

About a month ago captain Nash spoke with an Indian from Belgal, which ship the day before fell in with a brig from Teneriffe, bound for Philadelphia.

The Camel and Hind store ships arrived here on Saturday last in 8 weeks from Portsmouth. They sailed from thence about the 25th of May.

The same afternoon arrived, brig Peggy, Easton, from Teneriffe; brig Arrogant from Annapolis-Royal; and brig Minerva, from St. Kitts.

The drought has been so great for nine months past in the West-Indies, that not one third of their usual crops are expected; many vessels in consequence have gone to Europe not half loaded, and others in ballast.

July 23. Last Monday arrived here the brig Lucy, captain Van Duerlon, in twelve days from St. Kitts, bound to Connecticut; from which a report prevails, that the day before he failed, dispatches were received from Barbados, with an account of the definitive treaty being signed, and a copy of it received there, by governor Parry, and that it was brought from England in 22 days. In the above vessel came passengers Samuel Crook, Esq; with his lady and family.

Same day arrived from Spithead, his majesty's frigate Mercury, of 28 guns, commanded by Henry Edwin Stanhope, Esq; This ship had been six weeks under orders to bring government's dispatches to their excellencies the general and admiral, sailed the third day of June, and has brought a considerable number of letters, intended for the Janus and Cyclops men of war, whose departure had been stopped; but the June mail was left for the usual conveyance of the packet. As it had been generally understood, that the Mercury was peculiarly appointed to carry copies of the definitive treaty immediately after it was completed, to his majesty's commissioners, at New York, for making peace, it is conjectured that this long looked for and very interesting document may have been brought by the above mentioned vessel.

Yesterday arrived the ship St. David, captain Morgan, from Jamaica, but last from Havana; which last port she gained in distress. It is said she has brought upwards of 600 puncheons of rum.

The same day arrived from Jamaica, four large empty transports.

CHATHAM, July 23.

Monday his Britannic majesty's ship the Mercury, captain Stanhope, arrived at New-York from England. It is reported she has brought a treaty of commerce with this country; as also the long expected definitive treaty, which was signed the 24th of May.

PHILADELPHIA, July 26.

We expected to have had the pleasure of presenting to our readers, in this paper, a copy of the definitive treaty of peace. Previous to our last publication it was asserted, in such positive terms, to have been received at New-York by the Mercury frigate, as to admit little doubt of the pleasing intelligence. As yet we have received no more satisfactory accounts respecting it, than are contained under the New-York head; but we hope shortly to communicate the particulars of a treaty which is to confirm that already agreed on, for once more freeing the world from the dreadful devastations and horrors of war.

Within these few days past, several persons in and about the city have died by the excessive heat of the weather. Others have lost their lives by imprudently drinking cold water when they were very much heated. This, together with the deaths by sickness, &c. has made the list of the dead in the course of a little time past, much more numerous than common. It were to be wished that persons capable of reflection, would consider the dangerous effects of extreme heat and cold when opposing each other in the human frame.

Thursday evening a detachment of the Pennsylvania line, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Harmer, arrived here by water from Charles-town, South-Carolina. We are informed that the remainder of the Pennsylvania troops (about five companies) were to have embarked at Charles town a few days after the above, and may be daily expected.

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS assembled, May 26, 1783.

On motion, Resolved,

THAT the commander in chief be instructed to grant furloughs to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the service of the United States enlisted to serve during the war, who shall be discharged as soon as the definitive treaty of peace is concluded, together with a proportionable number of commissioned officers of the different grades. And that the secretary at war, and commander in chief, take the proper measures for conducting those troops to their respective homes, in such manner as may be most convenient to themselves and to the states through which they may pass; and that the men thus furloughed be allowed to take their arms with them.

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

Upon the promulgation of this resolution, the subsequent address was presented to the commander in chief, by the officers of the army.

SIR,

IT is difficult for us to express the regret we feel at being obliged again to solicit your excellency's attention and patronage. Next to the anguish which the prospect of our own wretchedness excites in our breasts, is the pain which arises from a knowledge of your anxiety on account of those men who have been the sharers of your fortunes, and have had the honour of being your companions through the various vicissitudes of the war. Nothing, therefore, but necessity could induce us to a representation which we know must give you concern.

Your excellency has so intimate a knowledge of the condition of the army, as to render a particular delineation unnecessary. As you have been a witness of our sufferings during a war uncommon in its nature, and unparalleled in many circumstances attending it, so you are now, Sir, no less a witness of the unequal burthen which has fallen upon us, from the want of that provision, to which, from our assiduous and unremitting services, we conceive, we are entitled. Having recently expressed our sense of what was due to our distress—having repeated from your excellency the confidence we had, that our accounts would be liquidated, the balances ascertained, and adequate funds pro-

vided for payments previous to our being dispersed or disbanded—having seen with pleasure the approbation which congress gave our reliance—it is with a mixture of astonishment and chagrin, that we view the late resolve of congress, by which the soldiers for the war, and a proportionate number of officers, are to be furloughed without any one of those important objects being accomplished; and to complete the scene of woe, are to be compelled to leave the army without the means of defraying the debts we have necessarily incurred in the course of service, or even of gratifying those menials, in the pittance which is their due; much less, to carry with us that support and comfort to our families, of which, from our long military services, they have been deprived. No less exposed then, to the insults of the meanest followers of the army, than to the arrests of the sheriff, deprived of the ability to assist our families, and without an evidence that any thing is due to us for our services, and, consequently, without the least prospect of obtaining credit for even a temporary subsistence until we can get into business—to what quarter can we look? we take the liberty to say, Sir, only to your excellency. And, from the sincerity of our hearts, we do it, no less from a persuasion of the efficacy of your further efforts in our favour, than from the kind assurances you have been pleased to give us of your support.

To your excellency then we make our appeal, and in the most solemn manner, from that abhorrence of oppression and injustice which first unfledged our swords, from the remembrance of the common dangers through which we have passed; and from the recollection of those astonishing events which have been effected by our united efforts, permit us to solicit further aid; and to intreat, that the order of the adjutant, founded on the act of congress of the 26th of May last, may be suspended or varied in its operation, so far as that no officer or soldier be obliged to receive a furlough until that honourable body can be apprised of the wretched situation into which the army must be plunged, by a conformity to it; that your excellency will endeavour to prevail on congress—nay, that, on the principles of common justice, you will insist that neither officer nor soldier be compelled to leave the field, until a liquidation of accounts can be effected, until the balances are ascertained, certificates for the sums due given, including the commutation of half pay to the officers, and the gratuity of eighty dollars to the soldiers, and until a supply of money can be furnished sufficient to carry us from the field of glory, with honour to ourselves and credit to our country. We still wish to believe, that that country, to which we have been so long devoted, will never look with indifference on the distresses of those of her sons, who have so essentially contributed to the establishment of freedom, the security of property, and the rearing of an empire.

In the name and behalf of the generals and officers commanding regiments, and corps in the cantonments on Hudson's river, I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your excellency's most obedient servant,

W. HEATH, M. G. Pref. of the army.

June 5, 1783.

To the foregoing address, general Washington was pleased to return the following answer, viz.

SIR,

Head-Quarters, June 6, 1783.

BEFORE I make a reply to the subject of the address of the generals and officers commanding the regiments and corps of this army, presented by yourself yesterday, I intreat that those gentlemen will accept my warmest acknowledgments for the confidence they have been pleased to repose in me; they may be assured it shall never be abused; and I beg they will be persuaded, that as no man can possibly be better acquainted than I am with the past merits and services of the army, so no one can possibly be more strongly impressed with their present ineluctable situation, feel a keener sensibility of their distresses, or more ardently desire to alleviate or remove them—but it would be unnecessary, perhaps, to enter into a detail of what I have done, and what I am still attempting to do in order to assist in the accomplishment of this interesting purpose—let it be sufficient to observe, I do not yet despair of success; for I am perfectly convinced that the states cannot, without involving themselves in national bankruptcy and ruin, refuse to comply with the requisitions of congress, who, it must be acknowledged, have done every thing in their power to obtain ample and complete justice for the army, and whose great object in the present measure undoubtedly was, by a reduction of expence to enable the financier to make the three months payment to the army, which on all hands had been agreed to be absolutely and indispensably necessary: to explain this matter, I beg leave to insert an extract of a letter from the superintendent of finance, dated the 10th ultimo.

"It is now above a month since the committee conferred with me on that subject, and I then told them no payment could be made to the army, but by means of a paper anticipation: and unless our expenditures were immediately and considerably reduced, even that could not be done. Our expenditures have nevertheless been continued, and our revenues lessen; the states growing daily more and more remiss in their collections. The consequence is that I cannot make payment in the manner first intended. The notes issued for this purpose would have been payable at two, four and six months from the date, but at present they will be at six months, and even that will soon become impracticable, unless our expences be immediately curtailed.

"I shall cause such notes to be issued for three months pay to the army, and I must intreat, Sir, that every influence be used with the states, to absorb them, together with my other engagements, by taxation."

Three days ago a messenger was dispatched by me, to urge the necessity of forwarding these notes with the greatest possible expedition.

Under this state of circumstances, I need scarcely add that the expence of every day in feeding the whole army, will increase very considerably the inability of the public to discharge the debts already incurred, at least a considerable time to come.

Although the officers of the army very well know my official situation, that I am only a servant of the public, and that it is not for me to dispense with orders which it is my duty to carry into execution—yet as furloughs in all services are considered as a matter of indulgence

and not of compulsion; as congress, I am persuaded, entertain the best disposition towards the army, and as I apprehend, in a very short time, the two principal articles of complaint will be removed;—until the further pleasure of congress can be known, I shall not be able to comply with the wishes of the army, under these reservations only, that officers sufficient to conduct the men who choose to receive furloughs, will attend them either on furlough or by detachment, the propriety and necessity of this measure must be obvious to all, it need not therefore be enforced; and with regard to the non-commissioned officers and privates, such as from a peculiarity of circumstances, wish not to receive furloughs at this time, will give in their names at twelve o'clock to-morrow to the commanding officers of their regiments, that on a report to the adjutant general, an equal number of men engaged for three years may be furloughed, which will make the saving of expences exactly the same to the public.

I cannot but hope the notes will soon arrive, and that the settlement of accounts may be completed by the assistance of the paymasters, in a few days. In the mean time I shall have the honour of laying the sentiments of the general's and officers commanding regiments and corps, before congress—they are expressed in such a decent, candid and affecting manner, that I am certain every mark of attention will be paid to them. I have the honour to be, with very great esteem, Sir, your most obedient servant.

Major-general Heath.

The two preceding papers were enclosed in the following letter to his excellency the president of congress.

Head-Quarters, Newburgh, June 7, 1783.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose to your excellency, the copy of an address, from the generals and officers commanding regiments and corps, together with my answer to it. These enclosures will explain the distresses which resulted from the measures now carrying into execution in consequence of the resolution of the 26th of May, but the sensibility occasioned by a parting scene under such peculiar circumstances, will not admit of description.

The two subjects of complaint with the army appear to be, the delay of the three months payment which had been expected, and the want of a settlement of accounts—I have thought myself authorized to assure them, congress had and would attend particularly to their grievances; and have made some little variations respecting furloughs, from what was at first proposed: the secretary at war will be able to explain the reason and propriety of this alteration.

While I consider it a tribute of justice on this occasion to mention the temperate and orderly behaviour of the whole army and particularly the accommodating spirit of the officers in arranging themselves, to the command of the battalions which will be composed of the three years men; permit me to recal to mind all their former sufferings and merits, and to recommend their reasonable requests to the early and favourable notice of congress. I have the honour to be, &c.

ANNAPOLIS, August 7.

THE Prince-George's county Planter returns the Intendant compliments for compliments, and hath all his life-time strictly followed the rules of honesty, candour, veracity, and an industrious attention to whatever he undertook to perform; but not making any thing by those rules, he began to be doubtful they were wrong, and had some thoughts of altering his conduct agreeable to the rules of modern patriotism. However, the Intendant, who is certainly in all things the oracle of truth, pronounces the above conduct to be the only certain rule for a politician, therefore the Planter must no more waver in opinion. If the Planter has made several assertions that have hurt the Intendant's pride, he appeals to several respectable inhabitants of the state, who are well acquainted with the Intendant, for the truth of those assertions. If they are false, so much the greater is the Intendant's glory? If true, they can but cause a few spots in that great luminary of honesty, candour, and veracity, and those, like the spots in the sun, only to be observed through a telescope. The Planter never expected that his taper could shine in the Intendant's meridian sun, but is certain that it will burn pure to the last snuff, more so than any flambeau that can be set against it. It is a hackneyed rule, to cry out that a writer flings dirt, if he happens to hit on something of consequence enough to claim the public attention. The Planter never had the least intention of scraping up or throwing dirt at any one, and if any thing has escaped his pen that may be construed into an intention of that sort, he must have caught the infection from the Intendant's pieces against the Examiner, and may be attributed to a thread of that garment so earnestly prayed for. Insinuations are commonly drawn from opinion, opinions are generally formed from facts, or what appear as such. The best may err, and time alone, may perhaps discover what is true and what is not so.

A PRINCE-GEORGE'S COUNTY PLANTER.

July 27, 1783.

To the PRINTERS.

I HAVE perused with attention the several pieces in your gazette, under the signature of an Examiner, and the Intendant's replies to them. I confess myself not a little surpris'd, that a dispute of so little consequence should have been kept up so long, and that the Examiner should have continued it, after he was informed that not a shilling of the money lodged by the collectors was applied to the discharge of the journal of accounts; as to queries received of Mr. Dickinson, it was out of the question, having been lodged in the treasury several days before his first publication of the 29th of May, and which it would seem he knew nothing of, till the Intendant informed him and the public of that transaction, and, as he says, in order to correct the Examiner's mistake. As to the charges of postponing the taxes, and thereby preventing the breaking into the hoards of the farmers and planters, they are really so silly, that I am surpris'd that the Intendant ever made any reply to them; indeed I think, with submission to him, that his time might have been much better employ'd in the settling his official business, than in taking notice of any of the Examiner's performances;

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