

than two months, and such provisions too, by the effect of the proclamation, risen in the prices at nearly the rate of fifty per cent.

With the melancholy evidence of these facts before their eyes, and the more gloomy prospect of the future wants, the inhabitants at large have petitioned us, their representatives, to lay their case before your excellency, and to implore the aid of your excellency in the adoption of such measures as may suggest themselves to your excellency's wisdom, for their immediate relief; and they are flattered with your excellency's acquiescence, not only from the natural benignity of your excellency's heart, and the assurance they have of the king's confidence in the rectitude of your excellency's actions, but from the experience they have already had in his majesty's royal approbation of a recent similar measure, taken by your excellency's predecessor, who ventured by proclamation, in a case of public calamity and emergency, to require the officers of his majesty's customs to suspend for a time the operation of the acts of trade, by admitting the importation of provisions in foreign bottoms, contrary to those laws. We, knowing the just grounds of their fears and apprehensions, and not doubting but his majesty, from his paternal care and affection for the remotest of his subjects, would approve and ratify your excellency's conduct in exceeding his commands, when, from peculiar local and unthought of circumstances, the strict execution of them would be ruinous to the smallest branch of his kingdom: Do most humbly pray your excellency, that your excellency would be pleased to order and direct, that the produce of the United States of America may not only be imported into this island in British ships and vessels, owned by British subjects, and navigated according to law, but that the same may be also imported in the ships and vessels of the subjects of the United States of America; and that the produce of this island may also be exported in such last mentioned ships and vessels, upon payment of his majesty's duties, until such time as his majesty's pleasure shall be known, or until the commercial treaty, now negotiating between Great-Britain and the States of America, is definitively settled; and that your excellency would signify such your pleasure to the officers of his majesty's customs of this island, or that your excellency would take such other measures for our relief, as to your excellency's wisdom shall seem meet.

ROWLAND BURTON, Speaker.

REPORT of the committee appointed to wait upon the governor in chief with the address from the house.

YOUR committee, appointed by an order of this house, on Tuesday the 7th instant, to prepare an address to his excellency governor Shirley, in consequence of a petition referred to the house, on the same day, by the inhabitants of this island; and the same address being approved of by the house, and your said committee being ordered, on Thursday the 9th instant, to wait on his excellency the governor, to know when it would be convenient to him to receive the address, and that your said committee should deliver the said address accordingly.

Your committee, therefore, pray leave to report to this house, that in pursuance of the said last order of Thursday last, they did, on the same day, wait on his excellency governor Shirley, to know when it would be convenient and agreeable to him to receive the said address; and his excellency was pleased to appoint the morning of the next day, at his house at Clark's Hill, at any time between the hours of eight and twelve o'clock. And your committee further report, that on Friday the 10th instant, at eleven o'clock in the morning, they did wait upon his excellency at Clark's Hill, being accompanied by a very respectable number of the members of the house, when your committee requested to know if his excellency would wish the address to be first read and then delivered to him, when his excellency was pleased to express a desire to hear it read to him, and which being read by Thomas N. Kerby, Esq; one of your committee, his excellency immediately afterwards retired to another apartment, and instantly returned with a written answer, which he read and delivered to your committee, and which answer your committee pray leave to report to this house.

And your committee pray leave further to report, that from the short space of time intervening between the reading of the address as aforesaid, and the reading of the answer by his excellency, that the answer must have been written previous to the presenting the aforesaid address.

THOMAS NORBURY KERBY,  
HENRY B. LIGHTFOOT,  
JAMES ATHILL.

Antigua, Oct. 16, 1783.

His Excellency's ANSWER to the foregoing ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,  
I HAVE carefully attended to the purport of your address, and am very sorry to tell you that it is totally out of my power to take any steps in this business, but those of strictly obeying his majesty's proclamation, which is backed likewise by an act of parliament, and doing my utmost to have it obeyed by all concerned within my government.

I flatter myself, gentlemen, you do not doubt of my warmest wishes and inclination to serve this community, where it is compatible with my honour and duty.

THOMAS SHIRLEY.

Clark's Hill, Oct. 10, 1783.

NEW-YORK, December 1.

The Afræa frigate, from Halifax, and twenty sail of empty transports from England, are lately arrived at Sandy-Hook, the latter to carry to Europe the British troops, &c. at present on Staten and Long-Islands.

On Wednesday evening the grand fireworks, in celebration of the definitive treaty of peace, between Great-Britain and the United States of North-America, were exhibited at the Bowling-green, in the Broadway; beginning with a DOVE descending with the Olive Branch, which communicated the fire to a Marron Battery, and ending with FAME descending, and a flight of one hundred Rockets.

These magnificent fireworks infinitely exceeded every former exhibition in the United States; the prodigious concourse of spectators assembled on the occasion, expressed their pleasures in loud and grateful clangours. The whole was conducted in a manner that reflects the highest honour upon the engineer. The greatest order

prevailed, and the whole was completed without any unfortunate events. It commenced at six o'clock, and closed at seven.

Dec. 4. Since our last schooner bound for Abacco, in going out, run upon the West Bank, and received so much damage as obliged her to return and discharge a part of her cargo.

Last Monday afternoon two brigs from this port, for Philadelphia, one of them commanded by capt. Power, were drove ashore at Sandy Hook; also a sloop from Philadelphia for this port, and a small pilot boat; but it is hoped they will be got off.

About the same time several vessels were drove from their anchors in our bay, by the violence of the wind, and forced on Staten-Island, but we do not learn that they have received any material damage.

Dec. 6. Last Thursday noon, the principal officers of the army in town, assembled at Fraunce's tavern, to take a final leave of their illustrious, gracious, and much loved commander, general Washington. The passions of human nature were never more tenderly agitated, than in this interesting and distressful scene. His excellency having filled a glass of wine, thus addressed his brave fellow-soldiers:

"With an heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you; I most devoutly wish, that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honourable."

These words produced extreme sensibility on both sides, they were answered by warm expressions, and fervent wishes, from the gentlemen of the army, whose truly pathetic feelings it is not in our power to convey to the reader. Soon after this scene was closed, his excellency the governor, the honourable council, and citizens of the first distinction, waited on the general, and in terms most affectionate, took their leave.

The corps of light infantry was drawn up in a line, the commander in chief, about two o'clock, passed through them, on his way to Whitehall, where he embarked in his barge for Pauus Hook. He is attended by general le baron de Steuben, proposes to make a short stay at Philadelphia, will thence proceed to Annapolis where he will resign his commission of general of the American armies, into the hands of the continental congress, from whom it was derived; immediately after which his excellency will set out for his seat, named Mount Vernon, in Virginia, emulating the example of his model, the virtuous Roman general, who, victorious, left the tented field, covered with honour, and withdrew from public life, *otium cum dignitate*.

We are informed that their excellencies the commanders in chief of the British fleet and army, in America, with the last division of the troops on board, have left Staten-Island, on their passage to England. General Sir Guy Carleton, Dean Poyntz, Esq; paymaster-general, Brook Watson, Esq; commissary-general, William Smith, Esq; and a number of gentleman were passengers in the Cores frigate, commanded by captain Hawkins. In the Cyclops frigate, by captain Christian, were Hugh Wallace and James Jauncey, Esquires, and many other gentlemen. The Assurance man of war, captain Swiney, with a great number of passengers, chiefly officers of the army, sailed for England some days before the above fleet. The ship Holderness, with the commissariat department, sailed likewise a few days before them for Halifax, in Nova-Scotia, where they are to act in the same line as they were accustomed to do in this city.

SIR, New-York, December 4, 1783.

I HAVE the honour to transmit you the following copy of a letter from the commander in chief, to major-general Knox; who requests you to publish it to the troops under your command, in the orders of this day. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. SHAW, A. D. C.

Hon. brigadier-general H. Jackson.

SIR, New-York, December 3, 1783.

THE splendid display of fireworks last evening, was so highly satisfactory, that I must request you to present to captain Price, under whose direction they were prepared; and to the officers who assisted him, my thanks, for the great skill and attention shewn in the conduct of that business. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. WASHINGTON.

Major-general Knox.

His excellency general Washington having had the unspeakable satisfaction, (which none but true patriots can feel) of conducting a most arduous undertaking successfully, and being in the hand of Divine Providence, the chief instrument of procuring peace to his injured country; and, in company with his excellency our governor, on seeing this city restored to its long exiled inhabitants; on Thursday last set out on his return towards his own estate in Virginia, where, if the prayers of a grateful people are granted he will long enjoy the blessings of peace, which they, through his means have obtained.

He was attended to his barge by his excellency the governor, a number of general and other officers, and a great concourse of people. At his departure he was saluted with a discharge of thirteen cannon from the fort.

On Saturday night last, in this city, and 100 miles round that we have already heard of; was felt four or five considerable shocks of an earthquake; attended with a loud rumbling noise: the first shock was felt between ten and eleven o'clock; the last between two and three in the morning.

Dec. 10. We hear from Boston, that a Dutch ship of 44 guns and 143 men, which came out as one of the convoy to M. Van Berekel, ambassador from Holland, having arrived off Cape Cod, on Friday the 21st ult. sprang a leak, and before any assistance could be had, she foundered, and every soul on board, except the captain and 39 others, who saved themselves in a boat, perished.

It is computed, that not less than 1500 men have been lost at sea, upon this continent, within 3 months past.

The schooner —, captain Lee, belonging to Mr. Moses Hetfield, of Elizabeth town, from South-Carolina for this port, was lately stranded near Cape Henlopen, and every soul on board, ten in number, perished.

Saturday M. de la Luzerne, minister plenipotentiary from the court of his most Christian majesty, set out

from this city for Philadelphia. His excellency was saluted from the battery at his embarking.

PHILADELPHIA, December 13.

On Monday last his Excellency general Washington arrived here from New York. His excellency was met at Frankfort, by his excellency the president of this state, the honourable the financier, generals St. Clair and Hand, the Philadelphia troop of horse, and a number of the citizens, who had the pleasure of accompanying the general into the city. His arrival was announced by a discharge of cannon, the bells were rung, and the people testified their satisfaction, at once more seeing their illustrious, chief, by repeated acclamations. On Tuesday the following address was presented to his Excellency:

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, December 9, 1783.

SIR,

IN your return from the supreme command of the armies of the United States to private life, except that gratitude and respect, which your unexampled conduct justly creates in the breasts of a free and happy people. In our names, Sir, and in the names of the citizens of Pennsylvania, whom we represent in general assembly, we embrace this opportunity of transmitting to posterity the just and high sense we entertain of those exalted abilities and virtues, which, under Divine Providence, have been so signally instrumental in establishing the freedom and independence of this country. At the same time, we cannot omit to acknowledge the obligations we owe to your excellency, for the inestimable legacy bequeathed to your country in your circular letter. When your sword was no longer necessary for our defence, YOU have shewn us how to preserve, by wisdom and justice, that liberty and honour, which, as our national inheritance, we maintained by arms.

May your excellency be long spared to this country; and, among the sweets of domestic life, may you have the happiness of beholding a growing empire, wise, just, and united. This, from our knowledge of you, we are convinced will be the most acceptable return that can be made for your faithful and disinterested services to these United States, and to mankind in general. Nothing less, Sir, can make you happy.

Signed, by order of the house,  
GEORGE GRAY, speaker.

His excellency general Washington.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

To the honourable the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the state of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN,

I CONSIDER the approbation of the representatives of a free and virtuous people, as the most enviable reward that can ever be conferred on a public character.

A sense of duty impelled me to contribute whatever my sword or my pen could effect towards the establishment of our freedom and independence. The smiles of Providence on the united exertions of my fellow-citizens, have completed our successes; and it remains to be my first and most earnest desire, that the United States may profit by the happy occasion, and preserve, by wisdom and justice, that liberty and honour they have so nobly maintained by arms.

Anticipating the increasing happiness and lustre of this growing empire, I shall return to private life with a degree of satisfaction more easily to be conceived than expressed.

As this is the last time I shall have the honour of seeing you, gentlemen, in my official character, I cannot bid you a final farewell, without acknowledging the great assistance I have frequently derived from your late, and the pleasure I have lately received from the illustrious example of the legislature, in adopting the recommendations of congress with so much promptness and unanimity. May the representatives and citizens of this commonwealth continue to possess the same good dispositions, and may they be as happy in the enjoyment of peace, as it is possible for a wife, just, and united people to be.

G. WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 9, 1783.

THE members of the Annapolis Jockey Club are requested to meet at Mr. Mann's tavern, on Tuesday next at four o'clock.

December 14, 1783.

Will be exposed to sale by public auction, at Port-Tobacco, on Monday the 12th day of January next, for cash or tobacco,

SUNDRY valuable labouring negroes. One year's credit will be given, on bond and security. Any person inclinable to purchase before the day of sale, may know the terms by application to Michael Jenifer Stone, Esq; near Port-Tobacco, or to me at Annapolis.

WALTER STONE.

Charles county, December 9, 1783.

To be SOLD to the highest bidder, on Monday the 29th instant, if fair, if not the next fair day, at the late dwelling of Joseph Windsor, deceased, for ready cash only.

TWO NEGROES, one a wench about fifty years of age, the other a likely young girl eight years of age, by

JOSEPH WINDSOR, executor,  
MARY WINDSOR, executrix.

ALMANACKS

For the Year 1784, may be had at the Printing-Office. 2

J U S  
In the ship N O  
to be SOLD  
By S T E  
At their Store,

WHITE

Pink,  
Pea green,  
Green-grass,  
Blue and black,  
English Perfum,

Fashionable,  
Windfor-green,  
Fontainebleau,  
White shot pink,  
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