

was raised by being acquainted with the information given to congress, and that I made the purchase to benefit myself, by raising the price on the public. There never was an inference more false and unjust. My advice to purchase flour and wheat did not flow from any motive injurious to the public, or to benefit myself by its wants, or from any knowledge acquired as a member of congress, but from facts publicly known to every merchant in America. I will truly relate the facts and the reasons for the purchase. In the beginning of July 1778, it was well known in Philadelphia and Baltimore, that not only flour, but wheat, was high in Boston, from these circumstances, that the Massachusetts state very seldom raises more grain than feeds her own inhabitants; the usual supply from New-York was applied to the support of our army; and the quantity necessary for the convention troops was very considerable. In the latter end of July the price of flour at Boston was 30 dollars per barrel, and wheat 9 dollars per bushel, and on the 1st of September flour was 40 dollars per barrel. It was notorious that count d'Estaing, during the time he lay off the Hook (from the 10th to the 21st of July) took many prizes, and being superior to the British fleet, it was expected that his cruizers would meet with equal success off Rhode Island. Within four or five days after the arrival of count d'Estaing, I proposed to lend a vessel with bread, flour, and other provisions, and vegetables, to his fleet, then off the Hook; and on the 4th of August I proposed to Mr. Dorsey to buy a quantity of flour to send to count d'Estaing to exchange for prizes, and to send an agent to the count at Rhode-Island to buy of him prizes and their cargoes, payable in flour, bread, or tobacco. This scheme was not of my invention; not only private persons, but congress, wished to purchase prizes of the count, as appears by their resolve of the 19th of August, and the proposal to pay in flour was advantageous to this state, and most acceptable to the count, whose fleet would require two thirds as much flour as the American army. About the middle of August it was the general expectation, that the embargo would be taken off, and it was universally believed that a convoy would be obtained from our bay to Rhode-Island and Boston immediately after the resolve of congress of the 2d of September, to permit the export of flour or wheat to the eastern states, in vessels recommended by the executive of either of those states. I wrote to Boston to obtain a recommendation from the council of the Massachusetts-bay and for this purpose I advised Mr. Dorsey to purchase flour, and not, as asserted, because congress had directed a quantity to be bought in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The agents for, and the persons recommended by, the eastern states, began to purchase early in September, and it seems strange to me that strangers could purchase and export, and that it should be criminal in a native. Is it now thought criminal to buy flour to send to the French fleet? Mr. Carroll may object, that my veracity and honour is not sufficient evidence. That the purchase was proposed in July, and on the 4th of August, and for the purpose of exporting to the French fleet, and to Boston, as I have stated, can be proved by original letters, and copies of writings (the originals of which are in possession of two gentlemen of the first character in America) and open to the perusal of any gentleman, and by my friend Mr. Paca, to whom I communicated every particular.

As to the second fact, that by my intrigues I protracted the determination of the committee on colonel Wadsworth's proposals to procure supplies, to give time to my agents to complete their purchases, I can only say, that of all the most infamous lies circulated since the creation, it is the most base, and void of any the least foundation. I conceive this charge relates to the report of the committee to whom colonel Wadsworth's letter of the 6th of September was referred on the 14th, and who made their report on the 2d of October. I do solemnly declare that I never had any thing to say to the business, and to the best of my memory I never conversed with any of the committee on the subject referred to them. I can with confidence appeal to the committee, whether I in any manner delayed their determination. I voted for their report; and the motive assigned to give time to my agents to purchase was unnecessary, as time sufficient had elapsed from the 4th of August to the 2d of October, and no resolution of congress could prevent any purchase, which only could be done by the legislature.

As to the third fact, that I divulged to Mr. Dorsey a resolution of congress, which I was bound in honour, and by the duty of my station, to keep secret. I wish Mr. Carroll had explicitly pointed out the resolution he meant. It remains uncertain whether he means the resolve of the 24th of August, directing a purchase of flour; or the resolve of the 2d of September, permitting the exportation of flour to the eastern states. Mr. Marchant complained that the first had been divulged; Mr. Lau-

rens the latter. The charge in either case is false, and the circumstances alluded to by Mr. Carroll misunderstood, or misrepresented. When any resolution passes congress, which is intended to be secret, the opinion of congress is taken, and it determined to be kept secret. It is so noted by the secretary in the margin of the journal opposite the resolve. I do not recollect, or believe, that either of the above resolves were ordered to be kept secret. As far as I can trust my memory, no such order passed. I should not have contented to it in either case, because our farmers, from the beginning of the war, had sold their wheat at a very low price, and because the privilege of transporting flour or wheat to the eastern states ought to have been extended to the citizens of this state. If no injunction to secrecy was imposed, the suspicion and charge is idle; and if it was a secret, I never divulged it to any one; to my partner it was unnecessary, as long before either resolve, we had determined to purchase. The declaration of Mr. Marchant, my silence, and the story about Mr. William Smith, are stated as circumstantial evidence, that I did disclose some secret of congress. I will relate the fact truly, by which the misunderstanding, or the misrepresentation, will be readily discovered. On the morning of the 11th of September, on my going to congress, I found several of the members in conversation respecting colonel Wadsworth's letter of the 6th, from Baltimore, in which he mentioned, that the mills in the neighbourhood had been engaged by some merchants, and that his orders to purchase a quantity of flour was known, before he got down. I remember particularly, that the secretary of congress was present; but I do not recollect that any man spoke of the resolution as secret, but of the imprudence of making it public. I well remember, that I said that I did not know whether I had written on the subject to any one, but if I had, that it was to colonel Lloyd, one of the counsellors, and as I had that morning received a letter from him complaining of, and alluding to, with Mr. William Smith's opinion on it, I said in public, a letter from me to him, I said it was probable, that if I had mentioned the resolve to colonel Lloyd, that it had become public from that circumstance. I showed colonel Lloyd's letter, but I never said, or intimated, any thing against the character of Mr. Smith, nor was I offended with him, because, from the confidential intimacy which had long subsisted between us, I had frequently endorsed my letters, to Annapolis, to be opened by him. On my return home, I applied to colonel Lloyd, and on perusing my letter, I found not a word in it relative to the intended purchase of flour. Mr. Smith, from the misconception of some persons, was offended with me, and when he called on me, I explained the matter, as I have now related. I can only observe, that nothing but folly in the extreme, as well as the height of injustice, could have induced me to charge Mr. Smith with the mean conduct of opening my letter, a matter so easy of detection. But "I was silent when Mr. Marchant mentioned in congress that the secret had been betrayed by the delegates of Maryland." I do not remember such assertion. What fell from Mr. Marchant was after congress met, and I cannot believe he spoke of divulging a secret, when there was none. I recollect Mr. Plater and Mr. Forbes declared, that they had not mentioned the order for the purchase; Mr. Henry and myself were present, and I said nothing, because I was doubtful whether I had not mentioned the matter in my letter to colonel Lloyd, and because there was no obligation to secrecy. If congress had entertained the least suspicion of my being capable of betraying their secrets, can it be accounted for, that they afterwards appointed me to confer with the minister of France, on a matter of very great consequence, and of the utmost privacy.

The last circumstance urged by Mr. Carroll is, that I remained three years under the imputation of a breach of my public trust, and that my silence for that space of time is a sufficient confirmation that I was guilty. I am amazed Mr. Carroll should assert a fact so contradictory to the truth, and against his own knowledge of the fact. On my return from congress (October 9, 1778) I was informed of many reports injurious to my character. On the 12th of November, the day before the choice of delegates to congress, I was called, with my colleagues, Messieurs Stone, Plater, and Carroll my accuser, before the house of delegates, to give them an account of the state of public affairs in Europe and America. I took the opportunity to express my hearty approbation of such enquiry, and my desire that the house could be informed of the conduct of their delegates, that they might know their merit or demerit; that reports had been propagated to the injury of my character, and that I was ready and desirous to give every information in my power, and to answer any questions, any member should propose. The house were silent, and no questions were asked. I then proposed to attend again, that gentlemen might prepare their questions. On the next day the ballots were taken to determine who should be left out of congress, and though twenty-

four votes (one of which only was of the senate) were against my dismissal, I was discarded without a hearing, though requested in a public manner. In the first week of December I went to Philadelphia, and on the 12th a committee of both houses reported the instructions, which contained insinuations highly injurious to my conduct and honour as a delegate to congress, and which were rejected by the house of delegates. On my arrival in Philadelphia, the New-York Journals, of the 16th of November and the preceding week, were put into my hands; the first letter I never saw, and the second I have mislaid; on the 10th I wrote to Mr. Holt the printer, "that the publication was false and malicious libel, requesting the name of the author, and pledging my veracity and honour to the public, that every fact alleged, as criminal or exceptionable, was either wholly false, or grossly misrepresented." In July 1779 I was chosen a delegate for the city of Annapolis, and after the election I publicly addressed a considerable number of the citizens, and stated to them all the reports and facts alleged by Mr. Carroll (with many more which had circulated) and explained them to the people in the same manner as I have now done. At various times in the house of delegates I spoke of the slanders, and challenged any one to appear to support them.

Mr. Carroll asserts, that the purchase of wheat and flour by my partners was the cause of the rise of the prices of those articles. In August 1777 the price of wheat was ten shillings; the depreciation in that month, and September and October was four for one. No man is more capable, or quicker discern between the nominal, and the real price of any article, than Mr. Carroll. The price of ten shillings continental, was only two shillings and six-pence real money; twelve and six-pence three and a penny half-penny; fifteen shillings three and nine-pence; and twenty shillings, five shillings. What other causes combined with the depreciation to raise the price of wheat and flour? About the middle of August it was discovered that the fly had greatly injured the wheat on the eastern, and on the lower parts of the western shore. The storm in the beginning of September broke down, or greatly damaged, all the mills near Baltimore, and all over the state. The great floods of rain in the same month damaged the wheat in stacks, and ruined the crops of corn. With what can our can the rise in the price be attributed to my purchase of 7000 bushels of wheat and 400 barrels of flour?

Mr. Carroll asserts, that he gave credit to the reports, circulated in 1778, and therefore advised the instructions. I cannot credit this assertion. Mr. Carroll either did not believe the stories circulated, or he is guilty of an untruth. On my return from Philadelphia, at Christmas 1778, the intended instructions were put into my hands. I thought my mind gloved with resentment against those members of the assembly who had treated me with so much injustice, I was silent, and would not gratify my enemies so far as even to complain. I prepared a publication respecting Mr. Carroll's conduct, but was informed, that he being acquainted with it, he solemnly declared, that he did not intend or aim at instructions at me, and therefore I laid it aside.

I fear I have tired the patience of my readers, and therefore refer remarking on other parts of Mr. Carroll's address, to the next week.

SAMUEL CHASE

Annapolis, Sept. 24 1781.

LONDON, June 28.

CAPTAIN Williams, of his majesty's frigate Flora, sent an express this morning to the admiralty, with an account of his being arrived at Portsmouth with the ship under his command. Further informs the lords of the admiralty, that being on a cruise the 20th instant, with his majesty's ship Crescent of 28 guns, captain Hope, they in with two Dutch frigates, of nearly the same force, which they engaged very close for the quarters of an hour, when the Flora's antagonist struck to her; but they had the chagrin to see, at the same time, the Crescent strike her colour to the other Dutch ship, her masts having just been fell. Captain Williams, having secured his prize followed and retook the Crescent; her antagonist then making off. The next day two large French frigates met them, now in no situation for further resistance, but a hopeless one, who retook the Dutch ship, and were in chase of the Crescent when they parted company. Captain Hope had 20 of his men killed, and above 60 wounded, some of them dangerously. The Flora is a good deal damaged, both in hull and rigging.

Advices were received from Petersburg on Monday evening, by which we learn, that admiral Grieg had taken the command of a squadron of fail of the line, and hoisted his flag on board Jezekil of 74 guns, and will sail in a very short time. The advices add, that though his destination remains to the public a secret, it is generally thought to be for England.

Tuesday a commission passed the great seal, pointing Robert Digby, Esq; rear-admiral of

commander in chief vessels employed on the and a commission for Sir J. We are informed, that succeeded Sir Peter Parker on Prince William Henry's embark for North-America the 19th.

Extract of a letter from "At half past eleven o'clock was declared free. To give in every countenance a beggar description. We are now certain that the explanation is for the capture of the BOSTON

On Saturday morning last the English frigate laid to anchor and 10 caronades, French frigate Magicienne, and then after near an hour's engagement obliged to strike to supersede killed on board either side. The Briton was taken and tops of houses in town, and to be other the Britia and Sagetaria in them; and we hope in a short time of their being overtaken at port, as both the Briton were much shattered, the frigate yesterday arrived the main

NEW-HAVEN On Friday morning last, three of the enemy's ships, and two armed frigates, and landed 150 men, grenadiers and guard, 12 general houses, where they were the invasion generally through compact) till near sunset the enemy were collecting a number. Some families known, nor missed their cows. The alarm was not given to afford any assistance, and their designs, and got they took off four of the ships, and about 30 head of cattle in the afternoon of the 1st. The enemy were beating to well with a league from the shore, and having no way to land, heeled her down, and then suddenly sunk, by which the prisoners were unfortunately killed Smith and Johnson, and to be only 6 or 7; the other coming immediately to anchor is said to have had on board much being to leeward, with

Three of the prisoners are Mr. Kimberly, capt. Catlin, on account of his age, and the two others are

HARTFORD,

Extract of a letter from an officer at New-London, Friday, 9

Yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the enemy were landed at our mouth. I immediately under my command to afford its defence. I arrived before I received advice before the regiment could were embarking.

The enemy were under the command of a famous general Arnold, and consisted of from 1500 to 2000 men, the greatest part of the water and Groton, near the water Grifwood, where colonel Ledyard, repulsed the enemy at last was obliged to surrender. The enemy, after having murdered him, they left 73 of our men, and 40 wounded in the fort. They were about 40 prisoners, among which was Ledyard, Esq; They were taken at ten o'clock in the evening

* Vid. resolves of congress of 13 Jan. and 11 Sept. 1778.