

vice, at the request of major Trescott, he was honoured with the command. Having obtained several very accurate draughts of this post, and even the places where the sentinels stood, I made every disposition for the attack, previous to the embarkation of the troops. I have enclosed a copy of my orders to major Trescott, which he has most faithfully executed, and his return of prisoners, &c. &c. It becomes necessary for me to observe, that for the execution of this service, capt. Edgar's dismounted dragoons were ordered to surprise the garrison and carry the works, while capt. Richards with his company were to surround the fort, and prevent the garrison from escaping. Lieut. Rogers of the 2d regiment of light dragoons, with ten chosen men, was appointed to lead the attack against the fort, followed by major Trescott and capt. Edgar with the remainder of the dismounted dragoons, the rear of which, was brought up by cornet Pike; capt. Richards, lieut. Hoyt, and ensign Pinto were disposed of as above observed, to surround the garrison. The attack commenced at three o'clock this morning, and was conducted with great good order, but notwithstanding the greatest exertions of capt. Richards and his officers, some of the garrison jumped over the works and escaped. Major Trescott speaks highly of all the officers and soldiers under his command, as well as of the boatmen employed on this service. It was fortunate for major Vanalstine, who commanded the garrison, that he was absent at New-York.

It gives me peculiar satisfaction that I have occasion to report, not a man killed of our detachment, and but one wounded. After the troops have refreshed themselves, I shall forward the prisoners, together with the standard of the garrison to headquarters. The plunder that was brought off from the garrison, I presume may be divided among the troops and boatmen, who were on the expedition. The piece of brass artillery I shall annex to my command for the present.

Some of our baggage being left at Fairfield, and other reasons of a private nature, which I shall soon communicate, have induced me to march the detachment to Fairfield, from whence I shall write you again to-morrow. I am, my dear general, with every sentiment of esteem, your most obedient servant,

BEN. TALLMADGE, maj. 2d reg. L. D.
Major-general Heath.

Return of prisoners, ordnance, military stores, &c. taken in fort Slango, October 3, 1781.

Prisoners, 2 captains, 1 lieutenant, 18 rank and file.

Ordnance, 1 three-pounder (brass) complete, brought off; 2 four-pounders, double fortified, (iron) destroyed; 10 castles three-pounders; 32 do. three-pounders; 24 blank cartridges, three-pounders; 40 dozen of musquet cartridges.

A considerable quantity of English goods and cloathing were taken in the fort and brought off.

LEM. TRESCOTT, maj. 9th Mass. reg.

N.B. Two of the enemy were killed within their works, and two mortally wounded and left.

Published by order of congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, fec.

OB. 16. Yesterday morning arrived here the privateer Fair American, captain Eldridge, from a cruise, and brought with her the following vessels: Sloop Polly, belonging to this port, laden with flour, bound to Cape François, taken by British cruisers, but retaken by captain Eldridge; brigs King George, Anne, and Nancy, from London; and brig York, from Newry. These last 4 vessels sailed from England about 12 weeks since, in company with near 90 sail more, 25 of which were bound to Charles-town and the remainder to New-York, about 40 sail of which captain Eldridge saw, on Saturday last, go into Sandy Hook. The prizes will prove very valuable, as their cargoes consist of a variety of articles, such as cheese, butter, porter, beer, flour, ironmongery, dry goods, &c.

A ship of 12 guns, from London, belonging to the above mentioned fleet, was a few days ago carried into Egg-Harbour, she is laden with articles similar to the other prizes, the loss of which will be greatly felt by the enemy.

About two weeks ago one of the above prizes spoke with the homeward bound Jamaica fleet, in the windward passage, which had suffered very much in a hard gale of wind. Thirty sail of this fleet were stranded on what is called the Keys, and one of the convoy, a 90 gun ship, was among the number. This information was given by the people of the Anne to captain Eldridge.

ANNAPOLIS, October 25.

On Saturday evening last an express boat arrived in this port, with a letter from the count de Graffe to his Excellency the governor of this state, of which the following is a translation:

La Ville de Paris, OB. 19, 1781.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to thank your Excellency for the intelligence which you have been pleased to communicate. I have just desired general Washington to send me back my troops, of which probably he will no longer stand in need, as lord Cornwallis has surrendered, which perhaps you will not have heard before this reaches you; as soon as they are embarked I shall quit the bay of Chesapeake, and I will endeavour still to contribute to the welfare of the United States, in stopping if I can Sir Henry Clinton.

I have the honour to be, with the most respectful attachment, your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,
DE GRASSE.
His Excellency Governor LEE.

This great and important intelligence was immediately announced by the joyful acclamations of the people, and soon after by the firing of the artillery, &c.

On Monday afternoon a feu de joye was fired by the artillery and select militia, and in the evening the town was beautifully illuminated.

By an officer who left the allied army on the 20th instant, we are favoured with the following narrative of their operations against, and the reduction of, the British posts at York and Gloucester.

On the 6th instant in the evening, the allied army began to break ground, within about 700 yards of the enemy's lines, and by their uncommon exertions, a parallel of at least a mile's extent was so far completed by day-light, as to afford a sufficient cover for the men. The darkness of the night, or some other cause, prevented the enemy from discovering our fatigue parties, and therefore the work was effected without loss. On the evening of the 9th, a battery was opened on our extreme left, and before the evening of the 10th we began to cannonade and bombard the enemy from upwards of 60 pieces of heavy ordnance and mortars. Our fire was now so superior to that of the besieged, that they were obliged to mark their artillery during the day; in the night, they annoyed us in some measure with their howitzers, but their cannonade was then very feeble and harmless. On the night of the 12th our second parallel was commenced, but was not completed till the morning of the 15th, the reduction of two redoubts on the enemy's left being essential to this work. On the evening of the 14th, the French grenadiers, commanded by the baron Viomenel, and the American light troops, under the command of the marquis la Fayette, at a signal given, attacked and took by storm the above mentioned redoubts, which were defended by upwards of 150 men, all of whom were either killed or taken. Our loss was about 100 killed and wounded. The wise disposition of the commanding officers, the gallantry and address of the other officers and soldiers, was so conspicuous on this occasion, as to obtain the warmest acknowledgments from the commander in chief. On the 16th, at the dawn of day, colonel Abercrombie, with 8 companies of light troops, attempted our lines in two places, and succeeded so far as to get into two of our unfinished batteries, and spike a few pieces of cannon, but was soon repulsed with a loss, more than equal either to the brilliancy or usefulness of the sortie. On the morning of the 17th, our batteries on our 2d parallel being complete, we commenced a furious cannonade and bombardment on the enemy's works, from 70 pieces of cannon and mortars, and at not more than 250 yards distance. Our operations had now become so serious to the besieged, that lord Cornwallis was induced to beat a parley, and to request a cessation of hostilities for 24 hours; that commissioners might be appointed by both parties to treat on the surrender of the posts of York and Gloucester. The commander in chief would not grant the prayer of the flag in its full extent; he would only consent to a cessation of hostilities for two hours; and then only on the express condition that his lordship should digest his proposition on paper. This was assented to on the part of the enemy, and proposals came from his lordship, that he would agree to a surrender, in case the British troops were admitted to go to Great-Britain, and the Germans to Germany, there to remain until exchanged, and not to act against America or her allies; he expected the honours of war, and wished the refugees might be sheltered from punishment. General Washington rejected his proposal in every part, and sent him the terms which could only be admitted, and which, after some hesitation, were received by his lordship. In answer to the article in favour of the refugees, his Excellency informed his lordship, that it was a subject only proper for civil discussion, and he readily waived it, leaving his good friends to the justice of their country.

On the 18th, commissioners were appointed to adjust the etiquette of the capitulation. The viscount de Noailles, and lieutenant-general Laurence, aid de camp to the commander in chief, on the part of

the allied army, and colonel Dundas and major Ross, aid de camp to lord Cornwallis, on that of the enemy. On the 19th, about one o'clock, the articles of capitulation were signed and interchanged, and about two o'clock, p. m. the British garrison of York, led on by general O'Hara (lord Cornwallis being indisposed) were conducted by general Lincoln through the combined army, drawn up in two lines, (in a field, where having grounded their arms and stripped off their accoutrements, they were reconducted through the line, and committed to the care of a guard, at the same time and in the same manner the garrison of Gloucester was surrendered to the command of the duke de Lauzun. Previous to this, a detachment of French and one of American troops took possession of the enemy's horn-works, and planted on the epaulements the standards of the two nations. The brilliant appearance of the allied army, the joy which diffused itself from rank to rank, contrasted with the mortification, the despondence, and unsoldierly behaviour, of the British troops, formed one of the most pleasing prospects a patriot can behold, or even his fancy depict.

In justice to the brave, the unfortunate garrison of Charles-town, the terms imposed on them were made the basis of the present capitulation, and on their worthy general was conferred the supreme delight of giving laws to those men, who had treated him with the insolence of conquerors. As the officer who gives us this narrative does it from memory, he cannot pretend to be perfectly accurate as to the particulars of the capitulation, but can vouch for its being right in the whole.—The garrisons are prisoners of war, to be disposed of in America at our option; to march out with casted colours, and to play no French or American tune. All plundered property to be restored to its owners; private baggage secured to the officers, and private property to British merchants and traders, the continent having the right of pre-emption.

No returns had been handed in, but from the accounts of the British officers, we have between 5 and 6000 prisoners, including sick and wounded. Their military stores were trifling; their commissary stores does not exceed 600 barrels of pork and about 1000 barrels of bread and flour. Near 100 vessels, with their sailors and marines, have fallen into the hands of the French fleet under the capitulation. The enemy's loss during the siege they allow to be very considerable; the loss of the allied army does not exceed 300 killed and wounded, a small proportion of whom are officers.

Never was a plan more wisely concerted, or more happily and vigorously executed, than the present. The wisdom, perseverance, and military talents of our illustrious commander, shone with superior lustre on this occasion, and it possible must increase the love and veneration of his countrymen. The well concerted and animated support of the count de Graffe, was essentially conducive to the completion of this glorious event, and deserves the warmest thanks of his own country, and the grateful plaudit of every American.

The exertions of the count de Rochambeau, and all the officers and soldiers of the French army, can never be excelled, and only equalled by their American friends, who glowed with the laudable ambition of imitating the achievements of the finest body of men in the world. The only contention which subsisted during the siege between the troops of the two nations, was the glorious one of excelling each other in operations against the common enemy, and in doing justice to each other's merit. An army, thus cemented by affection, created by a union of interest and the intercourse of good offices, and animated by an attachment to the rights of mankind, could not fail of triumphing over a body of troops, enlisted under the banners of despotism, and led on by the hopes of plunder; who, made intolent by partial victories, gave a loose to the greatest licentiousness and brutality, that ever disgraced a disciplined corps. The expiring groans of thousands of slaves who fled to lord Cornwallis for protection, and whom he inhumanly starved, he ascended to the throne of Almighty Justice, and must bring down vengeance on his guilty head. It is sincerely to be wished, for the sake of humanity, that his lordship had made a more obstinate defence, that the allied army, obliged to storm his works, might have offered up him and his troops as a sacrifice to the violated rites of humanity!

Archibald Job, Benjamin Brevard, William Rowland, and Samuel Miller, Esquires, are elected delegates for Cecil county in the ensuing general assembly.

Talbot county, Sept. 26, 1781.

WANTED, as an overlooker this fall, a person who will take charge of several plantations, all of which lay contiguous to each other. Any person who can be well recommended will receive a handsome salary for his trouble.
3 X EDWARD LLOYD.