

(and which is most probable) that it was done with positive orders from the former court, and consequently they will proceed to an open war, in which they will be assisted by the court of France.

This is the nature of Don Caston's (the commander in chief of the united fleet) embassy to the court of Lisbon. All Europe is anxious to know how this matter will end; and we hear that the courts of Great-Britain and France have both declared that the request of the court of Madrid is founded in justice and equity, and should be complied with, as a satisfaction to the grossly offended court of Spain. Mean while both France and Spain are ready to crush the treacherous Portuguese in case of non compliance."

PORTSMOUTH, October 22.

Monday 14th inst. arrived at Faimouth (C. Bay) a large ship from Jamaica, bound to London, laden with 500 hogheads of sugar, and 50 ditto of rum, taken by the privateer Petaliation from Beverly, - Giles, commander. The ship mounted 6 carriage guns and fought the privateer two hours before she struck.

Thursday last arrived at Faimouth (Cafco-Bay,) a large brig (the Mary and James) commanded by Thomas More; she was from Falmouth in England bound to Naples, laden with balls, boxes of goods, coc a, pepper, allum, tin, lead &c. taken by capt. Simon Fortreiter in the privateer sloop Rover, from Salem.

BOSTON, October 24.

By a gentleman who was lately taken in one of the prizes, we learn, that the empress of Russia had offered his Britannic majesty from 20,000 to 100,000 men for the service of America; but that the people in England seemed rather averse to bringing any more troops, being already cumbered with taxes.

Yesterday capt. Danie. Harthorne arrived at Salem from a cruise. On his passage he met with an armed packet, which he attacked. In the engagement (which lasted two hours) he lost three men killed and nine or ten wounded, himself slightly; since which, he has taken and sent into Cape-Maze, a prize-mow, with oats.

The privateer, commanded by capt. Carleton which sailed from Salem, on a cruise, about four weeks since, was taken near Canseau, by the brig Hope, capt. Dawson, a few days after leaving port, and carried into Halifax. Capt. Carleton, with some of the crew, made their escape by swimming ashore.

Last Thursday was sent into Hayhanness, by cap. Silas Atkins, the ship Seafield, from Ireland, bound to New-York, having on board, 70 puncheons of spirits, 70 do. of porter, 500 tierces of bread, 50 do. of oatmeal, 61 do. pease, 50 do. pork, 70 do. beef, 100 casks of butter, some sweet oil, raisins, candies, flour, and a number of other articles.

The following copy of a letter from gen. Schuyler, to the committee of the county of Berkshire, was last evening received by express.

Saratoga, October 16, 1776.

"Our fleet which suffered severely, in an engagement, on the 12th instant with the enemy, has been still more severely handled in a subsequent, inasmuch that the enemy are left masters of the Lake, and are marching on to attack our army at Ticcenderga; in this situation of our affairs, it is of the utmost importance that the militia of your county, should immediately march to sustain the army, such as can march expeditiously, and come by the way of Albany, should do so, and the others take the route to Skeensborough, each man should come provided with as much provision and ammunition as possible. The commanding officer must send me information of his number and progress from time to time, I shall be either at Fort-George or Skeensborough, but as I cannot determine which, it will be proper to send expresses to both places to forward copies of this to governor I rumbull, and to every committee in your state, that are in a situation of affording us assistance, as also to the neighbouring counties in the state of Conn. Cticut; I must repeat, gentlemen, it is of great importance that I should be duly furnished with an account of the movements and number of the militia."

From, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant, PHIL. SCHUYLER.

To the Committee of the county of Berkshire.

WORCESTER, October 23.

We hear that on the evacuation of our fortresses on Long-Island, the continental currency sunk in its value one thousand per cent, but that now it has gained its nominal value, and passes currently among the British troops and Tories as well as among our friends; what was the occasion of this strange turn is a matter of much speculation.

NEWBURY-PORT, October 25.

Yesterday arrived here the ship Nancy, John Cowan master, burthen about 200 tons, bound from Corke to Quebec, taken by capt. John Lee of this place—her cargo consists of the following articles, viz. 80 barrels of beef, 320 ditto of pork, 200 firkins of butter, 100 barrels of oatmeal, 374 ditto of flour, 1200 bushels of pease, 8000 lb. of bread, 207 cask of nails, 22 barrels and a half of gun-powder, 1 armed chest with balls &c. 16 carriage guns and 10 swivels mounted.

NEW-HAVEN, October 23.

The enemy have extended themselves this way, as far as New-Rochel, and small parties of them, have advanced as far as Marnineck.—In one of the churches at New-Rochel, was stored more than two thousand bushels of salt, which has fallen into the hands of the enemy. It was owned by the state of New-York.

Last Friday there was a smart skirmish, near the above church, between a detached party of the enemy, and one from our army, in which we lost eight or ten men and some wounded, among the latter was col. Shepard, of the Wallacomet's Bay, who was slightly wounded in his throat, and who commanded the party;—the enemy's loss is not known.

From the NEW-YORK MERCURY.

NEW-YORK, September 30.

On Saturday the 21st instant we had a terrible fire in this city, which consumed about one thousand

houses, or nearly a fourth of the whole city. The following is the best account we can collect of this melancholy event. The fire broke out first at the most southerly part of the city, near White-Hall; and was discovered between twelve and one o'clock in the morning, the wind blowing very fresh from the south, and the weather exceedingly dry. The rebel army having carried off all the bells of the city, the alarm could not be speedily communicated and very few of the citizens were in town, most of them being driven out by the calamities of war, and several of the first rank sent prisoners to New-England, and other distant parts. A few minutes after the fire was discovered at White-Hall, it was observed to break out in five or six other places, at a considerable distance.

In this dreadful situation, when the whole city was threatened with destruction, major general Robertson, who had the chief command, sent immediately for two regiments that were encamped near the city, placed guards in the several streets, and took every other precaution that was practicable to ward off the impending ruin. Lord Howe ordered the boats of the fleet to be manned, and after landing a large number of officers and seamen to assist us, the boats were stationed on each side of the city in the North and East rivers; and the lines near the royal army were extended across the island, as it manifestly appeared that the city was designedly set on fire.

The fire raged with inconceivable violence; and in its destructive progress swept away all the buildings between broad-street and the North river, almost as high as the city-hall; and from thence, all the houses between Broad-way and the North river, as far as King's-college, a few only excepted. Long before the main fire reached Trinity church, that large, ancient and venerable edifice was in flames, which baffled every effort to suppress them. The steeple, which was 140 feet high, the upper part wood, and placed on an elevated situation, resembled a vast pyramid of fire, exhibiting a most grand and awful spectacle. Several women and children perished in the fire; their shrieks, joined to the roaring of the flames, the crush of falling houses, and the wide spread ruin which every where appeared, formed a scene of horror great beyond description, and which was still heightened by the darkness of the night. Besides Trinity church, the rector's house, the charity school, the old Lutheran church, and many other fine buildings were consumed. St. Paul's church and King's-college were directly in the line of fire, but saved with very great difficulty. After raging about ten hours, the fire was extinguished between ten and eleven o'clock, A. M.

During this complicated scene of devastation and distress, at which the most savage heart might relent, several persons were discovered with large bundles of matches, dipped in melted rosin and brimstone, and attempting to set fire to the houses. A New-England man, who had a captain's commission under the continental congress, and in their service, was seized with these dreadful implements of ruin—on being searched, the sum of 500l. was found upon him. General Robertson refused two of those incendiaries from the enraged populace, who had otherwise consigned them to the flames, and reserved them for the hand of deliberate justice. One White a carpenter, was observed to cut the leather buckets which conveyed water—he also wounded, with a cutlass, a woman who was very active in handing water. This provoked the spectators to such a degree, that they instantly hung him up. One of those villains set fire to the college, and was seized; many others were detected in the like crime, and secured.

The officers of the army and navy, the seamen and soldiers, greatly exerted themselves, often with the utmost hazard to themselves, and shewed all that alertness and activity for which they are justly celebrated on such occasions. To their vigorous efforts in pulling down such wooden buildings as would conduct the fire, it is owing, under Providence, that the whole city was not consumed; for the number of inhabitants was small, the pumps and fire-engines were very much out of order. This last circumstance, together with the removal of our bells, the time and place of the fire's breaking out, when the wind south, the city's being set on fire in so many different places nearly at the same time, so many incendiaries being caught in the very fact of setting fire to houses: these, to mention no other particulars, clearly evince beyond the possibility of doubt, that this diabolical affair was the result of a preconcerted, deliberate scheme. Thus, the persons who called themselves our friends and protectors, were the perpetrators of this atrocious deed; which in guilt and villainy is not inferior to the gun powder plot; whilst those who were held up as our enemies were the people who gallantly stood forth, at the risk of their lives, to snatch us from destruction! Our distresses were very great indeed before; but this disaster has increased them tenfold. Many hundreds of families have lost their all; and are reduced from a state of affluence to the lowest ebb of want and wretchedness—destitute of shelter, food or cloathing.

Surely, "there must be some chosen curse—some secret thunder in the stores of heaven; red with uncommon wrath to blast" the miscreants, who thus wantonly sport with the lives, property and happiness of their fellow creatures, and unfeeling doom them to inevitable ruin.

Oct. 21. On Monday last the Perseus, capt. Elphinston, with eleven sail of transports having on board troops and provisions arrived in port after a passage of eleven week from Portsmouth. The Perseus took two privateers and a trading vessel with a valuable cargo off the coast and brought them safe into port.

On Friday 65 sail of vessels, under convoy of the Diamond and Ambuscade, with the second division of the Hessians and 1000 Waldeckers under the command of the generals Kniphausen and Schmidt and a number of recruits for the British troops, in all about 8000 effective men, arrived off Sandy-Hook. They sailed from Plymouth sound the 27th of July. In the fleet are several victuallers and vessels laden with draught horses for the train and baggage of the army. In the Diamond arrived the earl of Winchelsea, and the hon. Mr. Finch, ion to the earl of Aylesford.

It is remarkable that not one of so great a convoy is missing; and the troops are in exceeding good health and spirits. The men of war brought in some prizes.

When the ships left England a report of the death of gen. Conway prevailed at Portsmouth.

WHEREAS it is represented to congress, that sundry inhabitants of these United States, to keep supplies from the army, or promote their own interest, have purchased considerable quantities of cloathing, and refuse to dispose of the same, unless upon extravagant or unreasonable terms;

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies, conventions, councils or committees of safety of the several states, forthwith to take suitable measures for obtaining for the use of the army such necessary articles as, being thus engrossed in their respective states, cannot be otherwise immediately procured, allowing to the owners reasonable prices for the same; and that laws be provided in each of the states, for effectually preventing monopolies of necessaries for the army or inhabitants of the same.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Extract of a letter from London, dated July 20.

"The ministry seem so confident of reducing the colonies with the formidable force [which they have sent for that purpose, that they are already employed in devising means for keeping them in subjection after they have subdued them. Lately there was presented to the king a project for that purpose which his majesty approved of. The proposal is to keep up ten thousand troops, of which two shall be battalions of artillery and two of light dragoons; and to establish on the continent two bishoprics, the titles of which shall be, the protectors of the English church. Such are the brilliant chimeras which are spread by the ministerial party, and which the opposite party are labouring to destroy, by publishing to the world that the colonies combatting for liberty, will not yield but to force; that the force already sent out by the mother country, which at present appears irretrievable will soon be reduced to nothing; if the first consequences of it should not equal the expectations of administration. Dissatisfaction will soon succeed and diffuse itself through all ranks of people, already much fatigued with civil intestine war; that in this case the consequences must necessarily be very fatal to England, especially if strangers taking advantage of these dissensions, and in support of America should attack the most remote English settlements and occasion a diversion which will greatly weaken the power of Great-Britain.

"It appears plainly already that the formidable armaments which they are fitting out in the ports of France and Spain, have no other object but war; that we may be convinced of this by the evasive answers given to our ambassadors at the courts of Versailles and Madrid, as we have them from their representations on that subject, that the distinguished marks of respect with which they have received the deputies of congress in these two courts, does not leave the least doubt that a treaty has been already formed between them and the Americans, the effects of which in all probability will be felt as soon as independence shall be declared, since the resolutions sent to the general congress by every of the United States, to that effect are already public. It is by these means that opposition seeks to weaken the specious reasonings which government employs, to warn the people of the melancholy consequences of the war, information which already begins to alarm the nation."

Extract of a letter from Fort Lee, Nov. 2.

"Six gentlemen who escaped from the fleet inform us, that there are now seventy sail of transports lying at Red-Hook, to take three thousand troops who are to go for Rhode-Island."

WILLIAMSBURG, November 1.

By a letter from col. William Christian, to his excellency the governor, of the 14th of October, we have the following intelligence, viz. That on the 12th a white man came in with a flag from the Raven warrior of Chote, desiring peace, the night before he crossed Broad river; whose reply was, that they must first deliver up Cameron the incendiary, and our prisoners in their nation, and lay down the hatchet; otherwise he should cross the river and lay waste their towns, only extending mercy to such as behaved well to the states of America. The colonel had good reason to believe that this flag was only sent to amuse him, although the real sentiments of three towns, under the influence of the Raven. The man who came with the flag informed, that the advanced parties of the enemy were then about his camp, and that the whole strength of the nation would be ready to dispute his crossing the river that evening; which determined the colonel immediately to set about finding a proper ford, which his look-outs were fortunate enough to discover by seeing four Indians pass over. However, an unfrequented place a little below was pitched upon for the purpose, and at ten at night he set out with between ten and eleven hundred men, two hundred of them on horseback, and by one o'clock in the morning got safely over, without much danger and difficulty, the river being about half a mile broad, deep and rapid, and the night very dark, so that none of the men could wade, and he was frequently obliged to make lights. About an hour before day he marched to within a mile of the spot where he expected the enemy were encamped, and a surprize surrounded the place, but found the Indians were gone; whereupon he ordered the remaining part of the army, with the provisions and baggage, to be brought over, which was happily effected. That the colonel was informed, by some spies, that the force of the nation was near him, with a determined resolution to attack him, and to skirmish with him on his march to the towns. One of their principal views was to destroy the cattle and horses, and in obedience to Stuart's orders (now at Mobile) they were resolved to make no peace, but to fight and retreat. The colonel expected it would take him four or five days to reach their towns, as he should march very slow, and in order of battle. It was reported, that Stuart was sent to 800 Creeks, who were expected at the Cherokee town in a few days. He writes, however, that he shall proceed, and endeavour to have matters settled before he returns.

Gen. Rutherford of North Carolina, he was in the

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