

our people took and brought off the field, and several more were left there. The firing ceased last evening, and has not been renewed this morning. The troops (of our army) are in good spirits, and in every engagement, since the retreat from New-York, have given the enemy a drubbing.

Published by order of congress, 31st of Oct. 1776.

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Extract of a letter from White Plains, dated Oct. 28, 1776, at two o'clock, p. m.

"I have only time to acquaint you that, since my arrival at the American camp, we have had several very successful skirmishes with the enemy, in which the latter have lost several hundred men, in killed and prisoners. Thirteen Waldeckers, seven Britons, and two Tories, were yesterday taken prisoners, and brought into headquarters.

"This day, about ten o'clock, the enemy advanced towards our lines, in full view of headquarters, while a large body approached to the right. The first were soon dispersed by our artillery. The latter attacked several of our regiments on the right, when a warm engagement began, and now continues with great fury. To-morrow, it is probable, will produce a general battle.

"Colonel Smallwood is just come in, wounded in the arm and hip, but not dangerously.

"I must not omit mentioning that the enemy made an unsuccessful attempt against our lines at Hackensack yesterday."

Extract of another letter, dated in the evening of the above day.

"The post being detained by desire of the general gives me an opportunity (with a wooden pen on a drum head) to acquaint you that the part of our army which was engaged to-day was a brigade commanded by gen. McDougal, composed of Webb's, Ritzma's, Smallwood's, Hatlet's and Brooks's regiments—Ritzma's and Smallwood's suffered most, on this occasion, sustaining, with great patience and coolness, a long and heavy fire—and finally retreated with great fullness, being obliged to give way to a superior force. The British army and auxiliaries are now encamped about one mile off our lines, and make a formidable appearance—but, from the spirit and temper of our troops, I augur well of the event of another attack which it is expected will commence to-morrow morning."

In CONGRESS, October 29, 1776.

Resolved, That no private ships or vessels of war, merchant ships, and other vessels, belonging to the subjects of these States, be permitted to wear pendants when in company with continental ships or vessels of war, without leave from the commanding officer thereof.

That if any merchant ship or vessel shall wear pendants in company with continental ships or vessels of war, without leave first obtained from the commander thereof, such commander be authorized to take away the pendants from the offenders.

That if private ships or vessels of war refuse to pay the respect due to the continental ships or vessels of war, the captain or commander to refusing shall lose his commission.

October 30.

Resolved, That the rank of officers of marines be the same as officers of similar commissions in the land service.

That the commanders, officers, seamen and marines, in the continental navy, be entitled to one half of merchantmen, transports and store-ships, by them taken, from and after the first day of November, 1776, to be divided amongst them in the shares and proportions fixed by former resolutions of congress.

That the commanders, officers, seamen and marines, in the continental navy, be entitled to the whole value of all ships and vessels of war, belonging to the crown of Great-Britain, by them made prize of, and all privateers authorized by his Britannic majesty to war against these States, to be divided as aforesaid.

By order of congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

In COUNCIL OF SAFETY, October 31, 1776.

Complaint having been made to this council, by Christopher Elliot, that John Baldwin of this city, cordwainer, had refused to receive in payment the continental bills of credit issued by order of congress. Thereupon the said John Baldwin was ordered to appear before this board, and being informed of said complaint, did acknowledge that he had refused to receive the said bills of credit in payment. The council urged the pernicious and destructive tendency of such conduct, and requested him to reconsider it, allowing him several days to form his judgment and fix his final resolution. This day, agreeable to notice given him, he again appeared before the council, and declared that he was determined not to receive the said bills in payment; whereupon Resolved, that the said John Baldwin is an "Enemy to his country, and precluded from all trade and intercourse with the inhabitants of these States."

Resolved, That the said John Baldwin be committed to gaol, there to remain without bail or mainprize until he shall be released by order of this council, or some other power lawfully authorized so to do.

Ordered, That the proceedings in John Baldwin's case be made public.

Extract from the minutes,

JACOB S. HOWELL, secretary.

ANNAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 7.

Extract of a letter, dated White-Plains, Oct. 29, 1776.

"I now snatch an opportunity, by the post, of informing you, that gen. McDougal's brigade, of which the Maryland regulars is a part, having laid in the woods for three nights, two miles from this place, and to the right of the main body, as a covering party, was ordered to advance along the road, about a mile, near a place called the Mile-Stone, and there take post, which was accordingly done. The brigade was there joined by Hazlet's Delaware battalion and a small regiment of militia from Connecticut; they were no sooner formed

than the enemy began a heavy cannonade from a great number of field-pieces, advantageously disposed on several rising grounds, which was answered by the (only) two cannon which attended our brigade, little or no execution being done on either side, till col. Smallwood, with the Marylanders, was ordered to march down the hill and attack the enemy, which they did, and a smart contest ensued, in which the enemy gave way, but rallying again, and attacking the right of the brigade, composed of the militia aforesaid, they got the advantage, and their situation being such, and being drawn up in a heavy column, only our regiment and another (Ritzma's) could come in for any part of the action: These two brave regiments stood a very heavy fire of their artillery and musquetry for about half an hour, when the whole brigade, being vastly outnumbered and cramped in respect of ground, was obliged to retreat, a reinforcement under gen. Putnam not being able to get up in time to give the necessary assistance: this reinforcement was gen. Beall's brigade. The enemy now occupy the ground where we took post yesterday, and are a mile from our lines at the White-Plains. Colonel Smallwood staid upon the place of action some time after the retreat had begun, and received two wounds, one a flesh wound on his hip, the other through his arm; he is however in good spirits, and I hope will soon be in a condition to take the field again. All our officers and men behaved with their usual bravery. We have lost of our regiment capt. Bracco, killed in the retreat; sergeants Belt and Westoby, killed. Capt. Stott is mortally wounded, indeed I fear he is dead at this moment; lieutenant Goldsmith badly wounded in the leg, and lieut. Waters's leg broke to pieces; as near as I can guess, our regiment has near forty killed, wounded and missing. The enemy form a considerable body near to our main body, and I expect every moment to see them attack."

In CONVENTION, November 4, 1776.

RESOLVED, That all civil officers now in commission for this State under the old government, shall continue to act in their respective departments, until others shall be appointed and commissioned in their stead, by the legislature or executive power of the State, and qualified to act, and that the county courts shall be the county charges as usual.

Extract from the minutes,

G. DUVALL, clk.

Charles county, October 21, 1776.

Mr. GREEN,

SIR,

REPORTS having been propagated by a certain capt. Robert Conway, of the Protector rowgalley, belonging to the commonwealth of Virginia, his second lieutenant, and two midshipmen, with design to dishonour the 26th battalion of militia of this province; which reports being within my own knowledge, and that of many other persons, entire, without foundation, I had determined to treat them with contempt. But, finding that they have carried the joke rather far, by publishing part of their story in the Baltimore and Virginia Gazettes, and some of them swearing to the same, I think it high time to publish a little too, as a piece of justice due myself and those whom I had the honour to command.—You will therefore be pleased to insert, in your next paper, the whole which capt. Conway has published in the Baltimore paper of the 20th of August, herewith sent you; also the certificates under the hands of capt. John H. Lowe and Mr. John M. Burges; and Mr. Geo. Frazer Hawkins.

Alexandria, August 10, 1776.

To the PRINTER of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

SIR,

NO other motive than in justice to my own character, as well as that of my officers, could ever induce me to request of you to publish the following narrative and depositions; more especially at this important juncture, when it is the duty of every individual to propagate the general harmony, and to discountenance every domestic contention that would seem in any wise tending to frustrate the general good.

About five weeks ago, I had the honour to be appointed to the command of the Protector rowgalley, belonging to this commonwealth—I went down to Yeocomico to recruit men—I enlisted six hands—from the capacity and good behaviour, as well as the character that was given me of three of them, I appointed one my second lieutenant, and the other two midshipmen. We knew that part of the enemy's fleet had gone up the river Patowmack before us; instead of coming up in a pilot boat as we first intended, we came up with two rowboats, thinking by that means to pass the fleet with greater safety. What happened after we came in sight of the fleet will appear by the following depositions.

The deposition of JOHN THOMAS, second lieutenant to capt. ROBERT CONWAY, of the Protector rowgalley, belonging to the commonwealth of Virginia.

Alexandria, in Fairfax county,

August 10, 1776.

This day came before me the subscriber, one of the magistrates for the county aforesaid, John Thomas, second lieutenant to capt. Robert Conway, of the Protector rowgalley, and made oath, That on Tuesday the 23d day of July last, about 9 or 10 o'clock in the forenoon, near Sandy-Point, seven of us with two boats landed on the Maryland shore, within about half a mile of the enemy's fleet; which consisted of four ships, two tenders, and one rowgalley. Expecting as soon as we landed to have been guarded by a party of the Maryland militia, having no fire arms ourselves; thinking to pass the fleet the following night. As soon as we landed we conveyed our baggage to an adjacent house, when after enquiry we were informed the troops were opposite the Roebuck, to whom four of us immediately went; from whence we observed the fleet manning their boats, with intent (as we thought) to land on the Maryland shore, from which the Roebuck man of war seemed to be two or three hundred yards, when a gen-

leman they called col. Harrison, said, Come let us march down; to which several replied, I can't bear to see a man; others, that their guns were out of order, with sundry other excuses; to whom col. Harrison said, you that have not a mind to go, give your guns to those men that came with capt. Conway: I then said, give me a gun and ammunition and I will go, which one of the militia readily did, so down we marched, under command of col. Harrison; soon after we came down to the shore, the enemy gave three loud huzzas, and rowed over to the Virginia side; with two tenders, one gondola, and ten rowboats; from which they landed and burnt Mr. Brent's house, from whence they returned in about an hour to their respective vessels. In the mean time we thought ourselves very safe under the protection of the militia, who by this time, as we were informed, had increased from between thirty and forty men, to between three and four hundred, in justice to col. Harrison, I must not omit informing, that he was very active and resolute, encouraging his men, and telling them that nature could not form a more convenient place than where he proposed they should be stationed. About three or four o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy's gondola and a schooner tender put off and made for our boats; seeing that, I said, gentlemen, I hope, as we came to offer you our services, you will be kind enough to assist us in taking care of our boats, having no fire arms ourselves; they said one company should go with us; then we ran down ourselves, and hauled the smallest boat about thirty or forty yards into a marsh, the other, which had ballast in, we hauled on the beach and staved; by this time the company of militia came down, but the enemy being close ashore where our boat was, they stopped in a valley about fifty or sixty yards distance from the boat on the beach; the enemy's rowgalley rowed several times towards the boat on the beach and back again; at last the rowgalley and tender fired, on which the sentinels the colonel had placed ran across a corn field and made for the woods; to whom the colonel called, Come back; no, says I, they will not come back till they get to Port-Fobacco (as which he laughed). They would peep at the enemy when they rowed close to our boat, but never offered to fire, excepting it was the colonel, who presented once, but recovered without firing. Some of them said, if the rowgalley landed she would rake them up the valley (which indeed was impossible); at which they ran, the men first, after whom the colonel retreated; notwithstanding, I am pretty well assured the colonel would have stood, had he been supported by his men. When the enemy saw them (from the Roebuck's mast head) running off, they hollowed at them and called their sundry names; then made signs for the rowgalley to pass ashore, which they did and launched our boat off, then gave three huzzas and fired several shot both small and great, at the house where our baggage had been taken to; then returned to their ships with their booty, without having one gun fired at them. Col. Harrison seemed to have that good opinion of capt. Conway, as a say, he was assured that Conway would not be backward in taking a firelock. And further this deponent faith not.

Sworn to before me,

WM. RAMSAY, J. P.

The depositions of EDWARD COLES and CUTHBERT ELLISTON, midshipmen on board the Protector rowgalley, commanded by capt. ROBERT CONWAY.

Alexandria, in Fairfax county,

August 10, 1776.

Likewise Edward Coles and Cuthbert Elliston, two midshipmen belonging to the Protector rowgalley, came this day before me the subscriber, one of the magistrates for the county aforesaid, in the commonwealth of Virginia, and took the accoutomary oaths, by virtue of which they depose and say; That on Tuesday the 23d day of July last, coming up the river Patowmack with capt. Conway, we came in sight of the enemy's fleet, consisting of four ships, two tenders, and one rowgalley, when we made for the Maryland shore, and landed about half a mile below them, expecting to have been protected by the militia on shore, the number of whom (as we were informed soon after our landing) was between three and four hundred; we were seven in number, with two boats. Soon after we landed, four of us went up to the troops. After we were with the troops about an hour and half, some of the men offered to give up their firelocks to us, and one in particular gave his gun to Mr. Thomas, our second lieutenant. We had the enemy's two tenders, one rowgalley, and some rowboats, staved with men and making for the Virginia shore (instead of coming to the Maryland shore as we expected), where they burnt Mr. Brent's houses; first thence they returned to their ships. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon we observed their rowgalley and a schooner tender making down for the place where our boats lay. The little boat we pulled into a marsh out of their way, and hauled the big boat on the beach, which was staved by James Sorren, by captain Conway's order, before the enemy could come nigh enough to fire at us with any certainty. As soon as the enemy's rowgalley began to fire, the militia made a precipitate retreat, and ran up to the woods; after which col. Harrison went up; then the enemy came and took the boat from off the beach, without having one gun fired at them, although some of the militia were within less than 100 yards of the boat when they took her off, and gave three huzzas. Further said deponents say not.

EDWARD COLES,

Sworn to before me,

CUTHBERT ELLISTON,

WM. RAMSAY, J. P.

Soon after I arrived at Alexandria, my rowgalley was ordered down to watch the motion of the enemy's fleet, but at my return, to my great surprise, I found the following advertisement had been stuck up at several public places in this town.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Alexandria, July 10, 1776.

WHEREAS it appears by certificates now in my possession, under the hands of capt. John H. Lowe, Mr. John M. Burges, and Mr. Geo. Frazer Hawkins

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