

talents and industry; said he was the best minister, and perhaps the ablest man in this country; (here the house laughed heartily) that he was not to be hurt by the shafts of that vehement member who spoke last.

Lord Mulgrave spoke next in the debate, said the British nation had never known a first commissioner of the admiralty equal to the present in capacity and meritorious services. Lord North also got up in behalf of lord Sandwich; said his majesty had in that noble earl a very capable and zealous servant, who ought not to be thus attacked in his absence, from a collection of loose surmises; the most laborious and eminent public services had been rendered this empire since he came to the naval administration; neither could any of his predecessors (upon the whole) boast equal pretensions to the applause of this country, and the respect of every unprejudiced individual.—Mr. Luttrell was called upon to reply to the several advocates for the noble earl, and maintain his former ground. He told lord Mulgrave, he was not apt to become a convert in principle or persuasion, after he had once formed his mind upon the best lights his understanding could furnish; that the two noble lords on the opposite bench did him injustice, when they imputed his conduct and accusations to anonymous slander, or a vague, unsubstantial testimony of any nature whatever; that, when this boasted service of the noble earl came to be enquired into, you would find he had been entrusted annually with twice as much of the public money as any one of his predecessors in office; therefore he ought certainly to have the fleet in a more formidable and splendid condition; but certain it was, that a great part of this treasure was not applied to the uses or which it was granted; there had been a multitude of errors, and much corruption, which he was prepared to produce evidence of, whenever the house would give a candid hearing. Mr. Luttrell then moved, as the first evidence necessary, on which to establish the truth of his charges, and even for the material information of parliament, independent of the proposed address to the king to displace the earl of Sandwich, "I hat the proper officers display on the table the latest weekly accounts received at the admiralty, prior to the opening of the present session of parliament, from the admiral or commander in chief of all his majesty's ships and vessels of the several departments of Portsmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth, together with the latest weekly accounts received at the said board, prior to the commencement of this session, of all ships and vessels of war employed on channel service, or on the coast of Great-Britain or Ireland." Mr. Luttrell said, that he would shew by these accounts, that the information given to both houses of parliament, and the public, on the first day of this session, of the state of your navy, when it was officially alleged that you had 23 ships of the line fit to take the seas, and many more in great forwardness; and that your fleet at home was then a full match for the combined squadrons of France and Spain, should they visit your coasts, was a dangerous, wicked, and wilful imposition on parliament, and the whole nation. In short, Sir, if the people of England knew the real state of your marine power and resources, and the great superiority of your natural enemies in these seas, they would scarce suffer so many ships and men to be dispatched to the furthest quarter of the globe, even on a more rational and profitable pursuit than the reduction of your American colonies to despotism, before you have secured the seat of your empire from invasion and ruin.—The attorney-general combated against taking the motion, and the friends of administration were for throwing it out without further discussion; but Mr. Thomas's ownshend, after shewing that the motion was strictly parliamentary, and of material import to the business then before the house, seconded it in very forcible language, and asked, what opinion any unprejudiced person could entertain of those gentlemen who so strenuously encouraged the honourable gentleman in his enquiry, and now shrunk from the trial? This clandestine and unwarranted step of withholding the first official papers, called for by the honourable member, would stamp a sentence on their friend and patron, not much to his honour or his advantage.

PROVIDENCE May 31.

Monday night last a Dr. Walker, and a person by the name of Galloway, two Worcester Tories, were taken at Bristol, and have been since brought here. They had procured a small boat at Freetown, and put off for Rhode-Island; but unfortunately mistaking the land, ran their bark ashore near our main guard at Bristol. On being challenged by a sentinel, their answer was, friends to the British troops, and were congratulating each other on their happy arrival at Rhode-Island, when they discovered their fatal error.

NEW-LONDON, May 23.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of distinction in the northern army, to his honour governor Trumbull, dated Albany, May 11, 1777.

"I am happy to find matters in better train than I feared; since general Gates's arrival affairs are putting on a new face; artillery, stores, ammunition, &c. are getting forward as fast as roads and almost continual rains will admit; near 3000 men are arrived at Ticonderoga. The tory conspiracy and intentions are really shocking, but the early discovery of their designs, which Providence has wonderfully effected, and the vigorous means pursuing with them, give, I hope, an earnest that their machinations will be defeated.

"After writing the enclosed, authentic intelligence from Canada, informs us, that the enemy's magazines in that country are almost all destroyed; seven different repositories of stores, provisions, &c. have been burnt—that there are about 4000 men now there, provisions scarce; there is no appearance but of scouting parties, on the lakes—about 60 lately discovered below Crown-Point, took the woods westward, supposed with design to come upon the communication between this and Ticonderoga, their rout is so intercepted, that the chance is greatly against their safe return. Armed craft is building on Lake George for the security of that water—the chain in this river is extremely well fixed and very strong; hope it may prove effectual. General Washington, we hear, has withdrawn his troops from Princeton, and given the enemy a fair opening to go to the Delaware; this must make a discovery of their views. Gen. Wayne has a letter from a friend below, informing him, that Burgoyne is to

fail from England the first week in March, with 15,000 troops; this may be true; it will be best to be upon the look-out. I wish Massachusetts and New-Hampshire were thoroughly awakened to the necessity and urgency of their troops being in this department; they cannot sleep much longer; the horrors of war, and the din of arms, must arouse the most drowsy."

Last saturday a considerable number of ships and other vessels, appeared off Stanford, having some flat-bottomed boats with them.

And last Wednesday about 20 sail of the enemy's ships from Rhode Island, passed this harbour, and went up the Sound.

The Perfus, an English man of war, has taken a French vessel, mounting 20 guns, and carried her into Dominico.

PHILADELPHIA.

Extract of a letter from St. Piers, Martinico, May 28.

"I have just time to inform you of the loss of the Oliver Cromwell. She was taken on Monday the 19th, by the Beaver sloop of war, between St Vincents and St. Lucia; the captain and several of the men, 'tis reported, were killed."

Last night arrived an express from Jerseys, by which we learn, that the enemy were in motion at 1 o'clock on yesterday morning, but which way was not known. That gen. Sullivan was hourly receiving reinforcements from the Jersey militia, and was within six miles of the enemy, where he determined to make a stand if they came that way; and that he had taken one of the enemy's light horse, who was with a small party reconnoitring.

Core's-Ferry, June 15, 1777, eleven o'clock at night.

DEAR GENERAL,

"I have received no intelligence from general Washington since four o'clock last evening, at which time the enemy were encamped at Somerset Court-house, supposed to be 7,000 in number, under the command of generals Howe and Cornwallis. This is doubtless their main body. Their first design seems to have been to have cut off gen. Sullivan's retreat, and possessed themselves of this place; finding gen. Sullivan had frustrated their intentions by a forced march, they appeared to have given over their first design, and now wish to draw gen. Washington from his strong hold; which, if they can effect, probably a body from Brunswick will take possession of it.—Gen. Washington will doubtless disappoint them, as he remains quiet in his encampment. The militia turn out in great numbers in the Jerseys. General Sullivan has gone to Fleming-Town, (12 miles from this) the troops who arrive here are immediately sent after him. I am very fearful the enemy will retire to Brunswick before you arrive with your reinforcements, and oblige us to attack them at a disadvantage; for fight them we must; when all our reinforcements are in we cannot avoid it with honour. Our men are in high spirits, and in four days we shall have upwards of 20,000 men. General Putnam has 8000 men with him; gen. Washington has wrote, three-days since, for 4000 to be sent immediately to him. I expect every minute to hear from our army and the enemy. Every intelligence of consequence shall be forwarded to you directly.

I am, &c. B. ARNOLD."

GENERAL ORDERS.

For the future, none but printed furloughs to be given to soldiers. Any soldier absent from his camp, with only a written furlough, will be taken up, and his furlough deemed a forgery.

Extract from the general orders, MORGAN CONNOR, adj. gen. pro. tem.

In CONGRESS, June 16, 1777.

Ordered, That the letters which have passed between general Washington and general Howe on the subject of the exchange of prisoners, be published; and that the several printers of news-papers throughout the continent be requested to insert them.

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

General Washington's of the 9th of April, to which the following is general Howe's answer, has been published some time since.

General Howe to General Washington.

SIR, New-York, 21st April, 1777.

I HAVE received your letter of the 9th instant, concerning the requisition of lieut. col. Walcot, a copy of which came enclosed.

Though I observe that officer has meant to insist very strongly on the justice of the claim for the return of prisoners in your possession, which was one of the objects of his appointment, I do not see reason to suspect that any personal incivility was intended by the terms in which his opinion is expressed.

Without entering into a needless discussion of the candour or illiberality of the sentiments, on which your arguments are founded; yet, since you are pleased to assert, that—"the usage of your prisoners was such as could not be justified,—that this was proclaimed by the concurrent testimony of all who came out,—that their appearance sanctified the assertion,—and that melancholy experience, in the speedy death of a large part of them, stamped it with infallible certainty." These, I say, being what you are pleased to assume as facts, I cannot omit making some observations upon them.

It might perhaps suit with the policy of those who persist in every expedient to cherish the popular delusion; that the released prisoners should complain of ill usage, or, their captivity might really form a grievous comparison with the state they were in before they were persuaded to encounter the vicissitudes of war. But if their sufferings were as great as you think yourself authorised to assert, a dispassionate consideration of the following indisputable and notorious facts will point out the cause to which they are to be in a great measure ascribed.

All the prisoners were confined in the most airy buildings, and on board the largest transports in the fleet, which were the very healthiest places of reception that could possibly be provided for them.

They were supplied with the same provisions, both in quantity and quality, as were allowed to the king's troops not on service, some accidental instances excepted, wherein however the omission, when known, was immediately remedied.

Near one half of the whole number of prisoners, whose diseases appeared to require peculiar care, as well as separation from the rest, were at different times received into the British hospitals, and their own surgeons, without restriction, supplied with medicines for the remaining sick, until it was discovered that they disputed not to dispose of large quantities by private sale.

From this short state of facts, it is evident that your prisoners were provided with proper habitations, sufficient and wholesome food, and medicines. Nor do I know of any comfort or assistance, compatible with their situation as prisoners, of which they were in want, excepting clothing; the relief to their distress in want, and the article of money, of which you were repeatedly advised, and they had claim to receive from your care, was neglected or refused, while they were furnished with every other necessary I was in a situation to supply.

To what cause the speedy death of a large part of them is to be attributed, I cannot determine, but your own experience will suggest to you, whether the army under your command, in the course of the last campaign, was free from such calamitous mortality, though assisted with refreshments from all parts of the surrounding provinces.

It is insinuated, that I might have released the prisoners before any of the ill consequences of their detention had taken place: I am obliged to say, the event at least appears to have proved the caution with which I ought to have adopted that expedient. The prisoners were ready to be delivered up, waiting only for your proceeding in the exchange, which you had proposed, and I agreed to.

I admit, that the able men are not to be required by the party, who, contrary to the laws of humanity, through design, or even neglect of reasonable and practicable care, shall have caused the debility of the prisoners he shall have to offer for exchange; but the argument is not applicable to me in the present instance.

I might finally put this question; How is the cause of debility in prisoners to be ascertained? But as we differ so much in the principle upon which your objections are framed; as I think those objections are unsupported by precedent or equity, and that your adherence to them would be a direct and determined violation of the agreement, it becomes unnecessary for me to add more, than to call upon you to fulfil the agreement for returning the prisoners demanded by lieut. col. Walcot.

With respect to the care of Mr. Lee, now professed to be a principal motive for your refusal to continue the exchange of prisoners, it is comprehended, I must insist, under my general and original exception to persons in his circumstances. With due respect, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant, W. HOWE.

To general George Washington, &c. &c.

SIR, New-York, May 22, 1777. "NOT having received an answer to my letter of the 21st of April, I am to request your final decision upon the demand, I then made of the prisoners in your possession, both officers and soldiers, in exchange for those I have returned, and for your determination respecting the prisoners now here, that I may make my arrangements accordingly.

"It is with concern, I receive frequent accounts of the ill treatment still exercised upon lieut. col. Campbell, which I had reason to flatter myself you would have prevented. He has, it is true, been taken out of a common dungeon, where he had been confined with a degree of rigour, that the most atrocious cruelties would not have justified, but he is still kept in the jailor's house, exposed to daily insults from the deluded populace. This usage being repugnant to every sentiment of humanity, and highly unworthy of the character you profess, I am compelled to repeat my complaint against it, and to claim immediate redress to this much injured gentleman. With due respect, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant, Gen. Washington, &c. &c. W. HOWE."

SIR, New-York, June 5, 1777. "SO many days having elapsed, since my letter to you of the 22d May was dispatched, without an answer, and lest by any accident, it should not have gotten to your hands, I am induced to send a duplicate thereof, and to press my request for your final decision, upon the demands therein contained. With due respect, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant, W. HOWE."

General Washington, &c. &c.

General WASHINGTON to General HOWE.

SIR, Middle-Brook, June 10, 1777. YOUR several letters of the 21st of April, 22d of May, and 5th instant, have been received.

Having stated my sentiments in an explicit manner, in my letter of the ninth of April, upon the subject of your demand, and the disagreement between us, I thought it unnecessary to trouble you with a repetition of them. From the complexion of yours of the 21st of April, we appeared to differ so widely, that I could entertain no hopes of a compromise being effected, or that an answer would produce any good end.

But as you have called upon me again for my final determination upon the matter, I shall freely give it, after making some observations upon what you have said, with intention to obviate the objections, on my part, to a compliance with your demand through lieut. col. Walcot.

You admit the principle upon which my objection, to account for the whole number of prisoners sent out by you, is founded, but deny the application, by delicately insinuating, in the first instance, that the ill treatment complained of was an "expedient to cherish popular delusion," and by asserting, in the second, that, supposing their sufferings to have been real, they were to be ascribed to other causes than those assigned by me.

I shall not undertake to determine on whom the charge of endeavouring to excite popular delusion falls with most propriety; but I cannot forbear intimating, that however successful ingenious miscolourings may be in some instances, to perplex the understandings in matters of speculation, yet it is difficult to persuade mankind to doubt the evidence of their senses, and the reality of those facts for which they can appeal to them. Unless this can be done, permit me to assure you, it will always be believed, whatever may be suggested to the contrary, that men could not be in a more deplorable