

as to the power vested in administration, he could see no possible abuse that could be made of it. It was impossible that the money expended could be known to parliament at the very time it was issuing, nor the exact amount of the debt incurred, but still the house retained the efficient controul; for if the debt was improperly incurred in the first instance, or if there appeared any abuse or malversation when the accounts came to be inspected, those who had abused the trust necessarily reposed in them were liable to be severely punished, and to suffer under the displeasure of that house. His lordship added that, for his part, he had no objection to give the hon. member every information he desired; but he believed that several of the accounts were not yet closed or complete; such as were, he was very ready to comply with the hon. gentleman's requisition.

Mr. Hartley then made the two following motions, which were agreed to.

That an account of navy, victualling, and transport bills, that were made out on or before the 29th of February, 1776, be laid before the house.

That an account of the increase of the debt of the navy, between the 31st of December, 1774, and the 31st of December, 1775, be laid before this house; together with the specification of the respective services for which the said debt was incurred, as far as the same can be made up.

March 21. Orders are given for raising 1000 recruits, for completing the three regiments of foot guards to their full complement, in the room of those ordered for America.

A messenger arrived yesterday at St. James's, from France, and brings advice, that a Squadron of men of war and frigates are sailed from Brest, with a fair wind, for the West-Indies.

Yesterday gen. Sir John Wortlesy, and Sir George Osborne, set out for Chatham, to embark there with their regiments for America.

Yesterday a draught from the guards of 1000 men marched off the parade, in three divisions, to Portsmouth, to embark for America.

The ferret sloop of war, commanded by capt. Rodney, is said to have overset at sea, and every soul lost.

Orders are given for draughts to be made from the different dock-yards for a number of ship-wrights, &c. to be sent to Halifax, in No. a-Scotia, to repair any of his majesty's ships that may put in there and stand in need thereof.

It was agreed, in Monday's debate, that government would, in the course of two months, want 130,000 tons of transports. Suppose on an average at 280 tons each, this is near 500 sail, which is certainly more than can be procured in that time. This confirms the opinion very generally embraced among military persons,-- That the German troops will not all be in America before the end of August.

Letters from col. Faucit advise, that the first march of the Hessians has been stopped, and the men ordered back, from the transports not being ready to receive them.

By a gentleman just arrived from Ireland we hear, that all kinds of provisions are risen above a third in their value there, on account of the large commissions for victualling the transports. At Cork, it is said, there are no less than 500 of them to be victualled for twelve months.

PROVIDENCE.

To Esck Hopkins, Esq; commander in chief of the American fleet

Honoured Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to serve under you in the last French war. and I believe to your satisfaction; and since my arrival at Philadelphia, where I was appointed by the honourable continental congress to the command of the ship Columbus, I have strictly obeyed your commands, and done all in my power for the honour of the fleet, to the best of my knowledge. The night that we fell in with the Glasgow man of war, two of my lieutenants were on board the two prizes we had taken, and fourteen of my best seamen: when we were running down on the ship, getting in order to engage, and quartering the men in the places of those that were absent, the Glasgow suddenly hauling to the northward, brought me to the southward of her, and brought her directly into your and capt. Hopkins's wake. I hauled up for her, and made all sail with my three top-gallant sails; capt. Hopkins then beginning the fire, the Glasgow returning the same, and my being in her wake, and as far to leeward as she, it instantly deadened all the wind, which put it entirely out of my power to get up with her. I used my utmost endeavour, but in vain: Before I had got near enough for a close engagement, the Glasgow had made all sail for the harbour of Newport: I continued chase under all sail that I had, except fudding-sails, and the wind being before the beam, she firing her two stern chaces into me as fast as possible, and my keeping up a fire with my bow guns, and now and then a broadside, put it out of my power to get near enough to have a close engagement. I continued this chase till you thought proper to hoist a signal for my return into the fleet: I accordingly obeyed the signal, and on my arrival at New-London, I found that a report was spread, from the Alired and Cabot, that I was a coward, and many other ill-natured and false aspersions. If I did not do my duty, it proceeded not from cowardice, but from want of judgment. The inhabitants of New-London, and others, by means of those cruel aspersions, look on me with contempt, as a man not serving the country in my station: the circumstance of having a family of children to be upbraided with my supposed cowardice, and my own character rendered infamous through the thirteen united colonies, is an indignity I cannot bear. If I am a coward, I have no business in the service of this continent: I therefore request that there may be a court-martial called, that I may be tried by my brother officers of the fleet, and either acquitted with honour, or broke with disgrace. I ask no favour of them. If I should be broke the public will then have a right to despise me. If I can obtain no satisfaction in this way, I should be under a necessity to return you my commission. I will then thank the congress for the honour they intended me, and curse those who first spread the infamous report. I have never yet mentioned the matter to any one. If your honour had let me come to Newport when the Scarborough man of war lay there, as was my request, I might perhaps

have convinced the world that I am not a coward, but this is now out of my power.

I am your honour's humble servant,
ABRAHAM WHIPPLE.

P. S. Your honour will observe, that it was in the night when we bore down upon the Glasgow, which rendered it difficult to see when she altered her course.

April 30, 1776.

At a court-martial held on board the Alfred, at Providence, in the colony of Rhode-Island, on the 16th day of May, 1776, by order of Esck Hopkins, Esq; commander in chief of the American fleet, and at the desire of Abraham Whipple, Esq; commander of the ship Columbus, for an enquiry into his, the said Whipple's, conduct on the 17th of April last, in an engagement held with the Glasgow ship of war.

PRESENT,

Captain DUDLEY SALTONSTALL, President.

Captains Nicholas Biddle, John Hazzard, Samuel Nicholas, John Welsh, lieutenants John Paul Jones, Rhodes Arnold, Hoysted Hacker, Elifha Hinman, Jonathan Maltbie, Matthew Park, Henry Dayton, member.

Abraham Whipple, Esq; aforesaid, appeared before this court, and says his character stands aspersed for cowardice, on board the Columbus, the 17th of April last, in an engagement with the Glasgow ship of war; therefore desires to be heard touching the same: whereupon this court proceeded to hear him. He sets forth in his declaration, that for want of wind, and by means of the Glasgow's firing stern guns, together with his firing bow guns, and now and then giving a broadside, he was unable to make his attack cloier than he did. This court having heard sundry evidences, who were present in different vessels during the engagement with the Glasgow, respecting the matter now before us, are of opinion that the said Whipple's conduct on the 17th of April was agreeable to what he hath set forth in his said declaration; and that his mode of attack on the Glasgow has proceeded from error in judgment, and not from cowardice.

Signed, D. Saltonstall, N. Biddle, J. Hazzard, S. Nicholas, J. Welsh, J. P. Jones, R. Arnold, H. Hacker, E. Hinman, J. Maltbie, M. Park, H. Dayton.

A true copy from the minutes,
DUDLEY SALTONSTALL, president.

NEW-YORK, May 27.

By a letter from head quarters, at Williamsburg, in Virginia, dated the 10th instant, we learn, that an express was arrived there from gen. Moore, in North-Carolina, acquainting the committee, That 2000 men under the command of general Cornwallis, was arrived at Wilmington, on Cape Fear river, from England; and that Sir Peter Parker was daily expected at the same place with 8000 more, to complement the southern army to 10,000 men; that the inhabitants of North-Carolina were assembling in great numbers, and were determined to give general Cornwallis a warm reception.

By an officer from before Quebec, and who left Point Dechambeau on the 9th instant, we learn, that the small-pox had got into our army at Quebec, which rendered many of them unfit for service; that there were but about 200 effective men at head-quarters when the fall was made, the rest of the army having been dispersed in different parts for the convenience of quarters; that at head quarters they had neither intrenchments, breast-works, nor intrenching tools, and but six days provisions; that general Wooster, captain Mott, and many others, had left that place two days before the attack; that the body who sallied forth on our main army did not appear to be regulars, but a part of the garrison; that all the artillery was lost, and consisted of two 24, two 12, and several 6 and 4 pounders, some mortars, cohorns, and howitzers, all brass, with some iron pieces of various sizes; that it was thought about 100 men went off with the small-pox on them, and that they were the better for it; and that our posts generally got together and escaped; that there was no firing on either side; that general Thomas kept with himself but about 500 men, on account of the scarcity of provisions, and with them intended to act on the offensive or defensive, as circumstances would allow; that the Canadians in general were for us; that great numbers of our troops, with provision, ammunition, &c. were on their way, and that it is to be hoped a powerful army, well appointed and provisioned, will, this campaign, retrieve our honour, and crown our important enterprize in that country with glory.

By express arrived here on Thursday evening last, from Boston, we have the following important intelligence, viz.

THAT the continental armed schooner the Franklin, commanded by capt. Mugford, on the 17th inst. took and carried into Boston a ship from England, about 300 tons burthen, mounted six carriage guns. She left England the 4th of April, in company with nine sail of transports, under convoy of a frigate, bound to Boston. The following is an invoice of her cargo, as delivered from the office of ordnance.

Laden on board the HOPE, Mr. John Williams contractor, and Alexander Lundale master, the under-mentioned particulars, to be transported to Boston, in North-America (the dangers of the seas only excepted) and there delivered to the commissary of the artillery, or to such persons as the officer commanding the royal artillery shall appoint to receive them. In further part of col. Cleveland's demand, ordered by the board the 26th of July last.

1000 carabines, with bayonets and steel ram-rods; 1000 carabine cartouch boxes; 1000 slings. Spare travelling carriages, 24 pair heavy, and 12 pair light, with traversing handspikes for ditto. Hand saws, 84 in a case. Sand bags, 5000 bushel, and 5000 half bushel bags. Mantlets of cured hides, 100 in 20 cases. Broad-axes, 144. Hand hammers, 60. Grindstones with troughs, 15. Falling axes, 300. Hand hatchets, 500. Hand bills, 500. Wheel-barrows, 268. Hand-barrows, 150. Spades, 1000; ditching ditto, 250; shovels, 750 thod; and 250 iron. Coils of rope, 1 of 1-4 inch, 1 of 3 inch,

of 2-4-5 inch, and 2 of 2 inch. Lashed rope; 1 of 3-4 inch, 1 of 2 inch, 2 of 1-2 inch, white rope.

Carpenter's tools in sets.

Hand-saws whet and set, 6; tennon ditto, 6; turning ditto, 6; broad-axes, helved, 6; adzes, helved, 6; pin mauls, 6; hammers, 6 claw and 6 rivetting ditto. Chissels, broad helved, 6; scribbing ditto, 6; headings, ditto, 12; paring do. 6; forming do. 36, mortising do. 24, large do. 11. Gouges, 36 formers, 6 picking ditto, 12 trunnon ditto. Pieces or pads, stock and springs, 6; bits for ditto, 72; draw-borers, helved, 24; pincers, 6 pair; engineers augers, 8 to a set, 6; iron squares, 6; bras chalk-line rolls, 6; chalk lines, 12 knots; iron compasses 6 pair; shafts for engineers augers, 12; two feet rules, 6; black lead pencils, 6 dozen; 6 dozen ditto for tennon saws; gimlets sorted, 124; large spike ditto, 12; glue, 12 pound; copper glue-pots, 6; fish-skins, 6; mallets 6; bettys; or small iron crows, 6. Planes, long, with irons fixed, 6; six fore planes, twelve smoothing ditto; half-inch grove, one and a half skew rabbit, one inch square ditto, half inch ditto, three quarter inch head, five-eighth ditto, one and a quarter ogee, one inch, three quarter, one half ditto, one inch quarter-round, three quarter inch, five-eighths, ditto, one and half inch phiilters, piaws with six iron, 6 of each, containing in six chests. Hamber lines, 50. Eleven barrel spikes, from 5 to 8 and half inches. Nails, 24d. 385,000. Pick-axes, with helves, 500. Sledge-hammers, with helves, 25. Augers with shafts, 75. 1500 copper-hooped barrels of gunpowder, equal to 75 tons.

Office of ordnance, Nov. 24, 1775. SILLINGFLEET DUMFORD.

Last Saturday week the brave capt. Mugford, commander of the armed schooner Franklin, after seeing his prize safe into Boston harbour, was going out again, but the tide making against him, he came to an anchor off Pudding Gut point; the next morning, by day-break, the sentinel saw thirteen boats from the men of war making for them, they got ready to receive them before they could board the schooner; she sunk five of the boats, and the remainder attempting to board, they cut several of the crew's hands off as they laid them over the gunwale. The brave capt. Mugford making a blow at the people in the boats with a cutlass, he received a wound in the breast, on which he called his lieutenant, and said, "I am a dead man, don't give up the vessel, you will be able to beat them, if not, cut the cable, and run her on shore," he expired in a few minutes; the lieutenant then run her on shore, and the boats made off; the men that were taken up from the boats that sunk, say they lost 70 men. The schooner had but one man killed, besides the captain.

The cockswain of a barge belonging to one of his majesty's ships now at Nantasket road, we hear came to town yesterday from that place, and reports that he, with the crew, were sent on shore for milk but, rather than return on board the ship, delivered themselves up to the people of Boston, where they were kindly received.

The Cerberus frigate watered at Block-Island on Sunday the 12th instant, and chased some fishing boats into Newport this day week.

The brig that was consort with the Cerberus is said to be sailed for Halifax, with three prizes; some of them said to be from France.

Two of the continental fleet sailed from Newport last week, in order to cruise in Boston bay.

PHILADELPHIA.

In CONGRESS, May 21, 1776.

Resolved,

THAT all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the continent, or by others.

That such as are taken be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the united colonies; but that such as are officers supply themselves and be allowed to draw bills to pay for their subsistence and clothing.

That officers made prisoners in the land service be allowed the same indulgence.

That the officers be not permitted to reside in or near any sea port town, nor public post road, and that the officers and privates be not suffered to reside in the same places.

That in case the officers cannot draw or sell their bills; the congress will allow for each of them two dollars a week, for board and lodgings to be repaid by said officers before they are released from their captivity.

That no tavern keepers supply any officers who are prisoners, on the credit of the continent.

That the capitulations entered into with prisoners at the time of their surrender be punctually observed.

That such officers as surrender prisoners of war be put on their parole, unless congress shall otherwise direct.

That the FORM of the PAROLE be as follows:

I — being made a prisoner of war, by the army of the thirteen united colonies, in North-America, do promise and engage, on my word and honour, and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence to — in the province of — being the place of my destination and residence, and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between Great-Britain and the said united colonies, or until the congress of the said united colonies, or the assembly, convention, or committee or council of safety of the said colony shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the united colonies, or do or say any thing in opposition to, or in prejudice of the measures and proceedings of any congress for the said colonies during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged: Given under my hand, this day of A. D. 1776.

That the said parole be signed by the officers.

That such as refuse to subscribe the parole be committed to prison.

That David Franks, Esq; agent to the contractors for victualling the troops of the king of Great-Britain, be permitted to supply the prisoners with provisions

and other necessaries of money as are employed. And to enable them once a month supplied, in order to satisfy the rolls.

I hat such of Mr. Franks, be the rations allowed the continent.

I hat the women be furnished with and other things.

That no priors That the pri trades and to families.

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May 27. On the men of war Americans they the men of war soon for the flag but could not o

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Extra of a

"By two r making their there are a nu They say five Corke, being ports, 10 sto bombs, with place, which arrives. This were seen off who have been said, and who will be able to