

Hotham (agreeable to my instructions from the vice-admiral) to proceed with his majesty's frigates the *Brunce*, *Mercury*, and *King's-Fisher*, and also all the transports with the troops under the command of lieutenant-general Clinton (the *Grand Duke of Russia* excepted, which was judged to be too large) by the way of the Sound, whilst I proceeded with the great ships, some frigates, and the last named transport, by Sandy-Hook to the southward of Long-Island. I sailed the 1st instant, and on the 5th joined commodore Hotham in the Sound, in Black-Point bay, a place highly judiciously chosen for the protection of the transports against the violence of a strong N.W. wind, which blew the night before. The 6th, I turned down with the fleet, to be as near as possible the place of our destination. At four the next morning the wind sprung up at W. S.W. and by three o'clock in the afternoon the whole fleet came to an anchor off Weaver's-Cove, Rhode-Island. The following morning capt. Caulfield (who had the direction of the flat-boats) landed all the troops without opposition; and I have the pleasure to inform their lordships that Rhode-Island, with the isles adjacent, are now in the possession of gen. Clinton.

Capt. Wallace, of the *Experiment*, led the fleet in by the west of Narraganset passage. An arrangement was made for covering the transports; but we only passed two works without guns, and intercepted a brig of 160 tons (which the *Experiment* took) laden with pipe and hoghead staves, and bees-wax. On the first appearance of the fleet, three rebel privateers, of thirty-four, thirty and twenty-eight guns, went up from Newport to Providence, where they are now, with several others; and I shall hope to put an effectual stop to any farther mischief from that nest of pirates. General Clinton sends one of his aid-de-camps in the *Mercury*, with his dispatches; and I have directed capt. Montagu to send his lieutenant express with mine. Inclosed is a list of the rebel privateers at Providence, commonly called the continental fleet.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient humble servant,  
P. PARKER.

A list of the rebel ships and privateers at Providence, commonly called the continental fleet.

Warren, — Hopkins and John Hopkins, commanders, 32 guns. Columbus, — Olney, 30 guns. Providence. Abraham Whipple, 28 guns. Blaze-Castle, — Monro, 22 guns. Ship-Jane, W. Chace (privateer) 20 six-pounders.  
A brig, — 12 guns. Sloop Providence, Hoysted Hacker, 12 guns. P. PARKER.  
Cbatbam, Rhode Island, Dec. 11, 1776.

From the LONDON GAZETTE, Feb. 15  
His majesty's ship the *Experiment*, arrived at Plymouth on the 9th instant, with a letter from commodore Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stephens, of which the following is a copy:  
Cbatbam, Rhode-Island Harbour, Jan. 7, 1777.

SIR,  
In consequence of orders from the viscount Howe, I have sent the *Asia* and *Experiment* to England. Nothing material has happened since my letter of the 11th past by the *Mercury*. The continental fleet is in Providence river beyond our reach at present; and in addition to the last list I sent, there are, as I am informed, about fifteen small privateer sloops, from eight to twelve guns. The 18th December I re-took the *Betsy* transport; she came in here by mistake, and endeavoured to push by us, the wind being west, and blowing strong. She was taken the 5th December by the *Alfred*, having parted company the day before with his majesty's ship the *Flora*. And the 28th a small privateer of eight guns appearing off this port, the *Cerberus* sloop after her; the privateer escaped, but the *Cerberus* returned the 1st instant with two prizes, and one brig re-taken, as per list inclosed.

I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
P. PARKER.

BASSETTERE (in St. Christopher's) April 9.

A store ship bound to New-York, has been taken and carried into Port-Pierre, Guadaloupe; part of her lading has been retaken by the *Seaford*, in a vessel bound to Martinico. We suppose the admiral has sent to demand her, which, whether complied with or not, will bring our good friends the French to an explanation.

April 12. We have collected the following particulars from persons lately arrived from the Windward-Islands, and from English papers:

The pirates have cut two vessels out of Tobago, and there are 26 pirate vessels out of Martinico, cruising to windward, for the outward-bound ships, chiefly manned with Frenchmen; one of these pirates, who took a brig from Corke, after a short engagement, had not a single man on board who could speak any English but "strike to congress." So many of the Corke fleet have been carried into Martinico, that beef is now selling for forty shillings per barrel. The governor gives the pirates every encouragement—they fit out their vessels there, or rather the French are all turned pirates. In particular, they are now cutting a prize snow down to make a pirate of her. The English sailors carried in in the prizes are encouraged to run a few dollars in debt, and then have the option of going on board a pirate, or going to gaol. We should not omit doing justice to the spirited behaviour of governor Morris, of St. Vincent's. He sent to the French governor to demand the English prisoners, offering to pay their debts. The demand was immediately complied with, and he recovered, at one time, to his country, twenty-six stout fellows, who immediately entered on board a privateer which he is fitting out himself. He offers commissions to every man who will give in proper security, observing that, when every cowardly foreigner is fighting under pirate colours, he will run the risk of granting letters of reprisal to his countrymen. The prizes, amongst which are several Guinea ships, brought into Martinico, are sold immediately and publicly, without condemnation. The best slaves are sold for ten joes a-piece.  
The *Seaford* has taken three French pirates and a sloop loaded with ammunition, supposed to be one of those loaded from the French ships that have been freighted on account of Franklin, lately arrived at Martinico, and consigned to the agent Bingham, who commissions all the French pirates.

April 16. So eager are the French for piracy, that many planters in Martinico have sold their property, and vested it in pirate vessels with the permission of their governor. In short, St. Pierre is full of pirates and their prizes. Had ever British thunder a more proper object than the destruction of such a thievish place? Or could any governor deserve the exaltation of Haman more than he, who, in a vile association with thieves and robbers, prostitutes the honour of a great king, his matter, and sullies the character of a gallant, loyal people? But indeed, why do not our governors send to demand all British property carried into French and other neutral ports? An answer of restitution or refusal would be well worth the trouble. An open enemy is much better than a secret enemy, and we trust Britain will yet take severe vengeance on every pitiful associate of the American rebels.

One piece of management in the French deserves recommendation. If the vessel they take be too good to be sunk or burnt, they immediately change her from a ship to a sloop, or from a sloop to a brig, and so stand it out that the owners are mistaken in their challenge; this, in Martinico, is done at an out bay called Larmontaa. There the pirates first bring in their prizes and divide the spoil, which, if slaves, they are immediately dispersed over the country, and sold for what can be got for them. Two slave ships were carried in there about the beginning of March; one *Enfanton* purchased both cargoes from the pirates, and sold them afterwards all over the islands.

Orle-Piegeitt, who was of service to Dargout in the sedition of St. Domingo, and is now his chief favourite, a fellow of no visible property, is the ostensible owner of four pirate vessels, and is said to be concerned in many more for his excellency's benefit. Besides the flag and rendezvous for pirates in the heart of St. Pierre, there is another flag and rendezvous close to the garrison of Port Royal. There the pirates are publicly careened and supplied with every conveniency. Lord Macartney has sent several pressing demands to the French governors at Martinico and St. Lucia, to get the English property restored which has been carried in by the pirates, but the answer has been, "they knew nothing of the matter." Yet it is to be supposed his lordship will continue the demand, till he forces out of those pirate governors, something like an explanation. [Ob! how the royalists flourish and sing.]

On Friday the 11th inst. all the forts and batteries at St. Eustatius, cannonaded his majesty's pilot boat *Balaboo*, for contaminating herself by going near a vessel which the Dutch supposed to be a pirate or rebel. The Dutch ought to publish a reward for the best poem on the subject. The vessel which the *Balaboo* spoke, was from Demararo. The *Balaboo* had her colours flying and all sail set, and only passed within hail of the vessel; but conscious guilt made Myneher suppose it was one of her beloved rebels. (Tory news)

BOSTON, May 15.

By capt. M'Cloud, who arrived here yesterday from Guadaloupe, we learn, that a letter was received there from a gentleman of credit at Martinico, dated April 16, advising that a fleet of transports with 6000 troops on board, under convoy of 10 sail of the line and 8 frigates, had arrived there from old France, but their destination was unknown.

We have advice from Dartmouth, that a vessel of war, belonging to one of the United States, has lately captured six vessels bound from Europe for the enemy at New-York, laden with provisions and dry goods; three of which are safely arrived in port. It is said they were part of a provision fleet consisting of about 40 sail without convoy.

PROVIDENCE, Rhode-Island, May 10.

On Monday last gen. Percy, the hero of Lexington, (weary of the American war, though covered with laurels) sailed from Newport for England, in a ship mounting 14 guns only. The command has devolved on gen. Prescott.

Several persons from the eastward inform, that the continental brig *Calot*, which was lately drove ashore by the *Milford* frigate, is arrived at Portsmouth. It appears that the enemy, after getting the brig off, put 20 hands on board, and ordered her for Halifax; but the greater part of the crew being impressed men, they confined the others, and steered a different course.

FISH-KILL, May 22.

Extra of a letter from Morrisfort, May 18, 1777.  
Last week we had a smart engagement with the enemy, near Piscataway, we drove them in, and killed some, when immediately they were reinforced, and advanced a second time, but were again repulsed. I have been informed that, in the two actions, we killed, wounded and took prisoners, near two hundred; our loss was about twenty or twenty-five missing. Three deserters came over to us next day, and all say the above accounts is very near what they lost. I think head-quarters will be moved to a place within three miles of Bound-Brook; and then for a slap at the Philistines.

We are informed that 200 waggons have lately been sent from Long-Island to the enemy's head-quarters, at Brunswick, in order, it is supposed, to assist in removing their baggage, &c. from that place.

By a letter from Albany we learn, that the Tories, who were in arms near that place, are almost crushed. A few days ago forty of them were brought in and committed to gaol, among whom were two officers. Another party are out in search of one capt. M'Alpine, who has been for several months on his parole; this faithless British officer has with him sixty men and six captains, who are of the lower class of people. That some of the leaders of the tory faction will soon receive their proper punishment. Nothing new from the westward and northward—all was quiet there.

PHILADELPHIA.

Extra of a letter from Ab Swamp, dated May 20, 1777.  
Last Saturday week gen. Stephen ordered eight hundred men, from different regiments, to muster at col. Cook's quarters, about nine miles from Matochin meeting-house. In the afternoon they marched over Bismar Swamp, and advanced to the place where the enemy kept their picket, and where the enemy, having observed our motions, had collected about three hundred, whom our advanced guard engaged for some

time, and making a feint retreat over a narrow causeway, turned suddenly upon the enemy, and repulsed them with a considerable slaughter. By this time we were reinforced with six companies of light infantry, and other troops, when the skirmish became general, was pretty warm for some time, and the enemy gave way; but being reinforced with a large body, and artillery from Brunswick, we were at last obliged to retreat to a hill, they not daring to pursue us. The next morning we sent a flag to Bonamtown, carrying a list of our men; in the afternoon we received it, according to which they had one subaltern, whose leg had been cut off, and twenty-three privateers prisoners, most of whom were wounded, and also informed us of two of our men killed.

By the best accounts from the inhabitants since come out of Brunswick, the enemy had near a hundred killed, and many wounded; this may seem very extraordinary, but when you consider that we had a number of good riflemen, and many excellent marksmen, well posted in the woods, and other suitable places, the enemy in the open field, and frequently in confusion, I think you will be reconciled to the probability of their loss so far exceeding ours. This action was conducted by gen. Maxwell, and the troops were Jersey-men, Pennsylvanians and Virginians.

Extra of a letter from Lewisfort, dated May 23, 1777, to the hon. navy board of this state, received this morning.

"A fifty gun ship is come into our road; and this morning, at six o'clock, the two frigates, that lay below the Brown, made sail with the wind at N. N. E. and are making up the bay. The *Roebuck* and fifty gun ship are likewise making upwards, with several tenders, viz. one brig, two sloops, and a pilot boat. The wind being partly ahead, they will not get farther than the Brown this tide; and the two ships, that weighed from the Brown, will only get up to the Cross Ledge."

Extra of a letter from the Jerseys, dated Chatham, May 19.

"Since my last, a considerable number of general Stephen's division, being hastily assembled from the different posts, attacked the 42d, 2d battalion of the 71st, the 33d, and six companies of light infantry, posted at Bonamtown, Piscataway, and in that neighbourhood. It was a bold enterprize, as the enemy might be easily reinforced from Brunswick, the Landing, or Amboy. We had learned the hour of their dining, and gave them time to take a drink, and made a sudden attack on them about half an hour after four. Among their killed was major M'Pherion, 3 subs, 3 sergeants, and as we are informed by a person from Piscataway, 60 privateers. Major Frazer of the 71st, and capt. Stewart of the light infantry wounded. It is said 120 privateers were wounded, 40 of them dangerously and carried to New-York. We lost 2 killed, 1 captain, 3 subs, and 11 privateers wounded, 1 sub dangerously wounded, and taken with about 12 of his division.

"This great advantage gained over the best of the enemy, has compelled them to send from New-York, one battalion of Hessian grenadiers, the 10th and 55th British regiments to reinforce these posts."

Description of counterfeit thirty dollar bills.

They are done in imitation of those dated May 10, 1775; the words in the face of the bill are pretty well imitated, but not so uniform as in the true bills; in the first line the top of the y in the word thirty appears deficient, and the words Continental Currency in the borders are cut finer than the genuine bills. The back of the bill is not so well imitated; the flowers more open, the rays of the sun in the right hand device much smaller, and the ship appears plainer than in the true ones. The paper of the counterfeits not so thick as the true bills, is smoother, and appears of a bluish dingy colour. On the least inspection they may be seen to be done from a copper-plate, the letters of which do not make any impression in the paper, like printing-types. We think, after this notice, the public cannot be deceived by them.

By order of the treasury board,  
JOHN GIBSON, auditor-general.

By an officer of distinction, who was in the late action at Danbury, we learn, that our people took 40 prisoners, among them a captain, who was wounded; also a good deal of baggage, and between 40 and 50 English horses belonging to the officers of the enemy, which shews they made a precipitate retreat; that a number of horses they had taken from us were afterwards retaken; that governor Tryon was dangerously wounded in one of his legs by a musket ball; and that they have since found the body of a lieutenant, and the skulls of about 80 of the enemy who were killed.

ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 5.

In COUNCIL, Annapolis, June 4, 1777.

IT being represented, that many of the soldiers, who were enlisted in the Maryland battalion, have not joined the first regiment; and others, who were enlisted in the independent companies, have not joined the second regiment; but that many of them are secreted and entertained by their acquaintances; It is therefore ordered, that they immediately join some party of the first and second regiments respectively; And the justices of the peace and other civil officers, and all other persons, are requested to be vigilant in enforcing the act of assembly lately passed to prevent desertion.

By order,  
R. RIDGELY, Cl. Cl.

In CONGRESS.

Resolved, Baltimore, Feb. 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.

Extra from the minutes,  
CHARLES THOMSON, sec.

Annapolis, April 16, 1777.

THOMAS HARWOOD, jun. commissioner of the continental loan-office for this state, attends at the treasurer's office, Annapolis, for the purpose of borrowing money agreeable to the above resolves.