

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, AUGUST 4, 1780.

From the Boston Independent Chronicle. A PICTURE of TYRANNY.

O warm our spirits in the great conduct for freedom, we should reflect on the dreadful calamities that will be the portion of America if the tyrant should prevail. Had the people a view of the misery he means to inflict, they would want no arguments to excite their efforts in defence of liberty. It is not easy to describe a scene so full of horror as that of a people once free, in the power of a tyrant. The most execrable tyrant of Britain, has given numerous instances of his internal disposition, in burning churches sacred to the worship of God; in burning the houses of helpless families, and turning the aged, and women and children, naked into the wilderness, exposed to frost, to hunger, and complicated misery; in stripping prisoners who capitulated for honourable terms, and then murdering them with cold and starving; in keeping prisoners on bread and meat so corrupt and stinking that it operated like a pestilence, and destroyed the men like a plague. By these means of torture and death, fourteen hundred men expired in New-York in one winter! Such has been, and now is, the character and conduct of a tyrant we appoint—and it he thus acts the while, while conquest is uncertain, what would he not do were the United States in his power? He would, in his black revenge, study new tortures, and heap misery upon misery—the weak and good, who have fought and laboured to save their country, would be the first sacrifices to his malice—others would be banished to distant regions of slavery—every instrument of death would be drunk with the blood of our most worthy citizens; the surviving widows and fatherless children, and weeping friends, with the multitude of the people, being stripped of their livings, would be reduced to the extreme misery the infernal heart of a tyrant can devise.— Thus reform and hopelets they must wear out their lives in wretchedness.

This land would swarm with the vilest herd of prisoners, insulting crown officers and malicious Tories, and the fair regions of America become a field of blood—a den of thieves, and of every abomination—the virtuous would pine away and die, while the creatures of the tyrant would wanton in every accursed thing.— This is but a faint picture of the miseries that await the Americans, if the British tyrant should prevail: what then ought to be our conduct in the present day? There is no other alternative but to drive the enemy out of our country, and preserve our independence complete, or fall a sacrifice to the malice of the tyrant, and suffer all the miseries imagination can form. The whole people ought to think seriously of their situation, and now act with spirit and firmness; we have the most glorious hopes, if we act well, and every thing to fear if we neglect our duty. The public burdens are great and severe; but success will plentifully reward all our toil; and it is infinitely better to spend our lives and fortunes in defending our dear country (even if we should fail of success) than yield them tamely to the accursed tyrant.— If we do our duty in the cause of our country, even the loss of it cannot deprive us of the heavenly satisfaction of conscious virtue. So great and interceding to mankind, is our righteous cause, that we have experienced, and may still expect, the singular blessings of Almighty God upon us, if we continue our exertions. If there is an object on earth, that deserves the attention of heaven, it is a brave people struggling in the cause of virtue; and history gives us many striking examples of a small people having resisted a tyrant with success, and made themselves independent. Within about two centuries, two nations have arisen, whose circumstances were similar to these United States, the Swis and the Dutch. They were like us oppressed by tyrants, and like us declared themselves independent, their prospect of success was by no means equal to ours; but by persevering they finally triumphed over all their enemies. The Swis were a very poor people, but very rich in heroic virtue; and after a long conflict, during which they fought sixty-six battles, they

drove all the tyrants out of their country, and have gloriously triumphed in freedom to this day.

So firm and magnanimous were the Dutch, that they maintained twelve years hot war, had great part of their country destroyed, suffered vast destruction of their people by the war, by famine and by pestilence; besides having about twenty thousand of their virtuous citizens hanged by the tyrants; yet they persevered, and finally extirpated all the murderers of their country, and became in a short time one of the richest nations in the world. Such wonders hath the spirit of liberty wrought. And will the citizens of America ever think of despair, whose object is greater, and their prospect more glorious than ever was yet presented to the view of mankind! He that possesses one sentiment of honour or virtue, that feels one spark of benevolence to mankind, or has one ray of magnanimity to animate his soul, will exert every nerve for the salvation of his country, nor waste a coward thought on life.

A SOLDIER.

PROVIDENCE, July 8.

MONDAY last arrived here the brig Barrington, late commanded by captain Collier, laden with rum, sugar, flour, candles, &c. prize to the privateer ship General Washington, captain James Munro, of this port. She was bound from Barbados for Georgia, but was laid from Antigua.

Extract of a letter from Antigua, dated June 10, taken in the above prize.

"We are perishing for the want of corn and water: many of the poor in the country have died with hunger, and the owners of estates give their negroes two days in each week to get what they can to supply themselves."

CHATHAM, July 19.

On Sunday last three of the enemy's dragoons swam their horses, with their accoutrements, from Staten-Island and came over to our people at Elizabeth-town.

We are informed that the spirit of desertion is very prevalent among the enemy, no less than fifteen of their light horsemen deserted in a body on the 6th instant, with their horses, arms and accoutrements; six of them came into Fredericksburg, and nine to general Howe's head quarters; and that scarcely a day elapses without more or less coming off to some of our posts on the east side of Hudson's river.

Night before last five or six of the refugees came over to Newark and carried of major Hayes, Justice Canfield and son, and Zophar Lion.

Extract of a letter from an officer at West-Point, to his friend at Morris-town, dated July 5.

Captain Sacket, with a small party, was sent on a scout towards the White Plains, where he fell in with a party of his Britannic majesty's cow thieves, killed eleven, and took fifteen prisoners, and near four hundred head of cattle, mostly fat, all which he brought to Fish-Kill."

Extract of a letter from the Continental Village, July 2.

The enemy lie in the following order— Their centre are encamped on Valentine's hill, their left on Philips's hill, their right near Stephen Ward's, East Chester; the British grenadiers on the right, and the Hessians on the left; the light infantry advanced half a mile in front; their sick and wounded removed out of the hospitals into the country.

PHILADELPHIA, July 25.

Extract of a letter from Paris, March 23, 1780. "We are hourly in expectation of great news from Holland, Ireland, England and Spain, but above all from America and the West Indies. By the English papers you will perceive the violent fermentation in England, which has arisen to such an height, as to produce a congress in fact, and it will soon be so in name. The proceedings in the house of commons on the fourteenth, which were terminated by a resolution of the committee of the whole house, to abolish the board of trade and plantations, carried against the ministry after a very long and warm

debate by a majority of eight voices, is not only the most extraordinary vote which has passed in the present reign, but it leads to very extensive consequences.

"I believe it is very true, that this board has been the true cause of the quarrel of Great-Britain against the colonies, and therefore may be considered as a natural object of national resentment; but a reformation of this kind alone, would not probably have produced this effect.

"Whether it is the near approach of an election, that has intimidated the members of the house of commons; or whether the committees, petitions, associations and congresses, have alarmed them; or whether the nation is convinced that America is indeed lost for ever, and consequently, that the board will infallibly be useless, I don't know.

"Be this as it may, the English nation, and even the Irish and Scotch nations, all parts of the world will draw this inference from it, that even in the opinion of the house of commons, America is lost. The free and virtuous citizens of America, and even the slavish and vicious, if there are any still remaining of this character, under the denomination of Tories, must be convinced by this vote, passed in the heyday of their joy for the successes of admiral Rodney's fleet, that the house of commons despair of ever regaining America. The nations subject to the house of Bourbon, cannot fail to put the same interpretation upon this transaction. Holland, and all the northern powers, with the empires of Russia at their head, who are all greatly irritated against England, for their late violences against the innocent commerce of neutral powers, will draw the same consequences.

"The politicians of Great-Britain are too enlightened in the history of nations, and the rise and progress of causes and effects in the political world, not to see that all these bodies of people will, in consequence of this vote, consider the colonies as given up for lost by the house of commons; and they are too well instructed not to know the important consequences that follow, from having such points as these, settled among the nations. I cannot therefore but consider this vote, and the other respecting the secretary of state for the American department, which arose almost to a balance, as a most important declaration of the sense of the nation.

"The first probable consequence of it will be one to their attempt, by offering some terms, which they know we cannot accept, in honour, in conscience accept, to deceive, divide and divide America, throw all into confusion there, and by this means gaining an opportunity to govern.

"There is nothing more astonishing than the inconsistencies of the patriots in England. Those, who are most violent against the ministry, are not for making peace with France and Spain; but they wish to allure America into a separate peace, and persuade her to join them against the house of Bourbon. One would think it impossible, that one man of sense in the world could seriously believe, that we could thus basely violate our faith, thus unreasonably quarrel with our best friends, thus madly attach ourselves to our bitterest enemies. But thus it is."

Thursday the 19th instant, the first and second Pennsylvania brigades, commanded by brigadier general Wayne, marched from their respective encampments for the purpose of collecting and bringing off those cattle in Bergen county, immediately exposed to the enemy. After executing the order general Wayne on his return visited a block-house in the vicinity of Bergen-town, built and garrisoned by a number of refugees to prevent the disagreeable necessity of being forced into the British service. The work was found proof against light artillery, when a part of the first and second Pennsylvania regiments were ordered to attempt it by assault, when after forcing their way through the abatis and pickets, a retreat was indispensably necessary, there being no other entrance in the block-house but a subterraneous passage sufficient only for one man to pass. Our loss consists of 69, including 3 officers, killed and wounded. Lieutenant Moody and six of his party were taken on their return from an excursion to Suffex.