

done till he wrote to the continental congress concerning it.

"Yesterday afternoon six ships and a brig came in the narrows.

"A servant man of Mr. Charles M'Evors was taken up yesterday at Long-island ferry, dressed in woman's clothes—he had a letter directed to Mr. Alexander Wallace—he was carried before the general, and has since been ordered to gaol under a strong guard.

"Our army has left Crown-Point and come to Ticonderoga. Gen. Sullivan is come to town; it is said the British army are fortifying St. John's and building some vessels."

In CONGRESS, July 10, 1776.

THE committee to whom the cartel between brigadier-general Arnold and captain Foster, and the several papers thereto relating, were committed, having had the same under their consideration, and made diligent enquiry into the facts, have agreed to the following report:

They find that a party of three hundred and ninety continental troops, under the command of col. Bedel, was posted at the Cedars, about forty-three miles above Montreal; that they had there formed some works of defence, the greater part of them picqueted lines, the rest a breastwork of earth, with two field-pieces mounted.

That on Wednesday, the fifteenth of May, col. Bedel received intelligence that a party of the enemy, consisting of about six hundred regulars, Canadians, and Indians, were on their way to attack his post, and were then within nine miles of it—that col. Bedel thereon set out himself for Montreal to procure a reinforcement, whereupon the command at the Cedars devolved on major Butterfield.

That on Thursday a reinforcement under the command of major Sherburne, marched from Montreal for the Cedars, while a larger detachment should be getting ready to proceed thither with brigadier-general Arnold.

That on Friday the 19th the enemy, under the command of capt. Foster, invested the post at the Cedars, and for two days kept up a loose scattering fire—That major Butterfield proposed from the very first to surrender the post, and refused repeated solicitations from his officers and men to permit them to fall out on the enemy.

That on Sunday afternoon, a flag being sent in by the enemy, major Butterfield agreed to surrender the fort and garrison to capt. Foster, capitulating with him (whether verbally or in writing does not appear) that the garrison should not be put into the hands of the savages, and that their baggage should not be plundered.

That at the time of the surrender, the enemy consisted of about forty regulars, one hundred Canadians, and five hundred Indians, and had no cannon; the garrison had sustained no injury from the fire, but they having one man wounded—they had twenty rounds of cartridges a man, thirty rounds for one field-piece, five for another, half a barrel of gunpowder, fifteen pounds of musket-ball, and provision sufficient to have lasted them twenty or thirty days. Major Butterfield knew that a reinforcement was on its way, and moreover was so near the main body of the army, that he could not doubt of being supported by that.

That immediately on the surrender the garrison was put into the custody of the savages, who plundered them of their baggage, and even stripped them of their cloaths.

That major Sherburne having landed, on Monday the 20th, at Quisezechenes, about nine miles from the Cedars, and marched on with his party, consisting then of one hundred men, to within four miles thereof, was there attacked by about five hundred of the enemy—that he maintained his ground about an hour, and then, being constrained to retreat, performed the same in good order, receiving and returning a constant fire for about forty minutes, when the enemy finding means to post advanced parties in such a manner as to intercept their farther retreat, they also were made prisoners of war.

That they were immediately put into the custody of the savages, carried to where major Butterfield and his party were, and stripped of their baggage and wearing apparel.

That two of them were put to death that evening, four or five others at different times afterwards, one of whom was of those who surrendered on capitulation at the Cedars, and was killed on the 8th day after that surrender. That one was first shot, and while retaining life and sensation was roasted, as was related by his companion, now in possession of the savages, who himself saw the fact, and that several others, being worn down by fatigue and cruelty, were left exposed, in an island, naked and perishing with cold and hunger.

That while major Sherburne was in custody of the enemy, captain Foster required of him and the other officers to sign a cartel stipulating the exchange of themselves and their men for as many of equal condition of the British troops in our possession. And farther, that, notwithstanding the exchange, neither themselves nor men should ever again bear arms against the British government. And, for the performance of this, four hostages were to be delivered, which they, being under the absolute power of the enemy, did sign.

That on Sunday the 26th, the prisoners were carried to Juningrebenner, when it was discovered that general Arnold was approaching, and making dispositions to attack them.

That capt. Foster, having desired major Sherburne to attend a flag which he was about to send to gen. Arnold for confirmation of the cartel, carried him into the council of the Indians then sitting, who told him, "that it was a mercy never before shewn in their wars, that they had put to death so few of the prisoners, but that he must expect, and so inform general Arnold, that they should certainly kill every man who should thereafter fall into their hands." That capt. Foster joined in desiring that this bloody message should be delivered to gen. Arnold, and moreover that he should be notified, that if he rejected the cartel, and attacked him, every man of the prisoners would be put to instant death.

That gen. Arnold was extremely averse from entering into any agreement, and was at length induced to do it, by no other motive than that of saving the prisoners from cruel and inhuman death, threatened in such terms as left no doubt it was to be perpetrated; and that he did in the end conclude it after several flags

received from capt. Foster, and a relinquishment by him of the unequal article restraining our soldiers from again bearing arms.

That the prisoners, so stipulated to be given up to the enemy, were not in the possession of gen. Arnold, nor under his direction, but were, at that time, distributed through various parts of the continent, under the orders of this house.

That four hostages were accordingly delivered to capt. Foster, who were immediately plundered and stripped by the savages; and on his part were delivered one major, four captains, sixteen subalterns, and three hundred and fifty-five privates, as specified in a certificate transmitted; that he retained twelve Canadians, alleging, in his justification, express orders so to do; and that, living in a military government, they were to be considered even in a worse light than deserters from his majesty's armies. These he carried away in irons, but afterwards released; that he permitted the Indians to carry into their countries several other natives of the United States, for purposes unknown.

That during the time of their captivity not half food was allowed the prisoners. They were continually insulted, buffeted, and ill treated, by the savages; and when the first parties of them were carried off from the shore, to be delivered to general Arnold, balls of mud were fired at them, and at the last parties musket balls.

Whereupon the congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That all acts, contrary to good faith, the laws of nature, or the custom of civilized nations, done by the officers and soldiers of his Britannic majesty, or by foreigners or savages taken into his service, are to be considered as done by his orders, unless indemnification be made in cases which admit indemnification, and in all other cases, unless immediate and effective measures be taken by him, or his officers, for bringing to condign punishment the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of the act.

Resolved, That the plundering the baggage of the garrison at the Cedars, stripping them of their cloaths, and delivering them into the hands of the savages, was a breach of the capitulation on the part of the enemy, for which indemnification ought to be demanded.

Resolved, That the murder of the prisoners of war was a gross and inhuman violation of the laws of nature and nations; that condign punishment should be inflicted on the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of the same; and that for this purpose it be required that they be delivered into our hands.

Resolved, That the agreement entered into by gen. Arnold was a mere sponson on his part, he not being invested with the powers for disposing of prisoners not in his possession, nor under his direction; and that therefore it is subject to be ratified or annulled at the discretion of this house.

Resolved, That the shameful surrender of the post at the Cedars, is chargeable on the commanding officer. That such other of the prisoners as were taken there shewed a willingness and desire to fight the enemy; and that major Sherburne, and the prisoners taken with him, though their disparity of numbers was great, fought the enemy bravely for a considerable time, and surrendered at last, but on absolute necessity; on which considerations, and on which alone, it is resolved that the said sponson be ratified, and that an equal number of captives from the enemy, of the same rank and condition, be restored to them as stipulated by the said sponson.

Resolved, That previous to the delivery of the prisoners to be returned on one part, the British commander in Canada be required to deliver into our hands the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of the horrid murder committed on the prisoners, to suffer such punishment as their crime deserves; and also to make indemnification for the plunder at the Cedars, taken contrary to the faith of capitulation; and that, until such delivery and indemnification be made, the said prisoners be not delivered.

Resolved, That if the enemy shall commit any farther violence by putting to death, torturing, or otherwise ill treating the prisoners, retained by them, or any of the hostages put into their hands, recourse be had to retaliation, as the sole means of stopping the progress of human butchery; and that for that purpose punishments of the same kind and degree be inflicted on an equal number of the captives from thence in our possession, till they shall be taught due respect to the violated rights of nations.

Resolved, That a copy of this report be transmitted to the commander in chief of the Continental forces, to be by him sent to generals Howe and Burgoyne.

By order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

In CONGRESS, July 17, 1776.

RESOLVED, That general WASHINGTON, in refusing to receive a letter said to be sent from lord Howe, addressed to GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; acted with a dignity becoming his station; and therefore this congress do highly approve the same, and do direct, that no letter or message be received, on any occasion whatever, from the enemy, by the commander in chief, or other the commanders of the American army, but such as shall be directed to them in the characters they respectively sustain.

By order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

In CONGRESS, July 24.

RESOLVED, That all the resolutions of this congress passed on the 23d day of April last, relating to ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandize, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great-Britain, taken on the high-sea or between high and low water mark, be extended to all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandizes belonging to any subject or subjects of the said king, except the inhabitants of the Bermudas, and Providence or Bahama islands.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

July 24. Sunday last the first battalion of Maryland regulars, commanded by col. Smallwood, marched from this city for New-Jersey.

Extra of a letter from an officer in the 2d battalion of this city, dated Amboy, July 22, 1776.

"We arrived here Saturday morning from Wood-bridge with our battalion, except capt. Wilcox's company, who are stationed at Smith's farm, on Wood-bridge neck. We are now in full view of the enemy, only separated by the Sound, which is about as wide as Schuylkill; our men are in high spirits, and longing for an opportunity to have a skirmish with them."

"Yesterday col. Atlee's battalion came in and marched along the beach; they made a good appearance, and I think alarmed the enemy not a little. We could distinctly see a number of the officers observing with glasses, and their men drew up in a line appeared greatly surprized. We have here col. Miles, col. Atlee, the 2d battalion, capt. Moulder's company and a Jersey company of artillery, in all about 1500 men. It is supposed the enemy have about 1000 men opposite us. When our numbers are a little more augmented it is expected we shall do something. To-day our encampment will be marked out, and to-morrow I expect they will pitch their tents."

Last Saturday the provincial convention appointed the following gentlemen to represent this province as delegates in congress, viz. Dr. Franklin, George Rois, George Clymer, Robert Morris, James Willson, John Morton, Esqrs. Dr. Rush, James Smith, and George Taylor, Esqrs.

In committee of inspection and observation for the county of Philadelphia, July 20, 1776.

Resolved unanimously, That this committee most earnestly exhort the captains of the militia of this county, to use their utmost abilities to compleat their companies, and march them under the orders of their commanding officer to Trenton; and that the associators would, with becoming alertness, join their respective companies, as they value the reputation of freemen, and wish to hold the foremost place in the esteem of their countrymen.

By order of the committee,

JOHN BULL, chairman.

In committee of inspection and observation for Cumberland county, June 28, 1776.

WHEREAS complaints were made to this committee, that the conduct and sentiments of John Clark, of Allan township, in this county, miller, have been, and still are, unfriendly to the liberties of the United Colonies. And whereas, in pursuance of notices, the said John Clark appeared twice before this committee, when sundry witnesses were examined upon oath; by whose testimony, the charges exhibited against him are fully proved. And whereas, the said John Clark declined making any acknowledgment to his injured country, and, in manifest contempt of this committee, thought fit to set out for his own habitation, while the committee had his case under their consideration.

Resolved, That the said John Clark is an enemy to the rights and liberties of the United Colonies; and it is recommended to all the friends of liberty, that they have no dealings nor connections with the said John Clark in future, as they regard the interest of their injured country.

Resolved, That the above extract be published in the news-papers of this province.

Signed by order of the committee,

JOHN MONTGOMERY, chairman.

To the PRINTER of the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET.

By publishing the following translation of a letter written by a French officer now in the service of the States of America, to a French nobleman in Paris, you will oblige Your's,

F. P.

Philadelphia, July 5, 1776.

MY LORD,

AFTER the permission you were pleased to grant me to come to this country, I am at last arrived; not without many dangers and great expence. I found here a happy people, averse to oppression, without any spirit of sedition, active and laborious, with all the necessary qualifications required to the foundation of a powerful republic, able to support itself without the assistance of Europe. This immense country possesses all advantages, and its true riches consist in the produce of its soil. It is as yet in its infancy; but still it is a vigorous child, that in reality has no more need of its mother nor its neighbours, provided it never intermeddle with the balance of Europe. Perhaps, my lord, you will not consider these things in the light I do; but this country might be the greatest market for our manufactures, could we once give those people a taste for those which we have in great abundance, and with which Great-Britain used to furnish them, to the amount of immense sums. I found the people generally inclined for absolute independency, and willing to support it with their lives and fortunes. I was surprized to see their troops exercise and manœuvre as well as they do, and were they not animated by the love of liberty, they would be an unparalleled prodigy; but when that takes place, all wonder ceases. I visited many of their fortifications, which have been raised with an amazing celerity. I never knew so many and such good works performed in so short a time. I was accompanied in this tour by several general officers, particularly by majors general Putnam and Gates, and a member of the congress. I told them my opinion of those works, and I have been desired to raise some necessary ones here where they are required.

This government, its form, its liberty, are so similar to that of the ancient and once happy people of Bretagne, (the country of my nativity) that I am delighted with it; and, if I can be useful to the United States, I intend to end my days in them. I shall regard my original country and its subjects as my family, and if I can be useful to them, and any thing advantageous to the American States and equally agreeable to France could be proposed here, I would undertake to offer it with the greatest pleasure, without requiring from the king of France either honours, pecuniary rewards, or any other mark of gratitude. All my satisfaction would consist in the inward feelings of my soul, if I could once by my endeavours set on foot a commercial correspondence—equally beneficial to my former country and that which I now adopt. You will imagine, my lord, that

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