

you, that the count d'Essing is now at an anchor, with twenty-five sail of the line, or two deckers, in a line across this bay, or entrance of the harbour; he has also seven or eight frigates. What his further views or designs may be, I cannot take upon me to say, though if he intends any thing against us, he must do it speedily, as this is not a coast to remain long on, in his situation, at this season of the year.

Several of his ships appear disabled. It is not impossible, but his serious views are to the northward of this—perhaps Rhode Island, or New-York, but I can only conjecture.

He is also accompanied by some transports, or merchant vessels, but as his appearance here, was probably as unexpected to the rebels of Carolina, as it was to us, I do not think they are as yet in readiness, to make a very formidable co-operation with the count—I cannot learn that there was any extraordinary stir among them—no doubt, all the force they can now muster, will be in motion against us, but my hopes are, that he cannot stay long enough on the coast, to give any very effectual countenance or support to them. We are however using every endeavour to put this place in the best posture of defence, that time and other circumstances will admit of. We are not afraid of any one of them, but both together may be too many for us, if they should be able to effect a junction, and the French land force is any thing considerable. We are ourselves at present (unfortunately as matters appear) somewhat disjoined, having a considerable detachment at Beaufort, in Carolina, I hope they will get through this day, the passage is still unobscured by the French.

On our return from Charles Town, it was reckoned a most eligible measure to keep a hold of Carolina, Beaufort in particular, and indeed nothing but a superiority at sea against us, would make the measure cease to be an advantageous one in every view, both with regard to the defence of this province, and offensive operations against Carolina.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
(Signed) P. REVOLT.
Hon. vice-admiral Byron.

Jan. 13. For several days past we have had accounts of vessels being drove ashore, along the sea coast in the late severe gales, but cannot find that any of them are to be depended on, except that a brig of 22 guns, belonging to the enemy, is ashore near South-Amboy, and a ship of 20 guns at Squan.

We hear that on Thursday afternoon last, as the ship Revolution, captain M'Nachtain, was lying at anchor in the Delaware, a large cake of ice came across her cable, which cut the same; and she was drove ashore on Dunck's bar opposite Bombay-Hook. The ship and cargo will be saved with the loss of her fore-mast cut, and main-mast carried away.

ANNAPOLIS, January 21.
An Act to appoint commissioners to state and settle the public accounts.

WHEREAS it is thought expedient, that commissioners be appointed to state and settle the public accounts, and that they have power to call on all persons indebted for settlement and payment of their balances:

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, that Stephen West, William Stephenson, and Lewis Neth, or any two of them, be and are hereby appointed commissioners for stating and settling the public accounts, and that they have full powers to inspect and examine the accounts and proceedings of the late and present auditor-general, and see that the same be properly posted and entered up; also the accounts and proceedings of the late and present commissary of stores, commissioners of the loan-office, and quarter-master; and that they have full power to call on the governor and council for the journals and proceedings of the council of safety, and of the late governor and council, thereby to facilitate their enquiries into the loan and disposition of all public monies; and that they have full powers to call on the commissioners of the tax and the collectors of the same, to render full accounts of their respective proceedings, and see that the same be properly closed and finished, according to the directions of the several acts of assembly relating thereto; and that they have full powers to call on all persons who have had public monies advanced to them by the conventions, general assembly, council of safety, or by order of the late governor and council, to render an account thereof; and in general, that they, or any two of them, have full powers to enquire

into the receipt and expediture of all public monies; and that they have power to send for persons, papers, and records; and all sheriffs and other officers are hereby strictly enjoined to obey the precepts by them issued, for calling before them all persons against whom any balance may appear, under the penalty of five hundred pounds for neglect or refusal; and that they have full power to enquire into all contracts with the public for manufactures of any kind, and may cause such suits to be brought in the name of the state as they may think reasonable for breach of contract, and in such case of breach of contract may compromise the same on such terms as they or any two of them, with the approbation of the governor and council, may agree upon; also may order suits to be brought for balances that may appear due, first giving notice thereof to the party; and that they have power to appoint a clerk and door keeper, and that they make report of their proceedings to the next general assembly; and that the said commissioners and their clerk shall receive the same daily allowance, and itinerant charges, as shall be allowed to the members of the general assembly, and their door keeper shall receive the same daily allowance as the door keeper of the house of delegates.

This act to continue until the first day of November next, and to the end of the next session of assembly, which shall happen thereafter.

In COUNCIL,
Annapolis, Dec. 30, 1779.

THIS board being of opinion, that it would be the means of procuring a higher price for the saltpetre, salt-pans, kettles, and other utensils for making salt and saltpetre, belonging to this state, in the hands of contractors and others, if such persons were directed to sell the same at the places where they are now deposited,
Ordered THEREFORE, That all contractors and others, having any of the above enumerated articles in their possession, be authorized and directed to sell the same at public sale immediately, and render an account of such sales to this board.

In COUNCIL,
Annapolis, Jan. 19, 1779.

WHEREAS, by the act for the more effectual preventing forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis on the eighth day of November, 1779, the governor and council are authorized and requested to lay out and divide the several counties of this state into eight districts; in pursuance whereof, it is hereby ordered, that the several counties in this state be divided and laid out into eight districts, in the following manner, to wit: Harford and Baltimore the first, Washington and Frederick the second, Montgomery and Prince-George's the third, Anne-Arundel and Calvert the fourth, Charles and St. Mary's the fifth, Kent, Cecil and Queen-Anne's the sixth, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester the seventh, Somerset and Worcester the eighth district.

By order,
T. JOHNSON jun. cl.

Extracts from the act, entitled, An act for the more effectual preventing forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis, on the eighth day of November, 1779.

And be it enacted, That no person shall be permitted to act within this state as commissary-general, agent, quarter-master-general, or as deputy to either, for the United States, before such person or persons have been licensed by the governor and council of this state, and all persons applying for such licence shall produce their commission to the governor and council, if the same hath not been already done, who on examination thereof, shall cause the date of such commission, and the name of the person producing the same, to be entered on their proceedings, and also the district in which such person, so licensed as aforesaid, shall be permitted to exercise his office, and the governor and council are hereby requested to transmit to the clerks of the several counties, a list of the names of all persons by them licensed as aforesaid, and the district in which they are permitted to purchase, which said list shall be deposited among the records of each county, and shall also publish the names and districts of the persons so licensed, in the Annapolis and Baltimore gazette, that the same may be known to the inhabitants of this state.

And be it enacted, That the governor and the council be authorized and requested to lay out

and divide the several counties of this state into eight districts, of which five shall be laid out on the western, and three on the eastern shore, and may also appoint and assign one of the deputies, licensed as aforesaid, to exercise his office in one of the aforesaid districts, and if any person or persons, so appointed and licensed, shall exercise his said office in any other district than that to which he is assigned, or shall act as deputy without being licensed as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay for every offence the sum of ten thousand pounds.

Provided nevertheless, That nothing herein contained shall be construed or taken to prohibit the commissary or deputy commissary-general, the quarter-master, or deputy quarter-master-general, of the United States, from purchasing any of the articles aforesaid in any part of the state.

And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any person to act as commissary-general, quarter-master-general, or as deputy to either, in this state, nor shall any person be licensed by the governor and the council, as herein before directed, unless he shall, before he acts as aforesaid, and before he shall be licensed as aforesaid, take an oath, (or affirmation, if a Quaker, Mennonite, or Dunker) that he will not, during the time he shall act as such, or be licensed as aforesaid, be directly or indirectly concerned or engaged in any merchandise either foreign or domestic, by buying and selling for gain; which oath or affirmation any justice of the peace may administer or take, and if any person shall act as such after the first day of February next, before taking such oath or affirmation, he shall forfeit ten thousand pounds for every offence.

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.

Head of Severn, Jan. 17, 1780.
STOLEN from the subscriber, on Thursday morning the 13th instant, a coat, jacket and breeches, a pair of mittens, a comb, an ax, some powder in an omenabrig bag, and shot in a leather one. They were stolen by one PATRICK RILEY, an Irishman, about 3 feet 10 inches high, has yellow hair, a dark brown country cloth coat and breeches, and a whitish jacket, the breeches have a hole torn in the thigh; he has a call in his eyes, a full red face, and very large limbs. He has a pax, which mentions his having had one from the governor of Virginia, which he lost, and that he is a deserter from the British army; he had with him a white bitch, with yellow spots, short ears and tail. Whoever will secure the said Riley so that he be brought to justice, shall receive one hundred dollars if taken in the county, and if out of the county the above reward, paid by
JOHN M'COY.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

January 6, 1780.
RAN away from the subscriber's plantation, about seven miles from Annapolis, on the main road leading from thence to Baltimore, on Monday the 21st day of December last, a likely young NEGRO man, named TOM, about five feet eight inches high, a stout well set fellow with thick lips, and his legs rather large; had on when he went away, a light coloured country made cloth jacket, with a red short waistcoat under it, a pair of light coloured country cloth breeches, and also took with him a pair of leather breeches, dark coloured yarn stockings, and two pair of shoes. It is apprehended that he may have endeavoured to get over into Virginia, from whence he was brought when a small boy and was then the property of John Morton Jordan, Esq; deceased. Whoever will apprehend the said negro, and bring him to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward if taken in Maryland, and if out of Maryland a further reward of one hundred dollars, besides all reasonable charges, paid by
ELIZABETH SCOTT.

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APETITION will be offered to the first session of the general assembly after this notice shall have been published eight weeks; for an act admitting to record, and giving effect from the date to a deed executed in Prince-George's county, by George Conn to Josias Shaw, for part of a tract of land called Williams and Anne, w⁸
5 RICHARD HENDERSON.

CASH given for clean Linen and Cotton RAGS.