

LONDON, October 21.

The public may be assured, that the French consider a war with England as inevitable, and that the same will take place immediately; these opinions are supported by the following facts:—On Thursday fortnight an officer of the marine arrived at Boulogne, with an order for the quota of seamen furnished by that town to repair immediately to Brest, to man the fleet fitting out there; accordingly 200 were draughted off, and are marched to the place of their destination. The same orders were forwarded to Calais and Dunkirk.

Friday major Cuyier, aid de camp to general Howe, was at court, took leave of his majesty, and in a few days will set out on his return to New-York.

The same day a brother of lord Cathcart was presented to his majesty; he is going a volunteer to join the king's troops at New-York, for which place he will soon embark.

Orders are sent to Scotland for raising immediately another regiment of highlanders, which, when complete, are to embark for America. A Scotch nobleman, it is said, has undertaken to raise the same.

Lord George Germaine has received positive intelligence, which he laid before the king, that the American congress, before they published their declaration of independency, received positive assurances of support from France; and in March or April, 1777; they requested it sooner, but were answered it was impossible, as the preparations of France were not in sufficient readiness.

Orders are issued from the privy council for Provincial prisoners (commanders, &c. excepted) to be carried in transports to Gibraltar, and when there, the governor will be vested with a power of granting them their pardon, on condition that they serve five years in the company's settlements in the East-Indies; for their passage to which, the outward bound East-Indiamen are to touch at Gibraltar. Those who refuse these conditions, will be brought to England, and tried as rebels.

The East-India company, it is said, have agreed to allow government five pounds a man for every Provincial prisoner fit to bear arms, that shall be delivered on board their ships, in the bay of Gibraltar, between this and the 25th of March next, inclusive.

It is absolutely certain that ten sail of the line are immediately to be put into commission.

We are informed that a very great personage has written a complimentary letter, in his own-hand, to the young earl of W. who is a volunteer in America. The letter is intrusted to the care of major Cuyier, who has received a present from his majesty, and a promise of promotion.

The king has declared repeatedly, that he will persevere in the American war, were it to be at the hazard of his crown; and will next summer have a force there sufficient to finish the dispute in one campaign more.—His majesty is much encouraged by the British junta.

The report of the dispute between Spain and Portugal gains ground, and we are informed that two messengers came over in the by boats last Monday, to Dover from Calais, with expresses from our minister at Madrid to the secretary of state's office, the one in 8, the other in 10 days, from that court.

Whether a war between Spain and Portugal is unavoidable, or whatever other cause interests the ministry, it is certain that for the last two days they have held long meetings, the result of which is kept a profound secret.

A congratulatory address from the mayor and commonalty of the city of York, on the late slaughter of their own Brethren, whom they call rebels, has been presented to his majesty, and most graciously received.

The news of the defeat of the Americans on Long-Island was received here with universal joy on Sunday last; the bells rang all day, and on Monday, at 12 o'clock, the company of invalids stationed here, fired a feu de joy.

PROVIDENCE, December 14.

Saturday morning last commodore Sir Peter Parker, with about 70 sail of men of war and transports, came into our bay from New-York, and anchored above the harbour of Newport. On Sunday they landed a body of troops, under the generals Clinton and Percy, who took possession of the town, the inhabitants having previously determined that the place was not detenable against the enemy's shipping. The few troops we had on the stand retreated to Bristol, leaving behind them some pieces of artillery. By the best accounts yet received, the enemy's troops do not consist of more than 500 men; among whom are a number of Hessians, some horse, and many invalids. They are intrenching, it is said, at a place called Meeting-house hill, three miles distant from Bristol ferry.

From the first appearance of the fleet, the militia and independent companies of this state have been in motion, and are since joined by a large body of troops, with some companies of artillery, from the neighbouring states.

The readiness and zeal manifested on the occasion by the troops of this and our sister states, reflect on them the highest credit, and we hope will prove a happy preface or their success, should the enemy attempt to gain a lodgment in this town, or penetrate the country.

We learn, that the enemy have sent a number of women and children from Newport to Narraganset.

Capt. Penn's, in the privateer Retaliation, arrived off Newport on Friday last week, and perceiving more shipping in the harbour than usual, sent his barge to view them, which was taken by the enemy; two of their ships likewise got under way, and chased the privateer, but she luckily escaped, and is since arrived at a safe port.

NORWICH (Connecticut) Dec. 2.

The general assembly of this state, at their last session, fixed the following prices, viz. labour in the summer not to exceed 3s. per day; wheat 6s. per bushel; rye 3s. 6d. Indian corn 3s. wool 2s. per pound; flax 10d. pork from five to seven score 3d. 1q. from seven to ten 3d. 2q. from ten and upwards 3d. 3q. grass-fed beef not

to exceed 24s. per hundred, so in proportion according to its quality; raw hides 3d. per lb. salt 10s. per bushel; West-India rum 6s. per gallon, per hoghead; best muscovado sugar 60s. per hundred; New-England rum 3s. 6d. per gallon, per hoghead; molasses 3s. per gallon, per hoghead; tea 4s. 6d. per pound; butter 10d. cheese 6d.

BALTIMORE, February 4.

Extract of a letter from GENERAL WASHINGTON to CONGRESS, dated January 22, 1777.

"My last was on the 20th instant; since that, I have the pleasure to inform you, that general Dickinson, with about four hundred militia, has defeated a foraging party of the enemy of an equal number, and has taken forty waggons, and upwards of an hundred horses, most of them of the English draft breed, and a number of sheep and cattle which they had collected.

"The enemy retreated with so much precipitation, that general Dickinson had only an opportunity of making nine prisoners; they were observed to carry off a good many dead and wounded in light waggons.

"This action happened near Somerset court-house, on Millstone river. General Dickinson's behaviour reflects the highest honour upon him; for, though his troops were all raw, he led them through the river, middle deep, and gave the enemy so severe a charge, that, although supported by three field pieces, they gave way, and left their convoy.

"I have not heard from general Heath, since the firing near Kingsbridge last Saturday, which I cannot account for, unless the North river should have been rendered impassable by the ice. But the account of his having surprised and taken fort Independence on Friday last, comes so well authenticated, by different ways, that I cannot doubt it. It is said, that he took four hundred prisoners in that fort; and that he invested fort Washington on Saturday, which occasioned the firing."

Published by order of Congress, CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Extract of a letter from an officer, who arrived at Philadelphia, from the army in Jersey, on Saturday last, dated the same day.

"We have certain accounts of fort Independence, near Kingsbridge, being taken, with 400 prisoners, amongst whom are a number of Pennsylvania gentlemen Tories.—Fort Washington was attacked last Saturday, and the firing ceased at 11 o'clock, it is therefore supposed to be taken. We hourly expect to hear that New-York is again in the possession of our victorious troops. We have taken waggons, horses and men, in several skirmishes this week, at and about Somerset court-house."

"I his day capt. Henry Johnson, late of the Yankee privateer, who escaped from a British man of war lying at the Nore, arrived here from France. We hear he brings very pleasing accounts of the friendly disposition of the French court and nation, towards the American cause."

February 4. Just as this paper was going to press, very important intelligence is said to be arrived of 8000 New-England troops having landed on Long-Island, and marched as far westward as the town of Brooklyn, within two miles of the city of New-York, driving the enemy, particularly Tryon and De Lancey's traitors, like chaff before the wind.—Also that gen. Heath, with another body of New-England and New-York troops, had retaken Fort Washington, and regained all York-Island from Kingsbridge down as far as Bayard's-Hill, within half a mile of the city, which is now supposed to be possessed by our brave countrymen.—Whenever a confirmation and particulars arrive, we shall, as soon as possible, obtain them for our readers.

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; General and Commander in Chief of all the forces of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS several persons, inhabitants of the United States of America, influenced by inimical motives, intimidated by the threats of the enemy, or deluded by a proclamation issued the 30th of November last, by lord and general Howe, filed the king's commissioners for granting pardons, &c. (now at open war and invading these states), have been so lost to the interest and welfare of their country, as to repair to the enemy, sign a declaration of fidelity, and, in some instances, have been compelled to take the oaths of allegiance, and to engage not to take up arms, or encourage others so to do, against the king of Great-Britain. And whereas it has become necessary to distinguish between the friends of America and those of Great-Britain, inhabitants of these states, and that every man who receives a protection from and is a subject of any state (not being conscientiously scrupulous against bearing arms) should stand ready to defend the same against every hostile invasion; I do therefore, in behalf of the United States, hereby strictly command and require every person, having subscribed such declaration, taken such oaths, and accepted protection and certificates from lord or general Howe, or any person acting under their authority, forthwith to repair to head-quarters, or to the quarters of the nearest general officer of the continental army of militia (until further provision can be made by the civil authority) and there deliver up such protections, certificates, and passports, and take the oath of allegiance to the United States of America. Nevertheless, hereby granting full liberty to all such as prefer the interest and protection of Great-Britain to the freedom and happiness of their country, forthwith to withdraw themselves and families within the enemy's lines. And I do hereby declare, that all and every person, who may neglect or refuse to comply with this order, within thirty days from the date hereof, will be deemed adherents to the king of Great-Britain, and treated as common enemies of the American States.

Given at Head-Quarters, Morris-town, Jan. 23, 1777. GEORGE WASHINGTON. By his Excellency's command, ROBERT H. HARRISON, Secretary.

ANNAPOLIS, February 4.

The General Assembly of this state was to have met here on the 29th ult. but a sufficient number of members not attending, it was adjourned from day to day till Wednesday the 5th of this instant, when the same met; the hon. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esq; was chosen president of the senate, and the hon. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, Esq; speaker of the house of delegates.

The SPEECH of George the Third, king of Great-Britain, to his parliament, October 31, 1776.

My lords and gentlemen,

NOTHING could have afforded me so much satisfaction as to have been able to inform you, at the opening of this session, that the troubles which have so long distracted my colonies in North America were at an end, and that my unhappy people, recovered from their delusions, had delivered themselves from the oppressions of their leaders and returned to their duty;—but so daring and desperate is the spirit of their leaders, whose object has always been dominion and power, that they have now openly renounced all allegiance to the crown and political connections with this country; they have rejected, with circumstances of indignity and insult, the means of conciliation held out to them under the authority of our commission, and have presumed to set up their rebellious confederacies for independent states. If their treason be suffered to take root, much mischief must grow from it to the safety of my loyal colonies, to the commerce of my kingdoms, and indeed to the present system of all Europe. One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood; we shall have unanimity at home, founded on the general conviction of the justice and necessity of our measures. I am happy to inform you, that by the blessings of divine providence on the good conduct and valour of my officers and forces by sea and land, and the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in my service, Canada is recovered—and although from unavoidable delay, the operations at New York could not begin before the month of August, the success in that province has been so important as to give the strongest hopes of the most decisive good consequences. But notwithstanding the fair prospect we must at all events prepare for another campaign. I continue to receive assurances of amity from the several courts of Europe, and am using my utmost endeavours to conciliate the unhappy differences between two neighbouring powers, and still hope that all misunderstandings may be removed, and Europe to continue to enjoy the inestimable blessings of peace. I think, nevertheless, in the present situation of affairs, it is expedient we should be in a respectable state of defence at home.

Gentlemen of the house of commons,

I will order the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you—it is matter of real concern to me, that the important considerations which I have stated to you, must necessarily be followed by great expence; I doubt not, however, but that my faithful commons will readily and cheerfully grant me such supply as the maintenance of the honour of my crown, in vindication of the just rights of parliament and the public welfare, shall be found to require.

My lords and gentlemen,

In this arduous contest I can have no other object but to promote the true interest of all my subjects. No people ever enjoyed more happiness, or lived under a milder government, than those now revolted provinces; the improvements in every art of which they boast declare it; their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it; my desire is to return to them the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have totally and desperately exchanged for all the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs.

This Gazette, Number 1639, completes the year with all subscribers to it; and the Printer hopes his customers will enable him to continue the publication thereof, by speedily paying off their respective accounts. Papers and all other materials necessary for carrying on the business, are exceedingly dear, and not to be purchased but only for the ready money.

Alexandria, Jan. 29, 1777.

To be sold, at public sale, on Thursday the 23th day of February, at this place,

THE schooner ANNE MARIA, about 2800 bushels burthen, well found, and fitted with sails, rigging, and all other necessaries for such a vessel.—Her hull is sound and good, and the vessel a fast sailer.—At the same time and place there will also be her cargo exposed to sale, consisting of salt, chiquered and white linens, osnabrigs, sai-cloth, she-tings, dowlas, holland, chintz and stamped cottons.—All for ready cash.

JENIFER and HOOP.

To be sold at public vendue, for ready money only, on Thursday the 27th of February, if fair, if not, the next fair day, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the plantation of James Wallingsford, now deceased,

THREE or four valuable negroes, cattle, hogs, hogs, and household furniture, such as feather-beds, and many other articles too tedious to mention. W. MACCOBBIN, JAMES WALLINGSFORD, Administrators. All persons indebted to the estate of James Wallingsford, deceased, are desired to make speedy payment; and all persons having any claim against the estate are desired to bring in their accounts regularly proposed, and signed by the commissary, and they shall be discharged.

W. M. & J. W.