, the 27th, at break of day, an alarm gun was fired, immediately after which, scarce allowing our people a moment to prepare, the Tory army with capt. McCleod at their head, made their attack on col. Caiwell, and col. Lillington, and finding a small intrenchment near the bridge on our side empty, concluded that our people had abandoned their post, and in the most furious manner advanced within thirty paces of our breastwork and artillery, where they met a very proper reception. Capt. McCleod and capt. Campbell fell within a few paces of the breastwork, the former of whom received upwards of twenty balls through his body, and in a very few minutes their whole army was put to the flight, and most shamefully abandoned the ground, who was next day taken prisoner. The loss of the enemy in this action, from the best accounts we have been able to learn, is about 30 killed and wounded; but as numbers of them must have fallen into the creek, besides many more that were carried off, I suppose the loss may be estimated at about 50. We had only a wounded one, one of which died this day. Thus, sir, I have the pleasure to inform you, has most happily terminated a very dangerous insurrection; and will I trust, put an effectual check to Toryism in this country. The situation of affairs at this place made it necessary for me to return here, which, at the special request of the committee, I did last night with my regiment, the large requisitions made by the men of war, who now lie just below the town, gave the inhabitants reason to apprehend every thing that could be filtered from their disappointed vengeance; however, the committee have most spiritedly determined rather to suffer the worst of human evils than afford them any supplies at all, and I have no doubt we shall be able to prevent them from doing any great injury. In order to lessen as much as possible the expence incurred by this expedition, I some time ago directed col. Martin to disband all the troops under his command, except 1000, including the regulars, and with those to secure the persons and estates of the insurgents subject to your farther orders, and then to proceed to this place, unless otherwise directed; however, as I do not think the service just now requires such a number of men in arms, I shall immediately direct him to disband all except the regulars, and with those to remain in and about Cross creek until farther orders. Extract of a letter from col. Richard Caswell, late a delegate for the province of North-Carolina in the continental congress, and now commander of a body of troops in that province, to the honourable Cornelius Harnet, Esq; president of the provincial council of North-Carolina, dated from his camp at Long-Creek, Feb. 29, 1776. SIR, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that we had an engagement with the Tories at Widow Moore's Creek bridge, on the 27th of the month. Our army was about 1000 strong, consisting of the Newbern battalion of minute-men, the militia from Craven, Johnston, Dobbs and Wake, and a detachment of the Wilmington battalion of minute-men, which we found encamped at Moore's creek the night before the battle, under the command of col. Lillington. The Tories, by common report, were 3000; but gen. M'Donald, whom we have a prisoner, says there were about 15 or 1600; he was unwell that day, and not in the battle. Captain McCleod, who seemed to be the principal commander, with capt. John Campbell, are among the slain. The number killed and mortally wounded, from the best accounts I was able to collect, was about 30, most of them were shot on their passing the bridge. Several had fallen into the water, some of whom, I am pretty certain, had not risen yesterday evening, when I left the camp. I had prisoners, as we have made, say there were at least 50 of their men missing. The Tories were totally put to the rout, and will certainly disperse. Col. Moore arrived at our camp a few hours after the engagement was over; his troops came up that evening, and are now encamped on the ground where the battle was fought; and col. Martin is at or near Cross creek, with a large body of men; those, I presume, will be sufficient effectually to put a stop to any attempt to imbue again. I therefore (with col. Moore's consent) am returning to Newbern with the troops under my command, where I hope to receive your orders to disband them. I here intend carrying the general. If the council should rise before my arrival, be pleased to give order in what manner he shall be disposed of. Our officers and men behaved with the spirit and intrepidity becoming freemen, contending for their dearest privileges. Letter from Donald M'Donald, Esq; lately created brigadier-general in the town of Newbern, to brigadier-general Moore, at Rockfish, dated Feb. 19, 1776. SIR, I herewith send the bearer, Donald Morrison, by advice of the commissioners appointed by his excellency Josiah Martin, and in behalf of the army now under my command, to propose terms to you as friends and countrymen. I must suppose you unacquainted with the governor's proclamation, commanding all his majesty's loyal subjects to repair to the king's royal standard, and that you have imagined you would, ere this, have joined the King's army now engaged in his majesty's service. I have therefore thought it proper to intimate to you, that in case you do not, by 12 o'clock to-morrow, join the royal standard, I must consider you as enemies, and take the necessary steps for the support of legal authority.

with tenderness and mercy; from motives of humanity, I again beg of you to accept the proffered clemency. I make no doubt but you will shew the gentleman sent on this message every possible civility; and you may depend, in return, that all your officers and men which may fall into our hands, shall be treated with an equal degree of respect. I have the honour to be, in behalf of the army, sir, your most obedient humble servant, DON. M'DONALD. His excellency's proclamation is herewith enclosed. Brigadier-general MOORE, Esquire, at Rockfish. Yours of this day I have received, in answer to which I must inform you, that the terms which you are pleased to say, in behalf of the army under your command, are offered to us as friends and countrymen, are such as neither my duty or inclination will permit me to accept, and which I must presume you too much of an officer to expect of me. You are very right when you suppose me unacquainted with the governor's proclamation, but as the terms therein proposed are such as I hold incompatible with the freedom of Americans, it can be no rule of conduct for me; however, should I not hear further from you before 12 o'clock to-morrow, by which time I shall have an opportunity of consulting my officers here, and perhaps col. Martin, who is in the neighbourhood of Cross-creek, you may expect a more particular answer; mean time you may be assured that the feelings of humanity will induce me to shew that civility to such of your people as may fall into our hands, as I am desirous should be observed towards those of ours, who may be unfortunate enough to fall into yours. I am, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant, Camp at Rockfish, Feb. 19, 1776. J. MOORE. From brigadier-general MOORE to brigadier-general M'DONALD. SIR, Agreeable to my promise of yesterday I have consulted the officers under my command, respecting your letter, and am happy in finding them unanimous in opinion with me. We consider ourselves engaged in a cause the most glorious and honourable in the world, the defence of the liberties of mankind, in support of which we are determined to hazard every thing dear and valuable; and in tenderness to the deluded people under your command, permit me, Sir, through you, to inform them, before it is too late, of the dangerous and destructive precipice on which they stand, and to remind them of the ungrateful return they are about to make for their favourable reception in this country; if this is not sufficient to recal them to the duty which they owe to themselves and their posterity, inform them that they are engaged in a cause in which they cannot succeed, as not only the whole force of this country, but that of our neighbouring provinces, is exerting and now actually in motion to suppress them, and which must end in their utter destruction. Deirous, however, of avoiding the effusion of human blood, I have thought proper to send you a copy of the petition recommended by the continental congress, which if they will yet subscribe, and lay down their arms by to-morrow 12 o'clock, we are willing to receive them as friends and countrymen. Should this offer be rejected, I shall consider them as enemies to the constitutional liberties of America, and treat them accordingly. I cannot conclude without reminding you, Sir, of the oath which you and some of your officers took at Newbern, on your arrival to this country, which I imagine you will find difficult to reconcile to your present conduct. I have no doubt that the bearer, captain James Walker, will be treated with proper civility and respect in your camp. I am, Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant, J. MOORE. Camp at Rockfish, Feb. 20, 1776. From brigadier-general M'DONALD to brigadier-general MOORE. SIR, I received your favour by capt. James Walker, and observed your declared sentiments of revolt, hostility, and rebellion to the king, and to what I understand to be the constitution of this country. If I am mistaken, future consequences must determine, but while I continue in my present sentiments I shall consider myself embarked in a cause which must, in its consequences, extricate this country from anarchy and licentiousness. I cannot conceive that the Scots emigrants, to whom I imagine you allude, can be under greater obligations to this country than to that king, under whose gracious and merciful government they alone could have been enabled to visit this western region. And I trust, Sir, it is in the womb of time to say, that they are not that deluded and ungrateful people which you would represent them to be. As a soldier in his majesty's service, I must inform you, if you are yet to lay it, that it is my duty to conquer, if I cannot reclaim those who may be hardy enough to take up arms against the best of matters as of kings. I have the honour to be, in behalf of the army under my command, sir, your most obedient servant, Head-quarters, 20th Feb. 1776. DON. M'DONALD. JAMES MOORE, Esquire. Extract of a letter from the provincial council of North-Carolina, dated Newbern, March 5, 1776. GOVERNOR MARTIN has been too successful in exciting an insurrection of the handitti among the highlanders and regulators. We refer you to a copy of col. Caiwell's letter and other inclosed papers for the particular account of them. We have given orders that the persons and properties of the ringleaders should be secured, and that all who were in arms or aiding and abetting should be disarmed, and every other effectual measure pursued to prevent their giving governor Martin any aid in case of the arrival of his expected reinforcements. We have every thing to hope from the vigilance, skill, and activity of the officers, and the bravery, spirited, and patriotic behaviour of the troops on this occasion. A noble ardour appeared in every part of the country through all ranks of people, in so much that in less

and on their march against the enemy, more might have been raised, had they been decell... hear that the men of war are on their way to Wilmington, the inhabitants have removed all their valuable effects, apprehending that the governor will prevail on the officers of the men of war to act the same tragedy there, which lord Dunmore lately play'd at Norfolk, to his immortal infamy. We have ordered that the provincial congress should meet at Halifax the second of next month. We have appointed committees to confer with Virginia and South-Carolina on the most proper mode of defence to be adopted by these colonies the ensuing campaign. We understand gen. Clinton is arrived in Virginia with the transports and troops from Boston, but have not yet any advice of the arrival of those expected from Great-Britain. One Mr. Achison, midshipman of the Syren, with three sailors, were drove over Ocracock Bar in distress, who were taken prisoners and brought to Newbern, the midshipman and one sailor are sent to Halifax as prisoners, the other two discharged in this town. It appears the Syren had taken a vessel of ours on the coast, and those men were conducting the prize to Boston, when they were forced over the bar. ANNAPOLIS, April 4. TO THE PRINTER. SIR, Fredericktown, March 25, 1776. If you have room in your next paper, I should be obliged to you to insert a copy of the inclosed resignation. I am your obedient servant, P. THOMAS. Middle district of Frederick county, March 7, 1776. To the honourable the COUNCIL of SAFETY of Maryland. GENTLEMEN, BY the return of the committee, of the militia companies in this district, you will observe that I was chosen captain of a company (which I believe was one of the first raised in the province) and placed in the 4th battalion; but my commission has never come to hand, and to save your honours the trouble of making one out, it is necessary to inform you, that I decline serving in the above capacity, which I am induced to do for these reasons, viz. I had the honour to command one of the oldest companies in this province, and was recommended, by the committee, to the convention as a proper person to be appointed colonel of the 4th battalion. They being representatives of the people, and a respectable body of men, I was impressed with a grateful sense of the favour conferred on me -- the more so, as it was unfollicited. But their recommendation did not meet with the approbation of the convention, and a lieutenant of a younger company, in another battalion, who was not recommended by the committee to any office, was appointed, whose experience was not conspicuous, and whose assiduity in promoting the good of the cause we are justly engaged in, did not exceed my own. The first lieutenant of my company was promoted to the appointment of first major in the same battalion, by which means, was I to accept of the commission, I should be under the command of one who was formerly an inferior officer in a younger company, and of another who was an officer under me! These reasons, I hope, will appear satisfactory to your honours and justify my resignation; especially as I find it impracticable for me, with honour, to render my country that service I was first lined to do. I would not be understood, as it is far from my design, to cast reflections on the conduct of the convention, or that I suspect them of being partial in the above appointment; I rather am inclined to believe it has proceeded from their being deceived by persons whom they have depended on for information: In this opinion I am the more confirmed, from the many resignations of commissions, and from the complaints of the people on account of the appointment of field officers in this district. I am, gentlemen, Your very obedient servant, (Copy) PHILIP THOMAS. SIX DOLLARS REWARD. STRAYED away from the widow M'Donald's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March; out of the fodder house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and a half high; paces, trots, and gallops, marked CS on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, at reasonable charges paid if brought home. Prince-George's county, March 18, 1776. COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro woman, who says her name is Judy, and that she belongs to Robert Gordon of Charles county. Her master is desir'd to pay charges, and take her from: CHARLES TOWN, Cecil County, March 19, 1776. THIS day was committed to my custody on suspicion of being a runaway, by the name of Andrew Sandford, an Irishman, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 9 or ten inches high, long black hair tied behind: has on a light coloured coat and waistcoat, brown cloth breeches, a half worn beaver hat, blue fibb'd yarn stockings, and old shoes. He says he has been three years in this country, and worked a considerable time as a journeyman barber with Mr. John James in Philadelphia, and from last harvest until this time with Mr. Clements, barber in Baltimore town. His master, if any, is desir'd to pay charges and take him away; and if any of the above gentlemen can make it appear that he is a freeman, he will be released according to law. JAMES ORRICK, Sheriff of Cecil county. York Dist. (3w)