

Extract of a letter from camp at Middle-Brook, June 28, 1777.

On last Sunday morning the enemy left Brunswick, apparently with an intention to embark; they gave out that they were going to Philadelphia by water; but their real design was, to draw Gen. Washington from the mountains, and force a general engagement. General Howe is sensible of the difficulty of conquering us. He probably expects no more, or but few recruits, and is desirous to put all upon a single throw. Every day will lessen his army and strengthen ours. Their policy, however, was not an overmatch for our prudence. Light parties harassed him, but not in such numbers as to produce any considerable action. Great part of our army, however, has left the mountains, and general Lord Stirling was posted at the short hills with about a thousand men. On Thursday morning, general Howe having reinforced his army with all the marines that could be spared, began his march towards us. By accounts of deserters and others, his numbers were from 12 to 14,000. He met with Lord Stirling's party early in the morning, a smart engagement ensued, and our men stood their ground manfully for a considerable time; but the amazing superiority of numbers obliged them to retreat, and the enemy having flanked them, they lost two pieces of cannon, with a number of men. No return having been yet made, the exact number of killed, &c. cannot be ascertained. General Stirling thinks there were not more than twelve killed, and one captain; but there are near 50 missing. It is a pity that this party could not have been properly reinforced, without hazarding a general battle. But their numbers and distance from our main body was such, that any thing more than covering the retreat of our party would have been dangerous. They continued near the place of engagement that day, and are now at Westfield. Our army is encamped in the old spot, only large bodies are posted at all the passes, and in some advantageous places below the mountains. It is suspected the enemy would force our camp, if possible; but to attack us in the mountains is a thing devoutly to be wished by every one that desires to see the destruction of the British army.

"I must not omit to mention a little affair, that happened in the late engagement. The fire growing hot, and our men beginning to retreat, a British officer singly rode up to a cannon that was playing on the enemy, and with his pistols and hanger forced every man from it, then seeing Lord Stirling, he cried, "Come here, you damned rebel, and I will do for you." Lord Stirling answered him, by directing the fire of four marksmen upon him, which presently silenced the hardy fool, by killing him on the spot. Our men recovered the field-piece which their want of small arms obliged them to abandon."

In CONGRESS, May 29, 1777.

Resolved, That no persons, horses, or carriages, going to the army with provisions, and returning from thence, be pressed on any pretence whatever.

Extract from the minutes, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Ordered, That this be published and continued in all the news papers.

CHARLESTOWN, (S. C.) May 19.

The Priscilla, a privateer schooner belonging to this state, commanded by capt. Fowke, in the night of the 26th ult. unfortunately struck on the Abrollo bank, near Turk's-Island, and soon went to pieces. Part of the crew got into a canoe, which it is supposed was overset; the rest got upon different parts of the wreck; but we hear none of them were saved, except two Frenchmen, who were taken off a piece of a quarter-deck on the 21st (from which the captain, lieutenant, and a Mr. McCarthy, were washed the day before) nearly exhausted, by a Bermuda sloop.

About three weeks ago, the ship Adventure, capt. Frenier, from Philadelphia, bound for this port, laden with Hare's porter, flour, and bread, was chased ashore by three English frigates, upon a bank seven miles within Cape-May. The people got ashore; but the men of war's tenders set fire to and burnt the ship and cargo.

We hear that the Brane frigate, when she called at Cape-Fear, to water, put 29 American prisoners ashore, amongst them capt. Lyme, the master of a sloop from and belonging to this state, and the master of a schooner from Georgia, bound for New-England, both which vessels they burnt.

It is reported, and there are good grounds to credit the report, that there are not less than 30 American cruizers now at sea, in one squadron, and fifteen in another.

WILLIAMSBURG, June 27.

In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, Friday, June 20.

Resolved, That the thanks of this house be given by the speaker to Richard Henry Lee, Esq; for the faithful services he has rendered his country in the discharge of his duty as one of the delegates from this state in general congress.

And thereupon Mr. Speaker gave Mr. Lee, he standing up in his place, the thanks of the house as follows:

SIR, It is with a particular pleasure that I obey this command of the house; because it gives me an opportunity, whilst I am performing an act of duty to them, to perform an act of justice to you. Serving with you in congress, and attentively observing your conduct there, I thought that you manifested in the American cause a zeal truly patriotic, and, as far as I could judge, exerted the abilities you are confessedly distinguished for, to promote the good and prosperity of your own country in particular, and of the United-States in general. That the tributes of praise deserved may reward those who do well, and encourage others to follow your example, the house has come to this resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks of this house be given by the speaker to Richard Henry Lee, Esq; for the faithful services he has rendered his country, in the discharge of his duty as one of the delegates from this state in general congress.

To which Mr. LEE answered:

MR. SPEAKER, I thank the house for this instance of candour and justice, which I accept the more willingly, as my con-

science informs me it is not undeserved. I consider the approbation of my country, Sir, as the highest reward for faithful service; and it shall be my constant care to merit that approbation, by a diligent attention to public duties.

My thanks are particularly due to you, Sir, for the obliging manner in which you have pleased to signify the vote of the house; and I pray you, Sir, to receive my grateful acknowledgments.

In SENATE, June 21, 1777.

On a motion made,

Resolved, as a just tribute due to Richard Henry Lee, Esq; our worthy delegate in general congress, that the speaker be desired to present him with the warmest thanks of this house, for his unwearied diligence and fidelity, in discharge of that important trust.

The above resolve was enclosed in a letter from the Speaker to Richard Henry Lee, Esq; in answer to which the senate received the following letter, directed to the speaker:

SIR,

June 25, 1777.

As nothing can be more valuable to a citizen than the approbation of his countrymen, so I have received, with singular pleasure, the honourable testimony that the house of senators has been pleased to give of my conduct in congress as a delegate from this commonwealth.

That community which is willing to acknowledge the fidelity of its servants, can never want such as are zealous to promote its best interest, honest and diligent in discharge of their duty.

It shall be my care, Sir, to deserve, on all occasions of public trust, the reward that the honourable senate have now conferred upon me. I am, with sentiments of duty and respect for the honourable house, Sir, your most humble servant,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

ANNAPOLIS, JULY 17, 1777.

In COUNCIL, Annapolis, July 12, 1777.

THE general assembly having by an act of the last session appropriated two thousand pounds for erecting public salt works, any person who has a convenient situation to let to the public, or would undertake the management of the work, is desired to propose terms to the governor and council.

By the same act the governor and council are empowered to advance one thousand pounds in any sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds to any one adventurer, on bond with security, without delay to apply the same in erecting salt works within this state, and to repay the same without interest after one year from the advance. Only one sum of two hundred and fifty pounds is yet applied for.

Per order,

T. JOHNSON, jun. cl. co.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

WHENEVER a diversity of sentiment takes place between your two branches of legislature, respecting the utility, policy, or necessity of any public regulation, it remains solely with you to determine in favour of the one or the other. Both branches originate from you, and from you alone derive all their authority. You are their constituents. The senate are the mediate, and the house of delegates the immediate representatives of the people. They are both equally bound to speak your opinion, and to carry your will, when known, into execution. Each branch of your legislature is, and ought to be, perfectly free and independent of each other; both ought to be subject to, and dependent on you. A great contrariety of opinion has happened between your senate and house of delegates, relative to the tender of a test of fidelity to the disaffected, the consequences of a refusal to take it, and what penalty ought to be inflicted on those who have deserted their country, and fled to Britain.

The senate have twice refused their assent to establish any test of allegiance in this state, and at the last session rejected the bill entitled "an act for the better security of the government," without assigning any reasons for their negative. Your delegates have published the bill for your consideration, and made their appeal to you. It is therefore your duty to approve the one, and condemn the other. Your decision alone can reconcile the difference, and the sooner it is declared the better. Arguments, by way of message, between the two houses, will only encrease the breach; both are riveted in their opinion. Jealousy, suspicion and animosity may arise between them, to the grief of the friends, and the joy of the enemies of our common country. Consider, therefore, maturely the subject, pronounce with candour and dignity, yet with firmness, your opinion, and be assured that either will cheerfully acquiesce in your determination.

It is an uncontrovertible fact, that each county produces some persons disaffected to the independency of this state, and its present government; it is also a truth, that a few are to be found not only inimical to its government, but whose residence among us is dangerous to the state. To our internal foes are we indebted, in great measure, for the present war, the immense expence incurred, and the devastation, ravage and ruin suffered by us, in consequence of it. My soul glows with the warmest resentment against our wicked, perfidious, and cruel foes, but in a much greater degree accumulates my detestation and abhorrence of our internal secret enemies: Some of them drew their first breath in Maryland; others fled to it as a land of refuge, and have raised themselves from indigence to affluence. The first offices in government were lavished, and the profits of trade indiscriminately bestowed on foreigners. A preference was too generally given to the English and Scotch emigrants, in the appointment to office, and the emoluments of commerce. A native traitor is a villain of the blackest hue: His parricide ought never to be pardoned. Scotch treachery might have been expected, and British enmity may be forgiven. The Scots, transplanted from their own country, are always a distinct and separate body from the people who receive

them." The English have the strongest affection to, and pride in their native country, and an huzzar for old England will transport them into a temporary frenzy, and break every tie, human and divine. These are angels in the comparison with our apothecary countrymen. A want of patriotism and virtue, and base ingratitude, may be urged against the one; but against the other,—I want language to express their crime. Lost to every sense of virtue and duty to their country and posterity, they almost sink beneath the dignity of revenge.

Since the late act to punish treason, misprision of treason, and certain misdemeanors, against the government, the Tories in this state may be ranked under two classes. The first artfully take care to elude the letter of the law; they conform their public conduct agreeable to it, and are legal whigs; they remain the same insidious enemies as before, with their poisonous doctrines they taint and corrupt the principles of our people; they pretend a fear of our success, and attempt to prove the impossibility of it, by magnifying the wealth and power of Britain. They deat a foreign alliance, and whisper that aid from France or Spain may end in our destruction. They paint, in the strongest colours, our former happiness from our connection with Britain; they deprecate and lament our present wants as intolerable, and describe the hardships we now suffer as intolerable to endure for ever. They originally deprecate our currency, they continue the practice, and justify their conduct by the avance of others, which they first inspired. They created our distress, by forestalling and engrossing the conveniences and necessaries of life. They alarm and terrify our people by their daily lies of battles never fought, and victories never gained. The war is to have a long continuance, and the taxes for its support will be enormous. Our independency may produce endless wars among ourselves, and, with them, a certain loss of liberty is to be sustained from our foreign foes, from an apprehension that imaginary evils will flow from internal divisions. Every base art which can be executed with impunity, is daily practised by them. Every state has fatally experienced their hypocrisy and duplicity, their baseness, falsehood, and treachery. Your observation will furnish more instances of their ingenuity to injure our cause, and the ill effects which flow from their conduct and influence over their relatives and dependents, and their weak and ignorant neighbours, than I am acquainted with, or can enumerate.

The second class of these miscreants are those who formerly affected the reputation of the moderate man, and may now be distinguished under the character of the neutrals. Under the garb of moderation they uniformly opposed every measure as too violent; their opinion they esteemed more wise than the general sense of America: Folly and impudence in the extreme! If by moderation they had meant deliberate, prudent, wise and firm measures, and had only opposed injudicious, hasty and rash conduct, I should not only have approved, but have ceased to heartily to despise their assumed character. In truth, this character was fabricated by knaves, adopted by the timid, and passed as current among fools. After the declaration of independency, the men of this cast joined themselves to the neutrals: It is a mark of base and abject cowardice for a man, who professes himself a friend to his country, to remain neuter, to stand an indifferent spectator, while his countrymen and the friends of liberty are compelled, by brutal force, to contend for the dearest rights of human nature: Meanly, infamously, hoping to reap the benefits of success without risking the danger. No man can now doubt the wicked designs of the hypocritical and languinary tyrant of Britain. His venal, servile parliament have avowed their intentions; absolute, unconditional submission. The galling chains of conquest, or the glorious freedom of independency await the event of war. Our cause is common, the benefits of success will be shared by all; we are all equally interested, and should all be engaged. Our liberties and property, our laws and constitution, are invaded by robbers; not to defend is to betray: At such a moment, no honest man would remain silent or inactive. The old Grecian law, which forbid any man to remain neuter, in their civil dissensions, was wise and politic. The man who by his neutrality deserts the cause, is a traitor to his country. I consider every man an enemy to the state who will not give his assistance to maintain the new government in the same manner as he contributed to the support of the old: I would demand no more, nor would I be satisfied with less. The baneful example of the neutrals is not only dangerous, but infectious. When a few of the principal men in a county pursue such a conduct, it creates caution and distrust, suspicion and fear, in the inferior rank. They conclude the neutrals force a danger, and are aware of consequences above their comprehension. A pretext is thus afforded for imitation, and the security supposed to arise from such a situation, aliases votaries to the doctrine. I am satisfied that the inhabitants of this state would have been generally united, from the beginning, but from the fatal example of one man. His learning and abilities are great, his influence extensive, and he may now be justly hailed the father and patron of the Tories. His superior talents might have been of service to his country, but his attachment to the old governments, his natural timidity of soul, the supposed security from the resentment of both parties, if an open friend to neither, and his hatred to individuals, has chained him down to the appearance of a neutrality, injurious to his native country, and infamous to himself. Cowardice may claim compassion, hypocrisy merits contempt. Can it be believed that he would relinquish his share in the success, if he did not hope to profit by our misfortunes? Each county affords a few men with similar principles, and actuated by the same motives, though with inferior abilities. Without virtue to acknowledge or support the justice of our cause, and without courage to oppose it, may eternal infamy be their portion, and as they deserve, so may they meet the scorn and contempt of both parties! Let us profit by their folly, and benefit by their vices.

RATIONALIS.

A national reflection is not intended. The observation is true in the general, but many are the exceptions. Lee, Gates, Stephens, Maxwell, Sinclair, M'Dougall, and many other officers in the army, and gentlemen in the civil departments, of the States, are a reproach to their less virtuous countrymen, and aversity of our highest trust and confidence.