

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1777.

PHILADELPHIA, September 6. In CONGRESS, August 28, 1777.

THE committee to whom the letter from general Sullivan, with the papers enclosed, was referred, reported,

"That the several testimonies which have been published, since the commencement of the present contest between Great-Britain and America, and the uniform tenor of the conduct and conversation of a number of persons of considerable wealth, who profess themselves to belong to the society of people commonly called quakers, render it certain and notorious that those persons are; with much rancour and bitterness, disaffected to the American cause.

"That as these persons will have it in their power, so there is no doubt it will be their inclination, to communicate intelligence to the enemy, and in various other ways to injure the councils and arms of America.

"That when the enemy, in the month of December, 1776, were bending their progress towards the city of Philadelphia, a certain seditious publication, addressed, 'To our friends and brethren in religious profession in these and the adjacent provinces,' signed Joan Pemberton, in and on behalf of the meeting of sufferers held at Philadelphia for Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, the 20th of the 12th month, 1776, was published; and, as your committee is credibly informed, circulated amongst many members of the society called quakers throughout the different states."

That as the seditious paper aforesaid originated in the city of Philadelphia, and as the persons whose names are undermentioned have uniformly manifested, by their general conduct and conversation, a disposition highly inimical to the cause of America, therefore

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the supreme executive council of the state of Pennsylvania, forthwith to apprehend and secure the persons of Joshua Fisher, Abel James, James Pemberton, Henry Drinker, Israel Pemberton, John Pemberton, John James, Samuel Pleasants, Thomas Wharton, sen. Thomas Fisher son of Joshua, and Samuel Fisher son of Joshua, together with all such papers in their possession as may be of a political nature.

And whereas there is strong reason to apprehend, that these persons maintain a correspondence and connection highly prejudicial to the public safety, not only in this state, but in the respective states of America.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the executive powers of the respective states forthwith to apprehend and secure all persons, as well among the people called quakers as others, who have, in their general conduct and conversation, evinced a disposition inimical to the cause of America, and that the persons so seized be confined in such places, and treated in such manner as shall be consistent with their respective characters, and security of their persons.

That the records and papers of the meetings of sufferers, in the respective states, be forthwith secured and carefully examined, and that such parts of them as may be of a political nature, be forthwith transmitted to congress.

The said report being read, and the several paragraphs considered and debated, and the question put severally thereon, the same was agreed to.

September 3. A letter of the 2d instant from G. Bryson Esq; vice-president of the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, was read, informing, that in consequence of the recommendation of congress, and their own persuasion of the propriety and necessity of the measure, the council have taken up several persons inimically disposed towards the American states—that few of the quakers among these are willing to make any promise of any kind, and desiring the advice of congress particularly; whether Augusta and Winchester, in Virginia, would not be suitable places in which to secure these persons, whereupon

Resolved, That congress approve of the quakers, prisoners, being sent to Virginia, and, in the opinion of congress, that Stanton, in the county of Augusta, is the most proper place in the state of Virginia for their residence and security; and, with regard to the other prisoners mentioned in their letter, congress leave it to the supreme executive council to do with them as they in their wisdom shall think best.

The supreme executive council having sent to congress, by one of the delegates of their state, sundry original letters and papers found in the possession of some of the quakers taken into custody, the same were read.

Ordered, That they be referred to the committee, to whom general Sullivan's letter of the 25th ult. was referred.

September 5. The committee to whom the papers sent to congress by the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania; were referred, brought in a report, which was read. Previous to entering on the consideration thereof, a letter of this day from his excellency Thomas Wharton, jun. Esq; president of the supreme executive council of the state of Pennsylvania, was read, informing that the persons detained in the Malon's lodge had the prospect of going for Augusta to Morrow, and intimating that it may perhaps be worth consideration, whether the removal of those persons might not be relaxed, as to such as would yet swear or affirm allegiance to this state, and desiring an answer. Also enclosing a remonstrance from twenty-one persons in the lodge, whereupon

Resolved, That the supreme executive council be informed that congress have no objection to the enlargement of such persons now confined in the lodge as will swear or affirm allegiance to this state.

The remonstrance from the twenty-one persons in the lodge enclosed was read.

A remonstrance, from Israel Pemberton, James Pemberton, John Pemberton, Thomas Wharton, Henry Drinker, Thomas Fisher, Samuel Pleasants, and Samuel R. Fisher, was read.

Ordered to lie on the table. September 6. Congress took into consideration the report of the committee to whom the papers transmitted by the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania were referred, whereupon

Ordered, That the papers as reported by the committee from number 1 to number 11, both inclusive, be published.

Congress took into consideration the remonstrance from Israel Pemberton, James Pemberton, John Pemberton, Thomas Wharton, Henry Drinker, Thomas Fisher, Samuel Pleasants, and Samuel R. Fisher, who were taken into custody, upon the recommendation of congress, praying to be heard.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the supreme executive council of the state of Pennsylvania, to hear what the said remonstrants can allege, to remove the suspicions of their being disaffected or dangerous to the United States, and act therein as the said council judge most conducive to the public safety.

Extracts from the journals,

WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, dep. sec.

Extract of a letter from Chester county.

"A venerable old gentleman, Mr. William Hughes of this county, went down a few days ago into New-castle county, to see what was become of a daughter of his who had married and settled near the place now occupied by our works than lavage too. On his way he was met by a party of six Hessians, who dismounted and stripped him, and then, with the most wanton barbarity, scourged the poor old gentleman in such a manner as would shock humanity. His account I have from a young lady who saw his back at the hospitable house to which, with the utmost difficulty, he had made a shift to crawl.

P. S. You may be assured they stole the horse."

Extract of a letter from gen. Washington to congress, dated Wilmington, Sept. 5, 1777. Eight o'clock, p. m.

"This morning the enemy came out with considerable force and three pieces of artillery, a small our light advanced corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing obliged them to retreat, being far inferior in number and without cannon. The loss on either side is not yet ascertained. Ours, though not exactly known, is not very considerable; theirs, we have reason to believe, was much greater, as some of our spies, composed of expert marksmen, had opportunity of giving them several close, well directed fires; more particularly in one instance, when a body of riflemen formed a kind of ambuscade. They advanced about two miles this side of Iron-hill, and then withdrew that place, leaving a picket at Couch's mill, about nine in front.

"The design of their movements this morning seems to have been to disperse our light troops, who had been troublesome to them, and to gain possession of Iron-hill, to establish a post, most probably, for covering their retreat in case of accidents."

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMPSON, secretary.

SIR, Chas's Ford, Sept. 11, 1777. 5 o'clock, p. m.

WHEN I had the honour of addressing you this morning, I intimated that the enemy were advancing, and had begun a cannonade. I would now beg leave to inform you, that they have kept up a brisk fire from their artillery ever since. Their advanced party was attacked by our light troops under general Maxwell, who crossed the Brandywine for that purpose, and had posted his men on some high ground on each side the road. The fire from our people was not of long duration as the enemy pressed on in force, but very severe. What loss the enemy sustained cannot be ascertained with precision, but from our situation and briskness of the attack, it is the general opinion, particularly of those who were engaged, that they had at least three hundred men killed and wounded. Our damage is not exactly known, but from the best accounts we have been able to obtain, it does not exceed fifty in the whole. After this affair the enemy halted upon the heights, where they have remained ever since, except a detachment of them which filed off about eleven o'clock from their left, and which has since passed Brandywine at Jones's Ford, between five and six miles above Chad's; the amount of it is not known, accounts respecting it being various—some making it two or three thousand strong, and others more. Generals Sullivan, Stirling, and Stevens, with their divisions, are gone in pursuit and to attack it, if they can with any prospect of success. There has been a scattering loose fire between our parties on each side the brook, since the action in the morning, which just now became warm, when general Maxwell pushed over with his corps, and drove them from their ground, with the loss of thirty men left dead on the spot, among them a captain of the 49th, and a number of intrenching tools, with which they were throwing up a battery.

At half after four o'clock the enemy attacked general Sullivan at the ford and above this, and the action has been very violent ever since. It still continues. A very severe cannonade has begun here, too, and I suppose we shall have a very hot evening. I hope it will be a happy one. I have the honour to be, in great haste,

Sir, your most obedient servant, ROBERT H. HARRISON.

The Gen. JOHN HANCOCK, Esq.

SIR, Chester, Sept. 22, 1777. 20 o'clock at night.

I AM sorry to inform you that in this day's engagement we have been obliged to leave the enemy masters of the field. Unfortunately the intelligence received of the enemy's advancing up the Brandywine, and crossing at a ford about six miles above us, was uncertain and contradictory, notwithstanding all my pains to get the best. This prevented my making a disposition adequate to the force with which the enemy attacked us on our right; in consequence of which the troops first engaged were obliged to retire before they could be reinforced. In the midst of the attack on the right, that body of the enemy which remained on the other side of Chad's Ford, crossed it, and attacked the division there under the command of general Wayne and the light troops under general Maxwell; who after a severe conflict also retired. The militia, under the command of general Armstrong, being posted at a ford about two miles below Chad's, had no opportunity of engaging. But though we fought under many disadvantages, and were, from the causes above mentioned, obliged to retire; yet our loss of men is not, I am persuaded, very considerable; I believe much less than the enemy's. We have also lost seven or eight pieces of cannon, according to the best information I can at present obtain. The baggage having been previously moved off is all secure, saving the mens blankets, which being at their backs, many of them doubtless were lost.

I have directed all the troops to assemble behind Chester, where they are now arranging for this night. Notwithstanding the misfortune of the day, I am happy to find the troops in good spirits; and I hope another time we shall compensate for the losses now sustained.

The marquis La Fayette was wounded in the leg, and general Woodford in the hand. Divers other officers were wounded, and some slain, but the numbers of either cannot now be ascertained.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. It has not been in my power to send you earlier intelligence; the present being the first leisure moment I have had since the action.

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMPSON, sec.

BALTIMORE, September 9.

By his excellency Sir WILLIAM HOWE, &c. &c.

A declaration to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties in Delaware, and the counties on the eastern shore of Maryland.

SIR WILLIAM HOWE regretting the calamities to which many of his majesty's faithful subjects are still exposed, by the continuance of the rebellion; and no less desirous of protecting the innocent, than determined to pursue with the rigours of war, all those who are in his majesty's forces, in the course of their progress, may find in arms against the king: Doth hereby assure the peaceable inhabitants of the province of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware, and the counties of Maryland on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, that in order to remove any groundless apprehensions which may have been raised, of their suffering by depredations of the army under his command, he hath issued the strictest orders to the troops for the preservation of regularity and good discipline; and has signified, that the most exemplary punishment shall be inflicted upon those who shall dare to plunder the property, or molest the persons of any of his majesty's WELL DISPOSED SUBJECTS.

Security and protection are likewise extended to all persons, inhabitants of the province and counties aforesaid, who are guilty of having assumed legislative or judicial authority, may have acted illegally in subordination and conscious of their misconduct, been induced to leave their dwellings: Provided such persons doth return and remain peaceably in their usual place of abode.

Considering moreover, that many officers and private men, now actual in arms against his majesty, may be willing to relinquish the part they have taken in this rebellion, and return to their due allegiance.

Sir William Howe doth therefore promise a free and general pardon to such officers and private men, as shall voluntarily come and surrender themselves to any detachment of his majesty's forces, before the day on which it shall be notified, that the said indulgence shall be discontinued.

Given under my hand at head-quarters of the army, the 27th of August, 1777.

By his excellency's command, ROBERT HARRISON, secretary.

Last Sunday morning, a number of the enemy's fleet were seen standing down our bay with a fair wind; their destination is supposed to be to Delaware. On their first appearance off the mouth of Patuxent river, it was thought that an attempt might be meditated against this town. In that case, it is with pleasure we can inform our readers, we are well prepared to give them a warm reception. The fort, batteries, and boom at Whetstone-Point, are in excellent order. A new furnace is erected on the Point, from which several hundred bolts of war will issue to meet our invading foes. All valuable effects, together with the women and children, are chiefly removed out of town to places of safety and our brave countrymen flock in great numbers to our assistance, so that a resolute and determinate stand may be expected, whenever these lawless plunderers shall think proper to invade us.

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