

BALTIMORE, July 24.

THE thanks of congress have been given to the honourable Samuel Huntington, their late president, in testimony of their approbation of his conduct in the chair, and in the execution of public business.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in capt. Moore's troop of Baltimore light dragoons, dated Head-Quarters, Holt's forge, New-Kent county, Wednesday, July 22, 1781.

"Cornwallis having encamped near James-town, the marquis sent general Wayne, with the Pennsylvania line, to take their station within a small distance of the British army, and watch their motions. About 300 riflemen occupied the ground between general Wayne and lord Cornwallis, who were directed to scatter themselves in the woods, without order, and annoy the enemy's camp. This they did with such effect that a small party was sent out against them, to dislodge them; each side continuing to reinforce, at length the whole of general Wayne's division were engaged; they drove the advanced detachments back to their lines, and without stopping there, attacked the whole British army, drawn up in order of battle, and charged them with their bayonet. The action was obstinate for the little time it lasted; but the disproportion of the numbers was too great. The marquis arrived, in person, time enough to order a retreat, and to bring off the Pennsylvania troops, before they were surrounded, which the enemy were endeavouring to effect, being able greatly to outflank them. Cornwallis did not pursue them more than about half a mile in their retreat, apprehending that the rest of our army were near enough to support them, and not choosing to risk a general engagement. We lost two field pieces, which could not be brought off all the horses belonging to them being killed. Captain Savage did great execution with a third field piece under his command, frigate in such a manner as to rake, with grape shot, a solid column of the enemy on their march, with which he cut lanes through them, and repeatedly drove them back with the utmost confusion. The riflemen and light infantry were of great service, and gave the enemy some very heavy and well-directed fires. The whole of our troops which were engaged that day, did not amount to more than 1100. Wayne's division lost 107 privates and non-commissioned officers, killed, wounded, and missing, and 12 commissioned officers; among the last capt. Stakes, wounded in the leg, and capt. Cunningham in the foot, both slightly. Of about 40 of the wounded, whom I have seen, but one is thought dangerous. We suffered no loss, of any consequence, except in general Wayne's division.

"The British immediately after the action, which ended about 9 o'clock in the evening, crossed James river. The whole army were crossed over by the morning, excepting a part of their light horse, for which they had boats ready to bring them off instantly, in case of an emergency. Saturday afternoon, or evening, they crossed also. Those of our wounded, who were left on the field, to the number of about 25, were treated by the enemy with more humanity than usual, and were left behind.

"Cornwallis finding, among the killed and wounded, none but the Pennsylvania line, from that circumstance, and the information of his prisoners, learned, that only that line, with a few riflemen and light infantry, had been in the action; and found greater cause of chagrin, that such a handful of men should have made so spirited an attack on his army, than of exultation for having repulsed them.

"It is said a part of their troops are embarking for New York, that a garrison will be left at Portsmouth, and the rest probably go to the Southward. The marquis is moving up James river.

"I had the pleasure of seeing the marquis in a most amiable point of view, visiting the wounded officers and soldiers, going from man to man, examining into their situation, their attendance, their wants, and giving every possible care that all things necessary should be furnished; a conduct, which while it does honour to the humanity and goodness of his heart, cannot fail to engage him the affections of the soldiery, and to endear the name of Lafayette to every American."

ANNAPOLIS, August 2.

Three persons in the characters of peasants, on Tuesday evening the 24th ult. a few miles beyond Wilmington, stopped the northern post, on his way down, and robbed him of his mail.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman with the marquis la Fayette, dated July 26, 1781.

"You will have no doubt received from congress copies of ministerial letters to Sir Henry Clinton. At present the plan is deranged, but its continuing so will in a great measure rest with us.

England was so far gone in the conquest of America, as to announce to the different courts of Europe, that the four southern states were wholly in her possession, and at perfect peace with the mother country. This, it is probable, assisted in putting an end to the so much talked of negotiation. I dare say, however, the Czarina and the emperor will bring it on again; but, by the bye, this said emperor has the best appointed and largest army in Europe, and may be desirous to recover certain tracts of land which were once in his family. Should this kindle a war with France, it may not be auspicious to us. But let us think, that her policy will manage this matter so as to keep the emperor quiet till our business is done. In this case, or in any case, we shall have the negotiation renewed; and should we be successful this campaign, I do not despair of a peace in 1782; but one is afraid to decide upon any point of this nature, who has seen the most likely things turn out contrary to the best calculations. Spain is once more employed against Gibraltar, and not a little angry with France for not preventing its retreat. The affairs of England in the East Indies are really tumbling into ruin, as mentioned in our papers. Holland moves slowly. But my principal fear from England is, lest the emperor should enter the lists as a disputant, instead of a negotiator.

"The movements against New-York are in our favour; but will we improve them? Will we fill up our army and expel, or, if this cannot be accomplished, confine the enemy to mere poits?"

"One Cornwallis is at Portsmouth with his main body; an advanced party is at Suffolk, and another at Smithfield. About 1000 have embarked for New-York, and to be under general Leslie; the fleet (49) lay in Hampton road; we are pretty certain of the two battalions of light infantry under one Abercrombie, and the queen's rangers, being ordered, and that the guards, and perhaps one or two British regiments, may go on the same duty. They announce Chesapeake and Patowmack, but New-York appears the present object."

Extract of another letter dated Malvern (or Neals-warn's) hills, July 29, 1781.

"It is not easy to make any thing out of lord Cornwallis's present movements. The fleet with about 1300 troops on board (some say 2000) were by our latest advices still in Hampton road. Since taking this position, there have been winds that would have carried them out of the capes, or up the bay. They have pilots on board, acquainted with the navigation of the upper parts of Chesapeake. The fleet is watered, and the enemy give out, that Baltimore is the place of destination; I know not well what to say in this case. To deceive more effectually, general sometimes announce their real intentions; lord Cornwallis has done this in some instances. Going up the bay is also agreeable to the ministerial system. The composition of the troops is likewise calculated for such service, comprehending the light infantry, or a regiment of cavalry, or the queen's rangers. On the other hand, New-York seems to call for their assistance, and they may be waiting for a convoy, or a second embarkation. In fine, if I dared to conclude any thing, it would be, that they are destined for New-York. Nevertheless precautions may not be improper in your quarter; but I state the intelligence, and you will be the best judge of the measure.

"It appears to me, that this state will not be evacuated, nor their design of penetrating Maryland even suspended at this moment, unless the French have obtained such a naval superiority as to place New-York and Charles-town in the last degree of danger. Such an event only, or a certainty that the army here will be too exposed to capture from such a superiority, can or will force them from this state.

"The Maryland dragoons have been ordered to return, and I suppose have commenced their march this morning."

To be sold at Nottingham on Saturday the 11th day of August next, for crop tobacco on credit, THE schooner NAUTILUS, with her apparel and furniture; she is a new vessel ready fitted for sea, burthen about 80 hogheads of tobacco, has eight carriage-guns. An inventory of her materials may be seen by applying to Alexander Contee, Esq; at Baltimore, or to Mr. John Harrison, near the place of sale. The terms will be made known on that day.

Prince-George's county, July 15, 1781.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro man named BOB, who says he belongs to Joseph Matling in St. Mary's county. He is about 24 years of age, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, well made, his cloaths are so indifferent a description is not necessary. His master is desired to take him away and pay charges.

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Sheriff.

THERE is at the plantation of John Perrie living at the mouth of Swanfon's creek, in Prince-George's county, taken up as a stray, a light sorrel mare, about 14 hands high, with a small blaze in her face, a split in her near fore foot, and on her near side close by the shoulder has a large white saddle spot, she has no perceivable brand, appears to be about 10 or 11 years old, trots, paces, and gallops. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

St. Mary's county, July 16, 1781.

COMMITTED to my custody as runaway, a negro man who says his name is JAMES, and that he belongs to Joseph Howard, who lives about 10 miles from Snowdens iron works, appears to be about 25 years old, 5 feet 3 inches high, born in Africa, but speaks plain, has a small hole in the lower part of each ear, his left arm is much shorter than the right; had on and with him, one white and one tow linen shirt, two jackets of country kersey wove cloth, one pair of tow trousers, a pair of shoes, and an old castor hat; he brought with him a small dark bay mare about 12 hands high, 7 years old, a short tail with white hairs about the top, a few white hairs in her forehead, no brand, he says he stole the mare from a man living about 30 miles from his master, the mare is lame and her back so bruised that I am apprehensive she will die.

There is also a negro woman in custody, who says she belongs to Molly Smoot of Charles county, call herself BETT, appears to be about 25 years old, country born, appears to have lost her senses, she often mentions the names of persons who live in Charles county, from which I have reason to believe she belongs to some person in that county. The owners are desired to pay charges and take them away from

ZACHARIAH FORREST, Sheriff.

Office for the preservation and sale of forfeited estates, Annapolis, July 4, 1781.

Pursuant to an act of the general assembly will be sold at public auction for gold and silver, PART of that valuable and advantageously situated tract of land called WHETSTONE POINT, adjoining to Baltimore-town; it will be laid off and sold in small and convenient lots, the size to be adapted to their situation, and the probable intentions of the purchasers. One half of the sum bid to be paid within ten days, and the remainder in six weeks from the day of sale. If the first payment shall not be made at the time required, it will be at the option of the commissioner to confirm or avoid the sale. If the second payment be not made in time, the purchaser to pay ten per cent. interest from the day of failure. No conveyance will be made until the whole sum is paid with interest. The sale to begin on the premises the second Tuesday in August next.

By order, JO. BAXTER, ck.

Office for the preservation and sale of forfeited estates, Annapolis, July 4, 1781.

To be sold at auction, on Wednesday the 15th of August next, THE houses and lots in Port-Tobacco, late the property of John Glasford and co. formerly occupied by Robert Mundell; also the houses and lots, late the property of the said John Glasford and co. in Benedict on Patuxent, formerly occupied by Robert Young. The money to be paid down, agreeable to the purchasers, if not, they may give bond with security to pay one third of the sum bid on the 1st day of September 1782, another third on the 1st of September 1783, and the remaining third on the 1st of September 1784, in specie, or the new bills of credit to be emitted in pursuance of an act of the last session, at their actual value at the time of payment. The sale to be at Port-Tobacco.

By order, JO. BAXTER, ck.

Annapolis, June 9, 1781.

THIS is to give public notice, that the subscriber intends to petition the general assembly of Maryland at their next sitting, to enable him by law to record a deed for fourteen hundred acres of land in Washington county, and a house and five lots in Elizabeth-town, in said county, being part of the estate of Jonathan Hagar, late of the county aforesaid.

DANIEL HEESTER, jun.

THE subscriber intends to petition the next general assembly of this state, for an act to enable him to record a deed, and make it valid although it was not acknowledged according to the form prescribed by law; it was executed by Mr. Cravath of Baltimore-town, in the beginning of 1777, when there was no civil magistrate acting under the new government just then formed.

NATHANIEL RAMSEY.