

26. That the senators and delegates, on the second Tuesday of November 1777, and annually on the second Tuesday of November for ever thereafter, elect by joint ballot, in the same manner as senators are directed to be chosen, five of the most sensible, discreet, and experienced men, above twenty-five years of age, residents in the state above three years next preceding the election, and having therein a freehold of lands and tenements, above the value of one thousand pounds current money, to be the council to the governor, whose proceedings shall be always entered on record. to any part whereof any member may enter his dissent, and their advice, if so required by the governor, or any member of the council, shall be given in writing, and signed by the members giving the same respectively; which proceedings of the council shall be laid before the senate, or house of delegates, when called for by them, or either of them. The council may appoint their own clerk, who shall take such oath of support and fidelity to this state as this convention or the legislature shall direct, and of secrecy, in such matters as he shall be directed by the board to keep secret.

27. That the delegates to Congress from this state shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time by the joint ballot of both houses of assembly, and that there be a rotation in such manner that at least two of the number be annually changed, and no person shall be capable of being a delegate to Congress for more than three in any term of six years; and no person who holds any office of profit in the gift of Congress shall be eligible to sit in Congress, but if appointed to any such office his seat shall be thereby vacated: That no person unless above twenty-five years of age, and a resident in the state more than five years next preceding the election, and having real and personal estate in this state above the value of one thousand pounds current money, shall be eligible to sit in Congress. (To be continued.)

BOSTON, October 31.

We hear from the eastward, that on Friday the 20th of September last, a number of persons belonging to the privateer armed schooner Hannah and Molly, Agreen Crabtree, master, went into the port of Liverpool, in Nova-Scotia government, and crossed by land till they came within call of a large ship of 500 tons, mounting 4 carriage guns, 4 colboms, and 4 swivels, the leader of the party hailed the ship and desired them to send the boat on shore; accordingly the mate came with the boat: The privateer's men got into her, went on board the ship and took her.—They brought the guns to bear upon a brig loaded for England, and ordered the master of the brig to come along side the ship, with the brig.— They then stripped the ship of every thing valuable, and put the effects on board the brig, and let the ship go on shore, and came off with the brig. The same crew also, at the same time, took two schooners and a sloop; the schooner and sloop have arrived, but the brig had not arrived in port the 6th of October, so that we fear she is retaken. The captain of the privateer was so careful as to put all the guns and cannon, with a quantity of powder, on board his own privateer, so that they have arrived safe. The schooner and sloop had nails, fish, and a number of valuable articles on board.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at Haerlem, New-York, to his friend here, dated October 8. "The Hessians plunder all indiscriminately, tories as well as whigs; if they see any thing they want, they seize it, and say, 'rebel, good for Hesse man.' A tory complained to gen. Howe, that he was plundered by the Hessians; the general said he could not help it, it was their way of making war. So the 'friends of government' are protected! This is great encouragement for tories.

NEWPORT, November 4.

Last Monday capt. Shearman Clarke arrived at an eastern port, in 15 days from the West-Indies, and informs that he saw a letter from France, a day or two before he sailed, advising that it might be depended on that France would declare war against Great-Britain very soon; that the Pomona and two other British ships of war were supposed to have been lost in the late hurricane in the West-Indies, they not having been heard of since.

A few days past arrived safe at an eastern port; a continental ship from France, having on board 3000 stand of arms, 300 barrels of powder, 100 chests of tin, dry goods, &c. The captain of which says there were great preparations in France for war, and a declaration may be expected very soon; she had 7 weeks passage.—Some very agreeable intelligence by this vessel it is thought not advisable to make public at present.

Last Thursday arrived, in east passage, a large Jamaica ship, loaded with about 600 hogheads of sugar, 90 puncheons of rum, some cotton, &c. taken by the continental brig Cabot, capt. Hinman. She mounts 16 guns, but we dont learn that she made any resistance.—About the same time capt. Job Pearce, in a private sloop of war, went up the west passage, with a fine large brig, loaded with fish, &c. being his third prize safely arrived.

PHILADELPHIA, November 13.

Intelligence from head quarters, White-Plains, Nov. 6. We hear that the morning before, the enemy made a sudden and unexpected movement from the several posts they had taken in our front.

They broke up their whole encampment the preceding night, and have advanced towards Kingbridge and the North-River.

Some accounts make the loss of the enemy on Monday se'nnight about 400 in killed and wounded. All accounts agree that col. Carr, of the 35th regiment, is among the number of the slain.

Intelligence from head-quarters, Ticonderoga, Oct. 31. On Monday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, our advance guard boat down the lake made the signal for the approach of the enemy's fleet.—In about an

hour five of their largest boats or gondolas appeared in sight, and a number of troops, Indians and Canadians, were seen landing upon Three-mile point. Soon after two of the armed boats stood over to the east side of the lake, inclining upwards, as if sent to reconnoitre. When they came considerably within shot, they were fired upon from two redoubts very near the shore, and by a row-galley that was stationed to cover the boom. They thereupon retired; in the mean time the enemy's troops were distinctly seen to land upon the back of the point, and presently after thirteen small batteaus, and birch canoes, crossed from the west to the east side of the lake, and these threatenings of an attack, our lines, redoubts, and posts, were all manned, and as the motions of the enemy seemed to indicate they were gathering their main force upon the west side of the lake, as if intending to make their push there, three regiments (Poor's, Reed's and Grenton's) were ordered from Mount Independence to reinforce this side. The orders were instantly obeyed, and nothing could exceed the spirit and alertness which was shewn by officers and soldiers in executing every order that was given. About four o'clock in the afternoon the boats and canoes that had passed to the west side of the lake returned, and the enemy were seen plainly to re-embark at Three-mile point. The guard boat was immediately ordered to resume her station, and by sun-set it was observed the body of the enemy had retired.

Published by order of congress,

Nov. 12, 1776. CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

IN CONGRESS, November 14, 1776.

Copy of a letter to the president from major general Gates, dated at Ticonderoga, November 5.

"Sir—I have the honour to congratulate the congress upon the retreat of lieutenant-general sir Guy Carleton, with the fleet and army under his command, from Crownpoint. Saturday last, the works being put in the best order, the boom and bridge of communication finished, and every necessary preparative for defence made, I determined to send a detachment down each side of the lake, to beat up the enemy's quarters of their advanced post on Putnam's point and the opposite shore. About eight at night the detachment, under the command of major Delap, proceeded down the east side of the lake, and the other, under col. Conner, down the west side. Sunday morning major Delap, with his detachment, took possession of Putnam's point, which the enemy had just abandoned; and immediately detached a subaltern, with a small party, to reconnoitre Crownpoint. The officer, having returned, reported that he saw the enemy embark, a number of their vessels under sail, and the whole preparing to get under way. Col. Conner, on taking possession of the post opposite to Putnam's point, found that likewise abandoned. Yesterday an officer, and a party whom I sent to Crownpoint returned, and reported he had been at Crownpoint with the inhabitants there; that the enemy were all gone from that post, and the inhabitants would come this day to Ticonderoga, to make their submission, and beg the protection of the United States.

I have the honour to be, &c.

HORATIO GATES.

"P. S This will be delivered to you by my first aide de camp, major Stuart, a deserving officer."

The foregoing is a copy of general Gates's letter.

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

From the army in the province of York we learn, that after the 27th of October nothing material happened, except some small skirmishes, in which we always came off victorious, and often took prisoners:—That many deserters had come off to our army, among which there were between 30 and 40 Hessians:—That suddenly on the night of the 3th inst. the enemy filed off the right of their army to the East river, and the left, about 3 or 10,000 men, to Dobbs's ferry. That general Washington, in the morning, sent several parties to harass their rear, who returned with a few prisoners and two or three baggage waggons;—That on the 7th, the enemy's transports, 40 in number (being the same which landed the troops at Frogg's-point) were seen going down the East river towards New-York:—That on the 10th, the party that fled off towards the North river lay between Dobbs's ferry and Philip's mills; that the general being apprehensive that they intended making an incursion into the Jerseys, had sent gen. Putnam with 4000 men across the river; to join gen. Green, who has 6000 men at Fort Lee, with an intention to stop their progress, should they attempt the same.—Several letters of the best authority from head-quarters say, they have great reason to expect Howe will visit this city, therefore they urge us to be upon the watch, and be ready for them, should they attempt such a thing.

Extra of a letter from Fort Lee, November 8.

"Our garrison at Fort Washington are in high spirits, and go a Hessian-hunting every day. Yesterday a serjeant and 15 men of col. Cadwalladar's battalion, attacked an out-guard of 47 men, killed three, wounded several, and burnt the guard hut."

Extra of a letter from Fort Lee, November 10.

"The enemy have not decamped, as was reported, but are still at Dobbs's ferry. Part of our army have come this side the river. General Washington will cross to-day. Deserters confirm the suspicions of the enemy's design to pay us a visit in the Jerseys; but the attempt is so dangerous, and so long delayed, that I can scarcely believe it is seriously in agitation. Yesterday col. Magraw's men killed thirteen Hessians and an officer, and stripped them.—His little enterprize gives spirit to our men, and insensibly reduces the number of the enemy."

The ship Hancock and Adams, capt. Smith, with arms, ammunition, cloaths, tin, &c. on account of the continent, is arrived at Bedford, New-Hampshire, from Nantz.—We are also told another ship, laden with the same kind of stores, is arrived at Boston.

We hear, by major Stuart, that the enemy, at Dobbs's-ferry, struck their tents last Tuesday morning, and marched towards New-York with the greatest precipitation, some of the regiments firing at Fort-Washington, as they passed by it.

We hear the fleet that left Sandy-Hook on Wednesday last has since been seen standing to the eastward.

Extra of a letter from Fort Lee, October 25, 1776.

"Head-Quarters is now above 20 miles from this place, and we have but little news we can depend upon till a day or two after the transaction. To-day indeed I heard the following, which may be worth communicating: one of the vessels up the North-river came before Dobbs's-ferry with an intention to cut off the communication. She lay there one day undisturbed; but last night two field pieces were sent down, and early this morning began to play upon her. They hulled her 11 times out of 15. She hoisted sail, but could make no way for want of wind, and was obliged to put out her boats and be towed off; all which time she was exposed to our fire. It is hoped this drubbing will prevent such manoeuvres for the future, and oblige the pirates to keep aloof. I am informed that several brigades of our army moved this day up to White Plains, so that almost all the army is now at that place. Little skirmishes happen almost every day; but they are thought so little of that they seldom are mentioned as news. The most considerable was that with Rogers's party, in which a number was killed and wounded, 16 taken prisoners, with 60 stand of arms. Two of the prisoners prove to be spies, and one a deserter from us. These I hope will be made examples of. Several Hessian have been taken since.

October 26. "P. S. Since I wrote the above, I learn that the enemy have got between Kingbridge and White Plains. That ground was left vacant by the removal of the brigades I have mentioned. A captain's guard only was left over some provision till it could be moved. This day about noon the captain discovered about 100 light horse and as many infantry making that way towards him: he retreated to Fort Independence, and the enemy continued their rout. Whether this was only a foraging party, or whether sent to take the ground which he had left, I cannot tell: if the latter, I believe it will not be disagreeable: it is probable the brigades were moved higher up on purpose to give the enemy an opportunity of getting in, when they will not be very likely to get out undisturbed."

Extra of a letter from Fort Lee, November 2.

"Six gentlemen who escaped from the fleet inform us that there are now 70 sail of transports lying at Red-Hook, to take in 3000 troops who are to go for Rhode-Island." By authentic intelligence, from on board the last fleet from England, we are assured, that of the six thousand foreign troops in that fleet, one fourth part at least were either dead or greatly afflicted with the black scurvy.

War-Office, November 14, 1776.

To the ASSOCIATORS of PENNSYLVANIA.

Gentlemen,

CONGRESS have received intelligence that a fleet of the enemy, consisting of several hundred sail, were yesterday discovered near Sandy-Hook, steering to the southward. It is highly probable that their destination is for Delaware and the city of Philadelphia. It is needless to observe that the utmost vigour and dispatch are necessary to counteract the designs of the enemy, and defend this city, the preservation of which is of very great importance to the general cause. Congress have directed us to co-operate with the council of safety of this state in concerting measures proper on the present emergency; and have invested us with their full power to carry such measures into execution. In discharge of the trust committed to us, we think it our duty to recommend it to you, in the warmest and most earnest manner, immediately to put yourselves in arms, and march, by companies and parts of companies, as you can be ready, with the utmost expedition to this city. Its safety and the interest of the United States point out the necessity of your strongest exertions.

General Washington, at the head of a considerable part of his army, is advancing southward; but, notwithstanding all the dispatch he can possibly make, the enemy may arrive before him. If they shall be opposed, with proper spirit and sufficient numbers, at their first approach, there is the greatest reason to expect that their views will finally be defeated; and they will experience, to their cost and disgrace, that on no part of the continent they can make an impression. They have been already obliged to abandon Crownpoint and retire into Canada.

It is vain to hope for lenity from your inveterate foes. Their tender mercies are cruelty.—The property of those who have acted as their friends, is not safer than that of those whom they consider as their enemies. Devaluation of every kind marks their footsteps.

Congress will do every thing in their power to strengthen you. Expresses for this purpose are already sent off to the neighbouring states.

Every thing dear to freemen is now at stake. The freedom of Pennsylvania will undoubtedly discover the spirit and zeal, which their country expects and their critical situation demands.

BENJAMIN HARRISON, JAMES WILSON, EDWARD RUTLEDGE, FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT-LEE,

Attys. RICHARD PETERS, secretary.

Extra of a letter from North-Castle, November 7, 1776.

"Since I wrote you the other day an event has taken place which I think will finish this campaign; the enemy have suddenly and unexpectedly decamped. The general opinion is that they are going into winter quarters at New-York, and indeed some of the deserters or prisoners told us this was what they intended, but I think the season is not yet so far advanced as to render this step immediately necessary. It is probable they will take Fort Washington in their return, or that our people will abandon it, by which means they will at last become masters of New-York island. They have become possessed of more territory this campaign than the last, but they will derive very little if any advantage from it, than from their possessions in and about Boston—of honour, they will hardly gain so much for they do not deserve it. Let us review their misdeeds. Two hundred sail of British ships gained possession of Staten-Island, a sandy spot of very small extent, inhabited by tories, who surrendered it to them without firing a gun. At Long-Island they gained more credit, for by fighting they obtained a part of it."