

and others, who had large families, and were all at once, they robbed in so egregious a manner, that they were hardly left a rag of clothing, save what was on their backs. The mischief committed in the houses forsoke of their inhabitants, the destruction of fences, barns, stables, and other out-houses, the breaking of chests of drawers, desks, tables, and other furniture, the burning and carrying away of carpenters and shoemakers tools, are entirely beyond description.

Now this is only a faint account of the justice and humanity of the British troops. They fully answer the character of the wicked, whose mercies are cruelty. For in addition to all, they imposed an oath of absolute submission to the British king, turning the declaration confined in Howe's proclamation; into an oath, and causing the people solemnly to swear the same. Those who took the oath, and obtained what were fully called protections, there are instances with us of these being robbed and plundered afterwards, but the most general way in which they obtained the effects of such people was by bargaining with them for their hay, cattle, or corn, promising them pay, but none with us ever received any thing worth mentioning.

"I might have observed, that it was not only the common soldiers that plundered and stole, but also their officers, and not merely low officers and subalterns, but some of high rank were aiding and abetting, and reaped the profits of this business; no less a person than gen. Erskine, who lodged at Daniel Baldwin's, had his room furnished from a neighbouring house with many chairs and tables, a considerable part of which was taken away with his baggage when he went to Elizabeth-Town. Col. M'Donald, who made his quarters at Alexander Robinson's, had his room furnished in the same felonious manner, and the furniture was carried off, as though it had been part of his baggage. Another colonel, whose name I have forgot, lent his servants who took away a sick woman's bed, Mrs. Crane's, from under her, for him to sleep upon. But there is no end of describing their inhuman conduct. And what they practised in this town seems, as far as I can hear, only a sample of their general treatment of the inhabitants wherever they came.

ALEX. M'WHORTER."

(To be continued.)

To the P U B L I C.

In CONGRESS, January 15, 1777.

RESOLVED, That the Continental Treasurer be empowered and directed to borrow money on loan-office certificates; that the same be countersigned by the auditor-general for the time being.

RESOLVED, February 22, 1777.

That all certificates issuing after the first emission, be signed by Michael Hillegas, Esq; treasurer, or Samuel Hillegas, and countersigned agreeable to the resolutions of Congress, of the 3d of October, 1776, and 15th of January, 1777.

RESOLVED, February 26, 1777.

That an interest of SIX PER CENT. per annum, be allowed on all sums of money already borrowed, and directed to be borrowed, on loan-office certificates, although such certificates mention only an interest of four per centum per annum.

Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Baltimore, March 3, 1777. The Continental Treasurer, in obedience to the above resolutions, begs leave to acquaint the public, that he is ready to receive on loan, in behalf of the United States, any sums of money, not less than two hundred dollars, that may be brought him, at his office, in Market-street.

All Printers of newspapers in the United States, are requested to insert the above resolutions and advertisement in their papers for one month.

M. HILLEGAS, Con. Treasurer.

In CONGRESS, February 25, 1777.

TO the end that the most speedy stop may be put to the pernicious and unsoldierly practice of deserting, and that such offenders who receive the public money for services that they design not to perform, may be certainly and speedily carried back to the corps they have deserted from, it is earnestly recommended to the committees of observation or inspection in these United States, that they cause diligent enquiry to be made in their respective counties or districts, for all deserters that may be lurking and harboured therein, and cause such, whenever found, to be immediately secured and conveyed to the nearest continental officer, and all such officers are hereby directed to receive and secure such deserters, that they may be safely delivered to their respective regiments, and brought to a speedy trial and exemplary punishment; and farther to pay to the persons delivering such deserters, eight dollars for each deserter so brought and delivered, and twelve ninetieths of a dollar, in lieu of expences, for every mile from the place where the deserter was taken up, to the place where he is delivered to the officer.

ARTICLES OF WAR. SECTION VI.

Art. 1. All officers and soldiers, who having received pay, or having been duly enlisted in the service of the United States, shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as by a court-martial shall be inflicted.

Art. 2. Any non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall, without leave from his commanding officer, absent himself from his troop or company, or from any detachment with which he shall be commanded, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a court-martial.

Art. 3. No non-commissioned officer or soldier shall enlist himself in any other regiment, troop, or company, without a regular discharge from the regiment, troop or company, in which he last served, on the penalty of being reputed a deserter, and suffering accordingly: And in case any officer shall knowingly receive and entertain such non-commissioned officer or soldier, or shall not, after his being discovered to be a deserter, immediately confine him, and give notice thereof to the corps in which he last served, he, the said officer so offending, shall by a court-martial be cashiered.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolve, and the three articles of war, be published in the several newspapers for six months, and the several printers are hereby requested to publish them accordingly.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

April 26. Our last advices from South-Carolina are, that the important bridge of communication between Sullivan's island and the main (an immense work) is so far completed, by the indefatigable attention and constant attendance of general Gadsden, that it only requires ballast, in some parts, to fill up and make it solid. That the Rutledge privateer of that port, commanded by capt. Jacob Milligan, had lately carried into a safe port, a brig of ten guns, from the coast of Guinea, with forty-two slaves, a large quantity of elephants teeth, &c. which he took almost under the guns of a fort at Barbados, and in sight of several vessels at anchor, one of which, supposed a man of war, weighed and gave him chase.

A letter from a merchant in London to his correspondent in Basseterre, St. Kitts, says, "the captures of so many Jamaica ships, has occasioned a rapid rise in the price of sugars, Mr. Manning, two days ago, sold some of Mr. Taylor's sugars, at forty-eight shillings and sixpence. It has also occasioned the stoppage of a very capital Jamaica house, (Satigold and Jackson) whose unsettled negotiations amount to the enormous sum of near eight hundred thousand pounds. Another Jamaica house is said to have given way, and those have involved a banking house here, and a house at Bristol, the last for fifty thousand pounds. Mr. Jackson above mentioned, it is said, waited on lord North, to acquaint him, that it was necessary to give his house some support, or their ruin would involve so many others, and the consequences would be too fatal to mercantile credit. He said they have a large sum in specie on board the Pallas frigate, one of the Jamaica convoys, which is not yet arrived. It is generally imagined that sugar will be at fifty odd shillings per cent. Many more failures are apprehended."

In a late London paper is the following paragraph: "they write from Paris that a certain Scotch officer, having imprudently expressed a desire of affronting bilas Dean, ambassador from the American congress, was prevented by an order of court, authorizing the putting him under arrest; but that, through the good offices and generous interposition of Mr. Dean, the Scotchman, after proper concessions, was discharged."

By advices from Georgia we are informed, that general McIntosh, who commands the troops in that state, was lately wounded in an engagement with a part of the garrison from St. Augustine and some Indians, of which he is recovering. In this action the enemy gave way, and were pursued by our people, who found much blood on the ground they occupied; but could not discover how many were killed or wounded, the savages of Britain, as well as those of the woods, having a custom of moving their dead and wounded from the field of battle. On the part of our troops, there were only four men killed and three wounded. The Indians that were engaged, did not belong to any of the principal nations, but were the scattered remains of some ancient tribes; seduced into this cruel war by presents from Stuart, and collected and commanded by one Brown, a man whose conduct has been directed by the most infamous principles; but all their machinations and presents have not been able to prevail on the Creeks to take any part against us, who are the most formidable nation in that part of the continent.

A writer in a late Connecticut paper says, that, "upon reading several extracts from the last London papers, it appears a matter worthy of speculation (if not of moment) to see that the British court, crown, and publish success, in every manœuvre, they or their commanders take against the Americans, without the least regard to the event. The evil of such a measure is as obvious, as the purpose they intend to effect by it. Doubtless they have in view not only the keeping up the spirit of the nation, in order to facilitate the execution of their fallacious plans, but that the other courts in Europe should obtain information from them, and thereby prevent their taking that part in favour of America, which otherwise they would, upon a just representation of matters of fact. It is not to be doubted but that the general congress have taken such methods, and used such precaution therein, as to be able to transmit to foreign powers the most authenticated accounts of matters, as they may in fact exist from time to time. However the Britons may exult from the seeming appearance of a temporary advantage, and show to the world a true picture of their minds, strength and cause; yet the Americans will embrace the kind admonition, and avail themselves of great advantage thereby; for why should they thus exult in the shadow, if they had any expectation of obtaining the substance. As America is now in a state of infancy, and, with the smiles of heaven, will soon be in a capacity to take her rank with the empires and governments in the world, she may be furnished with no small advantage in laying a permanent basis, which may be continually increasing in grandeur and happiness till time shall be no more, in that she has an opportunity of taking a view of the cause of the rise and fall of all the nations that have passed before her, and see wherein they have failed in establishing principles of government, and how pride and unbounded thirst for honour and grandeur have pervaded kingdoms and states, and put a period to their existence."

April 29. We learn by an express arrived in town yesterday, that gen. Carleton is within forty-five miles of Concord. The garrison at that place is commanded by general Wayne.

May 1. The following accounts have been received by congress relating to the enemies attack upon the village of Danbury, in Connecticut.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Fairfield, April 23. The enemy, from twenty-four sail of shipping, have landed at Compo, their number is yet unknown, but it is of the last importance to be ready to oppose them. You will therefore immediately muster your regiments, and march day and night till you get here. As soon as you get twenty men of a company together, send them on immediately under a proper officer, and send on the rest as fast as possible; bring all the ammunition you can get.

G. S. SILLIMAN, brig. gen. Joseph Cook, Esq; &c.

Danbury, 4 o'clock, p. m. April, 1777. The enemy are just entered the town, and I am reduced to the hard necessity of leaving the plain and the greatest part of the stores, and repairing to the heights with about 30

continental troops, and as many again militia. I had sent expresses every way for succour, but could not come worth mentioning. The enemy are said to be two thousand.

Brig. gen. M'Dougall. JED. HUNTINGTON.

"I have just received intelligence, by Mr. Isaac Eaton, who this moment came from within sight of the enemy, and that he saw the enemy march two miles towards Peck's-Kill: He likewise says that he saw the greater part of Danbury on fire.

Cortland's-Manor, eleven o'clock, 27th April. Brig. gen. M'Dougall.

"Dear Sir, Sunday 12 o'clock, April 27. The enemy left Danbury at about 8 o'clock this morning, and now are at Ridgbery. It is uncertain what road they will take. Their force is supposed to be from 1500 to 2000.

Gen. M'Dougall. JOHN FISLER.

"I have for this two-hours viewed the enemy; their whole body is marching for Ridgefield; I suppose they are already in the Ridgefield road, amount to between seven or eight hundred men. They have with them five ox teams, fifty or sixty cattle, and the same number of the p. They have a number of horseteers with them, and march in great haste. I have no accounts of any force of ours, but hear a number of scattering facts in the rear.

Salem, 2 o'clock, p. m. 27 April. Brig. gen. M'Dougall. JOHN CAMPBELL.

Saugatuck-Bridge, 9 o'clock, Monday morning, the 28th April, 1777.

"Dear General, The reason of my not writing to you sooner was, that I could gain no later intelligence than your Campbell's second letter must have contained, which I learned by the rider that carried it.

"When we got within a mile of Ridgefield, which was all in flames to appearance, it was dark, and we knew not where to find either gen. Arnold or gen. Wooster, but from various reports found the former was somewhere in front of the enemy, with about 400 men, and the latter in rear, with half the number.

"We then engaged two guides, who were to conduct us to gen. Arnold, who we were made to believe was within four or five miles of us. They carried us from place to place, till we arrived at Norwalk about twelve o'clock, where we refreshed, and set out for this post in company with col. Lamb, who was at Norwalk. It was day-break when we got here, and the general went to Greenfield, where we posted also as fruitlessly as before, he having just set off from this place, where there are about 300 men, and more coming in constantly. Gen. Silliman is also here. Gen. Arnold says, that the enemy are about two thousand men, and are commanded by general Erskine, I am told. It is also said that governor Tryon is with them. Several persons inform that gen. Wooster is badly wounded; but that he has harrassed the enemy very considerably, and taken some of their baggage. Gen. Arnold told me, when I first arrived, that they had taken the Norwalk road; but that is contradicted, and it is said they are coming here. In consequence of which the troops are now in motion to meet them.

"The shipping lie where they landed the troops, which seems to indicate that they will return where they set out, which is on the other side the river, about a mile or two hence, to the eastward.

"One o'clock, p. m. I did myself the honour to wait on general Arnold, who made the best disposition of his little army on an advantageous situation, that obliged the enemy to cross the river higher up, where the general harrassed them in their march as much as circumstances would permit. They are all over now, and running as fast as they can to an eminence opposite the shipping. Colonel Huntington, under the command of gen. Silliman, is harrassing their rear.

"Half past one o'clock. Just got the rear of our troops over the bridge, both Huntington's and the others.

"Dr. Wood is just got here, and says that he saved some loads of tents; nearly all the harness, &c. but lost his own effects entirely.

"The enemy are crossed the post road on their way to the beach, and we are skirmishing and cannonading. Three shot have entered the house where I am now writing, but without any damage to any body. If they could but be kept one day longer from embarking; it would throw them all into our hands.

"General Arnold behaves with the greatest intrepidity and coolness. Yours, &c. &c. H. HUNTON.

General ARNOLD to general M'Dougall. West-Riding, April 27, 1777. Ten o'clock.

"On Friday evening last, the enemy landed about two thousand men at Compo, eight miles west of Fairfield, and on Saturday, two o'clock p. m. reached Danbury, which was abandoned by a handful of our men. The enemy immediately began burning and destroying our magazines of provisions, &c. Last night, at half past eleven, gen. Wooster, gen. Silliman, and myself, with six hundred militia, arrived at Bethel, eight miles from Danbury. The excessive heavy rains rendered their arms useless, and many of the troops were much fatigued, having marched thirty miles in the course of the day, without refreshment.

"At six this morning, we divided the troops into two divisions, being uncertain if they would return by way of Fairfield or Norwalk. One division was stationed on each road, on a cross road, where they could support each other. We have this minute information, that at nine this morning the enemy set fire to the meeting-house and most of the buildings in town; and had taken the rout to Newbury, leading either to Peck's-Kill or Terry-Town. We imagine they are destined to the latter, as we hear they landed eight hundred men there yesterday morning. We propose following them immediately, in hopes of coming up with the rear, and hope you will be able to take them in front. I am, with esteem, Sir, &c. B. ARNOLD.

Paugatuck, three miles east Norwalk, 28 April, 1777. Six o'clock, p. m.

"Soon after I wrote you yesterday, I found the enemy on their march for Ridgefield; it eleven o'clock we arrived about one hour before them with 600 men; we