

last Wednesday evening. Our ships were at some distance from the Cape when they fell in with the above brig, and brought her safe in. We hear that yesterday morning the ministerial fleet near Sandy Hook consisted of eight sail, the Asia, Phoenix, Mercury, lively, and four other vessels. Last evening it was reported the number was increased to eleven sail.

WATER TOWN, May 27.

Monday last the freeholders and other inhabitants of this town, being duly warned, and legally assembled, at the meeting house, made choice of Jonathan Brown and Samuel Milk, Esqrs. to represent them in the great and general court or assembly of this colony, to be convened at said meeting-house, on Wednesday next. After which, on the question, "Whether that if the hon. congress should, for the safety of the said colonies, declare them independent of the kingdom of Great-Britain, they the said inhabitants will solemnly engage, with their lives and fortunes, to support them in the measures?" it passed unanimously in the affirmative.

HARTFORD, May 27.

We hear the town of Canterbury, in a full meeting, have unanimously adopted the principles of independence contained in Common-sense; and also voted, that the delegates for the continental congress ought to be elected by the freemen of the colony, and not by their representatives. Last Thursday governor Keene who has been some time past in this town, was committed to gaol, by order of the committee for the prisoners, for refusing to sign a parole.

PROVIDENCE, June 1.

Tuesday last capt. Horn arrived here from Charleston South Carolina, who in place he left the 12th instant. He informs, that 17 sail of transports from Ireland, with 7 regiments consisting of about 3000 men, arrived at Long-Island, near Cape-Fear, the first instant, and that they were in great want of water, but had not got any supply when he sailed. He further informs, that brigadier general Armstrong was arrived at Charleston from Philadelphia, and that our brethren at the southward are in high spirits. A gentleman arrived here from France informs that twenty-five french ships of the line were ready for sea the 15th of March last at Brest to which place 300 shipwrights had been ordered from Brest; that men were taken up in all parts of France for the sea service; that the fortifications of Dunkirk and Calais were repairing with all expedition; and that as great preparations were making for war as were ever known in that kingdom.

NEWPORT, May 27.

Extract of a letter from an English gentleman of civility at St. Eustatia, to his friend in this town.

"I have nothing very material to acquaint you with, only that the French are certainly meditating something. The greatest encouragement is given to the Americans; they have opened their ports, notwithstanding they have had great quantities of provisions from France and very thing low there; many vessels with sugar and coffee, have come from thence (the French islands) this day or two; this you know was seldom the case; it causes much speculation: I think there must certainly be something in the wind; and, for my part, think that a general war is not far distant. The French have certainly 10000 men at St. Domingo, who are to be augmented to 15000. There are 8000 at Martinico and Guadalupe, and 7000 more expected momentarily; so that they will have 30,000 in their islands, the whole under command of one general, who arrived some days since at Martinico."

NEW-YORK, May 30.

Yesterday capt. Allen arrived here from Rhode-Island, and says, capt. Biddle, in a continental brig, sent in a sloop from St. Croix, last Saturday, laden with rum, sugar, and salt: she was bound for Liverpool, in Nova-Scotia.

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, New-York, May 31, 1776.

WHEREAS the present government of this colony by congress and committees was instituted while the former government under the crown of Great-Britain existed in full force, and was established for the sole purpose of opposing the usurpation of the British parliament, and was intended to expire on a reconciliation with Great-Britain, which it was then apprehended would soon take place, but is now considered as remote and uncertain.

And whereas many and great inconveniences attend the said mode of government by congress and committees, a necessity in many instances, legislative, judicial, and executive powers have been vested therein, especially since the dissolution of the form of government by the abdication of the late governor, and the exclusion of this colony from the protection of the king of Great-Britain.

And whereas the Continental Congress did resolve as followeth, to wit.

(See No 1602 of this Gazette.)

And whereas doubts have arisen, whether this Congress are invested with sufficient power and authority to deliberate and determine on so important a subject as the necessity of erecting and constituting a new form of government and internal police, to the exclusion of all foreign jurisdiction, dominion and controul whatever.

And whereas it appears of right solely to the people of this colony to determine the said doubts. Therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the electors in the several counties of this colony, by election, in the manner and form prescribed for the election of the present Congress, either to authorize (in addition to the powers vested in this Congress) their present deputies, or others in the stead of their present deputies, or either of them, to take into consideration the necessity and propriety of instituting such new government as is desired by the said resolution of the Continental Congress as delineated and recommended; and if the majority of the counties, by their deputies in Provincial Congress, shall be of opinion that such new government ought to

be instituted and established; then to institute and establish such a government as they shall deem best calculated to secure the rights, liberties and happiness of the good people of this colony, and to continue in force until a future peace with Great-Britain shall render the same unnecessary.

Resolved, That the said elections, in the several counties, ought to be had on such day, and at such place or places, as by the committee of each county respectively shall be determined: And it is recommended to the said committees to fix such early days for the said election, as that all the deputies to be elected have sufficient time to repair to the city of New-York by the second Monday in July next; on which day all the said deputies ought punctually to give their attendance.

And whereas the object of the foregoing resolutions is of the utmost importance to the good people of this colony,

Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the committees, freeholders, and other electors, in the different counties in this colony, diligently to carry the same into execution.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published in all public news-papers in this colony; and in hand-bills, to be distributed in the counties.

Extract from the minutes, ROBERT BENSON, sec.

PHILADELPHIA, June 3.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated May 31.

"General Putnam has just shewn me a letter from a gentleman in Salem, which very much concerns your place. The writer informs the general that captain Chapman is arrived there (Salem) from St. Croix, who says that on the 10th inst. in lat. 54. long. 67. 24. he fell in with a brig, the captain of which told him, that he sailed in company with a fleet of seventy sail of transports, under convoy of two sixty-four, four forty gun ships, and two bomb-ketches, from which he parted the 5th in a hard gale of wind. The fleet had on board a large number of Hessians, Brunswickers, and English troops, all bound to Philadelphia, in order to disperse (as the captain expresses himself) that hornet's nest the congress, after which they were certain the continent would become a very easy prey. God grant that you may be prepared to receive this armament. Gen. Putnam thinks that some troops will immediately march from here to your assistance."

Extract of a letter from Antigua, dated April 24, 1776.

"By your late papers I find that you have received accounts of several Americans being persecuted in this island, who have been unfortunately taken by the men of war. I have now the pleasure to inform you that the spirit of persecution here has in a great measure subsided since the arrival of Mr. Burk, of this island, from the provincial camp at Cambridge. Mr. Burk has done great justice to general Washington and his officers, in reporting the genteel treatment he met with while a prisoner, and in return has exerted his utmost interest in procuring the discharge of such Americans as are detained here, in which he has been very successful, so that I apprehend no such matter will be carried on in future. Capt. Cambell, of New-York, after being imprisoned two months and upwards, was discharged on bail a short time before Mr. Burk's arrival, but has since been discharged from his recognizance, and at liberty to go when and where he pleases. Capt. Kirby, of the ship Peggy, of your port, is likewise discharged from his recognizance, and having procured the command of a brig, sails shortly for Ireland. And Mr. Charles Hubby Hubbard, a native of Boston, who has been confined since December last (great part of the time in a dungeon) will I think be enlarged in a few days. All this by the interest of Mr. Burk, in justice to whom, and to convince the general of his gratitude, I beg this may be inserted in the public papers."

June 6 last Tuesday arrived at New-York a vessel from Port au Prince, loaded with melasses, sugars, brandy, coffee and indigo.

Extract of a letter from Montreal, May 27, 1776.

"I wrote you last from Dechambault, where we remained four or five days on a very short allowance, and left it with half an allowance of flour, and no pork to serve the men to Trois Rivieres, two good days march. It has since been concluded on to keep no detachment for the present below the Sorrel, as the army have been living from hand to mouth for some time past, the supplies of provisions from the other side of the lakes being but small, and very little to be procured without force or paying hard money for it. The common people in general, though they will probably take the stronger side, do, I have no doubt, from all the observations I have made, wish well to us and our cause, and would be very glad we should succeed. Forty or fifty men of the 18th regiment, commanded by capt. Forster, joined by 100 Indians, and 250 Canadians, had (hearing, it is supposed, that this place was in a defenceless situation) come down within twelve miles of this, having made prisoners of a major Sherburne and 300 of our men on their way thither; but being informed that a reinforcement was arrived, they have retreated! gen. Arnold is in pursuit of them with 900 men, 400 of whom he has sent to endeavour to cut off their retreat, while he pursues them with the utmost expedition with the remainder.

"Provisions, as I mentioned before, are so very scarce, that we are absolutely obliged to seize flour and wheat, pledging the faith of the United Colonies for the payment of the market price.

"General Thomas is very ill with the small-pox at Chamblee, taken in the natural way.

"N. B. There are 300 instead of 300 of our people made prisoners; there is a report that gen. Arnold has beat the enemy, but no account is yet arrived from himself."

At a special meeting of the COMMITTEE of INSPECTION of the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS the hon. Congress, by their resolve of the 30th of May, have empowered the committees of inspection to regulate the price of salt.

Resolved, That that article shall not exceed the following prices.—Coarse salt 7s. 6d. per bushel. 3s. 9d. per half bushel, and 2s. per peck.—Fine salt 8s. per bushel, 4s. per half bushel, and 2s. 6d. per peck. And whereas the Congress have empowered the committees of inspection to regulate the price of green tea, as well

as to regulate their resolve limiting the price of bohea tea, at three fourths of a dollar per pound. Resolved, That the price of the best green tea shall not exceed 3s. 6d. per pound. Resolved likewise, That if any persons shall, by any art or evasions, elude the above resolutions, by refusing to sell the above articles at the said limited prices, they may depend upon being held up as enemies to their country without respect to persons and they may be assured, the committee will take such farther steps (if necessary) as will effectually carry the above resolutions of Congress into execution. The committee request, that all virtuous citizens will use their utmost endeavours to detect and bring to justice all such persons as dare to offend against the above necessary and highly useful regulations.

June 1. J. B. SMITH, secretary.

Two privateers belonging to this port have taken three very valuable ships, bound from Jamaica to London, laden with rum, sugar, molasses, &c. having also a large quantity of dollars and plate on board.

We hear that on board of the above ships, there were several very fine sea-turtle, intended as a present to lord North; one of which, with his lordship's name nicely cut in the shell, was yesterday presented by the captain to the worthy president of the American congress.

Extract of a letter from the camp at the mouth of the Sorrel, dated May 14, 1776.

"We have here generals Wooster, Arnold, the Prussian general, and about fifteen hundred good troops. Two battalions are just arrived from Cambridge, and one gone to Montreal. Col. Poor and his battalion are expected every minute, with gen. Thompson. Here is to be our grand stand. We are now fortifying, but the main body is not yet come up from Dechambault. There are six battalions more on their way to this place. This fortification is at the mouth of the Sorrel, on the river St. Lawrence, where our provisions and stores come down into Canada. As soon as the six battalions arrive, I hope we shall be able to drive them faster than they drove us."

By his Excellency WILLIAM FRANKLIN, Esq. captain-general, governor and commander in chief, in and over the province of New-Jersey, and territories thereon depending in America, chancellor and vice-admiral of the same, &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS I have matters of great importance to communicate to the general assembly of this province; I have therefore thought fit, with the advice of his majesty's council, to appoint a meeting of the general assembly of New-Jersey, to be held in the city of Perth-Amboy, on Thursday the twentieth day of June next, and to publish the same by this proclamation, to the end that all persons whom it may concern may have notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, in the city of Perth-Amboy, the thirtieth day of May, in the year of our lord, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

W. FRANKLIN.

By his Excellency's command, CHARLES PETTIT, D. Sec.

In COMMITTEE for YORK county, May 30, 1776.

Present Fifty-five members.

Col. ROBERT M'PHERSON in the chair.

THE resolve of the hon. continental congress of the 15th instant being read, was most cordially agreed, and thankfully accepted; and Resolved, That a delegation from this body, of nine members, be ordered to attend the conference of committees at Philadelphia, the 18th day of June next, to consider of the best and most effectual measures for carrying into execution, and setting the preliminary steps for the election of a provincial convention, to form a constitution founded on "the authority of the people."

Resolved, That as the former legislative powers of this province cannot act without being under oaths or affirmations of allegiance to the king of Great-Britain, and dependent on him, which by the cruel and wicked proceedings of that king and parliament of Great-Britain more especially by a late act of parliament declaring the colonists rebels, and cutting them off from the protection of that crown, the same has become incapable of legislation, and in that respect totally extinct. But Resolved, nevertheless, That the executive powers of government ought to proceed in the usual channel, and that the laws heretofore made be put in due execution, until a government formed on the authority of the people only, takes place, agreeable to the resolves of congress of the 15th instant.

Resolved, That Mr. James Rankin, lately chosen a member to represent this county in assembly, in sending seven letters, and a bundle of remonstrances, to several inhabitants of this county, for the express purposes of getting those remonstrances signed by the people here, and transmitted to Philadelphia, which remonstrances can be calculated for no other purpose than to draw this province off from the present union with the other colonies, or to divide the people so as to fall an easy prey to our inveterate enemies, has violated the trust reposed in him by the good people of this county.

Resolved, That should any person or persons be so lost to all sense of duty to the public, as to attempt to procure signers to said poisonous and destructive remonstrance in this county, that the said person or persons will be considered as violators of the resolves of congress, and inimical to the liberties of America.

ROBERT M'PHERSON, chairman.

To the worshipful Justices of his majesty George the Third, of his courts of quarter-sessions and common pleas for the county of Philadelphia.

The memorial of the Committee of inspection and abstract for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, &c.

Respectfully sheweth, THAT the honourable the congress, by a resolution of the 15th of May last, have declared, "that it appears absolutely irreconcilable to reason and good common sense for the people of the colonies now to take the oath of affirmation necessary for the support of any government under the crown of Great-Britain; and that it is necessary that the exercise of any kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed."

this committee inclination; trying into execution; that honourable your worship in the present and all the people of the people.

The committee qualifications they are with Great-Britain, of the congress, vince, when the your worship your country, have so worth happiness or fortune.

It is with great field some perceived by their power and integrity; and trained to executing those desires of preservation of every honest firm and person that they have heretofore noted.

Upon the w themselves, the request your above-mentioned be formed, with speedily that the present you men will be affected grandly demn the virtue pines and last particular, and

June 3, 1776.

WILL

The following by the committee referred to the convention; ed for the present A DECLARATION of the representatives of and free consent of our posterity;

1. That all men, by their consent, are equal in rights; and that they cannot, without the consent of the people, alter or change their liberties, without the consent of the people; and that the safety of the people is the supreme law.

2. That all men are born free and independent; and that they are entitled to certain inalienable rights, to life, liberty, and property.

3. That all men are equal in the eyes of the law; and that the law is the same for all.

4. That no man is to be deprived of his property, without the consent of the people; and that the property of the people is the supreme law.

5. That the safety of the people is the supreme law; and that the law is the same for all.

6. That all men are equal in the eyes of the law; and that the law is the same for all.

7. That all men are equal in the eyes of the law; and that the law is the same for all.

8. That all men are equal in the eyes of the law; and that the law is the same for all.