

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, JUNE 11, 1779.

BOSTON, May 17.

Extra of a letter from Philadelphia, April 13. VESSEL just arrived from Surinam mentions, that a Dutch man of war had arrived there just before she left it, in 31 days from Amsterdam, and brought accounts that the States General, on the repeated and violent remonstrances of their merchants, had given permission for individuals to fit out vessels to cruise against the British trade, and had granted letters of marque and reprisals for that purpose.

May 20. Since our last, four vessels have arrived here from South-Carolina, laden with rice, belonging to the continent.

On Monday last, capt. Parsons arrived at Newbury-Port from Martinico, and informs, that count d'Estaing had been reinforced with such a number of capital ships as to make his fleet superior to the British; and that admiral Byron lay at St. Lucia, not daring to venture out, as sickness raged with great violence on board his fleet.

Last Sunday the Hancock and Beaver privateers, sent into New-London, the Ayscough, a privateer of 10 guns, from New-York.

Since our last several vessels have arrived at different ports from St.atia, Martinico, Guadaloupe, and other parts of the West-Indies; by these vessels we have it reported, that admiral Byron and the count d'Estaing were still at their old stations, without having made any capital movement. Some attribute this to a pacific disposition at bottom of both courts; others to the inferiority of Byron in seamen, and of the count in ships. That not long since admiral Byron sent four men of war of the line, and a number of frigates, to cruise not far from Martinico; the count, as soon as he was apprised of it, sent a number of the line and frigates to take care of them; this motion drew out, by successive detachments, both fleets, but without producing any general action.

By the above vessels we learn, that count d'Estaing, having embarked his troops, and made such dispositions as indicated some enterprise in view, all the island of St. Kitts was in arms, expecting a visit from the French fleet, and every precaution taken there for the defence of the island.

One of the last vessels from the West-Indies informs, that a large number of store ships, with some ships of force, had arrived at Martinico from old France; this is probably the fleet mentioned to have sailed from France to the West-Indies, by the cutter not long since arrived here, and which left Brest the beginning of March. This reinforcement, it is said, will give the fleet of France a superiority of strength to that of the British in those seas.

By the same channel we are informed, that two ships of the line, belonging to the Squadron of admiral Byron, were hauled up at St. Lucia for want of men, each of them having buried three hundred of their sailors.

In a speech which admiral Keppel pronounced before his judges of the court-martial, he did honour to the behaviour of count d'Orvilliers and his fleet during the combat.

PROVIDENCE, May 15.

Yesterday arrived here two men, belonging to a vessel from Guadaloupe bound to Boston, which had been captured by the enemy, and retaken by the Eagle privateer, of New-London, late commanded by capt. Conkling. They inform, that the Eagle had taken and manned seven prizes, all which are safe arrived in port, and that her crew having been reduced to 13 men and boys, with 17 prisoners on board, the latter rose and took possession of the vessel on Sunday evening last, murdered capt. Conkling and all his crew, except the doctor and 3 boys, and carried the privateer into New-York.

The continental sloop Providence, capt. Hacker, arrived in port on Tuesday last with two prizes, one of them a brig of 12 guns, a British cruiser from New-York, which was taken after a sharp conflict of three hours; the enemy had 28 men killed and wounded, and capt. Hacker 4 killed, and 8 wounded. The other prize is a valuable ship, with 400 tierces of rice.

Thursday morning arrived here a prize sloop of about 70 tons, captured the preceding day, off Newport harbour, by the armed boats Seven Brothers, capt. Hoxsey, General Sullivan, capt. Oman, and Bradford, capt. Martindale. She was bound from the island of New-Providence to New-York, and had been taken by the Monmouth privateer, of Salem, retaken by a British tender, and again retaken by the armed boats, as above. Her cargo consists of rum, molasses, fruit, &c. A midshipman and four stamens, belonging to the Redown man of war, were made prisoners.

Early on Saturday morning last a party of toriet from Rhode-Island landed at Point-Judith, where they collected a considerable number of sheep and cattle; but on the appearance of a few continental troops they thought proper to retreat rather hastily, having secured only a part of their booty.

NEW-LONDON, May 20.

Thursday last arrived here a sloop from Corke, bound to New-York, laden with provisions, a prize to the ship Patman.

Sunday was sent into port the privateer Lady Briskine, capt. Drew, of eight guns, taken in sight of this harbour by the Hancock and Beaver privateers; out of a fleet of twenty-one sail, who were bound from New-York to Rhode-Island, under convoy of the Thomas, a British frigate of thirty-six guns!

Tuesday arrived here the privateer American Revenue, capt. Leeds, and brought in with her the privateer schooner Sally, capt. Spelling, of eight guns; and also a schooner (pilot-boat built) from North-Carolina, bound to the West-Indies, laden with tobacco and tar, who had been taken by a British privateer.

Yesterday was sent into this port, by the ship Oliver Cromwell, a schooner from Baltimore, hurthen about thirty tons; she had been taken by a British cruiser, and was retaken the south side of Long-Island.

TRENTON, May 26.

The detachment of the enemy that landed in Bergen county on Monday the seventeenth inst. consisted of about 1000 men, composed of several different corps, under the command of col Van Buskirk. Their path in this incursion was marked with desolation and unprovoked cruel murders. Not a house within their reach, belonging to a whig inhabitant, escaped. Mr. Abraham Allen and George Campbell fell a prey to these more than savage men. Two negro women, who were endeavouring to drive off some cattle belonging to their masters, were also murdered. Mr. Joost Zabrickle was stabbed in thirteen different places. Col. Van Buskirk, although he was formally acquainted with those barbarities, yet he did not think proper to take the least notice of the perpetrators. Having in some measure fatiated their appetite for blood and plunder, and dreading the vengeance of our militia, which by this time was collecting in considerable numbers, the enemy precipitately retreated to their boats, and went off to New-York.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27.

At a general meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia, and parts adjacent, at the state-house yard in this city, general Roberdeau was unanimously requested to take the chair, who introduced the business with the following address.

Gentlemen, ALTHOUGH I feel pain from the situation in which you have been pleased to place me, it is with pleasure I meet you, my fellow-citizens, to consider and determine upon measures for our mutual and public happiness. A beneficent God has hitherto blessed us with success, and carried us through a four years war with as few misfortunes as could possibly be expected. We have much to be thankful for; and though many worthy individuals have greatly suffered, yet, as a nation, we have-but little to complain of.

The dangers we are now exposed to, arise from evils created among ourselves. I scorn, and I hope every citizen here scorns, the thought of getting rich by sucking the blood of his country; yet, alas, this unnatural, this cruel, this destructive practice, is the greatest cause of our present calamities. The way to make our money good is to reduce the prices of goods and provisions. It is not the quantity of money which any man gets—but how far that money will go when he comes to lay it out again, that makes him poor or rich.

The tax that has been laid upon us by monopolizers and forestallers within these six months past, for it may justly be called a tax, amounts to more money than would carry the war on twelve months to come.

There is at present no law for regulating the prices in the shops and markets, neither is there any law to prevent such regulations being made, and therefore the whole rests upon the virtue and common consent of the community. I have no doubt but combinations have been formed for raising the prices of goods and provisions, and therefore the community, in their own defence, have a natural right to counteract such combinations, and to set limits to evils which affect themselves.

It is impossible, gentlemen, to cure the disease all at once, but it must be begun upon; and as this city appears to be the place in which the disease was first bred, this likewise is the place where the remedy ought to be first applied. Do you, gentlemen, set the example, and I think there is little doubt but others will follow it.

Within these five or six months goods and provisions have risen week by week.—Surely, gentlemen, we can do as much as the monopolizers have done, and bring the prices down again week by week. By this means there will be money to spare, to pay taxes with; for at the rate things now are, it takes all the country people's money to go to the shops with, and all the town people's money to go to market with, and the whole community is growing poor under a notion of getting rich.

Some worthy citizens who have the success of our glorious cause at heart, have undertaken to form a plan for regularly reducing the prices of goods and provisions, and keeping up the value of the money, and this plan, as I understand, is to be laid before you at some future meeting. For my own part, gentlemen, I shall joyfully assist in any judicious measures for the public happiness, and have no doubt but you will do the same.

It is a surprising thing that the more goods we have had brought into this city, the dearer they have been; and this is one of the evils which it is absolutely necessary to enquire into. But the great point is to begin.

The paper I have in my hand, contains some resolutions which have been drawn up and agreed on by a committee of citizens, which, with your approbation, I will read. I propose first to read the whole through, and then read it a second time by paragraphs, in order to take your sense thereon.

The paper being read, after some amendments, was agreed to as follows: Whereas the prices of goods and provisions have, within the space of five or six months, risen to an enormous height, far beyond what they ought to be in proportion to the quantity of the money. The prices of dry goods have arisen when they ought to have decreased, and every new cargo, instead of lessening the prices, have raised them.

Resolved, That the public have a right to enquire into the causes of such extraordinary abuses, and prevent them.

And whereas, since the late importation of a cargo of goods said to have been since purchased or consigned to the management of Mr. Robert Morris, merchant, or others, the prices of all kinds of dry goods have been greatly advanced, to the injury of the public and the great detriment of trade,

Resolved, That this meeting, justifying their conduct on the necessity of the measure, and being deeply affected and injured by those encreasing evils, will appoint a committee to enquire of Mr. Robert Morris, or others, what part he or they have acted respecting the said cargo, and to require from him or them their answers in writing to such questions as the committee may find it necessary to put, and to report the same at the next general town meeting.

And whereas the prices of rum, sugar, flour, coffee, and tea, have greatly arisen within this week past, without any real or apparent cause; and as it is our determination not to be eaten up by monopolizers and forestallers, therefore

Resolved, That we do unconditionally insist and demand, that the advanced, or monopolized, price of the present month be instantly taken off, and that the prices of those articles be immediately reduced to what they were the first day of May inst.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to ascertain the retail prices of rum, sugar, flour, coffee, and tea, as they stood on the first day of May inst. and to publish the same for the government of buyer and seller, and to receive in writing any complaint against such dealers as may refuse to comply with, or shall obstruct the execution of this necessary regulation, and to report the same at the next general town meeting.

Resolved, That the said committee, when chosen, do ascertain what the prices of the above, or any other articles, were on the first day of January last, and likewise on the first day of every month from that time to the present inf.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a plan for regularly proceeding in this business, and for carrying it into execution throughout the United States, and to report the same at a general town meeting to be held for that purpose.

Resolved, That we will support the committees in the execution of their duty, encourage fair and honest commerce, and suppress to the utmost of our power, and at the hazard of our lives, engrossing, monopolizing, and forestalling, and depreciation.

Resolved, That as it is the interest both of town and country to concur in measures for the mutual relief of both, that the proceedings of this meeting be printed and sent to the several counties for their consideration and assistance therein.

And whereas complaints of a very extraordinary nature have, at different times, appeared against persons intrusted, or who have been intrusted by congress with the disposal of public money, and the execution of public commissions, to which complaints, in some instances, no answers have been given, or any denial made.

And whereas the public by delegating their powers, have a right to call on their representatives to whom that delegation is made, to know in what manner the trust so reposed in them is executed, therefore

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to collect together the charges or complaints which have been made against persons intrusted by congress, with the expenditure of public money, or the execution of public commissions, and to require of the delegates of this state what proceedings congress have made therein towards ascertaining the truth of such charges or complaints, or punishing the persons if guilty; and to transmit the same to the several counties, in order that they may be enabled to give instructions to their representatives in assembly at their next meeting; or for such other purposes as may be necessary in the interim.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that no person, who by sufficient testimony can be proved inimical to the interest and independence of the United States, be suffered to remain among us, and that the committee be directed to take measures for carrying this resolution into execution.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the committee, to enquire respecting the cargo lately arrived, and said to be purchased by or consigned to the management of Mr. Robert Morris, or others.

Timothy Matlack, David Rittenhouse, capt. Blewer, Thomas Paine, Charles W. Peale, col. J. B. Smith,

And the following gentlemen, together with the former, were appointed a committee for carrying the other resolves into execution.

Col. Henry, col. Bradford, George Schlosser, col. Will, col. Jehu Eyre, capt. Heydam, major Boyd, Philip Boehm, Jedediah Snowden, Nathaniel Donnell, capt. Robert Smith, capt. Lang, Dr. Hutchinson, William Brown, Paul Cox, Edward Pole, Thomas Cadrop, capt. George Ord, James Skinner, John Kling, William Horn, William Coats, tanner, Joseph Dean, capt. John Young, Cadwallader Dickinson, capt. Thomas Moore.

Signed by order of the meeting, DANIEL POSEY DEAU, chairman.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously returned to the chairman for his noble and disinterested manner of conducting the business.