

NEWBURY-PORT, February 6.

By a vessel arrived in a safe port in forty days from Bourdeaux, we have the following intelligence, viz. -

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at Bourdeaux, Dec. 13. DOCTOR FRANKLIN arrived at Nantz in France on the 7th inst. in a ship of 16 guns, and has gone to Paris; his business, which must certainly be very important, is matter of great speculation among the French. I am very glad he has got here safe, as his superior abilities and experience will probably, at this juncture, be of the greatest advantage to America. The ship brought in two prizes with her taken in the bay. The French are now, and have been for four months past, preparing both by sea and land; their marine force is at this day very formidable, and the Spaniards are not much behind them. A war with Spain and Portugal is thought unavoidable. Should that take place, France and England will necessarily be engaged in it; the arrival of Dr. Franklin will probably hasten it. It is very confidently reported, and said to come from good authority, that Russia has engaged to furnish England with 20,000 men for the American service, in the spring; France and Spain will not, I think, see this, and remain idle spectators: the Dutch were attached to their interest, seem very generally disposed to retard and clog the Americans, both in their public and private business; as much as they can. Lord Chatham is said to be very near his end. We have not yet heard of the fate of Kingsbridge: the French and Spaniards will greatly rejoice to hear of a decisive action in favour of America, hope they will soon have that pleasure. Hearing that lead was much wanted in America, induced me to purchase so large a quantity; should there be occasion for it, I hope it will be of good execution."

BOSTON, February 14.

Capt. Dean, in a sloop from Salem, private property, has taken a Londoner, with English goods, which arrived in a safe port the latter end of last week. They write from France, that the English have engaged 20,000 Russians to come to America, but that the French court are determined to prevent them. Capt. William Brown, of the Boston privateer, has taken two Guineamen, with 140 slaves on board. Friday last one of the enemy's tenders, a schooner, going round to Warwick-Point, ran aground; on discovery of which, admiral Hopkins sent down a vessel of force to take possession of her, and when she had got within about a mile of her, the enemy blew her up.

Extra of a letter from Peck's-Kill, dated Jan. 19. "General Howe has discharged all the privateers who were prisoners in New-York, one half he lent to the world of spirits for want of food—the other he hath put to warn their country of the danger of falling into his hands, and to convince them, by ocular demonstration, that it is infinitely better to be slain in battle than to be taken prisoners by British brutes, whose tender mercies are cruelty. But it is not the prisoners alone, who have felt the effects of British humanity. Every part of the country, through which they have marched, has been plundered and ravaged. No discrimination hath been made with regard to whig or tory, but all alike have been involved in one common fate. Their marches through New-Jersey hath been marked with the most savage barbarity. Westchester witnesseth more terrible things. The repositories of the dead have ever been defaced by the most barbarous and savage nations. But here, not being able to accomplish their accursed purposes upon the living, they wreaked their vengeance on the dead. In many places, the graves in the churchyards were opened, and the bodies of the dead exposed upon the ground for several days. At Morrisania, the family vault was opened, the coffins broken, and the bones scattered abroad. At De Lancey's farm, the body of a beautiful young lady, who had been buried two years, was taken out of the ground, and exposed for five days in a most indecent manner. Many more instances could be mentioned, but my heart sickens at the recollection of such inhumanity. Some, perhaps, try to believe that it is only the Hessians who perpetrate these things, but I have good authority to say, that the British vie with, and even exceed the auxiliary troops in licentiousness. After such treatment, can it be possible for any person sincerely to wish for a reconciliation with Great-Britain?"

FISH-KILL, Feb. 27.

Extra of a letter from an officer at Morris-Town, to the printer of the New-York Packet, dated Feb. 21. "I received your favour from Fish-Kill, and beg to return you my thanks for forwarding to me the pleasure to furnish you with authentic intelligence, but the truth is, we are as much shut up from news as those in simsbury mines.—Indeed it would be almost unnecessary to send news to you, who seem to have such an excellent faculty at making it. All that we have stirring here at present was brought out by the Hessians-officers who (your paper says) deserted some time ago from Brunswick. They say that the 300 militia troops, killed by us in the Quibbleton affair, are to life shortly after; having only, in imitation of Shakespeare's fat knight, counterfeited death, in order to avoid the fury of our brave militia. They are however to be considered as prisoners, and to be exchanged on an equal number of our men killed by Hugh Gans."

"jesting apart—I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that a few days ago a party of gen. Putnam's division attacked and defeated a party of tory soldiers in Monmouth, killed a number and took about forty with their arms, and one major Stockton, an infamous tory, who commanded them."

Extra of a letter from Morris-Town, Feb. 23.

"The 20th inst. four Hessian and two British soldiers came over to us. Yesterday 12 tories and one English captain were brought to head quarters. This morning we have received an account of 12 light horse being taken by our brave and vigilant scouts; a French vessel is just arrived in Philadelphia, but no news has as yet transpired."

By a gentleman from Newark we are informed, that a certain James NUTMAN, who had been captain of the militia in that town, when the British troops landed on the Jersey shore, was so exceedingly pleased, that he invited his friends and neighbours to keep Thanksgiving, as he termed it, by spending the day and taking dinner with him, on the happy occasion, often saying, with much seeming satisfaction, his dear brethren and protectors were come; frequently repeating the question to his guests, an't you glad that they are come? The next day they arrived in Newark, and his dear friends and protectors stripped him of all his movable property, even to his shoes and stockings; the poor wretch of a tory was under the necessity of begging from his neighbours something to cover his nakedness.

One day last week, some thieves emerged from one of the British pirate ships at Dobbs's Ferry, who stole and feloniously carried off from a farmer there five head of cattle.

PHILADELPHIA, February 26.

A copy of a letter sent to Sir WILLIAM ERSKINE, complaining of the savage cruelty of the British troops.

SIR, IT is told us that Sir William Erskine commanded the British troops covering the foraging party at Drake's farm, on Saturday the first instant. Is it possible that a gentleman, an officer so eminently distinguished for his bravery and experience, should allow the troops under his command to murder the wounded after the manner of savages! Until this time it was universally allowed that humanity was a certain concomitant of valour. It now appears that Britons, unhappily divested of many excellent qualities peculiar to their ancestors, are become strangers to humanity, and deaf to the intreaties of the brave, after the misfortune of having fallen wounded into their power. Mr. Kelly, a brave officer in my brigade, and five other Virginians slightly wounded in the muscular parts, were murdered, had their bodies mangled, and their brains beat out, by the troops of his Britannic majesty, on Saturday the first instant.

The cruelties exercised on the worthy general Mercer, near to Princeton, on the third of January, were equally barbarous. It gives pain to a generous mind, Sir William, to see you tarnish the laurels so honourably obtained last war, by permitting such savage barbarity in the troops under your command.

Such conduct, Sir William, inspires the Americans with a hatred to Britons so inveterate and insurmountable, that they never will form an alliance or the least connection with them.

I can assure you, Sir, that the savages, after general Braddock's defeat, notwithstanding the great influence of the French over them, would not be prevailed on to butcher the wounded, in the manner your troops have done, until they were made drunk. I do not know, so far does British cruelty, now-a-days, surpass that of savages! In spite of all the British agents sent among the different nations, we have beat the Indians into good humour, and they offer their service.

It is their custom in war to scalp, take out the hearts, and mangle the bodies of their enemies. This is shocking to the humanity natural to the white inhabitants of America. However, if the British officers do not restrain their soldiers from glutting their cruelties with the wanton destruction of the wounded, the United States, contrary to their natural disposition, will be compelled to employ a body of furious savages, who can, with an unrelenting heart, eat the flesh, and drink the blood, of their enemies.

I well remember that, in the year 1763, lieutenant Gordon of the Royal Americans, and eight more of the British soldiers, were roasted alive, and eat up, by the fierce savages that now offer their services.

The Americans have hitherto treated the wounded, and prisoners of the British troops, with that civility and tenderness natural to a brave and generous people, but should the inhuman cruelty of your men compel the American army to retaliate, let it be remembered that the British officers stand answerable to the world, and to posterity, for the many dreadful consequences.

I am, &c. B. G. U. S.

The ANSWER.

SIR, I RECEIVED your letter of the fourth instant. I am extremely obliged to you for the good opinion you seem to have of my past character, but as much hurt at the unmerited charge you lay against me at present. It is unnecessary for me to answer minutely every paragraph of your letter, which is wrote in a stile and language I have not been accustomed to. I only beg leave to inform you, that I never countenanced an act of barbarity in my life time, nor can I think any gentle-

man in the British army equal to it. We, on the contrary, wish to treat prisoners with lenity, and to take all possible care of the wounded, who fall into our hands, as humanity will always meet with the approbation of every officer in an army. However, I will mention that it is not to be wondered at if our soldiers are a little exasperated, considering the many cruelties that have been of late committed on them, and their officers, even unarmed, passing singly from quarter to quarter. I am, Sir, with respect, Your most obedient humble servant, WILLIAM ERSKINE, b. & Q. M. G.

[There were no dates to the above letters in the copy handed the printer, but from their contents it is supposed they were wrote the beginning of this month.]

Extra of a letter from Morris-Town, Feb. 21, 1777.

"A gentleman who left New-York on Monday last, of the name of Crane, assures, he saw 72 of the Jersey militia, who by stratagem were surrounded and taken prisoners at the light-house, and carried to New-York."

"Yesterday a party of our men, near Quibble-Town, took twenty of the enemy's waggons loaded with forage, drove in their picket-guard, and sustained no loss. A soldier killed two light horse men of the enemy, and narrowly escaped being taken; the horses and accoutrements were brought in. The same day a lieutenant of the enemy's artillery was taken and brought to general Sullivan's quarters, with seven other prisoners, most of them Highlanders. This morning twelve hundred men were dispatched to bring off forage from the enemy's lines, I hope they may prosper. A brigade of New-England troops arrived this day from the White-Plains."

March 1. On the 23d ult. a body of two thousand five hundred of the British troops, with six pieces of cannon, were attacked and repelled near Woodbridge, by a party of seven hundred Americans under the command of gen. Maxwell. The enemy had forty killed, and eighty wounded; our people had one killed, and eight wounded. It is supposed the enemy were those that lately left Rhode-Island, and were going to reinforce the army at Brunwick.

We hear from Ticonderoga, that on the 13th ult. a number of Indians and Canadians, advancing within about thirty miles of the fort, were attacked by our advanced guard, who drove them off, and took two Canadian prisoners. It is supposed their design was to surprise the guard. By the prisoners it does not appear that any of the British troops were with them.

We hear that a justice of the name of Kemble, in the East Jerseys, was lately inhumanly murdered by a party of the British troops, notwithstanding he told them that he was a friend to government, and had general Howe's protection. He was first shot through the body and afterwards thrut through with a bayonet, but lived long enough to tell his melancholy tale to a party of continental forces, that came by his house soon after the murderers were gone off.

Extra of a letter dated Raritan River, Feb. 26, 1777.

"I was at gen. Dickenon's last evening, when he received the following intelligence—That on Sunday last about 1000 of our army, under command of gen. Maxwell, were attacked near Spank-Town by near four times their number of the enemy from Perth Amboy, and after an obstinate engagement the enemy were obliged to retreat, with the loss of fifty killed, one hundred wounded, and nine taken prisoners; our loss is but five killed and nine wounded."

March 4. We have the pleasure to inform the public, that the ship Reprital, capt. Weeks, in which Dr. Franklin went passenger, is safe arrived in France. She took two prizes, which she also carried into a French port.

March 5. By capt. Ames, from South-Carolina, we learn, that the Comet and Detence, two armed vessels belonging to that state, had returned from a cruise, and brought in two prizes, which they had cut out of a port on the north side of Jamaica.

Extra of a letter from Morris-Town, Feb. 26.

"Gen. Pows still continues to threaten your city, a reinforcement is arrived at Amboy, consisting of the 10th, 37th, 38th, and 52d regiments, one battalion of grenadiers, and one of light infantry, the whole amounting to about 2000 men; they were out on Sunday last upon a foraging party with three field pieces, when they were attacked by about 600 of our people at eleven in the morning near Spank-Town. The firing continued from that time with some short intermission until night; by the best accounts we can get the enemy's loss amounted to upwards of an hundred men killed and wounded; we took ten prisoners; our loss was eight killed and wounded. They came with about sixteen or twenty waggons; a considerable part of which were employed in carrying off their dead, and wounded; some of the waggons were so piled, that the dead fell off, and were left in the road. A few such affairs will make them sick of foraging at so expensive a rate. The enemy killed two of the inhabitants; one with his protection in his hand, had his brains blown out while he was offering to an officer; the other was run through the body with a bayonet; both were killed for not getting their waggons ready as speedily as they were wanted to remove the dead out of the way."

Extra of a letter from Morris-Town, March 1.

Last week I informed you of an action which happened the 2d, since which several deserters are come here, who say, and one of them asserts that he heard Mr. Branch tell gen. Vauhais, that their loss in killed

on, and are now making every preparation for a vigorous and sudden blow: they will be ready in a few days to take the field. Pray exert yourselves, and put forward the new levies; not an hour, not a moment, to be lost. In consequence of the request of our brave and worthy general, congress directed, all officers, and the new army by companies, or parts of companies, leaving proper orders to recruit: I fear it is not been fully attended to as it ought. Be assured that we have it now in their power not only to curb and keep the enemies of their peace, but to confine them in their confined limits, but utterly to rout and destroy them, if they would but exert themselves. Call on all you are able to conjure them, by the love they bear their country, to march, to fly to the standard of the glorious Washington; shew them the danger of delay, the glory, the honour, which may attend it.

PREROGATIVE OFFICE, February 28, 1777. THE SEVERAL DEPUTY COMMISSARIES hereby requested to make immediate return to the office, of a list every official paper in their possession, the purpose of clearing the business of that office.

ELIE VALLETTE, Deputé Commissaire.

WALLACE and DAVIDSON, Annapolis, March 4, 1777. The field at public vendue, for ready money, on Friday the 14th inst. if fair, otherwise the next fair day, the subscriber's plantation on the North side of the river, consisting of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, including a bedstead, blankets, &c. &c. to be sold at ten o'clock. He has for sale, at his shop on the Dock in Annapolis, a copper still that will distill gallons, with bellows, anvils, &c. painter's use of all kinds, window glass, cotton cards, flax, dunnets, callimaces, tammies, &c. &c.

DAVID KERR, Annapolis, March 4, 1777. I have for sale, at my plantation on the North side of Severn, three hundred acres, and a half more. He is also for sale, a complete horse; he was got by Dr. Horsfield's son of Old Pointe, who was got by Standard, bred by Mr. G. O. of Old Pointe, and by the Duke of Devonshire's mare; his great grand dam is the Selima, got by the Godolphin.

ANNAPOLIS, February 28, 1777. A negro man named NED, the property of the subscriber, lately advertised by James Rawlings, to whom he was hired, is still at large. He is about thirty years of age, about 5 feet 6 inches high, smooth faced, and has a wife at Mr. James Warren's in George's county, and it is likely he is in that neighbourhood, as he was seen lately going that way. Any person who will take up said negro, and send him to his master, or deliver him to James Rawlings on Grenberry's Point, shall be entitled to the above reward, besides what the law shall allow for all reasonable charges, paid by DAVID KERR.

ANNAPOLIS, February 28, 1777. A negro fellow named MARRY, appears to be about 20 years of age; he says that he now belongs to one Leonard-Town, St. Mary's county, and is desired to take him away and pay charges.

JAMES MORSELL, Clerk.

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Signed by order of the committee, JOHN JOHNSON, clerk.

February 23, 1777. Any person intending to leave this State, shall be liable to all persons indebted to him to settle all balances before the 25th of March next, on having any just claim on him may receive the same.

WILLIAM DEARDS, near Newport, in Charles county, about the 10th of October, a yellow hay mare, about thirteen or fourteen years old; her legs, belly, flanks, and sides, are all white, with a few white hairs on her head, which makes a kind of star, the top of her brand, if any, unknown. Whoever finds the said mare, and brings her to the subscriber, or to Mr. Thomas Reeder, shall receive three dollars reward.

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