

A respectable merchant of this city, who has it out in small quantities, at a very low rate, for the benefit of the public.

A letter from a gentleman in the country. I have not been unmindful of the duties committed to our charge; it is indeed to determine whether the inhabitants of this many or few, happy or miserable. If they will be numerous; but if by any means, or for want of the true spirit of government our constitution in some of the most, in order to please bigots, either to the region, we may without the spirit of prophecy the future inhabitants of this land will be few and despicable. I most heartily wish men of very good sense amongst us could rid themselves from the shackles of education. I make great allowances for those unaccountable errors.

The following papers are published by order of Congress.

A letter from general Washington to the President, dated New-York August 23, 1776.

An honour to inclose you for the perusal and use of Congress, sundry papers, the whole of which I received yesterday evening, and to which I beg leave to refer Congress.

August 17, 1776. I am deeply interested in the welfare of America, and my duty to communicate a matter of intelligence which I flatter myself may be rendered conducive to the attainment of a desirable peace. And in this view your excellency's information to land at Philadelphia, in order to lay before the general Congress.

A course of a conversation I have had with the powers he is vested with, and his disposition for establishing an equitable and lasting peace, are altogether misunderstood by the consequence of a sketch of some propositions for his consideration, he very frankly avers himself willing to confer upon those grounds with any person of the greatest influence in this country, and at liberty to declare his sentiments, I have the honour to inclose your excellency's information in correspondence with his lordship, and of directions referred to in his letter, which are the substance of my present request.

Resolving in the boat to be indulged with you, I have the honour to be, your excellency's obedient servant, DRUMMOND, Washington, &c. &c. &c.

Lord, New-York, August 17, 1776. your lordship's favour of this day, accompanying papers on subjects of the greatest moment, and the most deliberate consideration.

allow much for your lordship's well meant attention on an occasion, but I fear it has transported that attention to your parole, which comes from the character of a man of strict honour. how can I reconcile your past or present conduct, your engagement, so as to satisfy your own conscience, or submit to your own feelings, but I find the disagreeable necessity of objecting to the negotiation proposed, while your lordship's conduct appears so exceptionable.

by express forward to Congress your lordship's papers, and the papers which accompanied it. I will be communicated as soon as possible. I have detained your lordship so long, but a disagreeable necessity must be my apology. I am, with your lordship's most obedient and very humble servant, G. WASHINGTON.

Drummond, New-York, August 17, 1776.

of PROPOSITIONS communicated to Lord Howe, on the 12th of August, 1776.

It shall be ascertained, as far as can be by calculation, what supply towards the wants of the state each separate colony can furnish with its ability.

Such supply is thus ascertained, that each colony, by acts of their own assembly, impose such taxes as they shall find expedient for the raising of the

consideration of the fluctuating state of all the colonies, that such taxes may not, in their operation, be either partially or accidentally burthened on any one, nor on the other hand, gradually and without producing the aid intended by the general exigency of the State, such taxes shall be chosen, as the objects of imposition, as seem the most likely to keep pace with the decline of the said colonies.

at these taxes, so imposed, shall, as in the future levied by officers of the appointment of the State, that a perpetual grant, of the produce of which shall be made by the respective assemblies of Great-Britain.

the direct means of removing the said State, this contention, by establishing a security against a apprehended invasion of property by personal relinquishment shall be made, on the part of Great-Britain, of all future claim to taxation on the colonies.

remove all future suspicions from the minds of the colonies, that under the appearance of regulating duties, may be imposed for the further purposes of an application of the produce of such duties, to the articles of trade by the British Colonies, in order towards defraying the expenses of the

surpluses in each colony to be applied to the support of the said duties, and to be subject to the same, as the other houses of assembly.

"Eagle of the States-General, August 15, 1776." My Lord, I have received the honour of your lordship's letter of the 12th, inclosing a sketch of the propositions mentioned in your late conversation, which I return herewith.

As I think they contain matter that, upon a conference and cool discussion, might be wrought into a plan of permanent union, I shall, with great satisfaction, embrace the first opportunity that may be offered upon those grounds, to promote so desirable an event. I have the honour to be, my lord, your lordship's most obedient servant. HOWE.

Right Hon. the Lord Drummond. The following is the purport of the message sent from Lord Howe to Congress, by General Sullivan.

That though he could not treat with Congress as such, yet he was desirous of having a conference with some of the members, whom he would consider for the present only as private gentlemen, and meet them as such, at such place as they should appoint.

That he in conjunction with General Howe, had full powers to compromise the dispute between Great-Britain and America, upon terms advantageous to both, the obtaining of which delayed him near two months in England, and prevented his arrival at this place before the declaration of independency took place.

That he wished a compact might be settled at this time, when no decisive blow was struck, and neither party could lay that they were compelled to enter into such agreement.

That in case Congress were disposed to treat, many things, which they had not as yet asked might and ought to be granted them; and that if, upon the conference, they found any probable ground of an accommodation, the authority of Congress must be afterwards acknowledged, otherwise the compact could not be complete.

Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

IN CONGRESS, September 5, 1776. Resolved, That General Sullivan be requested to inform Lord Howe, that this Congress, being the representatives of the free and independent states of America, cannot with propriety send any of its members to confer with his lordship in the private characters, but that, ever desirous of establishing peace on reasonable terms, they will send a committee of their body, to know whether he has any authority to treat with persons authorized by Congress for that purpose, in behalf of America, and what that authority is, and to hear such propositions as he shall think fit to make respecting the same.

Resolved, That to-morrow be assigned for electing the committee.

September 6, 1776. Resolved, That the committee be sent "to know whether Lord Howe has any authority to treat with persons authorized by Congress for that purpose, in behalf of America, and what that authority is, and to hear such propositions as he shall think fit to make respecting the same." consist of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Franklin, Mr. John Adams, and Mr. E. Rutledge.

Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

The committee, who were appointed to wait on Lord Howe, having returned to Congress, made their report in the following words:

"In obedience to the order of Congress, we have had a meeting with Lord Howe. It was on Wednesday last, upon Staten Island, opposite to Amboy, where his lordship received and entertained us with the utmost politeness.

His lordship opened the conversation by acquainting us, that though he could not treat with us as a committee of Congress, yet as his powers enabled him to confer or consult with any private gentlemen of influence in the colonies, on the means of restoring peace between the two countries, he was glad of this opportunity of conferring with us on that subject, if we thought ourselves at liberty to enter into a conference with him in that character. We observed to his lordship, that as our business was to hear, he might consider us in what light he pleased, and communicate to us any propositions he might be authorized to make for the purpose mentioned; but that we could consider ourselves in no other character than that in which we were placed by the order of Congress. His lordship then entered into a discourse of considerable length, which contained no explicit proposition of peace, except one, viz. that the colonies should return to their allegiance and obedience to the government of Great-Britain. The rest consisted principally of assurances that there was an exceeding good disposition in the King and his ministers to make that government easy to us; with intimations that, in case of our submission, they would cause the offensive acts of parliament to be revised, and the instructions to governors to be reconsidered, and so if any just causes of complaint were found in the acts, or any errors in government were perceived to have crept into the instructions, they might be amended or withdrawn.

We gave our opinion to his lordship, that a return to the dominion of Great-Britain was not now to be expected. We mentioned the repeated humble petitions of the colonies to the King and parliament, which had been treated with contempt, and answered only by additional injuries; the unexampled patience we had shown under their tyrannical government, and that it was not till the last act of parliament, which declared war against us, and put us out of the King's protection, that we declared our independence. That this declaration had been called for by the people of the colonies in general, that every colony had approved of it when made, and all now considered themselves as independent states, and were settling or had settled their governments accordingly; so that it was not in the power of the Congress to agree for them that they should return to their former dependent state. That there was no disposition of their inclination to peace, and their willingness to enter into a treaty with Britain, that might be advantageous to both countries. That though his lordship had at present no power to treat with them as independent states, he might, if there was the same

good disposition in Britain, much sooner obtain fresh powers from thence for that purpose, than powers could be obtained by Congress from the several colonies; to consent to a submission. His lordship then, saying that he was sorry to find that no accommodation was like to take place, put an end to the conference.

Upon the whole, it did not appear to your committee, that his lordship's commission contained any other authority of importance, than what is expressed in the act of parliament, viz. that of granting pardons, with such exceptions as the commissioners shall think proper to make, and of declaring America or any part of it to be in the King's peace upon submission. For as to the power of enquiring into the state of America, which his lordship mentioned to us, and of conferring and consulting with any persons, the commissioners might think proper, and representing the result of such conversations to the Ministry, who (provided the colonies would (subject themselves) might after all, or might not, at their pleasure, make any alterations in the former instructions to governors, or propose in parliament any amendment of the acts complained of, we apprehended any expectation from the effect of such a power would have been too uncertain and precarious to be relied on by America, had she still continued in her state of dependence.

Sept. 21. By letters received yesterday from New-York we are informed, that the enemy were encamped but two miles from head quarters, that they were landing all their heavy artillery from Long-Island at Horns-hook; and that an attack was shortly expected on our lines, which were very formidable.

From sundry gentlemen who arrived from New-York yesterday and the day before, we collect the following intelligence: that Gen. Washington last Monday having received intelligence that an advanced party of the enemy was approaching his lines at Haerlem, he prepared to attack them with one party in front, whilst another attacked them in the rear to prevent their retreat, which was nearly effected, when the enemy, after a smart engagement, secured their retreat under cover of their men of war in the East river. Colonel Knolton commanded one party, and Major Leech the other, the former killed and wounded a great number, that the regulars had lost thirty men killed, that we had taken three field pieces and lost only five men. We are also informed that on Sunday evening last our people had sent three fire ships down upon the enemy's fleet, one of which had grappled with a man of war, but the man of war disentangling herself, they burst to the water's edge without doing any damage.

Extract of a letter from Boston, Sept. 3.

Capt. Proctor is confined in the common gaol in Halifax, is treated most barbarously, and had been in irons ten weeks on board the Mercury man of war; they threaten to take away his life, but he despises their threats, all that he wants is to meet his enemies in the field. He has been in Halifax gaol about five weeks, together with colonel Allen, Mr. Lovell, and 28 others.

CHARLESTOWN (S. Carolina) Aug. 14.

On Monday last week, the declaration of independence was proclaimed here, amidst the acclamations of a vast concourse of people.

By letters of the 6th instant from the camp two miles below Keowee, in the Cherokee country, we have the following interesting intelligence:

On the 31st of July, some of Col. Williamson's scouts took two white men prisoners, who had been sent to get cattle for the enemy. They informed the colonel that Cameron had come over the hills a few days before with twelve white men; and that he, with the Seneca and some other Indians, in all about 150, were then encamped at Cananaris, about thirty miles from Twenty three Mile Creek, where our army then lay encamped; and that their women and children had all retired from the towns to the neighbourhood of the same place. This intelligence determined the colonel to march that evening at the head of 350 horsemen, taking the two prisoners with him. His intention was to leave the horses two miles behind, with a party to guard them, and surround the enemy's camp by day-break. The river Keowee lying in his route, and being only passable at a ford, the Seneca, obliged him to take that road. About one o'clock in the morning he arrived at the outskirts of that town, which he had received accounts of being entirely abandoned; and therefore little expected to meet with any opposition there. The enemy, however, having received some intimation of his march, had taken possession of the first houses, and posted themselves behind a long fence, flanked with twigs and corn blades, on an eminence close to the road where the party was to pass; they allowed the guides and advanced guard to come almost up to the houses; when they fired five or six guns; but without doing any other damage than killing one of the guide's horses. They immediately afterwards began a very heavy fire on our advanced guard and main body; by which Mr. Francis Salvador was shot in three different places, Col. Williamson had his horse shot under him, and eight men were badly wounded and two slightly. Mr. Salvador falling among the bushes, it being dark, and both parties mixed, they unluckily got his scalp. The Indian was seen by Capt. Smith, who would have prevented his accomplishing his cruel purpose, had he not thought it was Mr. Salvador's servant taking care of his master. He died about three quarters of an hour after. The whole army regretted his loss, as he was universally beloved and esteemed by them. Two of the wounded died next morning.

Our party, soon recovering from their surprise, kept up a brisk fire on the places where the flames of the enemy's guns were seen, and soon drove them from their fences and houses. Their loss is not known; but from the number of blankets, shirts, tomahawks, &c. left befouled with blood, and the bloody tracks which marked their retreat, it is supposed to be considerable. Col. Williamson remained on the ground till day-break, and burnt all the houses on both sides of the river, and destroyed their corn, &c. Judging that the party he had defeated would immediately proceed to their camp, and apprize them of his approach, and having made an appointment to meet Colonel Mendenhall and Thomas at Sugar town, the colonel, after leaving a detachment to bury the dead and take care of the wounded, returned to his camp. Next day, in consequence of an appointment, the whole army proceeded to the neighbourhood of Keowee, where they encamped; and on the 4th, a

party of 400 men was sent to burn that town and Sugar town, which they effected. They found only an old lame Indian, who informed them, that the other had left the towns four days before, on a white man's telling them a large army was at Paris, which probably may be Col. Neel and Thomas's party. He would not tell where the Indians were gone to.

On the 6th, the colonel marched at the head of 650 men after the enemy, being fully determined to carry fire and sword throughout their country.

The following was found in the possession of one of the soldiers taken in the transport brigantine, mentioned in our last.

Head-quarters, Boston, 21st Decr. 1775. The bearer hereof, Duncan M'Arthur, having voluntarily engaged to serve His Majesty, in the royal regiment of highland emigrants (raised and established for the just and loyal purpose of opposing, quelling and suppressing the present most unnatural, unprovoked, and wanton rebellion) conformable to the orders and directions of his excellency the commander in chief, and agreeable to his Majesty's most gracious intentions, signified by the Earl of Dartmouth, (Secretary of State for America,) "that such emigrants from North-Britain (as well as other loyal subjects) that should engage to serve in the beforementioned corps should be considered in the most favourable light;—and after the conclusion of the present unhappy civil war, (to which period only they are obliged to serve) be entitled to a proportion of two hundred acres vacant (or forfeited) lands for every man or head of a family, together with fifty acres more in addition for every person the family may consist of, the whole to be granted and patented without any expence to the said grantees. And moreover, to be free of any quit rent to the crown for twenty years." I do therefore, with the consent and approbation of his excellency the commander in chief, certify and declare, that the said Duncan M'Arthur is, at the expiration of the present troubles (and when peace shall be restored) to be at liberty and entitled to a final discharge from said regiment, and from his Majesty's military service; and likewise to receive as a just reward for his spirited loyalty, the beforementioned grant of lands, in consequence of the orders and directions his Majesty has been pleased to issue for that purpose.

Given under my hand and seal, time and place as first above-mentioned.

To all whom it may concern. MURDOCH M'LAINE, Capt. R. H. emigrants.

To major JOHN SMALL.

WILLIAMSBURG September 13.

General Lee writes, from Purrysburg, of August 13th, that he is going to break up East Florida. President Rutledge, in a letter to the council, writes, that the South Carolinians had destroyed five Indian towns in the lower settlements, and laid waste their fields of corn. They have had two skirmishes, in both of which the Carolinians have been successful. They suppose they killed between 60 and 70 men.

ANNAPOLIS. In CONVENTION. September 13, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the restrictions laid on the price of salt by the resolve of Convention of the 6th of July last, and the bounty given by the said resolve, be taken off; and that no future limitations ought to be made by this or a future Convention, or by any committee of observation of this state, in the price of any salt that may be imported into this state on or before the first day of May next, any thing in the said or any other resolve to the contrary notwithstanding.

Extract from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clk.

In COUNCIL of SAFETY. September 11, 1776.

WANTED for the use of this State, one thousand pikes, not less than twelve feet in length. Any person willing to contract for supplying the same, are requested to apply immediately to the Council of Safety.

September 17, 1776.

THE Council of Safety want immediately to charter several vessels to load for the foreign West-Indies. Any persons having vessels to hire, may know the terms, by applying to the Council at Annapolis.

By order, R. RIDGELY, clk.