

CHARLES-TOWN, South-Carolina, Oct. 20.

Our accounts from the army before Savannah, of the unsuccessful attempt to storm the enemy's works on the 9th ult. are still so imperfect, that we cannot yet pretend to give our readers the particulars in the accurate manner we would wish.—The following are some of the reasons that have been assigned, why the assault did not succeed, viz.

1st. The enemy having a much more numerous garrison than had been represented; being said to consist of about 1500 effective regulars, and a greater number of sailors, marines, militia, armed blacks, &c.

2d. Their having the advantage of the presence, skill, and activity of so able and indefatigable an officer, as the honourable colonel Maitland; who, while our army were obliged to wait for the bringing up proper cannon and mortars from the fleet (which took up many days, and was attended with inconceivable difficulties, on account of the distance of the shipping, and a series of tempestuous weather) was night and day incessantly engaged in adding to the strength and number of the works, upon which, it is said, he employed upwards of 2000 negroes.

3dly. The enemy having, by some means or other, discovered the approach of our columns, a full hour before it was possible for them to reach their respective stations; by which they had an opportunity of pouring upon their assailants, such a heavy and incessant, front, flank and cross fire, as no troops whatever could have sustained, without being disordered, and occasioned the order for discontinuing the assault, even while the brave French troops had gained one of the enemy's works, and our as brave troops another.

Several frigates having been since dispatched from the count d'Estaing's fleet, on different routes, and several other very striking circumstances, have given rise to a conjecture, that a strong combined squadron will soon appear, in a quarter where least expected. One of the frigates, it is said, has been met steering for Havana, and another going into Chesapeake bay.

WILLIAMSBURG, Nov. 13.

We are informed, from unquestionable authority, that seven French ships of the line, of the squadron of count d'Estaing, are to winter in the harbours of this state in order to protect our coasts from any attempts of the enemy; two of these ships are already arrived at Hampton, and more are in sight; one of them the Fondant, has on board two hundred invalids, consisting partly of sick, and partly of those who were wounded at Savannah.

FISH-KILL, Nov. 11.

Camp, Peaks-Kill, November 8, 1779.

Last night colonel Arnaud, with 100 infantry, and about 30 horse marched down as far as Williams's within 4 miles of Kingsbridge; where he posted his infantry to cover his retreat, and with 20 dragoons pushed for major Bearmore's quarters, at alderman Legget's, 3 miles below Williams's bridge; where he arrived about nine o'clock, took major Bearmore and five others prisoners, a number of horses, saddles, &c. and returned without the loss of a single man; although colonel Worm, with a body of 800 Germans, lay this side Kingsbridge, and might have interrupted his retreat at Williams's, by marching less than two miles. This enterprize not only reflects great honour on colonel Arnaud, but renders the state most essential service, by suppressing the exertions of one of their most active partizan officers, whose uniform endeavours have been to distress and injure the inhabitants of this country.

TRENTON, November 10.

We are informed that the enemy, to the number of about 1500 or 2000, are upon Staten-Island, and have collected a considerable number of flat-bottomed boats at Billop's-Point, in order, it is said, to make a descent into this state; but, from the disposition of several detachments of the continental army, as well as our militia, we flatter ourselves they will be frustrated in their predatory design.

By several corroborating accounts we learn, that the enemy at New-York are preparing for a large embarkation, but their destination is not yet certainly known.

PHILADELPHIA, November 13.

SIR, Charlestown, Oct. 22, 1779.

IN my last of the 5th ult. I had the honour of informing congress that count d'Estaing was arrived off Savannah.

Orders were immediately given for assembling the troops—they reached Zubly's ferry, and in the vicinity on the 11th, and some were thrown over—the 11th and 12th were spent in crossing

the troops and baggage, which was effected, though not without great fatigue, from the want of boats, and badness of the roads through a deep swamp of near three miles, in which are many large creeks—the bridges over them the enemy had broken down. We encamped on the heights of Ebenezer, 23 miles from Savannah, and were there joined by the troops from Augusta under general McIntosh. The 14th not being able to ascertain whether the count had yet landed his troops, though several expresses had been sent for that purpose, we remained encamped. On the 15th being advised that the count had disembarked part of his troops, and that he would that night take post nine miles from Savannah, we moved and encamped at Cherokee-hill, nine miles from the town. The 16th we formed a junction before Savannah. After reconnoitering the enemy's works, finding the town well covered, and knowing their determination to defend it, it was deemed necessary to make some approaches, and try the effects of artillery. From the 18th to the 23d we were employed in landing and getting up the heavy ordnance and stores: a work of difficulty, from the want of proper wheels to transport them, the cannon being on ship carriages. On the evening of the 23d, ground was broke, and on the 5th instant, the batteries of 33 cannon, and nine mortars, were opened on the enemy, and continued, with intervals, until the 8th, without the wished effect. The period having long since elapsed, which the count had assigned for this expedition, and the engineers informing him that much more time must be spent, if he expected to reduce the garrison by regular approaches, and his longer stay being impossible—matters were reduced to the alternative of raising the siege immediately, and giving up all thoughts of conquest, or attempting the garrison by assault; the latter was agreed on, and in the morning of the 9th, the attack was made—it proved unsuccessful; we were repulsed with some loss.

When the count first arrived, he informed us that he could remain on shore 3 days only; he had spent four times that number, his departure therefore became indispensable, and to re-embark his ordnance and stores, claimed his next attention; this was completed on the 12th.

The same evening, having previously sent off our sick, wounded, and heavy baggage, the American troops left the ground, reached Zubly's ferry the next morning, re-crossed, and encamped that night in Carolina. The French troops encamped on the night of the 18th, about two miles from Savannah; they were a few hours to re-embark at Kincaid's landing.

Our disappointment is great, and what adds much to our sense of it, is the loss of a number of brave officers and men; among them, the late intrepid count Pulaski.

Count d'Estaing has undoubtedly the interest of America much at heart. This he has evidenced by coming to our assistance, by his constant attention during the siege, his undertaking to reduce the enemy by assault, when he despaired of effecting it otherwise; and by bravely putting himself at the head of his troops, and leading them to the attack; in our service he has freely bled; I feel much for him, for while he is suffering the distresses of painful wounds, he has to combat chagrin. I hope he will be consoled, by an assurance that, although he has not succeeded according to his wishes, and those of America, we regard with high approbation his intentions to serve us, and that his want of success will not lessen our ideas of his merit.

I should have enclosed a list of the killed, and wounded, in the last action; but the adjutant-general, in whose hands they are, though on his way, is not arrived in town. But so far as I can remember the whole amount is 170.

Major Clarkson will have the honour of delivering this; from his attention and assiduity in service, he has had an opportunity of remarking each particular; this his merit has improved; and enables him to give congress every satisfactory information. To him I beg leave to refer them for a minute detail.

I have the honour to be, with the highest regard and esteem,

Your excellency's most obedient servant,  
B. LINCOLN.

His excellency Samuel Huntington, Esq; president in congress.

Published by order of congress,  
CHARLES THOMSON, Secr.

ANNAPOLIS, November 26.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

UNDER the former constitution, a perpetual jealousy subsisted between the two houses of assembly.—The houses of delegates, the representatives of the people, were obliged to exert their vigilance against the designs of the

upper house, who were created by the lord proprietary, devoted to his pleasure, and study solicitous for the interests of their earthly creature. Their zeal was amply rewarded.—They, or their dependents, were possessed of all the confidential offices, at his disposal.—From hence arose the prejudices against officers; and all the dissimulations which, for many years, distracted the province of Maryland, originated from this fruitful source.

It is sincerely to be lamented, that the same prejudices should prevail under the new constitution, in which, notwithstanding some ancient names are preserved, every thing is on quite a different establishment.—The senate are as truly the representatives of the people, as the house of delegates.—I here is no solidity in the objection, that, in consequence of the power, which is vested in them, or filling up vacancies, there is a possibility of their becoming a self-elected body, before the expiration of the term for which they were chosen by the people.—Should this event actually take place, what separate interests have the senate? Or can they possibly be suspected of designs, foreign to the interests of the community?

As to the officers, they are all; mediately, or immediately, elected by the people, and dependent for a subsistence on their will and pleasure.—The civil list does not consist of foreigners, of parasites, or men of prostituted abilities, but of the best men, and truest whigs, men who have risked every thing and greatly injured, if not wholly expended their private fortunes, in the service of the public.

It will be easily perceived, that these objections are made with a view of recommending to an adequate provision the officers in the civil department; and, as no man is supposed to speak or act on pure and disinterested principles, they will probably be considered as the suggestions of a man in office.—Weigh them therefore with the utmost caution, and if any thing like sophistry or delusion appears, let them meet with the contempt, they deserve.—Indeed did not I perceive so strange a backwardness to do justice, I should rather be apprehensive of ridicule, for offering a serious argument in a case, which no words can render plainer.

I shall now take the liberty of stating a few questions.

Is not government necessary?

Can our government be executed without officers?

Is there a sufficient number of gentlemen, who have patriotism, enough to act without reward, and fortunes sufficient to justify them to their families, in bestowing their time and labour on the public?

Has it not ever been the practice, in requiring a man for services, to proportion the allowance to the degree of abilities, which such services require?

If you engage a man's whole time in your service, or if the employment, you give him, is incompatible with any trade, or profession, does not justice oblige you to maintain him?

Does not an important office confer rank? Does not the interest and dignity of the state demand, that this rank should be supported? And can it be supported without money?

No man, with true candour, can give such an answer to these queries as would defeat the purpose, for which I state them; and I have never heard but the arguments against my proposition.—I have heard it laid down by a grave and sensible old gentleman, that it is the duty of every man, in these times, to serve the public for nothing.—I will not undertake to assert positively what men ought to do in these times; but experience teaches, that neither this gentleman, nor any other else will serve the public for nothing, in any times.

Again, I have heard it urged, and that by gentlemen of distinguished merit, that a legislature should be consistent, that no new law should be constructed, on principles different from those of another law; unless that law is first repealed.—To this I shall answer, that, if a legislature has once done wrong, it is better to submit to the charge of inconsistency, than persist in the same line of error.—Besides, the legislature, by the tender act, which was the law alluded to, has not empowered one to purchase necessaries, at the former price; nor will that gentleman take even forty prices, for any thing he has for sale.

The last was indeed an argument of weight, urged home, with all the force of eloquence, to the most powerful passions of the human heart.—Oppressed by the war, and groaning under the hard pressure of taxes, is it possible to sustain the additional load of enormous salaries? I do not conceive, in times of public calamity, that a salary should enable a man to live in splendour and magnificence.—All I contend for is an allowance sufficient to enable him, with the practice of a