

LONDON, November 23.

An authentic copy of the address and petition to his majesty, moved for by the earl of AINSWORTH, supported by the lord CRAYN, and seconded by a very great majority of the gentlemen, clergy, and freeholders of the county of BERK, at the meeting held in the town-hall at AINSWORTH, pursuant to an advertisement from the high shery, "for taking the general assize of the county in the public unhappy differences between GREAT-BRITAIN and her COLONIES," on Tuesday the 7th of November, 1775.

To the KING's most excellent MAJESTY.

The humble address and petition of the freeholders of the county of BERK.

May it please your majesty.

YOUR majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, freeholders of the county of BERK, though deeply affected with the unbecomingly civil distinctions which prevail in your empire, have acquiesced with becoming confidence in your majesty's goodness, and in the wisdom of your parliament, for the restoration of internal tranquillity to your dominions, and satisfaction and repose to the minds of all your subjects.

We conceive that the interference of your majesty's people, otherwise than by their representatives in parliament (although it be their undoubted right) ought to be extremely rare, and reserved for occasions of the greatest necessity: We have therefore beheld with astonishment, persons who profess uncommon zeal for your majesty's government discovering a manifest distrust in his discretion; urging your ministers to a continuance of the violent measures which hitherto have produced none but calamitous effects; and to which the ministers have shewn, and still do shew, a disposition which it does not seem at all necessary to stimulate.

These inflammatory addresses, we humbly apprehend, have a tendency to distrust your majesty's paternal feelings, and by urging coercive measures as alone effectual and proper in the present disorders, to render such concessions as your majesty's and the public wisdom may think necessary to make, dishonourable and unsafe to your majesty, and this nation.

Finding the dangerous and seditious attempts to embarrass your majesty's councils, and prevent the restoration of tranquillity, pursued with an eagerness which fills the minds of your majesty's peaceable subjects with horror, we are constrained, very reluctantly, with all possible humility and deference, to lay before your majesty our faithful sentiments on the origin of the present troubles; on the measures which have been, and still are pursued, in consequence of those troubles; and on the dismal effects which we conceive must result from them.

As the inhabitants of that part of your dominions which is the least of the imperial legislature, we have a due sense of the necessity of preserving the supreme authority of parliament over all the British empire; But as English freeholders, who value ourselves on our inestimable right of granting our own property, either by ourselves, or representatives of our own choosing only, we cannot, without divesting ourselves of every principle of equity, justice, and even of common decency, consider the complaints of millions of our fellow-subjects, separated from us by an immense ocean, on being taxed without any voice, directly or indirectly in the grant, to be entirely groundless, and the result of nothing but a factious spirit, aiming at the dismemberment of the empire.—The substantial, and not nominal assent of the subject in the grant of their own money, we can never hold to be a frivolous concern to English freeholders: It can never be exterminated in one part of the empire without being endangered in all: And we look with just indignation at the servile and unwomanly spirit, in which the very principle of that sacred right is treated with scorn and ridicule, by several publications industriously circulated; and which, we trust, receive no countenance from your majesty's ministers; because, if so countenanced, they can have no other effect, than to raise a suspicion, that the government of this country is sliding from its only firm, natural, and constitutional foundations.

We have seen, with much concern, the disorders which have arisen in America on this serious ground. We lament; we blame them; but we cannot think them unnatural, in those in whom the love of freedom is united with the ordinary weakness and imperfection of human nature.

It is for that principle, joined with that infirmity, that we presume to supplicate your majesty's clemency.

The disorders have arisen from a complaint, plausible at least, of one right violated; and we can never be brought to imagine, that the true remedy for such disorders consists in an attack on all other rights, and an attempt to drive the people either to unconditional submission or absolute despair.

Fire, the affairs of your empire are distracted, because they are misconducted. The consequences of the measures pursued are as evident as they are deplorable.

Your majesty's ministers, finding the forces of your natural born subjects not sufficiently powerful for, or not sufficiently disposed to, the present coercive service, have listened to the offers of foreign nations, who have thought fit, it seems, voluntarily, and therefore in a manner the more alarming to all true Englishmen, to interfere in our domestic differences.

Prostrated before your throne, with faces suffused with shame, for this apparent nakedness of our country, and with hearts oppressed with anxiety for its future destiny, we humbly beseech your majesty, whilst yet it is in suspense, this most pe-

rious and desperate proceeding, English dignity, and English government, whilst resting on their true bottom, can never stand in need of Russian assistance for their preservation.—They who are necessary to the support of government, are the government,—and if we cannot preserve America without foreign aid, America belongs to foreigners, and not to England.

It has been the usual course of a rebellious people to call in the arms of strangers to distract their country. This worst part of rebellion has not yet appeared in America. Let this one thing, right in their conduct grow for many wrong ones; and let your majesty's clemency result itself to operate in favour of a people, whose petitions have not yet appeared before any throne but yours.—Let not England set an example which is but too easily copied, by drawing into a free country, the insolent and mercenary aid of foreign forces trained to the support of a barbarous despotism. The moment that a great army of such, or of any foreigners, shall enter your territories, the liberties of your people are at an end; and your majesty's authority will be the more endangered by their assistance, than it can be by any rebellion which can arise among your own subjects.

When we have such terrible objects in prospect, we forget the millions we are spending, and the millions more we are like to spend, in this unhappy and fruitless contest.

Deign, therefore, most gracious sovereign, to attend to manifest reason delivered by the affectionate voice of duty and fidelity;—Remember as we are for the honour of our country, we cannot be forgetful of its peace and concord. It is therefore we abhor the idea of encouraging foreigners to make a prey of this nation and its dependencies, under the miserable and uncovered pretext of discountenancing faction and sedition among ourselves.

Signed by J. G.

To the PEOPLE of PENNSYLVANIA. LETTER IV.

ALAS POOR CATO!

WHAT a buzz hath thou raised about thine ears? How canst thou proceed in thy lubrications? If the following SOLILOQUY can yield thee any consolation, thou art welcome to place it either in front or rear of thy next letter, Thou wilt perceive thyself more indebted for it to WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, than—

Thy friend and reader, HAMLET.

* To write or not to write; that is the question—Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to bear Th' unlicens'd wrongs of furious party-zeal, Or dip the pen into a nest of hornets And still, by teasing, wake them? To write, to answer—

No more! And by a single answer end The thousand scorns and heart-aches which an author Is born to suffer—'Tis a confummation Devoutly to be wish'd! To write, to answer, Reply, perchance rejoin—aye, there's the rub! For in replies, and answers and rejoinders, Who knows what deadly broils and feuds may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal zest Of mutual forbearance. 'Tis here the curse That makes calamity of swordy war. For who would bear the scoffing of the times, The Tory's hated name, the tool of power, The contumely of the person'd slaves, When he himself might his quietus make With a dry quill? Who would endure this Pain? This foul discharge of wrath from Adam's sons Marshall'd in dread array, both old and young, Their pop-guns here, and there their heavy Cannon, Our labour'd pages deem'd not worth a Rush, But that the dread of something worse to come, Some undiscover'd mischief, puzzles thought, And makes one rather court the ancient path Than fly to others that we know not of! And thus the native hue of resolution Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of fear, And enterprizes of great pith and moment With this regard, their currents turn avry.

THE foregoing soliloquy, my dear countrymen, was really put into my hands by a friend, and I have bestowed some serious thoughts upon its contents. But I had before resolv'd upon my part. The author, or if I must say author, of what is called Common Sense, has certainly had fair play. Full time has been allowed him, by the sale of his pamphlet, to reap the fruits of his labours, and gratify that avidity with which many are apt to devour doctrines that are out of the common way—bold, marvellous, and flattering. What was intended as a compliment to the public—to give them time to gaze with their own eyes, and reason with their own faculties, upon this extraordinary appearance—the author's vanity has construed wholly in his own favour. He has called repeatedly for answers, and announced his second edition to the world in the following strain of self-adulation, "That as no answer hath yet appeared it is now presumed that none will," and therefore, as may be fairly implied, that he is unanswerable. Why then, when his challenge is accepted, will not he and his second fight upon fair terms? Why will they seek to draw the attention of the public from things to

Some desperate publication of our author's yet still in your Payne.

else, turning that quarter to others which the author of Common Sense craves for himself? Who the author of this publication is (says he) is wholly unnecessary to the public, as the object of attention is the doctrine itself, not the man! Can this sentence be reconciled to all the potter made about Cato, who said what he is; or does it not rather betray some symptoms of fear and cowardice, to best him at the threshold, and seek to keep him in his march to the field? What, although he attempts to walk forth humbly with his staff in his hand, and has been somewhat late in filling his scrip with bones to meet this GOLIATH! Should he therefore be tauntingly asked? If what is called Common Sense be really Common Sense, it is invulnerable, and every attack upon it will but add to the Author's triumph. If it should be proved, in any instance, to be New-Sense, millions will be interested in the discovery; and to them I appeal.

Once more I repeat the design of these letters, in which I conceive a question to be involved of the greatest importance that ever came before us—a question not yet decided, and which ought therefore to be fully discussed. Opprobrious names can prove nothing here, except that they who use them have nothing better to say, and are afraid of their cause. It is probable that some may see their interest upon one side of the question, and some upon the other; but that the great body of the people can have any interest separate from their country, or (when fairly understood) pursue any other, is not to be imagined. If Cato may be believed, he can conscientiously call himself with this great body, and can assure his readers that the queries hitherto made concerning him are rather unlucky.

Great pains have been taken to engage him in a contest with our committee, but as nothing has been quoted from him which concerns that body in general, he leaves his letters to answer for themselves, and if his comments on the circular letter to the county committees should appear to the public not to be well warranted, he will submit to their judgment. But he finds it would be endless to answer all the silly queries, and daily scribble, of his opponents; and has learned better than to be drawn from his main object by indulging them in this way. It would be too great a trespass upon the reader's patience. He has viewed the ground on which he stands, and is not afraid to tread it in the sight of the most vigilant son of liberty; making that free use of the press which is promised to him, without the least violation of any resolve of this continent, hitherto made.

One side of a great question has been held up to us. We are told that it can never be our interest to have any future connexion with Great-Britain, and are press'd immediately to declare our total separation, for now is the time—and the time has found us. Could it be expected that all America would instantly take a leap in the dark, or that any who had not a predilection for the doctrine, or were capable of reasoning upon it, would swallow it in the gross, without wishing to hear the arguments on the other side? I am sure this is the wish of multitudes of good men, particularly of those who may be principally concerned in deciding the question; and whose earnest desire it is not only to know the sense of individuals, but the clear sense of their country upon it; without which they could not think themselves at liberty to give their decision.

Upon this ground, then, I proceed, and shall rest the cause with my adversaries on the present general dissent, which, (although I am sorry it was necessary) I have reason to think, will be more acceptable to the public, than the suspending time in private altercation. Those who oppose me, may enjoy for a while (perhaps unattic'd) all the triumph of the answers they may give; and if it is found at last, as has been already hinted, that I have said nothing to the purpose, their side of the question will only be strengthened.

In my remarks upon the pamphlet before me, I shall first consider those arguments on which the author appears to lay his chief stress; and these are collected under four heads, in his conclusion.

"It is the custom of nations, when any two are at war, for some other powers, not engaged in the quarrel, to step in as mediators, and bring about the preliminaries of PEACE. But while America calls herself a subject of Great-Britain, no power, however well disposed she may be, can offer her mediation."

Is this Common Sense, or common New-Sense? Surely, peace with Great-Britain cannot be the object of this writer, after the horrible character he has given us of the people of that country, and telling us that reconciliation with them would be our ruin. The latter part of the paragraph seems to cast some light upon the former, although it contradicts it; for these mediators are not to interfere for making up the quarrel; but to widen it, by supporting us in a declaration, that we are not subjects of Great-Britain; a new sort of business, truly, for mediators!

But this leads us directly to the main enquiry—What for ign powers are able to give us this support? Whether they can be persuaded to engage with us? What will be their terms? Is an alliance with them safe; or is it to be preferred to an honourable and firm removal of that ancient connexion, under which we have so long flourished?

These questions cannot but employ the most serious thoughts of men whose all is at stake, in the resolution of them; and they ought to be answered to the general satisfaction, before we are launched out into a tempestuous ocean, of which we know not the other shore. That a continuance of mutual violence and hate may at last force us upon such an ocean, is not altogether improbable; and it is possible that we may gain some port of safety, through it, in a second condition. How well shall be drawn from me to support our own strength or

uesday
horfe,
hands
airs in
at rode
ain, lit
il when
for an
n who
job, the
de, and
it if he
one or
up both
and the
-works,
for the
distance,
at home,
PLINGS.
1775
debted to
or open
ir respec
onger in-
verted to,
to enforce
DUVALL.
1775
D.
g in Kent
itait, two
about three
of age
an inc
had on
cost.
of black
buttons, an
fines and
aker.
g, five felt
rtdy com
k with him
purple under
hite, much
chief round
and a pair of
Kilmarnock
ed black and
square feet
square have both
a. Whover
cores them to
shell receive
province, if la
ve reward for
D GRAVEL
April 3, 1775
VARD.
known by the
swers to the
of his overle
red; he is a
strong made
version, firm
willany, tho'
he has fre-
part of this
nylvania, is
ugh and coun-
Philadelphia
places. His
ured long cloth
ara stockings,
with hobs; he
blue German
vo pair of cot-
wo white shirts
with hand and
pair of double
k of distinction
ive, he is care-
ich is forgot)
above reward-
out of the pro-
if at the dis-
and forty shil-
elling expence
act of assembly
OMAS JONES
Printing-offet
NGS
ION
RYLAND.
urday the 7th of

to us: I think we should be able to defend our own rights, and to resist every attempt of any nation upon us, as we have done. For my part I would risk my all to resist every attempt of this kind at every hazard.

But let us see what assistance he offers us, and we find France and Spain held out for that purpose, although not as mediators, to "strengthen the connection between Great-Britain and America," but wholly to dissolve it.

As to Spain, it is well known that the government of her own unwieldy colonies is already a weight which she can hardly bear; and some profound politicians have thought that, from the first, she has rather been weakened than strengthened by them; and that all her returns of gold and silver from America are but a poor compensation for the lives and cost with which they are purchased. It may well be questioned, then, supposing Spain were able to assist us in erecting an independent empire in America, whether her jealousy would permit her to risk the possibility of our seducing her own American subjects into an alliance with us, for the purpose of a future revolt from herself. But our author mentions France as well as Spain, and thus proposes that both branches of the Bourbon family, so long the terror of protestants and freemen, should now join as their protectors! By what means, or at what price, is this marvelous revolution in the system of politics, religion, and liberty, to be accomplished? How are these two powers to divide these colonies between them? Is their guardianship to be joint or separate? Under whose wing is Pennsylvania to fall - that of the most Catholic or most Christian king?

I confess that these questions stagger me; and, till answered to satisfaction, cannot but give every good man the most painful apprehensions concerning the future fate of his country. To be told, by the author of *Common Sense*, that all this is mere prejudice; that we must divest ourselves of every opinion in which we have been educated, in order to digest his pure doctrine; and throw down what our fathers and we have been building up for ages, to make room for his visionary fabric - I say to be told this, is only insult instead of argument; and can be tolerated by none but those who are so far inflamed or interested, that separation from Great-Britain at any risk is their choice, rather than reconciliation, upon whatever terms.

This, I much fear, is the temper of those who are constantly dinning in our ears the necessity of an immediate declaration of independence, for the sake of procuring foreign assistance, especially that of France. Their real desire is to shut the door against all future reconciliation by this precipitate step. The matter of foreign assistance is a mere decoy. Can we imagine that if France thought it her interest to quarrel with Great-Britain for any benefits to be derived from us, her delicacy would stand in her way? Was she ever refracted by such delicacy in any of the former civil wars of her neighbours, especially those of Great-Britain? But the truth is, that in the present ruinous state of her finances, and feeble condition of her fleets, she will scarce think it prudent, for any prospects we can yield her, to rush into a new and expensive war, when so ill recruited after the blood and treasure which she lavished so ineffectually in the last.

Would it be wise, then, to risk a refusal from her, or to mix our affairs with those of any foreign power whatever in this contest with Great-Britain? No; I conceive this would only protract our wars, encrease our dangers, weaken our force, and probably end in our ruin. And of all nations in the world, France is the last from which she should seek assistance, even if it were necessary. What kind of assistance do we expect from her! gold and silver she can but ill afford to give us. Her men we have no occasion for; and, in a word, until she has a fleet able to contend with that of England, she can do us no essential service. The want of such a fleet has been the great bar to her numerous projects for universal empire. Can any protestant, can you my countrymen, ever wish to see her possessed of such a fleet, assist her in attaining it, or willingly give her footing in America? Would she then be contented to be the humble ally of these colonies, or would she not, in her own right, resume Canada, which according to the limits she formerly claimed, is larger than all our provinces together? Could we hinder her from introducing what multitudes of her people she might think proper into that country where they have already a great body of their friends to receive them? In that case we should soon be left without room for the increasing number of our posterity; hemm'd in upon the sea shore; and, armies behind us, and fleets before us, be either crushed to pieces, obliged to submit to the absolute dominion of France, or to throw ourselves back upon the protection of Great-Britain.

This consideration is truly alarming, and France has never shewn herself so worthy of confidence among the nations of Europe, as to induce us to run such risks, by throwing ourselves precipitately into her arms. She is so notorious to the whole world for her disregard to the most sacred treaties, that *Gallica Fides*, or *French Faith*, is become as proverbial now, as *Punica Fides*, or *Carthaginian Faith*, of old. It could scarce have been imagined, that the author of *Common Sense*, after telling us that "the blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature, cries, 'TIS TIME TO PART' - eternally to part - from the limited monarchy of Great Britain, (whatever future terms might be offered us) would so soon have recommended to us a new alliance with the arbitrary monarchs of France and Spain. Bloody massacres, the revocation of sacred edicts, and the most unrelenting persecutions, have certainly taught American protestants, and especially our German brethren, what sort of faith we are to expect from POPISH PRINCES, and from nations who are strangers to liberty themselves, and envy the enjoyment of it to others!

In short, I am not able, with all the pains I have taken, to understand what is meant by a declaration of independence, unless it is to be drawn up in the form of a solemn abjuration of Great-Britain, as a nation with which we can never more be connected; and this seems the doctrine of the author of *Common Sense*. But I believe he has made but few converts to this part of his scheme; for who knows, to what vicissitude of fortune we may yet be subjected?

We have already declared ourselves independent, as to all useful purposes, by resisting our oppressors, upon our own foundation; and while we keep upon this ground

we may again be happy. Our trade will be the same, our language, our laws, and manners being the same with those of the nation with which we are to be connected; that connection will be natural, and we shall be more easily guard against future innovations. Pennsylvania has much to lose in this contest, and much to hope from a proper settlement of it. We have long flourished under our charter government. What may be the consequences of another form we cannot pronounce with certainty; but this we know that it is a road we have not travelled, and may be worse than it is described.

C A T O. N E W - Y O R K, March 25, 1776.

We hear that ten sail of vessels were lately cut out of the harbour of St. Thomas, by some English ships of war, and carried to Antigua.

On Saturday last an express arrived here from Boston, which he left the Tuesday before, with a letter from his excellency general Washington, to brigadier-general Lord Stirling, at New-York, of which the following is a copy.

Cambridge, 19th March, 1776.

MY LORD,

I AM now to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 12th instant, to give you my congratulations upon your appointment by the honourable congress. - If the intelligence is true, and to be depended on, which was brought by the gentleman to New-York, I think with you, that we shall have an opportunity of securing, and putting the continent in a tolerable posture of defence; and that the operations of the summer's campaign will not be so terrible as we were taught to expect, from the accounts and denunciations which the ministry have held forth to the public.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that on the morning of the 17th instant, general Howe, with his army, abandoned the town of Boston without destroying it; an event of much importance, which must be heard with great satisfaction; and that we are now in full possession. Their embarkation and retreat were hurried and precipitate, and they have left behind them stores, of one thing and another, to a pretty considerable amount, among which are several pieces of heavy cannon, and one or two mortars, which are spiked. The town is in a much better situation, and less injured, than I expected, from the reports I have received; though to be sure it is much damaged, and many houses despoiled of their valuable furniture.

The fleet is still in King and Nantasket roads, and where they intend to make a descent next is altogether unknown; but, supposing New-York to be an object of great importance, and to be in their view, I must recommend your most strenuous and active exertions in preparing to prevent any designs or attempts they may have formed or make against it. I have detached the rifle-men and five battalions from hence to your assistance, which will be followed by others, as circumstances will allow. - These, with what forces you have, and can assemble, if there should be any occasion, I trust, will be sufficient to hinder the enemy from possessing the city, or making a lodgement, till the main body of this army can arrive.

I am, my lord,

With great esteem,

Your most obedient and humble servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

The courier, who was himself in Boston, reports, we hear, that the enemy left there about forty horses almost starved, and that before they went off, they dismantled all the vessels in the harbour. General Putnam was arrived at New-Haven, on his way to New-York.

Extraß of a letter from Cambridge.

Col. Mifflin had yesterday an interview with major Small, who informed him, that they expected the commissioners to treat with the congress and that the duke of Grafton was one of them. He also informed him, that they (in Boston) heard that gen. Clinton and his troops were taken.

P H I L A D E L P H I A. I N C O N G R E S S, March 23, 1776.

Whereas the petitions of these united colonies to the king for the redress of great and manifest grievances have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to a state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion; and whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the British fleets and armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute, with their utmost vigour, and in a cruel manner wasting, spoiling and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery from the inclemency of the winter, and not only urging savages to invade the country, but instigating negroes to murder their masters; and whereas the parliament of Great-Britain hath lately passed an act, affirming these colonies to be in open rebellion; forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they accept pardons, and submit to despotic rule; declaring their property, wherever found upon the water, liable to seizure and confiscation; and enacting, that what had been done there, by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest, that the iniquitous scheme concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the English constitution, will be pertinaciously pursued. It being, therefore, necessary to provide for their defence and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, or otherwise to annoy them, according to the laws and usages of nations; the congress, trusting that such and their friends in Great-Britain (of whom it is considered there are

enemies of these united colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize; and, after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners on board of such captures as are merchant ships and vessels, shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of their adjudication, shall be condemned to and for the use of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines, and mariners of such armed vessels, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on. Provided always, that this resolution shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to any vessel bringing letters, arms, ammunition, or warlike stores, to and for the use of these colonies; or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such letters.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels with their tackle, apparel and furniture, goods, wares and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant of Great-Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited, one third, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board, and two thirds to the use of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That all ships or vessels with their tackle, apparel and furniture, goods, wares and merchandizes, belonging to any inhabitant of Great-Britain as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by and at the expense of any of the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners as aforesaid, in such manner and proportion as the assembly or convention of such colony shall direct.

Resolved, That all vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture, and cargoes belonging to inhabitants of Great-Britain as aforesaid, and all vessels which may be employed in carrying supplies to the ministerial armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of these colonies, by the people of the country, or detachments from the army, shall be deemed lawful prize, and the court of admiralty, within the said colony, is required on condemnation thereof, to adjudge, that all charges and expences which may attend the capture and trial be first paid out of the monies arising from the sales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all those who shall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the said prize. Provided, that where any detachments of the army shall have been employed as aforesaid, their part of the prize money shall be distributed among them, in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so employed.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

March 27. Died yesterday morning, the honourable SAMUEL WARD, Esq; late member of the continental congress; his remains will be interred this afternoon in the Baptist Church.

N O R T H - C A R O L I N A.

Extraß of a letter from brigadier general James Moore, in the continental service, to the hon. Cornelius Hartnet, Esq; president of the provincial council, North-Carolina, dated Wilmington, March 2, 1776.

SIR,
ON the earliest intelligence that the Tories were collecting and embodying at Cross creek, which I received on the 5th of Feb. I proceeded to take possession of Rockfish bridge, within seven miles of Cross creek, which I considered as an important post. I his I effected on the 15th with my own regiment, 5 pieces of artillery, and a part of the Bladen militia; but as our numbers were by no means equal to that of the Tories, I thought it most advisable to intrench and fortify that post, and wait for a reinforcement. By the 19th I was joined by col. Lillington with 150 of the Wilmington minutemen; col. Kenon with 200 of the Duplin militia, and col. Ash with about 100 of the volunteer independent rangers, making our numbers then in the whole about 1100, and from the best information I was able to procure, the Tory army, under command of gen. McDonald, amounted to about 14 or 1500. On the 20th they marched within four miles of us, and sent in by a flag of truce, the governor's proclamation, a manifesto and letter from the general, copies of which, together with another letter, and my answers, you have inclosed. I then waited only until col. Martin and col. Thackstone who I had certain intelligence were on their march, should get near enough to cut off their retreat, and determined to avail myself of the first favourable opportunity of attacking them. However, contrary to my expectations, I learnt on the 21st that they had the night before, and that morning crossed the N. West river at Campbellton with their whole army, sunk and destroyed all the boats, and taken their route the most direct way to Negro Head point. I then dispatched an express to col. Caswell, who was on his march to join us with about 200 men, and directed him to return and take possession of Corber's ferry over Black-river and by every means in his power to obstruct, harass and distress them in their march; at the same time I directed col. Martin and col. Thackstone to take possession of Cross creek, in order to prevent their return that way. Col. Lillington and col. Ash I ordered, by a forced march, to endeavour if possible to reinforce col. Caswell; but if that could not be effected, to take possession of Moore's creek bridge, whilst I proceeded back with the remainder of our army to cross the N. West at Elizabeth town, so as either to meet them on their way to Corber's ferry, or fall in their rear and surround them there. On the 21st I crossed the river at Elizabeth town, where I was compelled to wait for a supply of provisions until the 22nd at night, having learnt that col. Clifton was

JOHN ASHTON, care of Wm. Daniels, Annapolis. Wm. Aikman (2) Annapolis. Gally Allen at Mr. Jackson, Annapolis.

Norman Bruce, Pipe-creek, Frederick county. James Brooks, Annapolis. Thos. Brubaker, Annapolis. Chas. Beatty, Annapolis.

Benet Chew, Annapolis. Saml. Chew, Maryland. John M'Caull at Anny Steward's, Annapolis. Abraham Claude, Annapolis. Michl. Coughlan (2). Wm. Cook, Annapolis.

Dani. Dulany, jun. Annapolis. Dani. Dorgan, at Emory Sadler's, Esq; Chester-town, Kent county.

John Eden, St. Clement's Bay. Wm. Eddis, Annapolis.

Rebecca Fry at Nottingham, Maryland. Col. Wm. Fitzhugh, Calvert county. Jas. Forbes, Charles county. Lieutenant Benj. Ford, Annapolis.

Frederick Green, Annapolis (2). Mr. L'Geau, dancing master, Annapolis. Mrs. Gator. James Geoghegan, Esq; Summerfett county. Henry Chew gator, Annapolis.

Robt. Harrison, Choptank river, Maryland. James Holliday, Queen Ann's county. John Hebburn, barber, care of Mrs. Rieth, Annapolis. Nathan Hammond, Annapolis. Mr. Harris, blacksmith, Annapolis.

Rev. Francis Lauder, Calvert county, Maryland.

Benj. Mackel, care of Wallace and Davison, Annapolis (3). Joseph Mattingly, to the care of Nancy Ford, St. Mary's county. Eliz. Morton, at Charles Carrol's, Annapolis. Capt. Mayberry, Annapolis.

Alexander Ogg, Hunting Town.

Robt. Pottinger, P. G. county. John Pitt, Annapolis. David Plunket, at Mrs. Howard's. Mr. Jas. Peal, Annapolis.

Col. Rumsey, at Annapolis. Josiah Russel, care of Mrs. Reynolds, Annapolis. James Reed, Annapolis.

Wm. Summerville (2) Annapolis. Thomas Smith, Christa. Town. Gavin. Ham. Smith, care of Frederick Green. David Steward, clk. of land office, Annapolis. Anna Steward, Maryland. Stephen Steward, West River. Thos. Smith, eastern Shore. John Summerville, Saint Mary's county. Mess. Galloway and Steward, Annapolis.

Capt. Edwd. Taylor, county of Ackomack (2).

Alex. Williams, near Annapolis. John Weems, Calvert county, Maryland. Col. Wier, Annapolis.

ANAPOLIS, March 26, 1776. RAN away from the subscriber, an indentured servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. Should he be taken ten miles from home I will give 20 shillings reward on his return. J. CLAPHAM.

DESERTED from capt. Scott's company of regulars, a fellow, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, named John Ashton, and appears to be about 22 years of age. Whoever will bring the above soldier to capt. Scott, or any officer of the said company, shall receive the sum of three pounds.

March 19, 1776. To be opened at South-river, on Thursday the 24th instant, by the subscriber hereof, THE LATIN SCHOOL, where any gentlemen that are pleased to send their children, may expect to have the greatest justice done them. EUGENE FERRIS.

N. B. Any gentlemen that want to board their children, will meet with the best accommodations at Mr. Gerard Hopkins, jun. Mr. John Cowman, Mr. Henry Hall, and Mr. David Evans.

March 25, 1776. THIS is to give notice to all persons concerned, that I intend to appraise the estate of Mr. James Maccobbin, deceased, at his late dwelling plantation in Anne-Arundel county, on Tuesday the 16th day of April next. WILLIAM WOODWARD, admr. Mess. Joseph Warfield and John Marriot appointed appraisers by the commissary.

A VALUABLE plantation, containing about three hundred acres, being part of a tract of land called and known by the name of Anne Catharine Neck, or Carpenters Point, situate, lying and being in Cecil county aforesaid, at the head of Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of North-East river, and about three miles from Charles-Town. There is on the said plantation, an excellent fine fishery, part of which at present rents for about one hundred pounds per annum. Also to be sold at public vendue, the houses and lots in Charles-Town, formerly the property of the said Francis Key, the day after the sale of the abovementioned plantation. JAMES BROOKS.

Maryland, Somerset county, Feb. 12, 1776. THE visitors of Eden school, in the county aforesaid, hereby give notice, that they want a master for said school: Any person inclinable to undertake, that is properly qualified, and can come well recommended, is desired to apply as soon as possible. The master's salary in said school is one hundred and thirty pounds per annum, with diet, washing and lodging found. Signed by request of the Visitors, HENRY LOWES.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD. Frederick county, Maryland, Halling's river, February 14, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, last night, two Irish servant men, both weavers by trade, viz. Christopher Warren, about five feet four inches high; had on, when he went away, a short pale blue coat, which has been tused, and is double breasted, with black horn buttons, and a pair of brown cloth trousers; he has short curled black hair, a very long nose which appears to lean to one side of his face, dark eyes, and a few blue spots in his face, which appear to be specks of gunpowder; he is about thirty-five years of age. George Murdy, about twenty years of age, five feet eight inches high, fair complexion, gray eyes, straight black hair; had on, when he went away, two striped country cloth jackets; one pair of striped country cloth breeches. They took with them two horses, two saddles, and two bridles; one a roan horse with a black mane and tail, trots and gallops, branded on the near shoulder L F; about fourteen hands high, and goes dull on the road; the other a small bay horse about fourteen hands high, branded on the near shoulder G, paces and gallops; and shod before. Whoever takes up the said servants and horses, and secures them, so that the owner may get them again, shall receive the above reward, paid by GEORGE SNELL.

N. B. It is probable they may have other cloaths with them, or get their own changed.

Annapolis, February 20, 1776. To be sold at public vendue, by the subscriber, on the second Tuesday in April next (on the premises) by virtue of a power of attorney from Mr. John Kois Key, eldest son and heir at law of Francis Key, late of Cecil county, Esq; deceased.

A VALUABLE plantation, containing about three hundred acres, being part of a tract of land called and known by the name of Anne Catharine Neck, or Carpenters Point, situate, lying and being in Cecil county aforesaid, at the head of Chesapeake Bay, near the mouth of North-East river, and about three miles from Charles-Town. There is on the said plantation, an excellent fine fishery, part of which at present rents for about one hundred pounds per annum. Also to be sold at public vendue, the houses and lots in Charles-Town, formerly the property of the said Francis Key, the day after the sale of the abovementioned plantation. SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

Patuxent Iron-Works, February 6, 1776. BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron-Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. Also all persons that are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such methods as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to us. SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

February 15, 1775. S L I M. To be let to mares the ensuing season, at Sandgate farm, close by Mr. Stuart's rope-walk, and within a mile of Annapolis. THE high bred English horse, S L I M, full fifteen hands high, rising seven years old. Slim is of a beautiful dark chestnut colour, was got by Wildman's Babram, his dam by Rogers's Babram, his grandam by Sedbury out of lord Portmore's Ebony; is well suited to breed for either the saddle or turf, being remarkably light, and quick in his movements, free from any blemish or incumbrance of gum, and is imagined equal to any horse on the continent, four mile heats at nine fone. He will be let at six dollars, for the season, and half a crown to the groom, and at so low a rate the cash will be expected before the horse is led out. Good pasture for mares to be had at half a crown a week, or at half a dollar, with proper feeding.

TEN POUNDS REWARD. RAN away from the subscriber, living in Kent county, Maryland, the 26th of this instant, two Irish indentured servants, each of which has about three years to serve, viz. FRANCIS MANIC, about thirty years of age, a very stout well made fellow, about five feet ten inches high, very full faced, short dark hair; had on and took with him, a good brown broad cloth coat, and black velvet jacket and breeches; and a pair of black everlasting breeches, with yellow metal buttons, an old blue coat with new large sleeves, shirts, shoes and stockings; his calling a ditcher or brickmaker. JOHN DELANY, about 26 years of age, five feet eight inches high, well made, fair skin, ruddy complexion, short brown hair; had on and took with him, a green jacket made tailor fashion, a purple under jacket, a white shirt, one or two neck shirts, such worn, a new felt hat, a black silk handkerchief round his neck, a pair of white kersey breeches, and a pair of blue serge breeches, one pair of Scotch Kilmarnock, and one pair of Kendall ribbed hose mixed black and white, a pair of half worn shoes, and square head buckles, he writes a good hand; and they have both been in different parts of Pennsylvania. Whoever takes up the aforesaid servants, and secures them so that the subscriber may have them again, shall receive ten pounds reward, if taken out of the province, if in the province, five pounds, or half the above reward for either, by RICHARD GRAVES.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons indebted to the subscriber, either by bond, note, or open account, to immediately come and settle their respective debts, as I am determined to give no longer indulgence. I hope this requisition will be adhered to, otherwise I shall take compulsory methods to enforce payment, without respect to persons. JOSEPH DUVAL.

FRANCIS GEORGE'S COUNTY, May 24, 1775. NOTICE is hereby given to all persons indebted to the subscriber, either by bond, note, or open account, to immediately come and settle their respective debts, as I am determined to give no longer indulgence. I hope this requisition will be adhered to, otherwise I shall take compulsory methods to enforce payment, without respect to persons. JOSEPH DUVAL.

TEN POUNDS REWARD. RAN away from the subscriber, living in Kent county, Maryland, the 26th of this instant, two Irish indentured servants, each of which has about three years to serve, viz.

FRANCIS MANIC, about thirty years of age, a very stout well made fellow, about five feet ten inches high, very full faced, short dark hair; had on and took with him, a good brown broad cloth coat, and black velvet jacket and breeches; and a pair of black everlasting breeches, with yellow metal buttons, an old blue coat with new large sleeves, shirts, shoes and stockings; his calling a ditcher or brickmaker.

JOHN DELANY, about 26 years of age, five feet eight inches high, well made, fair skin, ruddy complexion, short brown hair; had on and took with him, a green jacket made tailor fashion, a purple under jacket, a white shirt, one or two neck shirts, such worn, a new felt hat, a black silk handkerchief round his neck, a pair of white kersey breeches, and a pair of blue serge breeches, one pair of Scotch Kilmarnock, and one pair of Kendall ribbed hose mixed black and white, a pair of half worn shoes, and square head buckles, he writes a good hand; and they have both been in different parts of Pennsylvania. Whoever takes up the aforesaid servants, and secures them so that the subscriber may have them again, shall receive ten pounds reward, if taken out of the province, if in the province, five pounds, or half the above reward for either, by RICHARD GRAVES.

Baltimore county, Patapoo Neck, April 3, 1775. TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD. For apprehending a Runaway.

JAMES, a mulatto slave, sometimes known by the name of Vulcan, but commonly answers to the name of Buck, took on abrupt leave of his overseer last Wednesday, and has not yet returned; he is a dark mulatto, about 5 feet 9 inches high, strong made, sensible, artful, and deceptive in conversation, firm and daring in his efforts to perpetrate villainy, tho' of mild temper, and plausible in speech; he has frequently travelled through a considerable part of this and some part of the province of Pennsylvania; it is well known, it is supposed in the borough and county of Lancaster, and is acquainted with Philadelphia; may probably therefore re-visit those places. His working cloaths were a home manufactured long cloth waistcoat with sleeves, and breeches, yarn stockings, of a bright shirt, and good shoes, nailed with hobs; he is possessed of and has taken with him a blue German serge coat, a green broad cloth vest, two pair of cotton and one pair of thread stockings, two white shirts rustled at the breast, a good calico hat with hand and buckle, a pair of good pumps, with a pair of double rimmed silver buckles. He has a mark of distinction, which from modesty, or some other motive, he is careful to conceal; one of his ears (but which is forgotten) remarkably less than the other. The above reward will be paid if he should be taken up out of the province, or 50 miles from Baltimore town in the province, and brought home; five pounds if at the distance of 40 miles, three pounds if 30, and forty shillings if 20 miles, with reasonable travelling expence, including the legal charges under the act of assembly by THOMAS JONES.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office, PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND. Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of December, 1775.

To CATO, CASSANDRA, and all the writers on the independent controversy.

GENTLEMEN

THOUGH it might be deemed absolutely necessary to suppress all publications, which tend to divide the colonies, in their present spirited opposition to a cruel and unnatural attack from the people of England; yet, as the question of independency has been lately started, in a pamphlet entitled Common Sense, and supported by a variety of subsequent authors, I confess I was much pained on the appearance of a writer on the other side of the question; for as I have no other view, than peace and happiness for myself and posterity, I was determined to give an earnest attention to the arguments on both sides. It is no matter, with me, whether I live under an emperor, a pope, a Mahaw, a king of England, or a republic, provided I can be convinced, by irresistible arguments, that such or such a state contained the greatest quantity of happiness for the people at large, and for individuals in particular; for as I am in the situation of 99 out of every 100 in the world, who have no expectations of ever ascending into office, and riding upon the top of the machine, and have only to expect to contribute my proportion of labour to wheel it along, I therefore think it my business, as well as my fellow labourers, to see that it is so constructed, as to move with as little labour as possible, and the machinery so contrived as to be the least liable to get out of order in the variety of rough and smooth roads through which we must inevitably pass. Now taking it for granted, that the machine must necessarily be kept in proper motion, I conclude, we are not to consider the ease and convenience of the riders, but that of the draught-men, who being the majority, and giving motion to the machine for their own enjoyment (I know critics the simile wont run upon all tours, but I shall nevertheless stick to it till you offer me a better) I say, we move it along for our own enjoyment; and if the riders should insist on having it built, to contain only a single chair for a crowned head, or to spread a larger floor over our heads to support a commonwealth, we who pull, and not they who ride, ought to be the judges of the matter; for that some must pull, and that some will ride, in every community on the face of the earth, must be granted me; therefore, all I have to consider, with the rest of my brethren on the ground, is to attach myself to that machine or (if you wont let me pursue the simile) to that form of government, which will afford me the most ease and give me least pain.

People in general know so little of the different movements of a state, and the complicated connections and dependencies on the other powers of the world, that they are almost unequal to the task of forming a proper judgment of the fitness or unfitness of this or that mode; for this reason it gave me great pleasure to think I was now about to have the matter laid before me in an open and candid manner, that I and the rest of my unlettered brethren might judge for ourselves. The writer signed Cato, I should have liked much better, had his actions corresponded with his declarations. He says he, nor need any person be alarmed; for an indecent nor angry expression, shall not dishonour my pen, nor yet a single sentiment, which is not calculated to cement all parties in the province, upon safe and popular grounds; more firmly than ever, in executing the resolves of the congress, and maintaining American liberty. And this decency prevailed in Cato's breast, why did he, a few lines before, charge the commentators on the conduct of the assembly, with "scurrilous misrepresentations?" Decency and scurrillity can certainly have no possible connexion. Unhappily for him, in his second letter he proceeds to term a writer, who styles himself Cassandra, "an envious, a madman, and a barbarian." Language of this kind, can be of no real use to men who are searching for truth, and I will take the liberty to request Cato, in his future essays, to keep up to the decency he professed to set out with. I could have wished to have passed Cassandra unnoticed on this head; but as he also has given too much reason for censure, I will just make free to say, that his arguments have acquired no force with me, by directing personal attacks on Cato, and endeavouring to point out the real man to the public; nay, by introducing the very name of a private gentleman into his essays, and obliquely glancing at him as the writer of Cato's letters. I am sensible it is so guarded, that Cassandra may plead off, and declare, if he pleases, that he had no such person in view; and Cato might find it difficult to disprove his sincerity. Cassandra may also object, where he hints at the danger which Cato runs of "too far provoking the majesty of the people by the bold flourish of a pen which pays no respect to truth, lest he may find it expedient to end his days on the principles of independency," that he meant no such thing as the threatening Cato with the chance of being hanged by a mob; though his marking the word "independency" in italics, will certainly convey that idea to many minds. Now gentlemen, with all due respect to you both, I would wish you to avoid invidious and personal attacks, however sharp your minds may be set against each other, upon a supposition that you have got at the secret of names on both sides, I would request you to consider, that though you are both votaries, yet you are in some measure accountable to the public. If two advocates, pleading a cause of great importance, before a learned court, and an intelligent jury, were to make use of illiberal reflections upon each

other's characters, and rip up a long list of charges of fraudulent, seditious and wicked practices, would not both of them be justly thought themselves grossly insulted, and would not such advocates deserve the severest censure from the bench? He is to be remembered, gentlemen, you are pleading at the bar of posterity, upon a cause of greater importance than ever came before any tribunal on earth, no less than whether it is expedient or imprudent to make a total separation in government between the new and the old world. Do you think, gentlemen, that a thousandth part of your readers, either know, care for, or desire to know who are the writers on this popular subject. If John a Notts and Tom a Stiles should be fixed on as the authors in this city, and should hand forth to the public, every foible and unfavourable incident of each other's life, of what importance, think you, would this be to those who are strangers to them both? If Kouli Khan's gardener's daughter had a child by the grand vizir's brother, what has that to do with the revolution in Persia? It is the matter and not the man that the public are concerned with. If lord North himself was prisoner amongst us, and should issue forth from his confinement, daily lucubrations on the subject now before us, I would give them as earnest a reading, as if they flowed from the pen of a Camden or a Burke; and yet I am a zealous advocate against Great Britain in the present controversy; his truth alone I am hunting for, and this I believe to be the case with nine-tenths of the people, therefore I beg you will behave like gentlemen to yourselves, and to the public, canvass the matter fairly, fully and frankly, and don't suppose yourselves of so much importance, as to think we shall be pleased with your calling on our attention from the grand question, to the unimportant discussions of the characters of schemes of either party. I, with a great number of others, should be glad to see you enter deeply into the question, on both sides. State the advantages of an independence; the benefits to be derived from a new mode of government; how it will affect individuals; the additional happiness and freedom it will produce, particularized in a number of plain, clear instances; for though I, and some others, might be satisfied with the general assertion, that the state will be much benefited by the change, yet there is no gaining admission into some houses, but by full and positive demonstration; and the number of such is very great. To make myself better understood, I mean thus. If A, being a shopkeeper in this city, having a tolerable stand for business, though at a distance from the market, was to be advised by B to remove his shop, to the outskirts of the town, where he should be sure to make his fortune; A would naturally require of B some proof of its probability, as the proposal might seem a strange one; but if B, being in the secret, should inform him that the corporation had determined to remove the market to that very spot, A would not hesitate a moment about the matter; so with respect to independence, some people will be satisfied with nothing short of such clear and demonstrative evidence; you must tell them, also, of the particular new trades, which will be opened to us; the prices our goods will bear at home, to the stranger, and what they will bring at such and such ports, and how much those prices exceed what we have been used to get for them; at the markets we were allowed to trade to; in this you must name the articles, the prices, and the places; you must then tell us, the advantages of buying linens, woollens, cottons, silks, and hard ware, in France, Spain and Portugal, and other countries in Europe, and how much cheaper they are than in England, and Ireland; in this too you must name the goods, the places, and prices; and whether these places will take in exchange, our lumber, our naval stores, our tobacco, flax seed, &c. &c. and what prices they will give; what credit it is customary for those several places to allow to foreigners on what we commonly call dry goods; for our country people generally requiring credit, the merchant-importer must have credit too, otherwise trade will be confined to a few rich buyers, who will exact what prices they please, upon the farmer and consumer. Next you must show, that the charge of supporting government will be less, in a state of independence, than it hath been heretofore, during a connexion; you must name the expenses we now pay, and the expense we shall then pay; you must give an estimate of the charge of supporting such an army and navy, in time of peace, as may always preserve the peace; there are many who wont be satisfied, with your telling them, that "a well regulated militia will save all the expense arising on the score of an army," say they, a man's time and labour, when he milters, will always be the same to him, as money paid, and that therefore you must fix the number of men that are to be enrolled every year, and the number of times they shall appear; for instance, if in Pennsylvania 25,000 should muster eight times in the year, at 25. 6d. per day, it would amount to £. 25,000, which would be just equal to the present 15. 6d. tax on all the estates in the province; if they are to receive no pay it will nevertheless be a loss to them, equal to that sum; if they are to be paid the amount of this tax should certainly be estimated, because it must be paid by the community at large in every province, in proportion to the numbers so enrolled as a militia. The expense of building a sufficient fleet should also be ascertained, and also the number of ships and men necessary to be kept in constant pay, as guarda costa's, occasional convoys, or dispatch vessels, conveying all ambassadors to the different ports in Europe, and you must also estimate the annual expense of watching, and keeping those vessels in repair, which are laid up; also the expenses of maintaining in every court of Europe ambassadors, counsils, messengers, spies, and even bribe money, for intelligence of the designs of their respective countries; also the expenses of the

fleet and army in time of war; for we may reasonably expect to share the same fate of other nations, and of being sometimes unfortunately engaged in war, with some troublesome ambitious prince, or other; perhaps they may undertake to stop our trade up the Straights into the Mediterranean, or up the North Sea, to Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia, we must then either give it up, or fight for it, or pay some subsidy to a foreign power for protection in those seas; the expenses in any, or all, of those cases, you should give to us, also in what proportion the value of our estates in America will increase, so as to defray the necessary charges of government, taking for granted, that an 15. 6d. tax in the pound, on all taxable Estates in America, does now yield 533,333 dollars, being rather more than 600 millions, which is calculated thus; Pennsylvania is rated by the congress to pay about one eighth of all the expenses of the united colonies; and as a tax of 15. 6d. in the pound in the said province, yields about £. 25,000—we may suppose, an 15. 6d. tax upon the united colonies, will yield just eight times as much, which is £. 200,000 our currency or 533,333 dollars per annum. Lastly you are to consider, after all things are candidly stated, whether the sums annually raised on the one hand to protect ourselves, and the abolition paid in trade (over and above what we used to make) on the other hand; or do not render it most for our interest to separate from Britain. On the part of those who contend for a connexion, they must show what are the advantages that result from such a connexion; what were the customary expenses of government in America, before the present rupture; what are the exclusive privileges we derive from exporting goods to Great Britain; whether there are acts of parliament in favour of the colonies, to the prejudice of other nations; and which we reap the full advantage of—and whether there are equivalents to any loss we may sustain, by having our trade confined to them; whether our trade is not limited to our great advantage; you are to parti vitate the ports we may trade to, under the old regulations; and the different articles of America, which we may carry liberally to foreign ports, you must also show that the principal part of the goods we import from England and Ireland could not be supplied us upon as good terms from any other country, and that those nations, with whom we might incline to trade, would not grant us bounties upon several species, and sundry other articles in the same manner as England does, the amount of which annually paid to the colonies, you should sum up. You must also show (if you can) why America ought not to take credit to herself, for all the taxes paid by the English manufacturers, before they send their goods to the colonies; it being generally granted, that the consumer ultimately pays all charges; you must also show, whether taxes on goods imported into America from Holland, France or Spain (where imposts are very heavy) are or are not added to the cost of the said goods, in the same manner as we reckon them on English goods. Also whether the long established credit our American merchants have obtained in England, in the interior part of the kingdom, with the original manufacturers, cannot be as well accomplished in the new countries we may go to; or whether we must take their goods, from merchants at the several out-ports, with all the middle men's or intervening dealers profit added to them; and if we should obtain credit at such places for twelve months, as in England, what will be the advantage, which a Frenchman, a Dutchman, or a Spaniard, will chuse to put on his goods, as an equivalent, for the risk which he will suppose himself to run, by trusting strangers. Whether it is not a general established custom with all trading nations to trust foreigners, with whom they have no legal or political constitutional connexion, as freely as their own subjects in distant parts of the world; if this is not generally the case, you should show, why America can't make treaties with such powers, in order to obtain credit, either by pledging to them the estates of the community at large, to make good deficiencies that might happen by individuals failing, or neglecting to pay such foreign debts, or by such other means as the American states might think fit to offer. You should also show, whether the low price of goods, for many years past, was owing to the smallness of the demand, or to the great quantities brought to market, or to the reasonableness and moderation of the importing merchants; and whether, if France, Spain and Holland should refuse to give credit to every young merchant going out for a cargo, with a tolerable recommendation, as the traders in England have been accustomed to do, I say, it this should be the case, and the importation should fall wholly into the hands of a few rich merchants, why might not some mode of restriction be entered into for preventing the exorbitant exactions they might be guilty of, to the great injury of the consumers? You must also convince the farmer, if he bought his goods as low as formerly, occasioned by a connexion with Great Britain, that he would also have the same advantages of shipping off his produce, which he has been used to, without any restriction laid on our trade that might lower the price when he brought his crops to market. You must also point out what advantage it would be to England to have tobacco, once more exported to them; and whether ships, among other commodities, would be any inducement for them to offer us better terms. Some might possibly think that, nationally speaking, the being deprived of an expensive luxury, would be rather a gain than a loss; for though the tax on this article may be rated at 200,000 per annum, yet it is wholly paid by themselves, as well as the great cost of the tobacco; the public funds would indeed be less, but the people would be gainers, in a sum not equal to the sum amount paid to the American merchant; therefore you must show

CASSANDRA will please to excuse the application of Gentlemen, for as there is a decree that the Prophets are to be credited, I am under the necessity of doing this, that the matter CASSANDRA did Lady.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1776

To CATO, CASSANDRA, and all the writers on the independent controversy.

GENTLEMEN

THOUGH it might be deemed absolutely necessary to suppress all publications, which tend to dilunite the colonies, in their present spirited opposition to a cruel and unnatural attack from the people of England; yet as the question of independence has been lately started, in a pamphlet entitled *Common Sense*, and supported by a variety of subsequent authors, I confess I was much pleased on the appearance of a writer on the other side of the question; for as I have no other view, than peace and happiness for myself and posterity, I was determined to give an earnest attention to the arguments on both sides. It is no matter, with me, whether I live under an emperor, a pope, a bashaw, a king of England, or a republic, provided I can be convinced, by irrefragable arguments, that such or such a state contained the greatest quantity of happiness for the people at large, and for individuals in particular; for as I am in the situation of 99 out of every 100 in the world, who have no expectations of ever ascending into office, and riding upon the top of the machine, and have only to expect to contribute my proportion of labour to wheel it along, I therefore think it my business, as well as my fellow-labourers, to see that it is so constructed, as to move with as little labour as possible, and the machinery so contrived as to be the least liable to get out of order in the variety of rough and smooth roads through which we must inevitably pass. Now taking it for granted, that the machine must necessarily be kept in proper motion, I conclude, we are not to contrive the ease and convenience of the riders, but that of the draughtsmen, who being the majority, and giving motion to the machine for their own enjoyment (I know critics the sunbeams wont run upon all heads, but I shall nevertheless stick to it till you call me a better) I say, we move it along for our own enjoyment; and if the riders should insist on having it built, to contain only a single chair for a crowned head, or to spread a larger floor over our heads to support a commonwealth, we who pull, and not they who ride, ought to be the judges of the matter; for that some must pull, and that some will ride, in every community on the face of the earth, must be granted me; therefore, we have to consider, with the rest of my brethren on the ground, is to attach in their to that machine or (if you will let me pursue the simile) to that form of government which will afford me the most ease and give me most gain.

People in general know so little of the different movements of a state, and the complicated connections and dependencies on the other powers of the world, that they are almost unequal to the task of forming a proper judgment of the fitness or unfitness of this or that mode; for the reason I gave me great pleasure to think I was now about to have the matter laid before me in an open and candid manner, that I and the rest of my unlettered brethren might judge for ourselves. The writer signed Cato, should have liked much better, had his actions corresponded with his declarations—says he, "nor need any person be alarmed; for an indecent nor angry expression, shall not dishonour my pen, nor yet a single sentiment which is not calculated to cement all parties in the province, upon safe and popular grounds, more firmly than ever, in executing the resolves of the congress, and maintaining American liberty."—had this decency prevailed in Cato's breast, why did he, a few lines before, charge the commentators on the conduct of the assembly, with "scurrilous misrepresentation?" Decency and scurrility can certainly have no possible connexion—and unhappily for him, in his second letter he proceeds to term a writer, who styles himself Cassandra—"an enthusiast, a madman, and a barbarian." Language of this kind, can be of no real use to men who are searching for truth, and I will take the liberty to request Cato, in his future essays, to keep up to the decency he professed to set out with. I could have wished to have passed Cassandra unnoticed on this head; but as he also has given too much reason for censure, I will just make free to say, that his arguments have acquired no force with me, by directing personal attacks on Cato, and endeavouring to point out the real man to the public; nay, by introducing the very name of a private gentleman into his essays, and obliquely glancing at him as the writer of Cato's letters. I am sensible it is so guarded, that Cassandra may plead off, and declare, if he pleases, that he had no such person in view; and Cato might find it difficult to improve his sincerity. Cassandra may also assert, where he hints at the danger which Cato runs of "too far provoking the majesty of the people by the bold flourish of a pen which pays no respect to truth, lest he may find it expedient to end his days on the principles of dependency," that he meant no such thing as the threatening Cato with the chance of being hanged by a mob; though his marking the word "dependency" in italics, will certainly convey that idea to many minds. Now gentlemen, with all due respect to you both, I would wish you to avoid indecency and personality; however sharp your minds may be set against each other, upon a supposition that you have got at the secret of names on both sides, I would request you to consider, that though you are both voluntary writers, yet you are in some measure accountable to the public. If two advocates, pleading a cause of great importance, before a learned court, and an intelligent jury, were to make use of illiberal reflections upon each

other's characters, and rip up a long list of charges of fraudulent designs and wicked practices, would not both court and jury think themselves grossly insulted, and would not such advocates deserve the severest censure from the bench? Be pleased to remember, gentlemen, you are pleading at the bar of the public, upon a cause of greater importance than ever came before any tribunal on earth, no less than whether it is expedient or inexpedient to make a total separation in government between the new and the old world. Do you think, gentlemen, that a thousandth part of your readers, either know, care for, or desire to know who are the writers on this popular subject. If John a Nokes and I on a stile should be fixed on as the authors in this city, and should hand forth to the public, every foible and unfavourable incident of each other's life, of what importance, think you, would this be to those who are strangers to them both. If Kouli Khan's gardener's daughter had a child by the grand vizir's brother, what has that to do with the revolution in Persia? 'tis the matter and not the man that the public are concerned with. If lord North himself was prisoner amongst us, and should issue forth from his confinement, daily lucubrations on the subject now before us, I would give them as earnest a reading, as if they flowed from the pen of a Camden or a Burke; and yet I am a zealous advocate against Great Britain in the present controversy; 'tis truth alone I am hunting for, and this I believe to be the case with nine-tenths of the people, therefore I beg you will behave like gentlemen to yourselves, and to the public; canvass the matter fairly, fully and freely, and don't suppose yourselves of so much importance, as to think we shall be pleased with your calling off our attention from the grand question, to the unimportant discussions of the characters or schemes of either party. I, with a great number of others, should be glad to see you enter deeply into the question, on both sides. State the advantages of an independence—the benefits to be derived from a new mode of government; how it will affect individuals; the additional happiness and freedom it will produce, particularized in a number of plain, clear instances; for though I, and some others, might be satisfied with the general assertion, "that the state will be much benefited by the change," yet there is no gaining admission into some souls, but by full and sufficient demonstration; and the number of such is very great—to make myself better understood, I mean thus—let A, being a shopkeeper in this city, having a tolerable stand for business, though at a distance from the market, was to be advised by B to remove his shop to the outskirts of the town, where he should be sure to make his fortune; A would naturally require of B some proof of its probability, as the proposal might seem a strange one; but if B, being in the secret, should inform him that the corporation had determined to remove the market to that very spot, A would not hesitate a moment about the matter; so with respect to independence, some people will be satisfied with nothing short of such clear and demonstrative evidence; you must tell them, also, of the particular new trades, which will be opened to us, the prices our goods will bear at home, to the farmer, and what they will bring at such and such ports, and how much those prices exceed what we have been used to get for them; at the markets we were used to trade to; in this you must name the articles, the prices, and the places; you must then tell us, the advantages of buying wools, woollens, cottons, silks, and hard ware, in France, Spain and Portugal, and other countries in Europe, and how much cheaper they are than in England, and Ireland; in this too you must name the goods, the places, and prices; and whether these pieces will take in exchange, our rum, our naval stores, our tobacco, flux, steel, &c. &c. and what prices they will give; what credit it is customary for those several places to allow to foreigners on what we commonly call dry goods; for our country people generally requiring credit, the merchant-importer must have credit too, otherwise trade will be confined to a few rich houses, who will exact what prices they please, upon the farmer and consumer. Next you must shew, that the charge of supporting government will be less, in a state of independence, than it hath been heretofore, during a connexion; you must name the expences we now pay, and the expences we shall then pay; you must give an estimate of the charge of supporting such an army and navy, in time of peace; as may always preserve the peace; there are many who wont be satisfied, with your telling them, that "a well regulated militia will save all the expence arising on the score of an army," say they, a man's time and labour, when he mutters, will always be the same to him, as money paid, and that therefore you must fix the number of men that are to be enrolled every year, and the number of times they shall appear; for instance, if in Pennsylvania 25,000 should muster eight times in the year, at 25. 6d. per day, it would amount to £.25,000, which would be just equal to the present 15. 6d. tax on all the estates in the province; if they are to receive no pay it will nevertheless be a loss to them, equal to that sum; if they are to be paid the amount of this tax should certainly be estimated, because it must be paid by the community at large in every province, in proportion to the numbers so enrolled as a militia. The expence of building a sufficient fleet should also be ascertained, and also the number of ships and men necessary to be kept in constant pay, as guarda coasts, occasional convoys, or di patch vessels, conveying our assadors to the different ports in Europe, and you must also estimate the annual expence of watching, and keeping those vessels in repair, which are laid up; also the expences of maintaining in every court of Europe ambassadors, consuls, messengers, spies, and even bribe money, for intelligence of the delicias of their respective cabinets;—also the expences of the

fleet and army in time of war; for we may reasonably expect to share the same fate of other nations, and of being sometimes unfortunately engaged in war, with some troublesome ambitious prince or other; perhaps they may undertake to stop our trade up the Straights into the Med terranean, or up the north seas, to Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia, we must then either GIVE IT UP, OR FIGHT FOR IT, or pay some subsidy to a foreign power for protection in those seas—the expences in any, or all, of those cases, you should give to us—also in what proportion the value of our estates in America will increase, so as to defray the necessary charges of government, taking for granted, that an 15. 6d. tax in the pound, on all taxable estates in America, does now yield 533,333 dollars, being rather more than half a million; which is calculated thus; Pennsylvania is rated by the congress to pay about one eighth of all the expences of the united colonies; and as a tax of 15. 6d. in the pound in the said province, nets about £.25,000—we may suppose, an 15. 6d. tax upon the united colonies, will yield just eight times as much, which is £.200,000 our currency of 533,333 dollars per annum. Lastly you are to consider, after all things are candidly stated, whether the sums annually raised on the one hand to protect ourselves, and the absolute gain in trade (over and above what we used to make) on the other hand, do or do not render it most for our interest to separate from Britain.

On the part of those who contend for a connexion, they must shew what are the advantages that result from such a connexion; what were the customary expences of government in America, before the present rupture; what are the exclusive privileges we derive from exporting goods to Great Britain; whether there are acts of parliament in favour of the colonies, to the prejudice of other nations; and which we reap the sole advantage of—and whether these are equivalent to any losses we may sustain; by having our trade confined to them; whether our trade is not limited to our great disadvantage; you are to partition the ports we may trade to, under the old regulations; and the different articles of America, which we may carry directly to foreign ports, you must also shew that the principal part of the goods we import from England and Ireland could not be supplied us upon as good terms from any other country, and that those nations, with whom we might increase our trade, would not grant us bouquets upon equal terms, and sundry other articles in the same manner as England does, the amount of which annually paid to the colonies, you should sum up. You must also shew, (if you can) why America ought not to take credit to herself, for all the taxes paid by the English manufacturers, before they send their goods to the colonies; it being generally granted, that the consumer ultimately pays all charges; you must also shew, whether taxes on goods imported into America from Holland, France or Spain (where imports are very heavy) are or are not added to the cost of the said goods, in the same manner as we reckon them on English goods. Also whether the long established credit our American merchants have obtained in England, in the interior part of the kingdom, with the original manufacturers, cannot be as well accomplished in the new countries we may go to; or whether we must take their goods, from merchants at the several out-ports, with all the middle men's or intervening dealers profit added to them; and if we should obtain credit at such places for twelve months, as in England, what will be the advantage which a Frenchman, a Dutchman, or a Spaniard, will chuse to put on his goods, as an equivalent, for the risk which he will suppose himself to run, by trusting strangers. Whether it is not a general established custom with all trading nations to treat foreigners, with whom they have no legal or political consular connexion, as freely as their own subjects in distant parts of the world; if this is not generally the case, you should shew, why America can't make treaties with such powers in order to obtain credit, either by pledging to them the estates of the community at large, to make good deficiencies that might happen by an unwise sailing, or neglecting to pay such foreign debts, or by such other means as the American states might think fit to offer. You should also shew, whether the low price of goods, for many years past, was owing to the smallness of the demand, or to the great quantities brought to market, or to the reasonableness and moderation of the importing merchants; and whether, if France, Spain and Holland should refuse to give credit to every young merchant going out for a cargo, with a tolerable recommendation, as the traders in England have been accustomed to do, I say, it this should be the case, and the importation should fall who is into the hands of a few rich merchants, why might not some mode of restriction be entered into for preventing the exorbitant exactions they might be guilty of, to the great injury of the consumers? You must also convince the farmer, if he bought his goods as low as formerly; occasional by a re-union with Great-Britain, that he would also have the same advantages of shipping off his produce, which he has been used to, without any restriction laid on our trade that might lower the price when he brought his crops to market. You must also point out what advantage it would be to England to have tobacco, once more exported to them; and whether this, among other considerations, would be any inducement for them to offer us better terms. Some might possibly think that, nationally speaking, the being deprived of an expensive luxury, would be rather a gain than a loss; for though the tax on this article may be rated at 400,000l. per annum, yet it is wholly paid by themselves as well as the neat cost of the tobacco. The public funds would indeed be lessened, but the people would be gainers, in a sum just equal to the neat amount paid to the American planter; therefore you must shew

* CASSANDRA will please to excuse the appellation of "Gentlemen," for as I have decreed that the Prophets should never be credited, I am under the necessity of designating that the modern CASSANDRA is a Lady.

other reasons why England would give up any point for the sake of reconciliation; and before this point is settled, you must convince us, that the people of England are not *gainers* by our *withholding trade* to the West-Indies; for as the large quantities of rum and sugar which we *import* from the islands, will now be sent to England, the price to the consumer there will be considerably abated; of course the quantity used by the lower class of people, will be increased, and as these articles pay very high duties, the revenue will be capitally enlarged; and it may be supposed to have this further effect; the great tracts of ground hitherto occupied in England, for raising grain, purely to distil spirits, will in a great measure be deprived of their object, by the plenty of rum carried in from the West-Indies; as a total stop is put to the exportation of tea, it may probably fall so low in England as, together with the low price of sugar, for the lower class of people; thus drinking foreign spirit, and making part of their meal of foreign produce, the land which was before employed in these services may be spared for raising provisions to ship to the West-Indies, where they will be sure to come to a good market, as long as we withhold our trade thither;—therefore you must shew some substantial reason for your opinion that it is the interest of England to *withhold* our trade with the West-Indies referred to its old state; for if England can now buy her sugar and rum cheaper, and sell her rum higher than formerly, why should she wish to re-unite with us on this score? A full reply to this suggestion is expected. You must also prove that England, on a re-union, would grant us such a protection as would secure our property in any part of the world; and that on our complaining to their court of seizures or detainer of our vessels, by the Russians, Normans, Swedes, Danes, Hamburgers, Dutch, French, Portuguese, Spaniards, the states of Medina, Luccany, Venice, Genoa, Courland, Grecian, Turkish, or piratical states &c. &c. that they would demand instant satisfaction and restitution for us as is usual with their own ships, and all this without bringing us in for any share of the expences. Business of this kind took up a great deal of the attention of the *Commonwealth* of England; their vessels being frequently detained and *injured*, but by the spirited conduct of the Protector, justice was always obtained:—It is therefore your part to shew, that, on a re-union, the king of Great-Britain would take as ample care of the Americans, in such cases, as Cromwell did of British property; or if a re-union should not take place, you are to point out sufficient reasons to justify you in the supposition, that America has not, or may not, have a naval power competent to the task of doing herself justice. You must also shew, in case of a re-union that England would not call on us for a share of the expences attending a compact with Russia or other European princes, in order to keep up the balance of the protestant power against the Roman Catholic states, thereby preventing popery from over running the world. And you must lastly shew, that by a reconciliation on constitutional principles we shall return to the *peace-making trade* we formerly enjoyed, and that we shall have it enlarged to us upon a grand national scale, without any regard to the private emolument of this or that party; but upon principles of the general interest of the whole empire, without our paying any taxes for the support of government, more than what we have been used to (the debt arising from the present dispute only excepted.) That the administration of justice, and security of property will be as upright and safe as heretofore; and that the present happiness and future liberty of America would be as well maintained in a re-union as by a separation.

These are heads, which I would wish to see separately, and largely discussed; and I intreat you gentlemen, to pursue the subject with calmness and temper. Stick to the matter, and neglect the man; it imports not, who is the writer, but all are eventually concerned in the cause. I shall read your controversy with great attention, and so will thousands besides me; and if, upon an impartial hearing, it shall appear to be for the real interest of America, to cut the gordian knot and establish independence—I declare, with the utmost sincerity and solemnity, that I will give it my hearty concurrence.

Should curiosity (agreeable to the fashion of the times) tempt some readers to desire a knowledge of the writer of this essay, they may be informed, that, his fortune, his connexions, and every thing he holds dear give him a deep interest in the happiness of America; that his abilities to serve his country, rise no higher than to occupy the station of an honest man and quiet citizen, and most happily for him, he has never been prompted by ambition to quit his post; being simply and truly

A COMMON MAN.

L E T T E R I.

T O C A T O.

TO be nobly wrong is more manly than to be meanly right. Only let the error be disinterested—let it wear, not the mask, but the mark of principle, and 'tis pardonable. It is on this large and liberal ground, that we distinguish between men and their tenets, and generously preserve our friendship for the one, while we combat with every prejudice of the other. But let not Cato take this compliment to himself; he stands excluded from the benefit of the distinction; he deserves it not—and if the sincerity of disdain can add a cubit to the stature of my sentiments, it shall not be wanting.

It is indifferent to me who the writer of Cato's letters is, and sufficient for me to know, that they are gorged with absurdity, confusion, contradiction, and the most notorious and wilful falsehoods. Let Cato and his faction be against independence and welcome; their consequence will not now turn the scale: but let them have regard to justice, and pay some attention to the plain doctrine of reason. Where these are wanting, the sacred cause of truth applauds our anger, and dignifies it with the name of virtue.

Four letters have already appeared under the specious name of Cato. What pretensions the writer of them can have to the signature, the public will best determine; while on my own part, I prophetically content myself with contemplating the similarity of their exits. The first of those letters promised a second, the second a third, the third a fourth, the fourth hath since made its appearance, and still the writer keeps wide of the question. Why doth he thus loiter in the suburbs of the dispute? Why hath he not shewn us what the numerous

blessings of reconciliation are, and proved them practicable? but he cunningly avoids the point. The fate of the Roman Cato is before his eyes: and that the public may be prepared for his funeral, and for his funeral oration, I will venture to predict the time and the manner of his exit. The moment he explains his terms of reconciliation the typographical Cato dies. If they be calculated to please the cabinet, they will not go down with the colonies; and if they be suited to the colonies, they will be rejected by the cabinet: the line of no-variation is yet untound; and, like the philosophers stone, doth not exist. "I am bold," says Cato, "to declare, and yet hope to make it evident to every honest man, that the true interest of America lies in reconciliation with Great-Britain on constitutional principles."

This is a curious way of lamping the business indeed! And Cato may as well attempt to catch lions in a mousetrap as to hope to allure the public with such general and unexplained expressions. It is now a mere bug-bear to talk of reconciliation on constitutional principles, unless the terms of the first be produced and sense of the other be defined; and unless he does this he does nothing.

To follow Cato through every absurdity and fallhood in the compass of a letter is impossible; neither is it now necessary. Cassandra (and I thank him) hath saved me much trouble; there is a spirit in his remarks which honesty only can inspire, and a uniformity in the conduct of his letter which the want of principle can never arrive at. Mark that Cato.

One observation which I cannot help making on Cato's letters, is, that they are addressed "To the People of Pennsylvania" only: in almost any other writer this might have passed unnoticed, but we know it hath mischief in its meaning. The particular circumstance of a convention is undoubtedly provincial, but the great business of the day is continental. And he who dares to endeavour to withdraw this province from the glorious union by which all are supported, deserves the reprobation of all men. It is the true interest of the whole to go hand in hand; and dismal in every instance would be the fate of that colony which should retreat from the protection of the rest.

The first of Cato's letters is insipid in its style, language and substance: crowded with personal and private invectives, and directly levelled against "the majesty of the people of Pennsylvania." The committee could only call, propose, or recommend a convention; but like all other public measures, it still rested with the people at large whether they would approve it or not; and Cato's reasoning on the right or wrong of that choice is contemptible; be ause, if the body of the people had thought, or should think, that the assembly (or any of the delegates in congress) by sitting under the embarrassment of oaths, and entangled with government and governors, are not so perfectly free as they ought to be, they undoubtedly had, and still have, both the right and power to place even the whole authority of the assembly in any body of men they please; and whoever is hardy enough to say to the contrary is an enemy to mankind. The constitution of Pennsylvania hath been twice changed through the cunning of former proprietors; surely, the people, whose rights, power and property is greater than that of any single man, may make such alterations in their mode of government, as the change of times and things require. Cato is exceedingly fond of impressing us with the importance of our "chartered constitution." Alas! we are not now, Sir, to be led away by the jingle of a phrase. Had we framed our conduct by the contents of the present charters, we had, ere now, been in a state of helpless misery. What very assuring you mention hath bro't on it, and been obliged to break it, in almost every instance of their proceedings. Hold it up to the public and it is transparent with holes, pierced with as many deadly wounds as the body of McCleod. Disturb not its remains, Cato, nor dishonour it with another funeral oration.

(To be concluded in our next.)

T O T H E P E O P L E O F P E N N S Y L V A N I A .
L E T T E R V.

IN my fourth letter, some notice was taken of the dangerous proposition held up to us by the author of *Common Sense*, for having recourse to foreign assistance, and mixing the virtuous cause of these colonies with the ambitious views of France and Spain, even allowing that they are either able, or that we could make it their interest to enter into a war with Great-Britain and her allies, on our account. History will scarce give us an example of any people that ever recurred to an expedient of this kind, without having their allies at last for their masters. The fatal consequences of hasty resolutions, in great questions, might be well illustrated by the conduct of the foolish Danes; who, to avenge themselves of their nobility, in one dreadful moment, made an irretrievable surrender of their own liberty, and that of their posterity, into the hands of a tyrant. And had I been disposed to work upon the passions, rather than address the reason of my readers, the mention which was made in my last of the arbitrary governments of France and Spain, their bloody massacres and unrelenting persecutions, gave me an opportunity of entering into descriptions which would have "harrowed up the very souls" of Protestants and Freeman!

The administration of Great-Britain itself, daring as they seem to be, have not yet dared to recur to the desperate measure of calling in foreign aid. But some of our best friends intimate that an example of this kind, on either side, would justify the like conduct on the other. A great majority of the patriotic freeholders of the county of Berks in England, nobly supporting our cause before the throne, compliment us upon this:—that we have not thrown ourselves into the arms of other powers, and that "our petitions have yet appeared before no throne but that of Britain." Let not England (say they) let an example, which is but too easily copied, by drawing into a free country the insidious and mercenary aid of foreign forces, trained to the support of barbarous despotism. The moment that a great army of such, or of any foreigners, shall enter your territories, the liberties of your people are at an end.—Strenuous as we are for the honour of our country, we cannot be forgetful of its peace and concord: it is therefore we abhor the idea of encouraging foreigners to make a prey of this nation, and its dependencies, under

* The writer intended at first to have contained his remarks in one letter.

the insidious and uncovered pretext of discountenancing faction and sedition among ourselves." It is but too reasonable, then, to conclude, that whichever side, Great-Britain or America, shall first call in foreign assistance, will but force the other into the same desperate measure. In either case, this devoted land would become one field of blood and carnage for a length of years; which, at last, if it is apprehended, would only be deadfully closed in our perpetual subjection and slavery to the victorious side, whether allies or foes! It is, indeed, impossible to describe the miseries of that country which is once made the seat of foreign wars. Torn in pieces by contending armies, subjected to the alternate ravages and oppressions of rival powers; the merchant, the farmer, the peasant, has nothing to call his own. Even the wife of his bosom, and the daughter of his affection, are not safe from the unholy violence of mercenary soldiery, rioting through every corner of a land not their own, insolent in victory, and barbarous in defeat.

Although we now sadly bleed under the cruel hands of an unjust administration, who have kindled up a most unnatural war among brethren in their own land; yet (God be thanked) that war hath not reached, and I trust will never be able to reach, much farther than our sea-shores. A nation cannot long continue totally blind to all its most essential interests. Our own virtue and virtue have always gone a great way to convince our oppressors of the inanity, as well as the impracticability, of their schemes to govern a great and distant country by force. Perseverance, on our side, will speedily accomplish the rest. Our friends in Britain, unbought by us, and uncorrupted by our foes, are yet of more worth to us than whole nations of foreigners, drawn in to our assistance by mercenary or interested views. If, by no precipitate or unnecessary measures, we forfeit the esteem of the former, and make them also enemies, we shall prevail by our united strength. The devices of those, who, for ambitious purposes, strive to divide a house against itself, will be finally confounded; and the whole family of Britons, on both sides of the Atlantic, may yet be bound together, by fresh ties of mutual love and interest—for many generations!

But I repeat it once more—by the former measure of calling in foreigners to decide our quarrels, we shall bleed, not in a few parts only, but at every pore; and the present generation will not probably see the end of the contest. Would to heaven, that they who press such a measure, as being preferable to a reconciliation with our ancient friends, upon whatever terms, could but behold the face of Poland, and visit the scenes of havoc and desolation which mark the late footsteps of contending foreign powers in that country; or read the accounts of the like scenes in many parts of Germany! They would not then continue to urge such a measure, till they could clearly prove that the last necessity was come.

Let it not be said that I am here drawing a horrible picture to frighten this country into an absolute submission to Great-Britain. No, I persevere in my belief, that on our present plan of resistance, Britain can never force us either into submission or reconciliation, but upon such terms as the united wisdom of the colonies shall deem safe and honourable. But upon the other plan, it is much to be feared, that submission, as well as ruin, might be our lot; and were I disposed to give bad names to any persons, who may perhaps be honestly enquiring after our true interest in this contest, they who advise such a plan, and not Cato, might be called inimical to these colonies. Nor let it be said, that the wished for assistance is not that of armies, but of fleets for trade and commercial protection. Even supposing that to be the case, will the fleets of any power, who can look those of Britain in the face, be content just to take a peep at our fruitful shores, give us their protection, and then return quietly home? But the author of *Common Sense* (and 'tis him I am now answering) makes no such distinction; and speaks of the "assistance of France and Spain" generally—and that for the purposes of a total separation from Great-Britain—His words are these—

"It is unreasonable to suppose that France or Spain will give us any kind of assistance, if we mean only to make use of that assistance for the purpose of repairing the breach, and strengthening the connection, between Britain and America." That the assistance here meant is not confined to mere naval assistance, in the idea of some who are great advocates for this author's pamphlet, might have been easily gathered from their expressions, when we received the late accounts of the arrival of unusual numbers of troops in the neighbouring French West-Indies.—

But this only alarmed others the more; and I am well persuaded that this writer's idea is not yet adopted by many persons of much consideration in this country, much less by any public bodies. I consider it only as thrown out to collect the sentiments of America upon it, although I cannot but think it a dangerous as well as unseasonable question at this time, and could have been content that it had not been brought before the public. But since it hath been made a question, it ought now to be fairly discussed, for whatever we have left, worthy our attention as freemen, is all involved in this stake; and when important questions are put upon the footing, that if they are not answered, they are to be taken for granted, it becomes absolutely necessary to examine them.

For my part, the more I consider the matter (and I have long considered it impartially) the more I am persuaded that our political salvation can only be worked out by our own united virtue, and upon our own foundation. When it shall clearly appear that we can no longer stand upon this ground; when we shall be generally convinced, by better arguments than declamation, and the abuse of things venerable and ancient, that future connection with Great-Britain is neither possible nor safe; then we shall be fully united and prepared, at every risk, to pursue whatever measures the sense of the community, fairly collected, shall think necessary to adopt. But even then, before we launch forth, many domestic concerns are to be adjusted.

Under what form of government are we to contend? How much of our ancient constitutions is to be preserved? Who is to settle our clashing territorial claims? In what cases are the jurisdiction and expences of these colonies to be joint or separate? On what terms are we to engage foreign alliances, and yet to secure our liberties in connection with them? Are the colonies to vote equally in determining these grand concerns; or is a new representation to be formed, in proportion to numbers and consequence?

I might propose when the necessity comes upon us, and we must take of AMERICAN desert but with my list of Common Sense, which is already come, give much satisfaction, however, that he has levelled the English with all our formed on similar models past the Rubicon, he more readily follow his plans he may offer, and having dispatched, which he foundance, I proceed to work.

His first sections on monarchy, appear to be encies and contradictions; referred to the common only to mislead those who pretend to believe as the of a writer's doctrine.

"Society, says he, government by our wisdom happiness is naturally, by negatively, by restraints, diets, is the badge of kings are built on the

If the author meant men were perfectly virtuous of right reason, human unnecessary, then I might have paid him truth in a spruce manner that monarchies were paradise than republic himself to have the pulled from paradise, they were "four or tolerable dwelling erecing some sort of that, after this example, in the first a such thing. On the manner of "peopling ment out of the state us with is that of a p

Some convenient under the branches seem to deliierate ceed, as their number tution, and devise a form to themselves—On these checks (depends the strength governed."

How can this be rethor has told us this but a necessary evil, by restraining (viz. c his early republic, h but (I humbly think) that no power, God." Thus, by h as to do with the pow as a new form. But forget themselves, a tion,—that "the ruins of paradise" it with the author the early ages of the the I evil himself, in fellow; and that, al his most prosperous "try," he was a lon s but a poor compl g a king himself but upon it sooner, own apology to his councils; for I ha them.

It is sufficient t Common Sense, at th first doctrine, h of palaces for kings built on the ruins runs in the case of years toiled up and were converted in misrepresented our words will shew away, from the Mo Jews, under a nation then, their form of nary cases, where of republic," &c.

He proceeds, in t is as well as quaint devices of Hell, com ment; and that th "most prosperous and vengeance agai for their ingratitude them by any other never was a g eater thor has been guilt part of his argum standing, who has perceive.

The bounds pro me, at present, to to shew how he s plain letter of scri and holy men of ny principles to f right of Kings; I have said in its fav been said concern any other human tion is, whether C of them? For my ample of examini find any modern k but MOUNSIEUR 15th chapter of F who is to deeply

I might propose more questions of this kind; and when the necessity comes, they will rise thick enough upon us, and we must then encounter them all, for the sake of AMERICAN LIBERTY; which I would never desert but with my life. But I am sure that the author of Common Sense, who labours to prove that the necessity is already come, offers nothing on this head that can give much satisfaction to the public in general. Trusting, however, that in the preceding part of his work, he has levelled the English constitution to the dust, together with all our American constitutions, which are formed on similar models, and that he has thereby led us past the Rubicon, he may flatter himself that we will the more readily follow his future direction, and adopt what plans he may offer. But I chuse to examine for myself, and having dispatched his main argument for independence, which he founds on the necessity of foreign assistance, I proceed to consider some other parts of his work.

His first fictions on the origin of government and monarchy, appear to be the strangest medley of inconsistencies and contradictions which were perhaps ever offered to the common sense of any people, and calculated only to mislead those superficial readers, who are content to believe as they go, without comparing one part of a writer's doctrine with another.

"Society, says he, is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness positively, by uniting our affections; the latter negatively, by restraining our vices. Government, like diets, is the badge of lost innocence; the palaces of kings are built on the ruins of the bowers of paradise."

If the author meant only by this to tell us, that if all men were perfectly virtuous, and followed the pure dictates of right reason, human governments would have been unnecessary, then I could subscribe to his doctrine and might have paid him a compliment for cloathing an old truth in a spruce metaphor. But if he meant to prove that monarchies were any more founded on the ruins of paradise than republics, he ought in consistency with himself to have shewn us -- that, after Adam was expelled from paradise, he and his descendants, as soon as they were "four or five" strong, and "able to raise a tolerable dwelling in the wilderness" -- were found erecting some sort of palace for him as their king; and that, after this example, all future governments were kindly, in the first ages. But our author shews us no such thing. On the contrary, when he speaks of the manner of "peopling the world," and frames a government out of the state of nature, the first idea he presents us with is that of a pure republic.

"Some convenient tree, says he, affords a state-house; under the branches of which the whole colony assemble to deliberate on public matters." -- The tree, indeed, as their numbers increase, to improve this constitution, and devise checks, that "the elected may not form to themselves an interest separate from the electors" -- on these checks ("not on the unmeaning name king") depends the strength of government and happiness of the governed."

How can this be reconciled to what follows? The author has told us that all government, "being at best but a necessary evil, promotes happiness only negatively, by restraining (viz. the king) our vices; and in erecting his early republic, he contrives his checks accordingly; but (viz. the king) directly forgets himself, and says that no power, which needs checking, can be from God." Thus, by his own argument, God has as little to do with the powers of government in the republican as in the monarchical form. But further, least his readers should also forget themselves, and be carried away by his first assertion, -- that "the palaces of kings were built on the ruins of paradise;" he takes care to tell us, and backs it with the authority of "scripture," that in the early ages of the world there were no kings; "that the devil himself, in those ancient times, was but a dull fellow; and that, although "government by kings was his most prosperous invention for the promotion of idolatry," he was a long while in hammering it out; which is but a poor compliment to Satan's cunning! For being a king himself from the beginning, he might have hit upon it sooner. But I leave our author to make his own apology to his infernal majesty, if he be of his councils; for I have no business to interfere between them.

It is sufficient to shew what use he makes of his Common Sense, at the very outset, in retuting his own first doctrine, and proving to demonstration that instead of palaces for kings, state houses for whole colonies were built on the ruins of paradise; nay more, that these ruins in the case of the Jews, were near three thousand years toiled up and down into various forms, before they were converted into royal edifices! That I have not misrepresented our author in this argument, his own words will shew. "Near three thousand years passed away, from the Mosaic account of the creation, till the Jews, under a national delusion, requested a king. 'Till then, their form of government (except in extraordinary cases, where the Almighty interposed) was a kind of republic," &c.

He proceeds, in the next place, to persuade us that he is as well acquainted with the secrets of Heaven as the devils of Hell, concerning the origin of kingly government; and that the Almighty consented at last to this "most prosperous invention of Satan," in mere wrath and vengeance against the Jews, as a greater punishment for their ingratitude than could have been inflicted upon them by any other human form of government. There never was a greater perversion of scripture than our author has been guilty of in his endeavours to establish this part of his argument, as every man of common understanding, who has his bible in his hand, may easily perceive.

The bounds prescribed for this letter will not suffer me, at present, to point out his misrepresentations, and to shew how he sets himself up, not only against the plain letter of scripture, but the universal sense of wise and holy men of every age. It is not consistent with my principles to say one word in favour of the divine right of Kings; nor do I believe a word of what others have said in its favour. As little do I believe what has been said concerning the divine right of republics, or any other human forms of government. But the question is, whether God hath particularly reprobated any of them? For my part, as the author has set me the example of examining scripture on this head, I cannot find any modern kings particularly rejected by Heaven, but MOUNSIEUR the KING of FRANCE. It is in the 13th chapter of Ezekiel; and I am sure our author, who is so deeply versed in scripture, could not have

overlooked it, if it had not been the very purpose of this king. The reader will readily allow, that the application is much more natural than that which he has made of the 5th chapter of the first book of Samuel.

Son of man, set thy face against MOUNSIEUR (Heb. MOUNSIEUR, or MONSIEUR) and prophesy against it (Heb. him) and say unto him, thus saith the Lord God: Behold O Mounsier or Mounsier, I am against thee -- because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel: [thou art, the French protestants] by the force of the sword -- therefore, as I live, saith the Lord God, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee -- Sitth thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee -- I will make MOUNSIEUR, or MONSIEUR, most desolate -- because thou hast said these two nations, and these two countries [here Britain and America are clearly pointed out] shall be mine, and we will possess it -- whereas the Lord was there -- as much as to say, you shall not have these two countries, Monsieur! the Lord intends them for his own use -- they shall be free protestant countries.

The reader may please and apply the remainder of the chapter which he may do as well as the author of Common Sense; and, some may say, perhaps as well as

C A T O.

C A M B R I D G E, March 25.

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Bolton, qualified as the law directs, have been notified, by the select-men to meet at the Rev. Dr. Chauncy's meeting house to-morrow, to choose town officers for the year ensuing, and to act upon all petitions and things as may properly come before them.

The commissioners appointed by the court of Great-Britain, to treat with the colonies on the subject of settling the present disputes, it is said, sailed from England about the 10th of January bound to Philadelphia. Some reports, by the last packet from England, say, large bodies of foreign troops may be expected; others say, none will come, the French king having declared to the British court his intention of taking an active part in favour of America, so soon as Great-Britain shall take into her service any foreign troops.

N E W - P O R T, March 25.

The ministerial set on this station, about a fortnight past, took a double decked brig in Narraganset-bay, belonging to this place; they took off her upper deck, and fitted her with 8 or 10 guns; and last Wednesday and Thursday the whole fleet, consisting of the ships Rose, Glasgow and Swan, two brigs of 8 or 10 guns each, 3 armed tenders, and a large transport snow, sailed on a cruise, and next day in the afternoon returned again, with two prize sloops, both from Connecticut, one bound to the West-Indies, and the other to the eastward, loaded with provisions.

N E W - L O N D O N, March 22.

A vessel has arrived here from South-Carolina, by whom we learn, that 3 or 4 British ships are at Georgia, who had landed 3 or 400 men, who joined the tories, and had drove the sons of liberty out of the town (savannah) but that some thousands of men had marched from Charlestown, to their assistance.

N E W - Y O R K, April 1.

This day about one thousand rifle men arrived here from Bolton; and Saturday last brigadier general Heath, with Sark's, Webb's, Bond's, Petterion's and Greton's regiments, arrived here from the same place, by way of New-London.

Part of col. Dayton's battalion from Elizabeth-town, and several companies from Connecticut came to town last week also; so that we now have here about eight thousand men.

April 3. by letters from Montreal we are informed, that the troops were coming in very fast, and sailing off for Quebec in great spirits, not doubting of being able shortly to reduce that place; as by deserters daily coming out, their situation was known to be very bad, on account of fuel, &c. so that they are burning the lower town, in order to save the upper; and that many of the inhabitants are compelled, much against their will, to take up arms, and wish to be relieved. On Saturday last arrived here from Cambridge the hon. brigadier general Heath, with about 3000 of the continental troops under his command. It is said, that the hon. major general Putnam, is also on his march for this place with his brigade; and that the king's troops and fleet sailed from Nantasket last Thursday.

The following is a true list of the stores, &c. left in Bolton by the ministerial troops on evacuating that place. 100 pieces of cannon in the town, from 9 to 32 pounders. 100 ditto at the castle. 4 mortars, 13 and a half inches, two of them with beds weighing 5 tons each. 2500 chaldrons of sea-coal. 25000 bushels of wheat. 2300 bushels of barley. 600 bushels of oats in one store. 100 jars of oil, containing one barrel each. 150 horses marked G. R.

A number of cannon and mortars have been since discovered in the water. By a gentleman from New-London we are informed, that an express had arrived to governor Trumbull, with an account of the surrender of Quebec to the continental forces.

Last night a number of our troops went and set fire to all the buildings on Rediow's island, where the men of war were intrenching and fortifying it for an asylum for the tory refugees, burnt and brought off all their intrenching tools with a large number of white suits and great coats, &c. likewise an abundance of poultry of all sorts; the Asia fired on our people, but not one man either killed or wounded.

Last night a barge full of men, supposed to be from the man of war, landed and endeavoured to set fire to the air furnace, but they were timely discovered before much damage was done.

The following odd affair happened at Stratford on the 10th of March last: a child of Mr. Edwards, of

Norwalk, and named THOMAS GAGE; this alarmed the neighbourhood, and on the 11th, an hundred and seventy young ladies formed themselves into a battalion, and with solemn ceremony appointed a general and the other proper officers to lead them on; then the petticoat army marched in the greatest good order to pay their compliments to THOMAS GAGE, and presented his mother (the nymphs ought to have detested this part of the business a few days, say our correspondents) with a suit of tar and feathers; but THOMAS's fire having intelligence of their expedition, he & arms kept them from entering his house, so that the female soldier returned to head quarters, without effecting what they intended, and disbanded themselves.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, March 27.

By a letter from Jamaica we learn, that the schooner Providence, capt. Smith, and sloop Dove, Bull, of Rhode-Island, were taken by the Aquilon, the Polly, Winds, of New-York, by the quirell and the sloop Ely and Hantah, capt. Bell, of Virginia, with two schooners belonging to North-Carolina, were all taken off Cape Nicholas Mole, loaded with mearles, &c. The captains of the vessels taken were confined on board the flag ship at Port Royal, but they have within these few days moved for their habs corpus, which has been granted, and they are now allowed to go a-out; there is no saying when the vessels are to be libbered, the custom-house officers and the captains of the men of war are likely to have some dispute about these captures. The American houses here are resolved to give the captains of these vessels every assistance.

By express from Lewis-own we learn, that on Monday evening; a sloop of war and her tender came huto our capes.

Extract of a letter by the packet, Dec. 23, 1776.

"Lord George Germaine has insisted himself into the ministerial cause; he is esteemed, in point of abilities, inferior to none in the nation (he is greater in the cabinet than in the field) he appears sanguine of success, and declared in his first speech as minister, that "such terms should be offered to America as she might receive with safety, and such as Great-Britain might offer without depreciating her dignity; if, after that, they should continue rebellious, he pledged himself (vauntingly) to the house, that he would find men and money abundantly sufficient to reduce them;" -- he said, "upon these terms he came into administration, and he was determined to act accordingly."

Extract of a letter from St. Eustatia, March 26.

The men of war are taking prizes daily. They took a few days ago from Providence, Rhode-Island, a cargo of 3000. on board. A gentleman in St. Eustatia received a letter from his friend in Martinico the day before yesterday, informing him of advice from France, that 36 ships of the line and frigates were waiting, all prepared for an expedition, but their destination was kept a profound secret."

By a letter, of the best authority, from Cambridge, dated March 25, 1776, we are informed that the ministerial troops have blown up, burnt and demolished the castle totally; that they have been in Nantasket road ever since their embarkation; their stay there is judged necessary to prepare for sailing, as neither the vessels themselves, nor, as loaded, were fit for the sea, being loaded in great haste and disorder; this account is confirmed by a letter, who says they have yards, booms, blocks, &c. to fix. Some conjecture they mean to give the provincial troops a parting blow, as their whole force is now collected, 15 vessels having arrived with troops from the West-Indies since their flight from Bolton. Six regiments of the continental troops have marched to New-York; ten regiments of the militia were to be discharged the first of April. As soon as the fleet had sailed from Nantasket general Washington proposed setting out for New-York. The provincial troops are now fortifying Fort-Hill, and demolishing the lines on Roxbury neck, which are a defence against the country only.

Extract of a letter from London, Dec. 24.

"In spite of the influence of addresses America gains friends every day, and I hope the spring may produce the olive-branch, instead of the destructive sword, and that the intercourse between America and England may very soon be established on constitutional and lasting grounds."

W I L M I N G T O N, March 29.

There is a report that general Clinton is arrived at Cape Fear, North-Carolina, with the troops he brought with him from Boston, and that he has been since joined by 12 or 1500 from England or the West-Indies. We likewise hear that the provincial troops are in motion, and marching from all quarters to attack him; so that we may soon expect to hear of another battle in that province, which we hope will prove equally glorious to the American arms as that which was but a few weeks ago, so successfully fought by the brave col. Calwell. The account of general Clinton's return from North-Carolina, and sailing out of our capes again, was inserted in the last Gazette from the information of some gentlemen from Hampton; the Kingfisher, with a number of tenders, and some prizes they had taken, having been mistaken for the Mercury frigate and the transports which went out with general Clinton, who, after sending up the prizes to Norfolk, went out again upon another piratical cruise.

Advice was received, a few days ago, that the continental fleet had taken and carried off from Providence, one of the Bahama islands, upwards of 100 pieces of cannon, and a small quantity of gunpowder, with which they set sail for the continent. The English governor, a little before the fleet's arrival, found means to send away a chief part of the ammunition, military stores, &c. &c.

This day his excellency CHARLES LEE, Esq. major-general in the continental army, arrived at head quarters in this place, with the command of the Virginia troops, attended by COL. WALTER BURDETT and LEWIS MORRIS, Esqrs. his excellency's aids de-camp, his secretary, MR. NOURSE, MON. LE BRUN, engineer, and the rest of his suite.

To the public in general and the ladies in particular.

Our repo'e which we have hitherto enjoyed, in preference to our neighbouring colonies, is at last disturbed; and we are now called forth to our defence. The alacrity with which our brave countrymen assemble, and the determination to fight, visible in every countenance, demonstrate, that if the enemy should be hardy enough to encounter them; we have reason to expect some wounds. The necessity of taking all imaginable care of those who may happen to be wounded, (in the country's cause) urges us to address our humane ladies, to lend us their kind assistance in furnishing us with linen rags, and old sheeting for bandages, &c. to be delivered either to Dr. Wienthal, Dr. Boyd, Dr. Craddock, Dr. Wallace in Annapolis, or any member of the committee.

ANNAPOLIS, April 11.

Prince-George's county, April 7, 1776. On Wednesday the third instant died Mrs. Sim, wife of col. Joseph Sim of this county, of a very painful and lingering illness, which she supported with uncommon firmness and resolution. This lady possessed many virtues, accomplishments, and valuable qualities, in a very high degree. Her disconsolate husband and children, and numerous relations and friends, are left to lament their loss.

To be sold to the highest bidder, April 20, 1776.

THE two following tracts or parcels of land, viz. lying and being in Prince-George's county: One tract or parcel of land called Dawn, containing one hundred acres more or less; the other tract or parcel of land called the William and Mary, containing one hundred acres more or less, both adjoining each other. The premises consist of one dwelling house planked above and below, one kitchen, corn house, meat house, and tobacco house, and other necessary houses; likewise two apple orchards. It is very convenient for trade and fishing; it lays about three miles from Bladensburg and five miles to the Eastern Branch ferry, all which render it more valuable. The above-mentioned tracts or parcels of land, belonging to the estate of Zachariah Scott, late of Prince-George's county, deceased, is now under a lease, and there are eight years of said lease to come. Any person inclinable to purchase may view the land before the day of sale, by applying to Roger Brook Bull, executor of the said Zachariah Scott's estate, and now lives on the land.

JEREMIAH SATCHWELL, in West-street, Annapolis, to the military gentlemen.

AS the use of arms is become absolutely necessary for the preservation of American liberty, this is to inform the above gentlemen, that he makes all sorts of silver and fine metal sword hilts; likewise cleans and repairs the same. Those gentlemen who please to favour him with their custom, may depend on having their work done with the greatest punctuality and at the most reasonable rate, which he hopes will give satisfaction to the public in general, having derived a regular apprenticeship to the said branches in London.

N. B. All sorts of silversmiths work done also.

CARELESSES

STANDS the ensuing season at Strawberry hill, within one mile of Annapolis, and will cover mares at six dollars the season, if pastured; four dollars, if not pastured; or two dollars, the single leap. The high bred horse Careless is a fine bay, rising five years, upwards of 14 hands 2 inches, and was got by col. Boytor's Fearnought; his dam by Dove, his grand-dam by Othello, his great-grand-dam by old Spark, out of the high bred mare Queen Mab, who was the dam of col. Hopper's Pacolet. Good grafs for mares. Indian corn will be taken in payment at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, delivered at Strawberry-hill before the first of July, by THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

P. S. I will be answerable for no mares that may get away.

Bladensburg, April 1, 1776.

I HAVE for disposal, on very reasonable terms, a servant man, who has about three years to serve. He was bred a cutler, is an ingenious fellow in his business, and can do any country blacksmith's work. He might be very useful to any person in the gun or locksmith business.

JAMES HOGGAN.

Prince-George's county, April 1, 1776.

WAS found in the possession of one of my negroes, a jockey coat of double mill'd drab cloth, the collar lined with velvet, and the cape with shalloon the colour of the cloth. As I suspect the coat to have been stole, the person who has lost it, on proving his property and paying the charge of this advertisement, may have it by applying to THOMAS GANTT.

THERE is at the plantation of Theodorus Venibles, living in Charles county, near Benedict-town, taken up as a stray, a young bay mare, with a star in her face, about thirteen hands high, paces naturally, but is not docked, nor has any perceivable brand. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

For apprehending a Runaway. JAMES, a mulatto slave, sometimes known by the name of Vulcan, but commonly answers to the name of Buck, took on abrupt leave of his overseer last Wednesday, and has not yet returned. He is a dark mulatto, about 5 feet 9 inches high, strong made, sensible, artful, and deceptive in conversation, firm and daring in his efforts to perpetrate villainy, tho' of mild temper, and plausible in speech; he has frequently travelled through a considerable part of this and some part of the province of Pennsylvania; is well known, it is supposed, in the borough and county of Lancaster, and is acquainted with Philadelphia; may probably therefore re-visit those places. His working cloaths were a home manufactured long cloth waistcoat with sleeves, and breeches, yarn stockings, of nabrig shirt, and good shoes, nailed with hobbs; he is possessed of and has taken with him a blue German lerge coat, a green broad cloth vest, two pair of cotton and one pair of thread stockings, two white shirts ruffled at the breast, a good castor hat with band and buckle, a pair of good pumps, with a pair of double rimmed silver buckles. He has a mark of distinction, which from modesty, or some other motive, he is careful to conceal, one of his ears (but which is forged) is remarkably less than the other. The above reward will be paid if he should be taken up out of the province, or 60 miles from Baltimore town in the province, and brought home; five pounds if at the distance of 40 miles, three pounds if 30, and forty shillings if 20 miles; with reasonable travelling expence, including the legal charge under the act of assembly, by THOMAS JONES.

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED away from the widow M'Donnall's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March, out of the foader house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces, trots, and gallops, marked C S on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hay's, Feil's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid if brought home.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office, PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF THE PROVINCE OF MARYLAND, Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of December, 1775.

Patuxent Iron Works, February 6, 1776.

BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. All persons that are indebted to the Patuxent Iron Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such measures as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Frederick county, Maryland, Halling's river, February 14, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, last night, two Irish servant men, both weavers by trade, viz. Christopher Warren, about five feet four inches high; had on, when he went away, a short pale blue coat, which has been turned, and is double breasted, with black horn buttons, and a pair of brown cloth trousers; he has short curled black hair, a very long nose which appears to lean to one side of his face, dark eyes, and a few blue spots in his face, which appear to be specks of gunpowder; he is about thirty-five years of age. George Murdy, about twenty years of age, five feet eight inches high, fair complexion, gray eyes, straight black hair; had on, when he went away, two striped country cloth jackets, one pair of striped country cloth breeches. They took with them two horses, two saddles, and two bridles; one a roan horse with a black mane and tail, trots and gallops, branded on the near shoulder L F, about fourteen hands high, and goes dull on the road; the other a small bay horse about fourteen hands high, branded on the near shoulder O, paces and gallops, and shod before. Whoever takes up the said servants and horses, and secures them, so that the owner may get them again, shall receive the above reward, paid by GEORGE SNELL.

N. B. It is probable they may have other cloaths with them, or get their own changed.

Maryland, Somerset county, Feb. 15, 1776.

THE visitors of Eden school, in the county aforesaid, hereby give notice, that they want a master for said school: Any person inclinable to undertake, that is properly qualified, and can come well recommended, is desired to apply as soon as possible. The master's salary in said school is one hundred and thirty pounds per annum, with diet, washing and lodging found.

By request of the Visitors, HENRY LOWES

PROVOCATIVE OFFICE, March 11, 1776.

WHEREAS the records of the commissary's office are removed to Upper Marlborough, by the direction of the Council of Safety for the province of Maryland, I am directed to give this public notice, that the common business of that office will from henceforth be transacted at that place.

And as the commissary's courts are by law appointed to be held at the city of Annapolis, where the same must indispensably be continued, the commissary general, anxious to relieve as far as in his power the difficulties arising to the people, from the removal of the records to such distance from the capital, hath resolved to attend at both places in every court week, which will be on the second Tuesdays of May, July, September, and November; and to that end, will hold his courts every second Tuesday in said months at the city of Annapolis, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Eastern shore, and others whom it may best suit. And he will from thence proceed on the Thursday to Upper Marlborough, there to sit during the remainder of the week for the dispatch of public business.

I also give notice, that for the greater ease and convenience of the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, who may have business with me as deputy commissary of that county, I shall give attendance every Tuesday at the house of Mr. Cornelius Garretson in the city of Annapolis for that purpose.

ELIE VALLETTE, register

Charles town, Cecil County, March 19, 1776.

THIS day was committed to my custody, on suspicion of being a runaway, by the name of Andrew Sandford, an Irishman, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 9 or ten inches high, long black hair tied behind; has on a light coloured coat and waistcoat, brown cloth breeches, a half worn beaver hat, blue ribb'd yarn stockings, and old shoes. He says he has been three years in this country, and worked a considerable time as a journeyman barber with Mr. John James in Philadelphia, and from last harvest until his time with Mr. Clements, barber in Baltimore-own. His master, if any, is desired to pay charges and take him away; and if any of the above gentlemen can make it appear that he is a freeman, he will be released according to law. JAMES ORRICK, sheriff of Cecil county.

Wanted immediately, delivered at the contractor's store in Annapolis,

A QUANTITY of potatoes, parsneps, carrots, beans, cockstone beans, or any kind of Indian peas, for which will be given the highest prices, by ISAAC M'HAND, for Mr. ROBERT CUMMINS.

Prince-George's county, March 18, 1776.

COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro woman, who says her name is Judy, and that she belongs to Robert Gordon of Charles county. Her master is desired to pay charges, and take her from RALPH FORSTER.

TO BE SOLD,

A VALUABLE tract of land, containing 280 acres more or less, situated upon Rock creek in Frederick county, within four miles of George town and eight of Bladensburg, 150 acres whereof are in wood, and the remainder inclosed by a good fence; there are about ten acres of the aforesaid land may be made good meadow with little trouble. I have likewise for sale 25 acres of land near or adjoining the town of Upper Marlborough, in Prince George's county, with good improvements thereon, and a valuable mill in good repair, and grinds all seasons. For terms apply to Robert Whitaker near the aforesaid town, or William Belt in Frederick county.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an indentured servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. Should he be taken ten miles from home I will give 20 shillings reward on his return.

J. CLAPHAM.

ABRAHAM CLAUDE, WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, and SILVERSMITH, Opposite Mrs. Johnson's tavern, ANNAPOLIS.

BEGS leave to acquaint the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he still continues to carry on the aforesaid trades in all their various branches, and at the most reasonable rates; also that he cleans and repairs all sorts of fire-arms, small swords, hangers, and cut-throats: He also makes hocks for swords in the neatest and most approved manner.

N. B. He has several grofs of hock-naps to dispose of cheap.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 18, 1776

(Concluded from our last.)

HERE is nothing in Cato's first letter worthy of notice but the following insinuating falsehood: "Grievous as the least restraint of the press must always be, to a people entitled to freedom, it must be the more so, when it is not only unwarranted by those to whom they have committed the care of their liberties, but cannot be warranted by them, consistent with liberty itself." The rude and unchristianlike confusion of persons in the above paragraph, though it throws an obscurity on the meaning, still leaves it discoverable. Who, Sir, hath laid any restraint on the liberty of the press? I know of no instance in which the press hath been even the object of notice, in this province, except on account of the Tory letter from Kent county, which was published last spring in the Pennsylvania Ledger, and which it was the duty of every good man to detect, because the honesty of the press is as great an object to society as the freedom of it. If this is the restraint you complain of, it appears evident from the expression which immediately follows the above quotation; your words are, "Nevertheless, we readily submitted to it, while the least colourable pretence could be offered for requiring such a submission." Who submitted, Cato? We Whigs, or we Tories? Until you clear up this, Sir, you must content yourself with being ranked among the rank of the writing Tories; because no other body of men can have any pretence to complain of want of freedom of the press. It is not your throwing out now and then a little popular phrase, which can protect you from suspicion; they are only the giddings under which the poison is conveyed, and without which you dared not to renew your attempts on the virtue of the people.

Cato's second letter, or the greatest part thereof, is taken up with the reverence due from us to the persons and authority of the commissioners, whom Cato vainly and ridiculously styles AMBASSADORS coming to negotiate a peace. How came Cato not to be let a little better into the secret? The act of parliament which describes the powers of these men hath been in this city upwards of a month, and in the hands of Cato's friends. No, Sir, they are not the ambassadors of peace, but the distributors of pardons, mischief and insult. Cato discovers a gross ignorance of the British constitution, in supposing that these men can be empowered to act as ambassadors. To prevent his future errors I will let him right. The present war differs from many others in this instance, viz. that it is not carried on under the prerogative of the crown as other wars have always been, but under the authority of the whole legislative power united, and as the barriers which stand in the way of a negotiation, are not proclamations but acts of parliament, it evidently follows, that were even the king of England here in person, he could not ratify the terms or condition of a reconciliation; because in the single character of king he could not stipulate for the repeal of any acts of parliament, neither can the parliament stipulate for him. There is no body of men more jealous of their privileges than the commons; because they sell them. Mark that, Cato.

I have not the least doubt upon me but that their business (exclusive of granting us pardons) is downright bribery and corruption. It is the machine by which they effect all their plans. We ought to view them as enemies of a most dangerous species, and he who means not to be corrupted by them will enter his protest in time. Are they not the very men who are paid in every measure for voting a grant us, and ought we not to suspect their designs? Can we view the barbarians as friends? Would it be prudent to trust the viper in our very bosoms; or to suffer them to ramble at large among us, while such doubtful characters as Cato have a being upon the continent? Yet let their persons be safe from injury and outrage. Do not trust them not. Our business with them is short and explicit, viz. We are desirous of peace, Gentlemen; we are ready to ratify the terms, and will virtuously fulfil the conditions thereof; but we should deserve all and every misery which tyranny can inflict; were we, after suffering such a repetition of savage barbarities, to come under your government again.

Cato, by way of stealing into credit, says, that "the contest we are engaged in is founded on the most noble and virtuous principles which can animate the mind of man. We are contending (says he) against an arbitrary ministry, for the right of Englishmen." No, Cato, we are now contending against an arbitrary king, to get clear of his tyranny. While the dispute is in words only, it might be called "contending with the ministry," but since it is broken out into open war, it is high time to be done with such sly and water-gruel definitions. But it suits not Cato to speak the truth. It is his interest to dress up the leoparded savage in the mildest colours. Cato's patent for a large tract of land is yet unsigned. Alas poor Cato!

Cato proceeds very importantly to tell us, "that the eyes of all Europe are upon us." His stale and hackneyed phrase hath had a regular descent from many of the king's speeches down to several of the speeches in parliament; and from thence, it took a turn among the little wits and bucks of St. James's, till after suffering all the torture of senseless repetition, and being reduced to a state of vagrancy, was charitably picked up to embellish the second letter of Cato. It is truly of the hug bear kind, contains no meaning, and the very meaning, and the very using it uncovers a barrenness of invention. It signifies nothing to tell us, "that the eyes of all Europe are upon us," unless we had likewise told us what they are looking at us for, which, as he hath not done, I will. They are looking at us, Cato, in hopes of seeing

a final separation between Britain and the colonies, that they, the lookers on, may partake of a free and uninterrupted trade with the whole continent of America. Cato! thou reasonest wrong.

For the present, Sir, farewell. I have seen thy soliloquy and despise it. Remember, thou hast thrown me the glove, Cato, and either thee or I must tire. I fear not the field of fair debate, but thou hast stepped aside and made it personal—thou hast tauntingly called on me by name; and if I cease to hunt thee from every lane and lurking hole of mischief, and bring thee not a trembling culprit before the public bar, then brand me with reproach, by naming me in the list of your confederates.

THE FORRESTER.

CASSANDRA to CATO.

SIR,

THOUGH the Common Man's advice has come rather too late, as Cato and I am not witnesses, though his manner of stating the points to be discussed decides to which party he belongs; though he has studiously evaded the main question, and thereby shewn the public that security to our rights forms no share of the debate he wishes to open; and though the manner in which he attempts to expose Cato and Cassandra evidently proves whose fault he is most inclined to conceal; yet I heartily join him in his censure on personal reflection. I thank him too for his candour in tacitly informing the public that you have not come to the point as yet, though you have already published five letters, and heartily dole with his proposal of laying aside all personality. I shall therefore proceed to the main point; and if you are willing to enter the lists as a fair antagonist, and meet me on the ground of reason and argument, on that ground will Cassandra meet you; but if, contrary to your own proposal, and the advice of your friend, you continue to amuse your countrymen with declamation and assertion, and study to terrify rather than inform, to address their passions rather than enlighten their understandings, I shall still be personal. Your talent lies in strong painting and declamation, and you expect to hold up such a terrific picture to the imaginations of the people, as will effectually frighten them into submission; but the exhibition of your person at the side of your productions will ever prove a perfect antidote to their poison. Giving you this fair warning, I shall now proceed to your third, fourth, and fifth letters, and nothing which can point out the man shall drop from my pen until Cato gives occasion for it.

I agree with the Common Man thus far, that some propositions he mentions ought, one day, to be discussed; but as there is one point not only prior to any of them, but of infinitely greater importance than them all, viz. an absolute security for the enjoyment of our liberties, I must and will insist on the discussion of this point first, as not only prior in order, but most essential; and when it shall be fully proved that our rights can be as effectually secured in a state of dependency as in an independent state, then, and not before, will be the proper time to examine which would be most to our advantage. We entered the contest with a determination to secure our rights at every hazard. This is therefore what we are first to provide for. If two ways of equal security should present themselves, then will come on the other question, viz. which will not only secure our liberties but bring us the greatest advantages besides. Now when Cato, the Common Man, or any other man, shall exhibit a plan by which we can absolutely secure our liberties and continue dependent, then Cassandra will be ready to enter upon the discussion of this point. But Cassandra assures Cato, the Common Man, and every other man, that no sophistical proposals of any man will turn his eyes from the main object until he sees a way of permanent security to our rights; and he trusts his countrymen, who first armed for this purpose, will still continue of that mind, and then he fears neither the threats nor efforts of Cato and the aristocratical junto, who are straining every nerve to frustrate our virtuous endeavours, and to make the common and middle class of people their beasts of burden. Those freemen who nobly refuse to be ridden by a king, lords and commons, will scarcely be tame enough to take Cato and his party on their backs. I shall therefore proceed. And

Paying, for the present, those parts of your letters which contain nothing but the most illiberal abuse and scurrilous invectives against committees, conventions, &c. I shall take up your political creed and examine with the greatest freedom the arguments on which you have founded your faith. You believe, "That the true interest of America lies in a reconciliation with Great-Britain on constitutional principles, and that you wish it upon none else." Sir, I earnestly intreat you as you wish not to mislead your dear countrymen, to explain what you understand by a reconciliation on constitutional principles, that I may not mistake your meaning. It will take much writing on both sides to give full definitions of general terms as we are determined to abide by. I wish to see the whole truth laid fairly before the people, and that they may coolly consider, and with the utmost impartiality weigh every circumstance, and choose that alone which promises the greatest security to their rights and privileges, and offers them the just prospect of a good and happy life. I shall therefore cheerfully define every term which Cato may think dubious or calculated to mislead; and demand the same of Cato. If he is the honest man he professes to appear he will not refuse me. Let us canvass each thing to the bottom, and let not dark hints, unproved assertions, or ungenerous insinuations against the designs of incorruptible patriots be hereafter palmed on the people for argument; out

when truth is exhibited to them in the fullest and fairest manner let them judge for the selves. Upon due information I doubt not they will judge right; and that judgment I am resolved to abide by.

But why does Cato labour so incessantly to bias his reader by so many and such long and passionate harangues on the horrors of war and its powers of destruction? Slavery is certainly a much more terrible and every respect than war. For the evils of war are both tolerable and temporary, while the miseries of slavery are intolerable and endless. War may cut off thousands in the bloom of their youth; but slavery destroys the very seeds of generation, not only in the animal but vegetable world. How does it look, Cato, in a point of view of your magnitude to be continually haranguing on the horrors of war at a time when every thing we hold dear and valuable depends on the success of our arms. Were you in your beloved mother country and the continent with a foreign force, suppose Indians, ravaging her coasts, would you harangue on their horrors to discourage resistance? I counsel myself at great uncertainty what you would do in such an occasion; but I strongly presume that in case you did you would be a most affected traitor, and treated accordingly. But I ask pardon, Sir, you don't like to be questioned. If you were you in the councils of the enemy you are a petty appetite for peace would soon put an end to their murderous designs; you are not content to mutually ruin yourselves, for you decide you will turn out against us if there be any attempt to let the reach and language of the ears. Take no help! Take no help! Fight, Whigs, till you are all cut off, and then we Tories will submit and have the whole. This is the language of Cato. Now, though I am as content that your publications are intended to reduce us to slavery, as you can be that mine propose a continuation of the war, and though I can more easily prove the one than you can the other; yet I have not endeavoured, by alarming descriptions of the miseries of slavery, to prejudice my reader against the arguments of my opponents. Cassandra has no point to carry, and therefore detests such shifts. God forbid! that I should ever sacrifice my own interest as separate from the general interest of mankind! And with equal fervency of devotion I pray that all who have may be finally defeated in their attempts against these colonies. You have siled near by the one half of the five letters you have already published with horrible descriptions alone. Do you imagine, Cato; that we are all affected with nervous complaints; and that you can do more for your cause by alarming our fears, than informing our judgments? If this be not your design, pray publish as many, as terrible, and as animated descriptions of the miseries of slavery as you have done on the horrors of war; and then leave the people to judge which they would choose. Don't let us tarow them into a panic and confusion, and then desire them to examine with councils and deliberation. There is a dignity in honesty, and a pleasing fortitude in conscientious integrity, which I could wish Cato to experience. The subject demands a clear, plain, full, rational and manly discussion, and it ought to have it. It is certainly worthy of all the labour we can bestow upon it. Liberty or slavery is now the question. Let us but fairly discover to the inhabitants of these colonies on which side liberty has erected her banner, and we will leave it to them to determine whether they would choose liberty though accompanied with war, or slavery attended by peace.

The present contest is a contest of constitutions, and the war a war of legislatures. The common wars of nations are the wars of one crowned head against another, in which the people have little share and are as little consulted. The crowned head on each side declares war or negotiates peace without consulting with them. But this war is a war between the British parliament and the colonial assemblies, it is, in fact, become a war between the people of Great-Britain and the people of America; and though both have heretofore acknowledged the same king, and he in duty ought to have remained neutral; yet as he has joined the British parliament against us, he is become a party in the quarrel. Hence, so far as the present is a contest of constitutions, the parliament has evidently won the field; for the whole force of the legislature of Great-Britain has been, from the first day of the controversy, armed against us, but we have in no one instance been able to call for the assistance of our legislatures to oppose, nay, we have constantly had them against us ready to join the foe. I ask, how can pens this, Cato? Why are you in love with such a constitution? As you are not fond of answering my questions, I will endeavour to answer them myself. It is because our legislatures are dependent on our very enemy, and thus is independent of us. Our constitutional connexion with Britain gives her so prodigious an advantage over us, that if we had strictly adhered to our charter of constitutions, we would have seen her before this time. And it will ever be so, as long as we are dependent.

Both the king and parliament are representatives of the choice of the people of Great-Britain; but though our assemblies are our choice, our governments are not; they are either nominated by the king or chosen by him, or some one of his British subjects, which effectually destroys their utility to us in this and every such controversy, which has a ready or is likely hereafter to happen. Their titles, though the gift of the people, are evidently no counterpoise to such nomination; it facts can prove any thing. And for this plain reason, that though we grant the wages yet it rests in the power of the king whether they shall enjoy it or not; as after appointment the continuance of it depends entirely on him.

(The remainder will be in our next.)

By several gentlemen lately arrived from Checonecto, in the province of Nova Scotia, we have undoubtedly intelligence, that that government had endeavoured to enlist part of the inhabitants to act against their American brethren, which they nobly refused; in consequence whereof the governor had ordered the militia to be called together, and a number to be drafted, when their officers were told by the men, that if they attempted to draft, they would fire upon them; this stopped their proceeding any further, and the men clubbed their muskets and marched home.

NEW-YORK, April 8.

Tuesday afternoon 5 battalions of the continental troops now stationed here, were reviewed by his excellency general Heath, on the green, near the liberty pole: they made a martial appearance, being well armed, and went through their exercise much to the satisfaction of a great concourse of the inhabitants of this city.

Last Tuesday night a party of about 150 of our troops landed on Bedlow's-land, about two miles from this city, and destroyed some works that had been erected there by the crew of his majesty's ship the Asia, and burnt down a house that was supposed to be possessed by some Tories: the man of war fired two shot at our people, but they came off unhurt, and brought with them some intrenching tools, poultry, &c. &c.

The same evening an attempt was made to set fire to the air furnace, near this city, by some people that got there in a boat, and supposed from the man of war; but they were discovered before they could put their design in execution, and made off with precipitation.

Wednesday night last arrived here from the camp at Cambridge, brigadier general Putnam; and the evening before col. Mifflin, quarter master general of the American army, arrived here from the same place.

A sloop of war, supposed to be the Nautilus, is arrived at the narrows.

April 10. Monday night one thousand of the continental troops, stationed here, went over and took possession of Governor's island and began to fortify it; the same night a regiment went over to Red-Hook and fortified that place likewise.

On Saturday last the continental fleet fell in with the Glasgow man of war, off Montock point, at the east end of Long-Island, when admiral Hopkins, being the foremost ship, attacked the Glasgow, upon which a hot engagement ensued, but before another ship could come up, the Glasgow fled off with considerable damage. The fleet afterwards took a bomb brig and three tenders, all which they carried safe into New-London on Sunday morning.

This morning arrived in the harbour twenty-three transports, from the eastward, having on board the brigade commanded by general Sullivan.

The following proclamation was published by his excellency general Washington, on his taking possession of the town of Boston.

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; General and commander in chief of the Thirteen United Colonies.

WHEREAS the ministerial army has abandoned the town of Boston, and the forces of the United Colonies under my command, are in possession of the same: I have therefore thought it necessary, for the preservation of peace, good order, and discipline, to publish the following orders, that no person offending therein may plead ignorance as an excuse for their misconduct.

All officers and soldiers are hereby ordered to live in the strictest peace and amity with the inhabitants; and no inhabitant, or other person, employed in his lawful business in the town, is to be molested in his person or property, on any pretence whatever.

If any officer or soldier shall presume to strike, imprison, or otherwise ill treat any of the inhabitants, they may depend on being punished with the utmost severity; and if any officer or soldier shall receive an insult from any of the inhabitants, he is to seek redress in a legal way, and no other.

Any non-commissioned officer or soldier, or others under my command; who shall be guilty of robbing or plundering in the town, are to be immediately confined, and will be most rigidly punished. All officers are therefore ordered to be very vigilant in the discovery of such offenders, and report their names and crime to the commanding officer in the town as soon as may be.

The inhabitants and others are called upon to make known to the quarter-master-general, or any of his deputies, all stores belonging to the ministerial army, that may remain or be secreted in the town: Any person or persons whatever, that shall be known to conceal any of the said stores, or appropriate them to his or their own use, will be considered as an enemy to America, and treated accordingly.

The select men and other magistrates of the town, are desired to return to the commander in chief, the names of all or any person or persons they may suspect of being employed as spies upon the continental army, that they may be dealt with accordingly.

All officers of the Continental army, are enjoined to assist the civil magistrates in the execution of their duty, and to promote peace and good order. They are to prevent, as much as possible, the soldiers from frequenting tippling houses, and strolling from their posts. Particular notice will be taken of such officers as are inattentive and remiss in their duty, and on the contrary, such only as are active and vigilant will be entitled to future favour and promotion.

Given under my hand, at head-quarters, in Cambridge, the 21st day of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA.

In CONGRESS, April 6, 1776.

Resolved, That any goods, wares and merchandizes, except staves and empty casks, other than shaken or knock'd down casks for melasses, may be exported from the thirteen united colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the king of Great-Britain, to any parts of the world, which are not under the dominion of the said king; provided that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knock'd down melas-

ses casks than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with melasses.

Resolved, That any goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are of the growth, production or manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the king of Great-Britain, and except East-India tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world, to the thirteen united colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subjects to the said king, liable however to all such duties and impositions as now are or may hereafter be laid by any of the said colonies.

Resolved, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these united colonies or their respective legislatures.

Resolved, That no slaves be imported into any of the thirteen united colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions in the several colonies to appoint proper officers at convenient places in their respective colonies to take bonds in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the congress or assemblies or conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith, and that the obligor shall within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officer a certificate under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the same was there unloaded, and take manifests upon oath of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with, and that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective assemblies or conventions—Provided always that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved, That all goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great-Britain or Ireland, into any of these united colonies, contrary to the regulations established by congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several assemblies or conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected or to be erected for the determination of maritime affairs in the colony where the seizure shall be made.

By order of congress, JOHN HANCOCK, president.

April 13. General Putnam, commander in chief at New-York, has given positive orders that the ministerial fleet there shall no longer be supplied with provisions, and that all communication between them and the shore be entirely stopped.

"In sight of the capes of Virginia, April 7. 1776.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that at one P. M. this day, I fell in with the sloop Edward, belonging to the Liverpool frigate. She engaged us near two glasses. They killed two of our men, and wounded two more. We shattered her in a terrible manner as you will see. We killed and wounded several of her crew. I shall give you a particular account of the powder and arms taken out of her, as well as my proceedings in general. I have the happiness to acquaint you, that all our people behaved with much courage. I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN BARRY."

To the honourable John Hancock, Esq; or any of the marine committee.

Extract of a letter from Cambridge, per express.

This instant an express arrived from governor Cooke, with an account that a man of war was just arrived in the harbour of New-Port, and that 27 sail of vessels supposed to be part of the fleet from Boston, are within Seconet-Point. General Sullivan's brigade, which left Cambridge the 29th of March, was ordered to file off immediately for Providence, and general Green's, which was to march the 1st of April, was ordered to repair immediately to the same place."

KINGSTON (Jamaica) Dec. 23.

On Thursday afternoon was brought into Port-Royal harbour the sloop Dove, capt. Bull, belonging to Rhode-Island. This vessel had loaded at Cape Nicholas Mole, with French produce, and on her passage homeward was met by his majesty's ship Maidstone, Allan Gardiner, Esq; commander, who seized her. We are informed the Maidstone was then in chase of a brigantine and sloop, the latter laden with gunpowder, and came out of Cape François, which was yesterday sent in.

On Thursday evening arrived here from Port au Prince, l'Amphitruon, a French frigate commanded by le Comte de Gras, with the congratulations of the new governor of Hispaniola, to his excellency Sir Basil Keith.

ST. JOHN'S (Antigua) Feb. 3.

Yesterday the following vessels were condemned at a court of vice-admiralty, held at the court house in the town of St. John, viz.—Ship Two Brothers, loaded with flour, bread, spermaceti candles, staves, bees wax, &c. taken by his majesty's ship Experiment, Robert Keeler, Esq;—Brigantine Greyhound, with flour, pork, herrings, staves, heading, bricks, bar-iron, a negro woman, &c. taken by the Argo, William Garnier, Esq;—Sloop Two Brothers, with live stock, cheese, onions, beef, pork, bread, bullion, &c. taken by the Viper, Samuel Graves, Esq.

SAVANNAH (in Georgia) Feb. 14.

His excellency the governor, with his family, left this place last Sunday night, and went on board his majesty's ship Scarborough, lying at Tybee.

Last Thursday capt. Wright arrived at Tybee, in a schooner from Grenada. And next day a large transport ship arrived with soldiers, from Boston. Lord-William Campbell is on board his majesty's ship Syren. Feb. 21. A transport ship arrived at Cockspur, on the 12th instant from Boston, with more soldiers.

His majesty's ship Raven sailed from Tybee on Saturday morning, on a cruise. His majesty's ship Cherokee, the two transport ships which lately arrived from Boston, a sloop, and three small vessels, are now lying at anchor within three miles of this town.

The following is a copy of his excellency the governor's letter, which was read on Friday last, at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and district of Savannah.

On his majesty's service.

To the hon. James Mackay, Esq; and the rest of the members of his majesty's council at Savannah. On board his majesty's ship Scarborough, at Cockspur, February the 13th, 1776.

Honourable gentlemen,

AFTER using my best endeavours, for upwards of three weeks, to prevail on those, in whose hands the present ruling powers are, that the commanders of his majesty's ships here might obtain assurances that they might come to town, and have a free intercourse with me, without receiving any insult from the people assembled in and about town, also that the king's ships might be supplied with provisions, on paying the full price or value of it; and finding that the last message relative to these matters, which I desired the representatives of the town of Savannah to deliver to the persons exercising those powers, was so lightly treated, and so little regarded, as that, although delivered on Tuesday morning the 6th instant, yet I received no kind of answer to it for five days, nor did I understand whether it was meant to give me any answer or not; and well knowing that it was essential to his majesty's service, and the welfare of this province, that I should have an interview with the king's officers here; for these reasons, and many others which you were made acquainted with, and approved of, I determined, at all events, to attempt coming down here, where I arrived safe at three o'clock yesterday morning. And after having examined, and duly weighed and considered, my several letters from England, and general Howe at Boston, and after having had a full conversation with his majesty's officers here, I have the greatest satisfaction to be able to affirm, from the best authority, that the forces nowhere will not commit any hostilities against this province, although full sufficient to reduce and overcome every opposition that could be attempted to be made; and that nothing is meant, or wanted, but a friendly intercourse, and a supply of fresh provisions. This may be entirely relied upon; this his majesty's officers have an undoubted right to expect, and what they insist upon; and this I not only now solemnly require in his majesty's name, but also as (probably) the best friend the people in Georgia have, advise them, without the least hesitation; to comply with, or it may not be in my power to ensure them the continuance of the peace and quietude they now have, if it may be called so.

His majesty has been graciously pleased to grant me leave to return to England, and (whatever may be thought) my regard for the people and province is such that I cannot avoid (and possibly for the last time) exhorting the people to save themselves and posterity from that total ruin and destruction which (although they may not yet) I most clearly see is at the threshold of their doors; and I cannot leave them without again warning them, in the most earnest and friendly manner, to desist from their present plans and resolutions. It is still in their power, and if they will enable me to do it, I will (as far as I can) engage to give, and endeavour to obtain for them, full pardon and forgiveness for all past crimes and offences; and this I conjure them to consider well, and most seriously of, before it is too late. But, let things happen as they may, be it remembered, that I this day, in the king's name, offer the people of Georgia the olive branch, that most desirable object, and inestimable blessing, the return of peace and happiness to them and their posterity.

Capt. Barclay has desired me to notify, that he is willing and ready to give every assistance in his power to the captains of all such merchant ships as may be legally cleared out to enable them to proceed on their respective voyages. I am also to acquaint you, that the detention of the schooner on Friday or Saturday last, proceeded entirely from a mistake by the officer who commanded the armed sloop, and that if the owner will send down, the schooner will not only be delivered up, but any reasonable price paid for the damaged rice that was on board, part of which has been used to feed hogs and poultry; or they may take it away again. I am also to mention, that the same armed sloop will be sent up to-morrow to Four Mile Point, in order to get fresh water, and for no other purpose. This letter, which I consider of the utmost consequence and importance to the whole people of Georgia, I must desire you will be pleased to communicate to the congress, if sitting, and if not, to those who are called the council of safety, and especially to the inhabitants of the town and province in general, and acquaint them that I shall expect their full and clear answer to every part of it in a reasonable time.

I am, with perfect esteem,

Gentlemen, your most obedient and faithful servant, JAMES WRIGHT.

CHARLESTOWN (S. C.) March 8.

We hear from Savannah, that two armed schooners and a sloop had got above the town, through Back-river, and had taken a brigantine and schooner lying there; that the Syren was arrived in the river; that some more large vessels were in the offing; that the troops, said to be about 5 or 600, were in transports near the town; that it was expected they would attempt to land, to prevent which upwards of 1000 Georgia and Carolina militia-men were in Savannah; and that there is too great reason to fear there will be much bloodshed.

The troops are said to be the 40th regiment, and a detachment of marines. Majors Grant and Maitland are among them, also capt. Pitcairn, son of the major of that name, who was in the Lexington and Bunker-hill engagements, and killed in the latter. It is reported they have received a reinforcement from St. Augustine, and have sent for more.

Copy of a letter just received by express from the council of safety Georgia.

In the COUNCIL of SAFETY.

Gentlemen, Savannah, March 4, 1776. THE intimate connection between this and your province in a particular manner renders it necessary to acquaint you with the occurrences in the former, since the date of our last; to which, and the dispatch preceding, we refer you.

Our dispositions in the evening of the 2d were such as appeared to our officers the most likely to prevent the

anding of their landing prevent the our vigilan others on b near the sho got on boar morning, to rudge from geuce we r affected to We had o fore kept a ble for len ing from th Capt. J. o was lent on order the r or the final did not kno sailors, und gave inform ing, and o then immed shipping, w great work — guns, with others the day pr South-river leading of shipping; panic of ri was oblig-d and returne rifle men fi coul not g only ne of the high; In town scene. We the capture lieutenant Mr. Raymo and were p render of v vested them on board a modore, an to all the p mankind. I detain them peccation fo deputies by other but 4 pounders us that the thy presen and Mr. P of the pei wou d treat Capt. o Ba er, of t (the forme by the dete rifle-men in of capt. in, soldiery, a ties, and w by a ditch hundred th was kept o and men o even pe rifles, mo not witho man of th the fleshy cut out, v the spectat vidental This u boat, pr intrenchm ders and from abo fired lang men, not no doubt as they v About mined to orders t Invernel deer-skin the soldi the mar that we also in o the arm night ag re-palle present subject The up the and no were p to info of pris We as the errone petent Col your d Mr. I termin may a

anding of our enemy; and so as, if they should make their landing good, either above or below the town, to prevent their getting in. However, notwithstanding our vigilance, they, by collusion with the masters and others on board the merchant shipping, which hauled near the shore of Hutchinson's island in the night time, got on board the shipping about four o'clock yesterday morning, to the number, as far as we are competent to judge from the observations we made, and the intelligence we received, of between 2 and 300, where they affected to conceal themselves.

We had our fears respecting these shipping, and therefore kept a good watch upon them; but it was impossible for sentinels on this shore to descry them in boarding from the other, the vessels being betwixt.

Capt. Rice, who commanded a boat of observation, was sent on board the shipping about nine o'clock, to order the rigging on shore, and was, without any noise, or the smallest knowledge of us, kidnapped. This we did not know till about half an hour afterwards. Two sailors, under pretence of coming on shore for clothes, gave information of the troops being on board the shipping, and of Rice's being taken. About 300 men were then immediately marched to Yamacraw, opposite the shipping, with three four pounders, and threw up a breast work. The armed schooner Hinchinbrook, of 12 guns, with a number of men on board (which, with others, went up the Back-river in the afternoon of the day preceding) about this time set sail down the South-river, with intent, no doubt, of covering the landing of the troops from on board the merchant shipping; but being continually fired at by two companies of rifle-men who were placed in ambuscade she was obliged to come very slowly, and often came to, and returned a very smart fire at every place where the rifle-men fired from, until the tide was spent, and she could not get down. During the course of this firing only one of our men got wounded, and that slightly in the thigh; on board several were seen to fall.

In town we had exhibited a still more interesting scene. We found the officers and men clamorous about the capture and detention of Rice; and two gentlemen, lieutenant Daniel Roberts of the St. John's rangers, and Mr. Raymond Demeré of St. Andrew's parish, solicited, and were permitted, to go on board to demand a surrender of Rice and his people. They accordingly divested themselves of arms, and were rowed by a negro on board a vessel, in which were capt. Bar lay the commodore, and major Grant; and these officers, contrary to all the principles which cement society, and govern mankind, immediately arrested our deputies, and yet detain them as prisoners. We waited with anxious expectation for near half an hour, when we demanded our deputies by the help of a trumpet, without getting any other but insulting answers. Whereupon we fired two 4 pounders directly into them, and then they informed us that they would send an answer in writing; which they presently after did, signed by lieutenant Roberts and Mr. Demeré, purporting, that if we would send two of the persons in whom the people most confided, they would treat with them.

Capt. Creven, of the St. John's rangers, and capt. Baker, of the St. John's rifle-men, chagrined, no doubt (the former particularly on account of his lieutenant) by the detention of our deputies, took about a dozen of rifle-men in a boat, and rowed directly under the stern of capt. Inglis, in whose vessel were a great number of the soldiery, and in peremptory terms demanded our deputies, and were answered, after one shot from capt. Baker, by a discharge down directly upon them, of near two hundred shot, both from swivels and small arms; which was kept up while they were in reach. The captains and men in the boat, not in the smallest degree confuted, or even perhaps disappointed by the attack, fired their rifles, most of them three several times, and as they say, not without execution; and, wonderful to tell, not a man of them killed. One man only received a slug in the fleshy part of his shoulder, which was immediately cut out, without the smallest inconvenience or danger, the spectators all declare, as we now do, that such a providential deliverance has not yet been known.

This unmanly attack, upon a few men in an open boat, produced a general fire from our field-pieces and intrenchments, and as smart a return from two 4 pounders and several swivels from the shipping, which lasted from about 12 o'clock till 4; and although they often fired langridge, which continually whistled about our men, not a single man was even touched; but we have no doubt a number of the enemy met with a worse fate, as they were seen to fall.

About four o'clock we called a council, and determined to have the vessels immediately burnt, and issued orders to col. McIntosh accordingly. Whereupon the Inverness, late capt. McGillivray, loaded with rice and deer-skins, was set on fire, and cut loose. Upon this the soldiers, in the most laughable confusion, got ashore in the marsh, while our rifle men and field-pieces with grape shot were incessantly galling them. The shipping were now also in confusion. Some got up the river under cover of the armed schooner, while others caught the flame; and as night approached, exhibited a scene, as they passed and re-passed with the tide, which, in any other but the present times, would be truly horrible, but is now a subject only of gratulation and applause.

The ships of captains Inglis and Wardell, neither got up the river, or on fire. They were ordered on shore, and now are prisoners of capt. Creven, in the country, and their vessels brought down close to the wharf. They were permitted to write to capt. Barclay in the evening, to inform of their situation, and to request an exchange of prisoners, which the latter peremptorily refused.

We have thus given you a particular detail of things as they really happened, to prevent the belief of any erroneous intelligence, and from which you will be competent to judge of our situation.

Col. McIntosh laid before the board a resolution of your congress to aid us, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Townes; and we are very glad that you are determined to afford us further assistance. We wish it may arrive in time.

By order of the council of Safety,

WILLIAM EWEN, president.

To the hon. the congress, or council of Safety for South-Carolina.

Printed from the original,

By order of congress,

PETER TIMOTHY, secretary.

On Thursday last arrived here, in 12 days from St. Eustatia, in the armed schooner Caswell, Mr. John W. Stanley, of this place. He sailed from Ocracoke bar the 26th of January, in the brig Sally, captain Ridge, and the 12th of February made the island of Martinique, where the vessel was seized by the Pomona frigate, capt. Young, while she lay becalmed about two miles from the town of St. Pierre, and while Mr. Stanley was gone on shore to obtain permission to anchor there. The Pomona had anchored that night in the harbour of St. Pierre, and came out disguised like a merchantman. A sloop from Fairfield, in the same situation, was taken in company with the Sally.

Mr. Stanley informs, that several vessels arrived in the West-Indies from England while he was there, some of them in short passages, and that from all the prints he could see, and the acc. unts he could collect, there did not appear the most distant prospect of a reconciliation; but, on the contrary, the ministry were so determined, their majority in the house so great, and their influence among the people in general so extensive, that the few friends we had were disappointed, and all hopes of their being able to effect any thing in our favour despaired of.

That 40 sail of transports, blown off the coast, had arrived at Antigua within a few weeks. Five of them had sailed for Boston, under convoy of the Viper; the remainder were to sail in a few days, under convoy of the Hind, and several vessels armed in Antigua with guns, &c. purchased partly in St. Eustatia for that purpose.

That the English islands had been in the utmost distress for provisions, which by this time must have been greatly increased, had not 40 or 50 sail of American vessels, chiefly provision, loaded and bound for foreign islands, been seized by the ships of war, and sent into Antigua, St. Kitt's, Dominica, and Nevis; the inhabitants of which islands were so incensed against the Americans, that those who happened to be there were treated with the utmost severity. Some have been shackled and thrown into a dungeon, for only expressing their sentiments; others obliged to quit their property, and fly to the French for that protection they could not find among the English. An instance of the first kind happened in Antigua while Mr. Stanley was in the islands, in the imprisonment of a Mr. Campbell of New-York; and of the second of the flight of Mr. Peter Wykoff of Philadelphia, against whom an information was lodged by one McConnell, that he had seen Mr. Peter Wykoff bear arms about twelve months before in Philadelphia. This was deemed high treason, as appears by a proclamation of governor Shirley, offering a reward of 500l. for apprehending him.

Among the many vessels seized under the prohibitory act are the following, viz. From New York, the sloop Sally, Doge, Charming Polly, Truxen, America, Campbell, and schooner Polly, Alline. Rhode-Island, capt. Sweet. Fairfield, sloop Diamond, Whitney. Salem, brig America, Lambert. Philadelphia, ship Nancy, Kirby, and brig Gregg. North-Carolina, brig Sally, Fidge, and schooner James Green, cleared by governor Martin. Georgia, a brig, capt. Peane. Virginia, a brig, South Carolina, brig Union, Boyd. Connecticut, a sloop, capt. Jones. New-York, a sloop, capt. Gibbs.

The cruizers are so exceedingly vigilant among the islands, that few vessels escape them. Notwithstanding which a brig from Baltimore, a ship (Libert, captain Monro) from Philadelphia, and two pilot boats from the same place, had got safe to St. Martin's and St. Eustatia early in this month.

The following quantities of powder were shipped from Martinique and Guadalupe within a few weeks, besides large quantities from the Cape and St. Eustatia, which has caused that article to be as high as 5s. 6d. a pound, and none now to be had even at those extravagant prices.

For New London	20000	Five sail for N. London;	
For Maryland	7000	sent out by N. Shaw;	
For Piscataway	6000	on account of the Uni-	
For ditto	5000	ted Colonies	40000
For ditto	5000	For Plymouth	4000
For Rhode-Island	9000	For S. Carolina	20000
For Calco-Bay	3000	For N. Carolina	2200
			121200

WILLIAMSBURG, April 6.

The Duke of Cumberland Packet arrived a few days ago, from Falmouth, with government dispatches for lord Dunmore. It is said that England the 23d of January, and brings advice, that lord Cornwallis sailed about the same time, with a number of transports, under convoy of twelve frigates; the place of their destination uncertain. The packet was at South-Carolina, but found lord William Campbell had left the province, and joined governor Martin at Cape Fear. Some gentlemen from below say, that soon after the arrival of this vessel they published a paper which was called a declaration of war against the colonies, and received it with loud acclamations.

It is reported that lord Dunmore has sent to England, in the Duke of Cumberland packet, which sailed last Wednesday, four French gentlemen, who were lately taken in a vessel bound here from Cape Nicholas Mole, pretending he has found letters upon them which prove their business was to treat with the congress.

ANNAPOLIS, April 18.

MR. GREEN, April 16, 1776.

ENCLOSED you have a copy of Mr. Johnson's much talked of intercepted letter; different parties having given it different constructions, makes it necessary that the whole be published, with a view that every person may read and judge for themselves, thereby frustrating the attempts of such as may be incited to deceive by misrepresentations; you'll therefore please to give it a place in this week's Gazette, and you will oblige many of your customers, and particularly a constant one.

FROM THE PUBLIC ADVERTISER.

Monday, November 26, 1775.

Our Boston correspondent has favoured us with the following copy of an intercepted letter, from Thomas Johnson, jun. Esq; (one of the Maryland delegates to

heral of the provincial forces; which, our correspondent desires we will publish, in order to enable the people of England to form a just opinion of the real intentions of the Congress; and their true motive for framing the petition, brought over by Mr. Penn, as well as of their expectations from it.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Johnson, jun. to Horatio Gates, dated Annapolis, August 18, 1775.

My dear Sir,

I RECEIVED yours of the 21st July, and, in a day or two afterwards, forwarded your letter to Mr. Gates, by my brother, with directions, if she had left Frederick-town, where she then was on a visit, and had no immediate good opportunity, to send a servant on purpose.

I shall be very unhappy that petitioning the king, to which measure I was a friend, should give you or any one else, attached to the cause of America, and liberty, the least uneasiness. You, and I, and America in general, may almost universally wish, in the first place to establish our liberties; our second wish is a reunion with Great-Britain; so may we preserve the empire entire, and the constitutional liberty, founded in whiggish principles, handed down to us by our ancestors. In order to strengthen ourselves to accomplish these great ends, we ought, in my opinion, to conduct ourselves so, as to unite America and divide Britain; this, as it appears to me, may most likely be effected by doing rather more, than less, in the practicable line, than would be required, if our petition is rejected, with contentment, which I think most likely. Will not our friends in England be still more exasperated against the court? and will not our very moderate men, on this side of the water, be compelled to own the necessity of opposing force by force? The rejection of the New York petition was very serviceable to America. If our petition should be granted, the troops will be recalled, the obnoxious acts repealed, and we restored to the footing of 1763. If the petition should not be granted, but to far attended to as to lay the ground-work of a negotiation, Britain must, I think, be ruined by the delay: if she subsidizes us at all, it must be by a most violent and tedious exertion of her force; and if we can keep up a strong party in England, headed by such characters as lord Chatham, and the others in the present opposition; Bute, Mansfield, and North, and a corrupt majority, cannot draw the British force fully into action against us; our friends will certainly continue so, as long as they see we do not desire to break from a reasonable and beneficial connexion with the mother country: but, if, unhappily for the whole empire, they should once be convinced, by our conduct, that we design to break from that connexion, I am apprehensive, they will thenceforth become our most dangerous enemies; the greatest and first law of self preservation will justly, may compel it. The cunning Scotchmen and lord North fully feel the force of this reasoning; thence, their industry to make it be believed in England, that we have a scheme of independence, a general turn, they equivocally use, to signify to the friends of liberty, a more king off all connexion; and to Tories, that we dispute the supremacy of parliament. In the declaratory act is the power of binding us, by its acts, in all cases whatever; the latter we do most certainly dispute, and I trust shall successfully fight against, with the approbation of every honest Englishman.

Lord North's proposition, and consequent resolution of parliament, were insidiously devised to wear the face of peace, and embarrass us in the choice of evils; either to accept and be slaves; or reject and increase the number and power of our enemies: I flatter myself that our petition will present to him only a choice of means injurious to his villainous schemes.

Our convention met the very day of my getting home, the meeting was very full, we sat close many days, by six o'clock in the morning, and by candle light in the evening. Our people were very prompt to do every thing desired; they have appropriated 100,000l. for the defence of this province, a great part of it to be laid out in the military line immediately, part contingently and the rest for establishing manufactories of salt, salt petre, and gunpowder.

We have an association, ascertaining the necessity and justifiableness of repelling force by force, to be universally signed; and strict resolutions, with regard to our militia; which is to be as comprehensive here, as perhaps in any country in the world, when called to action. We are to be subject to the congressional rules and regulations for the army. A committee of safety composed of sixteen, is, in the recess of the convention to have the supreme direction. We yet retain the forms of our government, but there is no real force or efficacy in it. If the intelligence we have from England looks like war, I dare say this province will not hesitate to discharge all officers, and go boldly into it at once.

I have not lately heard any thing particular from Virginia that can be depended on; their convention has had a long sitting, and I have no doubt but spirited measures, becoming themselves, and adequate to their circumstances, are adopted. We have the pleasure, now and then, to hear of your successful skirmishes. I long to hear that you have all your riflemen, and am particularly anxious as to their conduct. The spirit has run through our young men so much, that, if the business proceeds, notwithstanding the scarcity of men in this and the southern provinces, I believe we must furnish you with a battalion or two; if, as I hope, those who are gone acquire reputation, many of our youth will be on fire; the difficulty now is to regulate and direct the spirit of the people at large; and I verily believe that, instead of their being discouraged by a check on our military achievements, a sore rub would inflame them nearly to madness and desperation. I have already solicited your notice of several young gentlemen from Maryland; lieutenant Griffin, and Daniel Lorse, volunteers with capt. Price's, and Frederick Ridgely, with capt. Cresap's company, and all young men of connection with us; their fathers, with whom I have an intimacy and friendship, are ambitious that they should be regarded by you, and desire I should make a favourable mention of them with that view. You must not be surpris'd, the rank you hold in the opinion of my countrymen, must make you the military father of the Maryland youth; I have not a personal acquaintance with these three young gentlemen, but the reputation for the service is a powerful recommendation.

By several gentlemen lately arrived from Checonecto, in the province of Nova Scotia, we have undoubted intelligence, that that government had endeavoured to enlist part of the inhabitants to act against their American brethren, which they nobly refused; in consequence whereof the governor had ordered the militia to be called together, and a number to be drafted, when their officers were told by the men, that if they attempted to draft, they would fire upon them; this stopped their proceeding any further, and the men clubbed their muskets and marched home.

NEW-YORK, April 8.

Tuesday afternoon 5 battalions of the continental troops now stationed here, were reviewed by his excellency general Heath, on the green, near the Liberty pole; they made a martial appearance, being well armed, and went through their exercise much to the satisfaction of a great concourse of the inhabitants of this city.

Last Tuesday night a party of about 150 of our troops landed on Bedlow's-Island, about two miles from this city, and destroyed some works that had been erected there by the crew of his majesty's ship the Asia, and burnt down a house that was supposed to be possessed by some Tories; the man of war fired two shot at our people, but they came off unhurt, and brought with them some trenching tools, poultry, &c. &c.

The same evening an attempt was made to set fire to the air furnace, near this city, by some people that got there in a boat, and supposed from the map of war; but they were discovered before they could put their design in execution, and made off with precipitation.

Wednesday night last arrived here from the camp at Cambridge, brigadier general Putnam; and the evening before col. Miffin, quarter-master general of the American army, arrived here from the same place.

A sloop of war, supposed to be the Nautilus, is arrived at the narrows.

April 10. Monday night one thousand of the continental troops, stationed here, went over and took possession of Governor's island, and began to fortify it; the same night a regiment went over to Red-Hook and fortified that place likewise.

On Saturday last the continental fleet fell in with the Glasgow man of war, off Montock point, at the east end of Long-Island, when admiral Hopkins, being the foremost ship, attacked the Glasgow, upon which a hot engagement ensued, but before another ship could come up, the Glasgow sheered off with considerable damage. The fleet afterwards took a bomb brig and three tenders, all which they carried safe into New-London on Sunday morning.

This morning arrived in the harbour twenty-three transports, from the eastward, having on board the brigade commanded by general Sullivan.

The following proclamation was published by his excellency general Washington, on his taking possession of the town of Boston.

By his Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; General and commander in chief of the Thirteen United Colonies.

WHEREAS the ministerial army has abandoned the town of Boston, and the forces of the United Colonies under my command, are in possession of the same: I have therefore thought it necessary, for the preservation of peace, good order, and discipline, to publish the following orders, that no person offending therein may plead ignorance as an excuse for their misconduct.

All officers and soldiers are hereby ordered to live in the strictest peace and amity with the inhabitants; and no inhabitant, or other person, employed in his lawful business in the town, is to be molested in his person or property, on any pretence whatever.

If any officer or soldier shall presume to strike, imprison, or otherwise ill treat any of the inhabitants, they may depend on being punished with the utmost severity; and if any officer or soldier shall receive an insult from any of the inhabitants, he is to seek redress in a legal way, and no other.

Any non-commissioned officer or soldier, or others under my command, who shall be guilty of robbing or plundering in the town, are to be immediately confined, and will be most rigidly punished. All officers are therefore ordered to be very vigilant in the discovery of such offenders, and report their names and crime to the commanding officer in the town as soon as may be.

The inhabitants and others are called upon to make known to the quarter-master-general, or any of his deputies, all stores belonging to the ministerial army, that may remain or be secreted in the town: Any person or persons whatever, that shall be known to conceal any of the said stores, or appropriate them to his or their own use, will be considered as an enemy to America, and treated accordingly.

The select men and other magistrates of the town, are desired to return to the commander in chief, the names of all or any person or persons they may suspect of being employed as spies upon the continental army, that they may be dealt with accordingly.

All officers of the Continental army, are enjoined to assist the civil magistrates in the execution of their duty, and to promote peace and good order. They are to prevent, as much as possible, the soldiers from frequenting tipping houses, and strolling from their posts. Particular notice will be taken of such officers as are inattentive and remiss in their duty, and on the contrary, such only as are active and vigilant will be entitled to future favour and promotion.

Given under my hand, at head-quarters, in Cambridge, the 21st day of March, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

PHILADELPHIA.

In CONGRESS, April 6, 1776.

Resolved, That any goods, wares and merchandizes, except staves and empty casks, other than shaken or knock'd down casks for molasses, may be exported from the thirteen united colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the king of Great-Britain, to any parts of the world, which are not under the dominion of the said king; provided that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knock'd down mel-

ass casks than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with molasses.

Resolved, That any goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are of the growth, production or manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the king of Great-Britain, and except East-India tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world, to the thirteen united colonies, by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subjects to the said king, liable however to all such duties and impositions as now are or may hereafter be laid by any of the said colonies.

Resolved, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these united colonies or their respective legislatures.

Resolved, That no slaves be imported into any of the thirteen united colonies.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies and conventions in the several colonies to appoint proper officers at convenient places in their respective colonies to take bonds in adequate penalties, for observing the regulations made by the congress or assemblies or conventions, concerning trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith, and that the obligor shall within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officer a certificate under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the same was there unladen, and take manifests upon oath of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers shewing the property of the vessels cleared out, and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with, and that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective assemblies or conventions.—Provided always that no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

Resolved, That all goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great-Britain or Ireland, into any of these united colonies, contrary to the regulations established by congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several assemblies or conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected or to be erected for the determination of maritime affairs in the colony where the seizure shall be made.

By order of congress, JOHN HANCOCK, president.

April 13. General Putnam, commander in chief at New-York, has given positive orders that the ministerial fleet there shall no longer be supplied with provisions, and that all communication between them and the shore be entirely stopped.

"In sight of the capes of Virginia, April 7. 1776.

GENTLEMEN, I have the pleasure to acquaint you, that at one P. M. this day, I fell in with the sloop Edward, belonging to the Liverpool frigate. She engaged us near two glasses. They killed two of our men, and wounded two more. We shattered her in a terrible manner as you will see. We killed and wounded several of her crew. I will give you a particular account of the powder and arms taken out of her, as well as my proceedings in general. I have the happiness to acquaint you, that all our people behaved with much courage. I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN BARRY.

To the honourable John Hancock, Esq; or any of the marine committee.

Extract of a letter from Cambridge, per express.

"This instant an express arrived from governor Cooke, with an account that a man of war was just arrived in the harbour of New-Port, and that 27 sail of vessels supposed to be part of the fleet from Boston, are within Seconet-Point. General Sullivan's brigade, which left Cambridge the 29th of March, was ordered to file off immediately for Providence, and general Green's, which was to march the 1st of April, was ordered to repair immediately to the same place."

KINGSTON (Jamaica) Dec. 23.

On Thursday afternoon was brought into Port-Royal harbour the sloop Dove, capt. Bull, belonging to Rhode-Island. This vessel had loaded at Cape Nicholas Mole, with French produce, and on her passage homeward was met by his majesty's ship Maidstone, Allan Gardiner, Esq; commander, who seized her. We are informed the Maidstone was then in chase of a brigantine and sloop, the latter laden with gunpowder, and came out of Cape Francois, which was yesterday sent in.

On Thursday evening arrived here from Port au Prince, l'Amphitruon, a French frigate commanded by le Count de Gras, with the congratulations of the new governor of Hispaniola, to his excellency Sir Basil Keith.

ST. JOHN'S (Antigua) Feb. 3.

Yesterday the following vessels were condemned at a court of vice-admiralty, held at the court-house in the town of St. John, viz.—Ship Two Brothers, loaded with flour, bread, spermaceti candles, staves, bees-wax, &c. taken by his majesty's ship Experiment, Robert Keeler, Esq;—Brigantine Greyhound, with flour, pork, herrings, staves, heading, bricks, bar-iron, a negro woman, &c. taken by the Argo, William Garnier, Esq;—Sloop Two Brothers, with live stock, cheese, onions, beef, pork, bread, bullion, &c. taken by the Viper, Samuel Graves, Esq.

SAVANNAH (in Georgia) Feb. 14.

His excellency the governor, with his family, left this place last Sunday night, and went on board his majesty's ship Scarborough, lying at Tybee.

Last Thursday capt. Wright arrived at Tybee, in a schooner from Grenada, and next day a large transport ship arrived with soldiers, from Boston. Lord William Campbell is on board his majesty's ship Syren.

Feb. 21. A transport ship arrived at Cockspur, on the 12th instant, from Boston, with more soldiers. His majesty's ship Raven sailed from Tybee on Saturday morning, on a cruise. His majesty's ship Cherokee, the two transport ships which lately arrived from Boston, a sloop, and three small vessels, are now lying at anchor within three miles of this town.

The following is a copy of his excellency the governor's letter, which was read on Friday last, at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town and district of Savannah.

On his majesty's service.

To the hon. James Mackay, Esq; and the rest of the members of his majesty's council at Savannah. On board his majesty's ship Scarborough, at Cockspur, February the 15th, 1776.

Honourable gentlemen,

AFTER using my best endeavours, for upwards of three weeks, to prevail on those, in whose hands the present ruling powers are, that the commanders of his majesty's ships here might obtain assurances that they might come to town, and have a free intercourse with me, without receiving any insult from the people assembled in and about town, also that the king's ships might be supplied with provisions, on paying the full price or value of it; and finding that the last message relative to these matters, which I desired the representatives of the town of Savannah to deliver to the persons exercising those powers, was so lightly treated; and so little regarded; as that, although delivered on Tuesday morning the 6th instant, yet I received no kind of answer to it for five days, nor did I understand whether it was meant to give me any answer or not; and well knowing that it was essential to his majesty's service, and the welfare of this province, that I should have an interview with the king's officers here; for these reasons, and many others, which you were made acquainted with, and approved of, I determined, at all events, to attempt coming down here, where I arrived safe at three o'clock yesterday morning. And after having examined, and duly weighed and considered, my several letters from England, and general Howe at Boston, and after having had a full conversation with his majesty's officers here, I have the greatest satisfaction to be able to affirm, from the best authority, that the forces now here will not commit any hostilities against this province, although full sufficient to reduce and overcome every opposition that could be attempted to be made; and that nothing is meant, or wanted, but a friendly intercourse, and a supply of fresh provisions. This may be entirely relied upon; this his majesty's officers have an undoubted right to expect, and what they insist upon; and this I not only now solemnly require in his majesty's name, but also as (probably) the best friend the people in Georgia have, advise them, without the least hesitation, to comply with, or it may not be in my power to ensure them the continuance of the peace and quietude they now have, if it may be called so.

His majesty has been graciously pleased to grant me leave to return to England, and (whatever may be thought) may regard for the people and province is such that I cannot avoid (and possibly for the last time) exhorting the people to save themselves and posterity from that total ruin and destruction which (although they may not yet) I most clearly see is at the threshold of their doors; and I cannot leave them without again warning them, in the most earnest and friendly manner, to desist from their present plans and resolutions. It is still in their power, and if they will enable me to do it, I will (as far as I can) engage to give, and endeavour to obtain for them, full pardon and forgiveness for all past crimes and offences; and this I conjure them to consider well, and most seriously of, before it is too late. But, let things happen as they may, be it remembered, that I this day, in the king's name, offer the people of Georgia the olive branch, that most desirable object, and inestimable blessing, the return of peace and happiness to them and their posterity.

Capt. Barclay has desired me to notify, that he is willing and ready to give every assistance in his power to the captains of all such merchant ships as may be legally cleared out to enable them to proceed on their respective voyages. I am, also, to acquaint you, that the detention of the schooner on Friday or Saturday last, proceeded entirely from a mistake by the officer who commanded the armed sloop, and that if the owner will send down, the schooner will not only be delivered up, but any reasonable price paid for the damaged rice that was on board, part of which has been used to feed hogs and poultry; or they may take it away again. I am also to mention, that the same armed sloop will be sent up to-morrow to Four Mile Point, in order to get fresh water, and for no other purpose. This letter, which I consider of the utmost consequence and importance to the whole people of Georgia, I must desire you will be pleased to communicate to the congress, if sitting, and if not, to those who are called the council of safety, and especially to the inhabitants of the town and province in general, and acquaint them that I shall expect their full and clear answer to every part of it in a reasonable time.

I am, with perfect esteem,

Gentlemen, your most obedient and faithful servant, JAMES WRIGHT.

CHARLESTOWN (S. C.) March 8.

We hear from Savannah, that two armed schooners and a sloop had got above the town, through Back-river, and had taken a brigantine and schooner lying there; that the Syren was arrived in the river; that some more large vessels were in the offing; that the troops, said to be about 5 or 600, were in transports near the town; that it was expected they would attempt to land, to prevent which upwards of 1000 Georgia and Carolina militia-men were in Savannah's and that there is too great reason to fear there will be much bloodshed.

The troops are said to be the 40th regiment, and a detachment of marines. Majors Gram and Maitland are among them; also capt. Pitcairn, son of the major of that name, who was in the Lexington and Bunker-hill engagements, and killed in the latter. It is reported they have received a reinforcement from St. Augustine, and have sent for more.

Copy of a letter just received by express from the council of safety Georgia.

In the COUNCIL of SAFETY.

Gentlemen, Savannah, March 4. 1776. THE intimate connection between this and your province in a particular manner renders it necessary to acquaint you with the occurrences in the former, since the date of our last; to which, and the dispatch preceding, we refer you.

Our dispositions in the evening of the 2d were such as appeared to our officers the most likely to prevent the

anding of their land... We had... Capt. R... was sent... order the... for the... did not... sailors, u... gave inform... ping, and... then immed... shipping, w... great wor... guns, with other... the day pr... South-river... landing of... shipping;... panie: of r... was oblig... and return... rife-men f... could not... only one o... the thigh;... In town... scene. W... the capture... lieutenant... Mr. Raym... and were p... render of... vested them... on board a... modore, an... to all the... mankind... detain their... pection f... deputies be... other but... 4 pounder... us that the... they prefer... and Mr. P... of the per... would treat... Capt. S... Ba er, of... (the forme... by the det... rife-men... of capt. M... solliery, a... ties, and... by a disch... hundred f... was kept... and men... or even p... rifles, mo... not with... man of t... the fleshy... cut out, the specta... vidential... This... boat, pr... intrinche... ders and... from ab... fired lar... men, no... no doubt... as they... About... orders... Inverne... deer-ski... the fold... the man... shot we... also in... the arm... night a... re-pass... present... subject... The... up the... and no... and th... were... to inf... of pri... We... as thr... peten... Co... your... Mr... termi... may

...of our enemy... their landing good, either above or below the town, to prevent their getting in. However, notwithstanding our vigilance, they, by collusion with the masters and others on board the merchant shipping, which hauled near the shore of Hutchinson's island in the night time, got on board the shipping about four o'clock yesterday morning, to the number, as far as we are competent to judge from the observations we made, and the intelligence we received, of between 2 and 300, where they affected to conceal themselves.

We had our fears respecting these shipping, and therefore kept a good watch upon them; but it was impossible for sentinels on this shore to descry them in boarding from the other, the vessels being betwixt.

Capt. Rice, who commanded a boat of observation, was sent on board the shipping about nine o'clock, to order the rigging on shore, and was, without any noise, or the smallest knowledge of us, kidnapped. This we did not know till about half an hour afterwards. Two sailors, under pretence of coming on shore for clothes, gave information of the troops being on board the shipping, and of Rice's being taken. About 300 men were then immediately marched to Yamacraw, opposite the shipping, with three four pounders, and threw up a breast work. The armed schooner Hinchinbrook, of 12 guns, with a number of men on board (which, with others, went up the Back-river in the afternoon of the day preceding) about this time set sail down the South-river, with intent, no doubt, of covering the landing of the troops from on board the merchant shipping; but being continually fired at by two companies of rifle-men who were placed in ambuscade, she was obliged to come very slowly, and often came to, and returned a very smart fire at every place where the rifle-men fired from, until the tide was spent, and she could not get down. During the course of this firing only one of our men got wounded, and that slightly in the thigh; on board several were seen to fall.

In town we had exhibited a still more interesting scene. We found the officers and men clamorous about the capture and detention of Rice; and two gentlemen, lieutenant Daniel Roberts of the St. John's rangers, and Mr. Raymond Demeré of St. Andrew's parish, solicited, and were permitted, to go on board to demand a surrender of Rice and his people. They accordingly divested themselves of arms, and were rowed by a negro on board a vessel, in which were capt. Bar lay the commodore, and major Grant; and these officers, contrary to all the principles which cement society, and govern mankind, immediately arrested our deputies, and yet detain them as prisoners. We waited with anxious expectation for near half an hour, when we demanded our deputies by the help of a trumpet, without getting any other but insulting answers. Whereupon we fired two 4 pounders directly into them, and then they informed us that they would send an answer in writing; which they presently after did, signed by lieutenant Roberts and Mr. Demeré, purporting, that if we would send two of the persons in whom the people most confided, they would treat with them.

Capt. Creven, of the St. John's rangers, and capt. Baker, of the St. John's rifle-men, chagrined, no doubt (the former especially on account of his lieutenant) by the detention of our deputies, took about a dozen of rifle-men in a boat, and rowed directly up the river to the vessel, in whose vessel were a great number of soldiery, and in peremptory terms demanded their deputies, and were answered, after one shot from capt. Baker, by a discharge down directly upon them, of near two hundred shot, both from (swivels and small arms; which was kept up while they were in reach. The captains and men in the boat, not in the smallest degree confused, or even perhaps disappointed by the attack, fired their rifles, most of them three several times, and as they say, not without execution; and, wonderful to tell, not a man of them killed. One man only received a slug in the fleshy part of his shoulder, which was immediately cut out, without the smallest inconvenience or danger; the spectators all declare, as we now do, that such a providential deliverance has not yet been known.

This unmanly attack, upon a few men in an open boat, produced a general fire from our field-pieces and intrenchments, and as smart a return from two 4 pounders and several swivels from the shipping, which lasted from about 12 o'clock till 4; and although they often fired langridge, which continually whistled about our men, not a single man was even touched; but we have no doubt a number of the enemy met with a worse fate, as they were seen to fall.

About four o'clock we called a council, and determined to have the vessels immediately burnt, and issued orders to col. McIntosh accordingly. Whereupon the Inverness, late capt. McGillivray, loaded with rice and deer-skins, was set on fire, and cut loose. Upon this the soldiers, in the most laughable confusion, got ashore in the marsh, while our rifle men and field-pieces with grape shot were incessantly galling them. The shipping were now also in confusion. Some got up the river under cover of the armed schooner, while others caught the flame; and as night approached, exhibited a scene, as they passed and re-passed with the tide, which, in any other but the present times, would be truly horrible, but is now a subject only of gratulation and applause.

The ships of captains Inglis and Wardell, neither got up the river, or on fire. They were ordered on shore, and now are prisoners of capt. Creven, in the country, and their vessels brought down close to the wharf. They were permitted to write to capt. Barclay in the evening, to inform of their situation, and to request an exchange of prisoners, which the latter peremptorily refused.

We have thus given you a particular detail of things as they really happened, to prevent the belief of any erroneous intelligence, and from which you will be competent to judge of our situation.

Col. McIntosh laid before the board a resolution of your congress to aid us, accompanied by a letter from Mr. Lowndes; and we are very glad that you are determined to afford us further assistance. We wish it may arrive in time.

By order of the council of Safety,
WILLIAM EWEN, president.

Printed from the original,
By order of congress,
PETER TIMOTHY, secretary.

On Thursday last arrived here, in 12 days from St. Eustatia, in the armed schooner Caswell, Mr. John W. Stanley, of this place. He sailed from Ooracock bay the 26th of January, in the brig Sally, captain Ridge, and the 12th of February made the island of Martinique, where the vessel was seized by the Pomona frigate, capt. Young, while she lay becalmed about two miles from the town of St. Pierre, and while about 200 miles from shore to obtain permission to enter the harbour. The Pomona had anchored that night in the harbour of St. Pierre, and came out disguised like a merchantman. A sloop from Fairfield, in the same situation, was taken in company with the sally.

Mr. Stanly informs, that several vessels arrived in the West-Indies from England while he was there, some of them in short passages, and that from all the prints he could see, and the accounts he could collect, there did not appear the most distant prospect of a reconciliation; but, on the contrary, the ministry were so determined, their majority in the house so great, and their influence among the people in general so extensive, that the few friends we had, and all hopes of their being able to effect any thing in our favour despaired of.

That 40 sail of transports, blown off the coast, had arrived at Antigua within a few weeks. Five of them had failed for Boston, under convoy of the Viper; the remainder were to fail in a few days, under convoy of the Hind, and several vessels arrived in Antigua with guns, &c. purchased partly in St. Eustatia for that purpose.

That the English islands had been extremely distressed for provisions, which by the time they had been greatly increased, had not 40 or 50 sail of American vessels, chiefly provision, loaded and bound for foreign islands, been seized by the ships of war, and sent into Antigua, St. Kitt's, Dominica, and Nevis; the inhabitants of which islands were so incensed against the Americans, that those who happened to be there were treated with the utmost severity. Some have been shackled and thrown into a dungeon; for only expressing their sentiments; others obliged to quit their property, and fly to the French for that protection they could not find among the English. An instance of the first kind happened in Antigua while Mr. Stanley was in the islands, in the imprisonment of a Mr. Campbell of New-York; and of the second of the flight of Mr. Peter Wykoff of Philadelphia, against whom an information was lodged by the French consul, that he had seen Mr. Peter Wykoff bear arms about twelve months before in Philadelphia. This was deemed high treason, as appears by a proclamation of governor Shirley, offering a reward of 500l. for apprehending him.

Among the many vessels seized under the prohibitory act are the following, viz. From New York, the sloop Sally, Doge, Charming Polly, Truxen, America, Campbell, and schooner Polly, Alltime.---Rhode-land, ---; capt. Sweet.---Fairfield, sloop Diamond, Whitney.---Salem, brig America, Lambert.---Philadelphia, ship Nancy, Kirby, and brig ---, Gregg.---North-Carolina, brig Sally, Ridge, and schooner ---, James Green, cleared by governor Martin.---Georgia, a brig, capt. Peane.---Virginia, a brig, South Carolina, brig Union, Boyd. Connecticut, a sloop, capt. Jones.---New-York, a sloop, capt. Gibbs.

The cruizers are so exceedingly vigilant among the islands, that few vessels escape them. Notwithstanding which, a brig from Baltimore, a ship (Liberty, captain Monio) from Philadelphia, and two pilot boats from the same place, had got safe to St. Martin's and St. Eustatia early in this month.

The following quantities of powder were shipped from Martinique and Guadaloupe within a few weeks, besides large quantities from the Cape and St. Eustatia, which has caused that article to be as high as 6s. 6d. a pound, and none now to be had even at those extravagant prices.

For New London	20000	Five sail for N. London;	
For Maryland	7000	sent out by N. Shaw,	
For Piscataway	6000	on account of the Uni-	
For ditto	5000	ted Colonies	40000
For ditto	5000	For Plymouth	4000
For Rhode-land	9000	For S. Carolina	20000
For Calco-Bay	3000	For N. Carolina	2200
		121200	

WILLIAMSBURG, April 6.

The Duke of Cumberland Packet arrived a few days ago, from Falmouth, with government dispatches for lord Dunmore. It is said that the English the 23d of January, and brings advice, that lord Cornwallis failed about the same time, with a number of transports, under convoy of twelve frigates; the place of their destination uncertain. The packet was at South-Carolina, but found lord William Campbell had left the province, and joined governor Martin at Cape Fear. Some gentlemen from below say, that soon after the arrival of this vessel they published a paper which was called a declaration of war against the colonies, and received it with loud acclamations.

It is reported, that lord Dunmore has sent to England, in the Duke of Cumberland packet, which failed last Wednesday, four French gentlemen, who were lately taken in a vessel bound here from Cape Nicholas Mole, pretending he has found letters upon them which prove their business was to treat with the congress.

ANNAPOLIS, April 18.

MR. GREEN, April 16, 1776.
I RECEIVED you a copy of Mr. Johnson's much talked of intercepted letter; different parties having given it different constructions, makes it necessary that the whole be published, with a view that every person may read and judge for themselves, thereby frustrating the attempts of such as may be inclined to deceive by misrepresentations; you'll therefore please to give it a place in this week's Gazette, and you will oblige many of your customers, and particularly a constant one.

FROM THE PUBLIC ADVERTISER.

Monday, November 20, 1775.
Our Boston correspondent has favoured us with the following copy of an intercepted letter, from Thomas Johnson, jun. Esq; (one of the Maryland delegates to

...of England to form a just opinion of the real intentions of the Congress; and their true motive for framing the petition, brought over by Mr. Penn, as well as of their expectations from it.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Johnson, jun. to Horatio Gates, dated Annapolis, August 18, 1775.

My dear Sir,
I RECEIVED yours of the 1st July, and, in a day or two afterwards, forwarded your letter to Mr. Gates, by my brother, with directions, if he had left Frederick-town, where she then was on a visit, and had no immediate good opportunity, to send a servant on purpose.

I shall be very unhappy that petitioning the king, to which measure I was a friend, should give you or any one else, attached to the cause of America, and liberty, the least uneasiness. You, and I, and America in general, may almost universally wish, in the first place to establish our liberties; our second wish is a re-union with Great-Britain; so may we preserve the empire entire, and the constitutional liberty, founded in whig-gist principles, handed down to us by our ancestors --- In order to strengthen ourselves to accomplish these great ends, we ought, in my opinion, to conduct ourselves so, as to unite America and divide Britain; this, as it appears to me, may most likely be effected by doing rather more, than less, in the practicable line; than would be required, if our petition is rejected, with contempt, which I think most likely. Will not our friends in England be still more exasperated against the court, and will not our very moderate men, on this side of the water, be compelled to own the necessity of opposing force by force? (The rejection of the New York petition was very serviceable to America. If our petition should be granted, the troops will be recalled the obnoxious acts repealed, and we restored to the footing of 1763. If the petition should not be granted, but so far attended to as to lay the ground-work of a negotiation, Britain must, I think, be ruined by the delay: if she submits us at all, it must be by a most violent and sudden exertion of her force; and if we can keep up a strong party in England, headed by such characters as lord Batham, and the others, in the present opposition; Bute, Mansfield, and North, and a corrupt majority, cannot draw the British force fully into action against us; our friends will certainly continue such, as long as they see we do not desire to break from a reasonable and beneficial connexion with the mother country; but, if, unhappily for the whole empire, they should once be convinced, by our conduct, that we design to break from that connexion, I am apprehensive, they will thenceforth become our most dangerous enemies; the greatest and first law of self preservation will justify, may compel it. The cunning Scotchmen and lord North fully feel the force of this reasoning; thence, their industry to make it be believed in England, that we have a scheme of independence, a general turn, they equivocally use, to signify to the friends of liberty, a breaking off all connexion; and to Tories, that we dispute the supremacy of parliament. In the declaratory act is the power of binding us, by its acts, in all cases whatever; the latter we do most certainly dispute, and I trust shall successfully fight against, with the approbation of every honest Englishman.

Lord North's proposition, and consequent resolution of parliament, were insidiously devised to wear the face of peace, and embarrass us in the choice of evils; either to accept and be slaves; or reject and increase the number and power of our enemies: I flatter myself that our petition will present to him only a choice of means injurious to his villainous schemes.

Our convention met the very day of my getting home, the meeting was very full, we sat close many days, by six o'clock in the morning, and by candle light in the evening. Our people were very prompt to do every thing desired; they have appropriated 100,000l. for the defence of this province, a great part of it to be laid out in the military line immediately, part contingently, and the rest for establishing manufactories of salt, salt petre, and gunpowder.

We have an association, ascertaining the necessity and justifiableness of repelling force by force, to be universally signed; and strict resolutions, with regard to our militia; which is to be as comprehensive here, as perhaps in any country in the world, when called to action. We are to be subject to the congressional rules and regulations for the army. A committee of safety composed of sixteen, is, in the recess of the convention, to have the supreme direction. We yet retain the forms of our government, but there is no real force or efficacy in them. If the intelligence we have from England looks like war, I dare say this province will not hesitate to discharge all officers, and go boldly into it as one.

I have not lately heard any thing particular from Virginia that can be depended on; their convention has had a long sitting, and I have no doubt but spirited measures, becoming themselves, and adequate to their circumstances, are adopted. We have the pleasure, now and then, to hear of your successful skirmishes. I am particularly anxious as to your conduct, and have run through our young men so much, that, if the business proceeds, notwithstanding the scarcity of men in this and the southern provinces, I believe we must furnish you with a battalion or two; if, as I hope, those who are gone acquire reputation, many of our youth will be on fire; the difficulty now is to regulate and direct the spirit of the people at large; a d) verily believe that, instead of their being discouraged by a check on our military achievements, a fore rub would inflame them nearly to madness and desperation. I have already solicited your notice of several young gentlemen from Maryland; lieut. Griffin, and Daniel Dorsey, volunteers with capt. Price's, and Frederick Kidgeley, with capt. Cresap's company, and all young men of connection with us; their fathers, with whom I have an intimacy and friendship, are ambitious that they should be regarded by you, and desire I should make a favourable mention of them with that view. You must not be surpris'd, the rank you hold in the opinion of my countrymen must make you the military father of the Maryland youth; I have not a personal acquaintance with these three young gentlemen, but the recommendation for the service is a powerful recommendation.

64
I believe, will occasion a good many, chiefly
catch, to return again to their own country. On a
late alarm twelve out of thirteen North-Britons, en-
rolled in one company, refused to march, on which
they were dismissed; the alarm proved false, within an
hour after the fatal discovery. I am very unwilling to
do any thing harsh, but it is surely time to know who
may be depended on. Under pretence of neutrality,
our inveterate enemies will remain silent till we are off
the hip, and then fall on like devils to overthrow us.---
I have done myself much pleasure in writing you this
loose unconnected letter; and I shall have more, in
knowing the length of it does not tire you.---My best
wishes attend you. I am,

My dear Sir,
Your most affectionate servant,
THOMAS JOHNSON, jun.

Mr. GREEN,
BE pleased to give the following a place in your
paper, and oblige
A CUSTOMER.

THE following queries, made for information,
if answered, will oblige several (perhaps many)
who from the present mode of transacting the public
business of the province, had it not in their power
to hear, or know, any reasons assigned for several
resolutions of the Convention of this province, on
which have been placed various constructions, and
which, from circumstances, now call for a minute
one.

Viz. When the Convention, in July 1775, re-
solved that "every able bodied, effective freeman with-
in this province, between sixteen and fifty years of age
(except as therein excepted) shall enroll himself in some
company of militia, &c." whether they intended that
any person exceeding the age of fifty years, who
signed the enrollment, should be bound thereby, or
whether from the words of the enrollment he could
not plead his exemption, as being not enrolled "ac-
cording to the resolutions of the Convention, held at An-
napolis the 26th day of July, 1775?"

Also, When they resolved that "if a number of
men shall be enrolled not amounting to fifty privates, be-
sides sufficient for non commissioned officers, for any one com-
pany, they shall not be considered as a company;" and a-
gain, "that no company be permitted to choose officers,
before a sufficient number of men be enrolled, to make up
fifty privates, besides non-commissioned officers;" whether
they intended that number to be a'le bodied, effec-
tive men, who would be able, and obliged to per-
form the exercise, and if occasion required, march to
any part of the province? or whether they intended it
to be made up of those who are not able, and actu-
ally do not bear arms in the common muster field?
or whether, if commissions be granted by virtue of
such an enrollment, together with the names of per-
sons who cannot be found, so that a company consist
of about thirty privates only, it will be considered and
counted as a company? and whether, if it should,
it may tend to deceive this province, nay the
continent, in point of strength?

Answer to the above is asked by
AN INHABITANT OF PATUXENT HUNDRED,
ANNE-ARUNDEL COUNTY.

April 16, 1776.
To be sold at public vendue, by the subscriber, on
Thursday the 16th day of May next, on the pre-
mises, for sterling or current money, at the gen-
eral exchange,

PART of a tract of land called Duvall's range,
conveyed to the subscriber for 276 acres more
or less, situate in Anne-Arundel county, on the east
side of the north branch of Patuxent river. On this
land are two tenements, with plenty of good board,
shingle and rail timber; forty acres of good mea-
dow may be made on the said land, with very little
trouble; the tenements are in good repair and pro-
duce very fine tobacco and Indian corn. Twelve
months credit will be given the purchaser, on giv-
ing bond on interest with security if required. The
land may be viewed any time before the day of sale
by applying to the subscriber, John of DA

THE noted half blooded horse, Frederick Jones,
full fifteen and a half hands high, a fine dap-
ple gray, eight years old, strong, active and boney,
stands at Notley-hall, Prince-George's county, and
will cover at thirty shillings the season. Good
stuff for mares gratis.

Bladensburg, April 10, 1776.
RAN away last night from the subscriber, an in-
dented servant named John Teasdale, an Eng-
lish man, about twenty-two years of age, five feet
six or seven inches high, well set, of a fair com-
plexion and good countenance, wears his own short
frat hair of a dark brown colour, and is by trade a
copper: he had on a blue fearnought sailor's top
jacket about half worn, a waistcoat of London brown
cloth, and ragged breeches of strong superfine dark
drab cloth, a check shirt, and an old small brim'd
dirty felt hat bound round the edging with white
canvas. Whoever secures said servant and brings
him to me shall receive forty shillings reward and
a reasonable charge.

WILLIAM SYDEBOTHAM.

ALL persons indebted to George Matthews, late
of Kingbury furnace in Baltimore county,
deceased, are desired to make immediate payment,
to enable us to execute his will, and all those who
have claims against him are desired to exhibit them
properly authenticated; to

T. RUSSELL
and
JAMES SMITH, } executors.

THERE is at the plantation of Isaac Simmons;
near Herring-bay, in Anne-Arundel county,
taken up as a stray, a dark bay horse, near fifteen
hands high, a star in his forehead, has many white
spots on his back, supposed to be hurt with a saddle,
a bit of his right ear cut off, his mane hangs on the
wrong side, his off hind foot white, shoes on about
half worn, branded but cannot make it out. The
owner may have him again on proving property and
paying charges.

Harford county, March 21, 1776:

TAKEN up as a stray, a bright bay mare, a-
bout nine years old, thirteen hands and
a half high, no brand appears, paces and trots, short
dock. Any person proving property and paying
charges may have her again.

JOHN PACA.

JEREMIAH SATCHWELL, in West-street, Anna-
polis, to the military gentlemen.

AS the use of arms is become absolutely necessa-
ry for the preservation of American liberty,
this is to inform the above gentlemen, that he makes
all sorts of silver and fine metal sword hilts; like-
wise cleans and repairs the same. Those gentlemen
who please to favour him with their custom, may de-
pend on having their work done with the greatest
punctuality and at the most reasonable rate, which
he hopes will give satisfaction to the public in gen-
eral, having served a regular apprenticeship to the
said branches in London.

N. B. All sorts of silversmiths work done also.

April 10, 1776.

CARELESS,
STANDS the ensuing season at Strawberry-hill,
within one mile of Annapolis, and will cover
mares at six dollars the season, if pastured; four
dollars, if not pastured; or two dollars, the single
leap. CARELESS is a fine bay, rising five
years, upwards of fourteen hands two inches, and
was got by col Baylor's Fearnought; his dam by
Dove, his grand-dam by Otello, his great-grand-
dam by old Spark, out of the high bred mare Queen
Mab, who was the dam of col. Hopper's Paoclet.
Good grass for mares. Indian corn will be taken in
payment at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, delivered at Straw-
berry-hill before the first of July, by

THOMAS WILLIAMSON,
P. S. I will be answerable for no mares that may
get away.

Bladensburg, April 1, 1776.

I HAVE for disposal, on very reasonable terms, a
servant man, who has about three years to serve.
He was bred a cutler, is an ingenious fellow in his
business, and can do any country blacksmith's work.
He might be very useful to any person in the gun or
locksmith business.

JAMES HOGGAN.

Prince-George's county, April 1, 1776.

WAS found in the possession of one of my ne-
groes, a jockey coat of double mill'd drab
cloth, the collar lined with velvet, and the cape with
shalloon the colour of the cloth. As I suspect the
coat to have been stole, the person who has lost it,
on proving his property and paying the charge of
this advertisement, may have it by applying to

THOMAS GANTT.

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.

STRAYED away from the widow M'Donall's, be-
tween Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday
night the 13th of March, out of the fodder house, a
bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces,
trots, and gallops, marked C S on his left shoulder.
Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to
capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to
William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall re-
ceive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid
if brought home.

Patuxent Iron-Works, February 6, 1776.

BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father,
RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron-
Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted
to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer
indulgence will be given them. Also all persons that
are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company,
of more than twelve months standing, are requested to
come immediately and make payment; and those who
have it not in their power to make immediate pay-
ment, it is expected they will come and settle their
accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are
not complied with, we shall take such methods as will
compel a settlement, without respect to persons, al-
though it will be disagreeable to

SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CONVENTION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF MARYLAND,
Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of
December, 1775.

PREROGATIVE OFFICE,
March 11, 1776.

WHEREAS the records of the commissary's office
are removed to Upper Marlborough, by the
direction of the Council of Safety for the province of
Maryland, I am directed to give this public notice,
that the common business of that office will from hence-
forth be transacted at that place.

And as the commissary's courts are by law appointed
to be held at the city of Annapolis, where the same
must indispensably be continued, the commissary ge-
neral, anxious to relieve as far as in his power the dif-
ficulties arising to the people, from the removal of the
records to such distance from the capital, hath resolved
to attend at both places in every court week, which
will be on the second Tuesdays of May, July, Septem-
ber, and November; and to that end, will hold his
courts every second Tuesday in said months at the city
of Annapolis, for the convenience of the inhabitants
of the Eastern-shore, and others whom it may bet
suit. And he will from thence proceed on the Thurs-
day to Upper Marlborough, there to sit during the
remainder of the week for the dispatch of public bus-
ness.

I also give notice, that for the greater ease and con-
venience of the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county,
who may have business with me as deputy commissary
of that county, I shall give attendance every Tuesday
at the house of Mr. Cornelius Garretson in the city of
Annapolis for that purpose.

ELIE VALLETTE, register.

Charles town, Cecil County, March 19, 1776.

THIS day was committed to my custody, on sus-
picion of being a runaway, by the name of
Andrew Sandford, an Irishman, about 25 years of
age, 5 feet 9 or ten inches high, long black hair
tied behind: has on a light coloured coat and waist-
coat, brown cloth breeches, a half worn beaver hat,
blue ribb'd yarn stockings, and old shoes. He says
he has been three years in this country, and worked
a considerable time as a journeyman barber with
Mr. John James in Philadelphia, and from last har-
vest until this time with Mr. Clements, barber in
Baltimore-town. His master, if any, is desired to
pay charges and take him away; and any of the
above gentlemen can make it appear that he is a
freeman, he will be released according to law.

JAMES ORRICK, Sheriff of Cecil county.

Wanted immediately, delivered at the contractor's
store in Annapolis,

A QUANTITY of potatoes, parsneps, carrots,
beans, cockstone beans, or any kind of Indian
peas, for which will be given the highest prices, by
ISAAC SHARD,
for Mr. ROBERT CUMMINS.

TO BE SOLD,

A VALUABLE tract of land, containing 280 acres
more or less, situated upon Rock creek in Frede-
rick county, within four miles of George town and
eight of Bladensburg, 150 acres whereof are in wood,
and the remainder inclosed by a good fence; there
are about ten acres of the aforesaid land may be made
good meadow with little trouble. I have likewise for
sale 25 acres of land near or adjoining the town of
Upper Marlborough, in Prince-George's county, with
good improvements thereon, and a valuable mill in
good repair, and grinds all seasons. For terms apply
to Robert Whitaker near the aforesaid town, or Wil-
liam Belt in Frederick county.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.

RAN away from the subscriber, an indented ser-
vant lad, named Edward Busford, born in
Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair
complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth
coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse
light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same,
much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribb'd worked
stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond
of liquor, and can give no better reason for his e-
lopement, than that he often merited chastisement
and never received it. Should he be taken ten miles
from home I will give 20 shillings reward on his
return.

J. CLAPHAM.

ABRAHAM CLAUDE,
WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, and SILVERSMITH,
Opposite Mrs. Johnson's tavern, ANNAPOLIS.

BEGS leave to acquaint the public in general,
and his friends in particular, that he still conti-
nues to carry on the aforesaid trades in all their
branches, and at the most reasonable rates; also that
he cleans and repairs all sorts of fire-arms, small
swords, hangers, and cutlasses. He also makes hooks
for swords in the neatest and most approved manner.
N. B. He has several grofs of hoo

dispose of cheap.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1776

CASSANDRA TO CATO.

(Concluded from our last.)

THE king of Great-Britain, though our king, will ever join the parliament against us, as often as a contention happens. The parliament are his tools; and their illegal claims are only a specious covering for his endeavours after arbitrary power in the first place; and in the second place, his crown, his dignity and his support, depends entirely upon their grants, and not upon ours. He will therefore take part with them on every occasion. On the contrary, his representatives are not so dependent on us as to oblige them to take part with us. This is not all; for in every province, where they had the power, they not only refused to concur in our measures, but also prevented us from making use of our representatives, that we might not have the shadow of a legislature to support us. And even in those provinces where his power has not extended so far, he has constantly gone as far as he could. This is not all yet; for in many they have corrupted the ignorant and illiterate by bribes, set up the royal standard against us, and obliged us to fight under every disadvantage. Is it not so, Cato?

There is, therefore, a capital defect in our chartered constitutions---A defect which makes an essential difference between the present state of our liberties, and that secured to Englishmen by MAGNA CHARTA---A defect which, if not effectually removed, will oblige us ever to hold our liberties at the point of our swords, or by that most precarious of all tenures, will and pleasure. The immortal barons were too wise to be duped by fair promises. They drew their swords, determined to obtain absolute security; and they did obtain it. They obtained by Magna Charta the constitutional right of levying war against the king as often as he should attempt to infringe upon the liberties of the people. Were our governors the choice of the people, and dependent on them for their salaries we would, in the present case, be able to make a constitutional resistance to oppression; to oppose constitution to constitution. But this not being the case, the parliament has plainly the advantage. It is necessary, therefore, to our security, to have our governors as much dependent on the people of America as the king is on those of Great-Britain, before our constitutions can be of any service to us against British encroachments; or, that when our governors refuse their concurrence, our representatives shall have the privilege of letting them alone, and acting legislatively without them. This is a clause as essential to the security of the rights of America, as the clause which grants to the people of Great Britain the right of declaring war against the king, when he attempts to disturb their privileges. Will Cato stand it out till this is obtained?

But as the contest is between us and the parliament, we ought now to enquire how we can be secured against parliamentary encroachments. The constitution of Great-Britain is such, that what this parliament does the next can undo. And it is impossible for one parliament to pass a bill, which will not be liable to a repeal by any future one, without destroying the very essence of its own constitution. Is there any remedy against this defect, Cato? Let us see the constitutional dependent principles, if you are a friend to liberty, which will give absolute and permanent security to our liberties, and not leave us at the mercy of our enemy; and then we will talk further on the subject. We have gone too far; and have too much sense to rest our future safety on the probability of her letting us alone for the future.

Our constitutional connexion with Great-Britain is the very plea alleged by Great-Britain for her attempts to enslave us. Now if this constitution is the very foundation of her claims, if she in consequence thereof, has declared us rebels, which she could not, unless she supposed we violated the constitution by our resistance; and if it was not in our power to make effectual opposition in strict conformity to the constitutions she gave us, why is Cato so fond of reconciling on these principles and on no others? This looks not like honesty. Cato, if you love America, and your attachment to the cause is real, ANSWER TO THESE THINGS. A lover of truth and liberty will be afraid of no queries whatever. You say you have viewed the ground on which you stand, and are not afraid to tread it in the sight of the most vigilant son of liberty. Here it is, come forth then, here I wish to find you. But I beseech you examine it thoroughly first, explore its hidden recesses; for I am well assured it contains a secret mine, which, if once sprung, will either blow up you and your party, or our liberties.

This continent has had a twelve years constant experience, that the constitution of the colonies could not protect them from British oppression. Can you deny it Cato? However it be against your present designs, yet this you must acknowledge. Can you tell the first day a committee existed on this continent? Did not that day tell the world we had no constitution that could withstand British oppression? Can you remember the time our assemblies were first dissolved, for attempting to correspond with one another, on the subject of our grievances? Did not that time convince even Cato himself, that our constitutions were not equal to the task of protecting themselves? Do you recollect the hour our worthy governor refused to call our assembly, to consult on ways and means to preserve our liberties? Did not that hour inform you, that the chartered constitution of Pennsylvania could do nothing for us? Now if after so long, and so severe a trial of their defects, we should still take up with them on the recommendation of Cato, might not the world, particularly that part of it which you say is looking at us, laugh at our stupidity and folly?

Your first argument in support of your creed is, that "agriculture and commerce have hitherto been the happy employments by which these middle colonies have risen into wealth and importance. By them the face of the country has been changed from a barren wilderness into the hospitable abodes of peace and plenty." I forbear to point out your constant endeavours to separate the interest of the middle colonies from the rest; as if the wealth of the whole arose not from the same sources; or, as if your description of one or two would not answer for all. I also forbear to mention the care of your party to have your letters, though addressed to the people of Pennsylvania, reprinted in New-York and Maryland papers. When you have gone through the demonstration how we can have effectual security to our liberties under so defective constitutions, then, and not till then, I shall call upon you to prove that agriculture and commerce would decay, if the whole world were our market instead of the British islands, and a few foreign ports to which we are most graciously permitted to export a few articles. I will also call on you to convince us, that a severe restraint on our trade in many instances, and in some a total prohibition tends to enrich us. And here it may not be amiss to shew how poor the Hollanders have grown, since they became independent, and were obliged to support all the expences the Common Man has mentioned. But Cato has given us an opinion proof of his attachment to trade, by declaring that he will arm against us as soon as we form any alliance with such powers as are able and willing to draw off the British fleets from blocking up our ports. Our ports are now effectually shut by the fleets of Great Britain; and there is a total stop put to our exports. We have not yet a fleet which can open them. Our grain is spoiling, and the powers of Europe longing for an opportunity of taking it off our hands: All this can be removed by the alliance proposed. But Cato sees this would eternally frustrate the designs of his party: He has therefore laboured, by every artifice of cunning, to prevent our taking any step of the kind. He hopes the country will by this means be brought to submit; and he will triumph in our folly. But where is the real danger to our liberties, Cato, in accepting the assistance of a neighbouring fleet, until we have time to fit out one for the purpose? Were we to do this, would not agriculture and commerce flourish as usual?

That much of our former felicity was owing to the protection of England, is not to be denied; and that we might still derive great advantages from her protection and friendship, if not valued at too high a price, is equally certain: says Cato. I could pardon a few Hebrew murmurings, and hankerings for the onions of Egypt; but, to be incessantly called back to what we enjoyed while Joseph lived, when behold a Pharaoh now reigns who knew him not, is insult not to be endured. Cato cannot pretend ignorance of the price of the friendship he so strongly urges us to court. If he does, he is certainly a very dangerous guide for the good people to whom his letters are addressed. Cassandra affirms the price is no less than an absolute surrender of all our rights, liberties and property, and these once given up, he would gladly be informed what more is left for any power to invade? All animals, under absolute domination, are nursed only to be fleeced; however problematical may be the question of nursing the colonies, we have had the fleecing demonstrated with a vengeance. Cato adds, "If the present differences can be accommodated, there is scarce a probability that she will ever renew the late fatal system of policy, or attempt to employ force against us." Two reasons induce me to think the mode of attack would indeed be altered: For, obstinate as the author of our oppressions is, he cannot longer flatter himself of our falling an easy prey to his force, if now incessantly continued; his clemency would then certainly dispose him, most graciously, to enslave us by his experienced much more successful method of intrigue. But as Cato allows it is not altogether improbable that this force may be employed against us in some future day; Cassandra would gladly be informed by what means we can be secured from that force, when by the treaty of protection we are cut off from the right of establishing a force of our own.

Conscious that this poor contrivance is prodigious state, a thousand times repeated, and as often refuted by most stubborn arguments, founded on twelve years invariable procedure, and really despairing to hold the people long in expectation of "former protection," or any more than a mere delusive change of the mode of attack, and that change as ill disguised as any that have preceded it: Cato adds, as if all were one connected proposition; if they will not make up on constitutional principles, "we have arms in our hands, and virtue enough to use them." As to corruption, Cato would have us believe there is hardly a man on the continent in danger from that quarter. Would to God we had abundant evidence of this universal integrity! Respecting the arms Cato, with much devotion! praise the Director of human affairs that we have them in our hands; and I pray and confide in his over-ruling providence, that we may there keep them till our rights are placed on a firmer foundation than the mere grace of the conqueror at the destruction of millions on one side of the globe, and contrivance of the devastations now daily committing on the other. Well might Cato tell us of our arms; for he clearly foresees that no wise man could conceive himself safe in reconciliation on his principles without holding them in his hands continually. His paragraph, after flourishing away on the original ground of the contest, concludes, "and if, hereafter, in seasons of time, it should be thought necessary to separate from the land that gave birth to our ancestors, it will be in our perfect state of manhood, when we can wield our arms, and protect our commerce and coasts by our own

fleets, without looking to any nation on earth for assistance." Well said, Cato! Here we agree for once. But now, that we are on good terms with each other, let me ask you, in a friendly manner, how we are to become masters of this fine fleet? Does Cato propose to insist upon it as a term of constitutional reconciliation with the AMBASSADORS, that we should be allowed to build such a fleet? Or does he conceive, that when we are arrived at just twenty-one years of age, and about to commence house-keepers, our dear mother country will make us a present of such a fleet to set up with? I confess myself greatly incredulous of either! If Cato can clear up my doubts on these important heads I will be much obliged to him.

It has been asserted, says Cato, "that we are able, with our land-forces, to defend ourselves against the whole world---that if commerce be an advantage we may command what foreign alliance we please---that the moment we declare ourselves an independent people, there are nations ready to face the British thunder, and become carriers of our commodities to enrich themselves: And if this were not the case, we can soon build navies to force and protect a trade, &c." Of this Cato here intimates his suspicion, because, says he, it is not fully proved. Cassandra will prove the first assertion from unquestionable authority; for Cato in his fourth letter says, "I will even go beyond him in expressing my good opinion of our situation. He thinks foreign assistance necessary to us; I think otherwise. We are able to defend our own right and to frustrate the attempt of any nation upon earth, to govern us by force." Cassandra hopes, in a short time, to prove every assertion of Common Sense from the same authority; he wishes every position of Cato was equally confirmed with Common Sense.

P. S. As the Common Man has called us to a fair discussion of the point, we once for all request every printer on the continent, who publishes Cato's letters, to publish our replies, and particularly Mr. Sower, of Germantown, that the subject may not only have a full discussion, but a fair hearing.

CASSANDRA.

To the PEOPLE of PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER VI.

IN the conclusion of my last letter, I charged the author of Common Sense with perverting the scripture in his account of the origin of the Jewish monarchy. I proceed to offer some remarks in support of that charge.

"Monarchy," says he (meaning probably the institution of monarchy) "is ranked in scripture as one of the sins of the Jews, for which a curse in reserve is denounced against them. The history of that transaction" (either the transaction of monarchy, or the transaction of denouncing a curse in reserve) "is worth attending to."

This confused proposition he endeavours to establish, by a commentary (upon 1 Samuel, ch. 8.) full as far-fetched and ridiculous as he will probably say mine is upon the prophecy of Mount Seir. But this matter must be treated more seriously, for the sake of a country, in which (God be thanked) the Scriptures are read and regarded with that reverence which is due to a revelation from Heaven; I must therefore endeavour to rescue, out of our author's hands, that portion of the sacred history, which he has converted into a libel against the civil constitution of Great-Britain; and shew in what sense the passage has been universally received, as well by the Jews themselves, as by commentators venerable for their piety and learning, in every Christian country.

The Jews were long privileged with a peculiar form of government, called a Theocracy; under which the "Almighty either stirred up some person, by an immediate signification of his will, to be their judge; or, when there was none, ruled their proceedings himself, by Urim and Thummim, directing what course they were to follow in the public concerns of the nation." But they were of an ungovernable temper, fond of pomp as well as dominion over their neighbours; and, being disgusted with the misconduct of Samuel's sons, whom, in his old age, he had appointed his assistant-judges over Israel, they came to him, and intreated him to appoint a king, who might rule their nation, and avenge them of the Philistines. Samuel, deeply afflicted at the impious design they entertained of rejecting the divine government, prays to the Almighty for directions; who authorizes him to hearken to their voice; for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me (says God) that I should not reign over them. He also instructs Samuel to enter a solemn protest against them for their folly and ingratitude, in preferring a human to a divine government; and to shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them, since they desired a king to judge them like all the nations.

Now, all the nations, which they knew, were ruled by kings whose ARBITRARY will stood in the place of LAW; and it appears also that the Jews, since the day that they were brought out of Egypt, had still retained a particular hankering after the customs of that country. The Almighty, therefore, by his prophet, not only signifies his displeasure against all such arbitrary rulers, but against every people who would impiously and foolishly prefer such a government to one immediately under himself, where, in his providence, he might think fit to appoint such a one. And so far I have no difference with our author. But Samuel proceeds further to reason with the Jews, and in the 11th chapter reminds

* Lowell's Commentary.

them, of the many deliverances which God had given them, by the hands of their judges, Moses, Jephthah, Gideon, &c. having with a strong hand brought them out of Egypt; having subdued the Assyrians, Ammonites, Moabites and Philistines before them; and that, for all this, they preferred a government even after the most corrupt models, to his just and righteous government. And, to convince them still further of their folly and ingratitude, the prophet appeals to a signal, which he would give them from heaven. He accordingly calls down an uncommon storm, in the midst of harvest, and the astonished multitude cry out—WE HAVE ADDED TO OUR SIN THIS EVIL TO ASK US A KING.

Here our author erects his standard; and here he compliments himself with the mockery of triumph. "These portions of scripture (says he, in all the assurance of infallibility) are direct and positive. They admit of no equivocal construction. That the ALMIGHTY hath here entered his protest against MONARCHICAL GOVERNMENT is true, or the Scripture is false."—But I will take the liberty to say that the Scripture is true, and that this author's inference is shamefully false; nay further, that from the whole spirit of the passage, as well as the reason of things, it is to be inferred that the Almighty would have as strongly expressed his displeasure against the Jews, had they rejected his government for one of their own appointment, whether monarchical or democratical—whether it had been to be administered by one man or a thousand men.

The author had said before, that Samuel did not shew the manner of any "particular king, but the general manner of the kings of the earth, whom Israel was so eagerly copying after." If he means to confine himself to these kings, I have given them to him to make the most of them. But if he means to argue from particulars to generals, and to make the old prophet extend his protest against all monarchical governments, such as were to subsist some thousands of years afterwards, however limited and mixed, particularly that of Great-Britain (which must certainly be our author's meaning, or he proves nothing to his purpose) I say, if this be his meaning, I cannot so easily part with him. For in this lies our whole difference; and the particular case of the Jews cannot be applied to any other nation, in this instance, as none else was ever in similar circumstances.

ACHERLEY, in his Britannic constitutions (and I think our author borrows some of his principles where they can serve his purpose) says expressly—"That the nation round about Israel velted their kings with absolute power—and that it is a wild imagination to say that the Israelitish kings, who were but copies (of these kings) should either in their election or power, be a pattern to Great-Britain."—"There cannot be found, either in the old or new Testament, any particular description of the race of men which are or ever were kings of this nation." How then can there be a Scripture protest against a race of men who are not even described in Scripture? Mark † that common sense.

Let me add one authority more, from a commentator at least as good as our author, and who, nevertheless, flatly contradicts him—I mean the celebrated GROTIUS. He tells us, that Samuel, in this passage, does not speak of what our author calls the "general manner of kings," or the just and honest right of a king to do such things, because his right is otherwise described elsewhere, as shall be shewn. The prophet only speaks of such a right as the kings round about Israel had acquired, which was not a true right; for such is not the signification of the original word mishpat, but such an action as (being founded in might and violence) hath the effectum juris, or comes in the place of right.

Grotius, I fear, is too learned for us inferior writers (scriptores minorum gentium) to follow him in this place. He is, however, well warranted in his interpretation, not only by the Hebrew text, but other clear passages of scripture, and particularly the 17th chapter of Deuteronomy; where, with the approbation of Heaven, the duty of a good king is described and limited. The Jews commonly understood this chapter as containing an absolute promise from heaven, of a royal government, and a sufficient authority for this request made to Samuel more than three hundred years afterwards. Others understood it conditionally—that if they did reject their divine government, and set up one of their own appointment, God would permit them; but their king should be chosen in the manner, and with the qualifications in that chapter described. All this, however, they disregarded, when they asked an arbitrary king like those of their neighbouring nations; and therefore it is demonstrably certain that Samuel, in entering his protest against such kings, did not protest against kings or monarchical governments generally. Either this remark is true, or one part of the scripture is a direct contradiction to the other. But let the passage to which I refer speak for itself.

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee—and shalt say I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose; one from among thy brethren, not a stranger, &c. It is further directed that he shall not be given to covetousness—nor multiply horses nor wives to himself—nor greatly multiply to himself gold and silver—That when he shall sit upon the throne of his kingdom, he shall write a copy of the law in a book (which it was understood he was to do with his own hand)—That this book shall be with him (or always carried about him) and he shall read therein all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep the words of the law, and make it the rule of his government, as well as private life. If he does this, God promises a blessing on his government, to prolong his days in his kingdom; HE AND HIS CHILDREN in the midst of Israel.

Does not this smell strong of monarchy, and even of hereditary monarchy? Is not some sort of approbation, yea and a blessing, promised to both, when religiously administered, notwithstanding all that this writer has said to the contrary?

(The remainder will be in our next.)

L O N D O N, January 9.

The prisoners brought from America, and now in Cornwall, were taken by a small party of Indians inhabiting the back settlements of New-York; two of their chiefs are now in town, and lodge in Lad-lane, with several other American gentlemen lately come

† "Mark that, Caro" is a favourite expression of our author, in the character of the Forester.

over with col. ... the chief ... with an offer of their services to government.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Jan. 6.

This morning arrived the Tartar man of war from Boston, after a fine passage of twenty one days, having on board seventy-five rebels of the American army, which were taken in a privateer the Americans had fitted out at Boston. She brought some fresh dispatches, which were sent up to the secretary of state's office on Saturday night."

A commodore with six line of battle ships and eight frigates, will sail, we are told, to America the beginning of March next; the above ships are to take on board their full complement of marines, and are to be laden as deep as possible with provisions, &c.

The council, it is said, is much agitated with contrary opinions since general Burgoyne's arrival from Boston; some, we are told, are for conciliatory measures.

By a letter from Rochfort, we are assured thirteen frigates are fitting out at that port only, for the American settlements, each of which is to carry over land forces.

Press warrants are expected to be issued out soon, as the captains of all the outward bound ships have been very solicitous to procure protections.

Orders have been sent to Plymouth for all the guard-ships there to take on board their full complement of men, as in time of war.

Orders have been sent to all the out-ports, to be very cautious, and strict in examining all persons and vessels, &c. that may be judged the least suspicious.

Orders are given for a quantity of beef and pork, sufficient for ten ships of the line for six months, to be got ready as soon as possible.

We hear from Dublin, that the discontents of the people have been lately considerably increased by the appointments given to Mr. Jenkinson, Welbore Ellis and lord Clare, whom the Irish hold in a very contemptible light; the coffee-houses in Dublin abound with the most virulent abuse against these ministerial favourites, for attempting to get an increase of salary annexed to offices, which are mere sinecures and a burden to the nation; nay the Irish gentlemen in the interest of the crown, think themselves ill used by having such appointments bestowed on Jenkinson and Ellis, who are strangers to the country, and consequently no ways interested in its prosperity, farther than it may answer the particular views of their patron.

A compact is lately signed between our court and that of three northern powers, by which they have stipulated to furnish Great-Britain between them with 60,000 troops, the better to enable the latter to carry on the continental war.

Several transports are brought up to the tower in order to take in cannon, balls, and other warlike stores, for Boston; which transports are to be conveyed by six men of war, to prevent their being taken by the provincials.

A small vessel will be dispatched to America this week, with orders for all the transports that have delivered their cargoes at Boston, &c. to leave that place immediately, and return to England with all expedition.

Monday a brig from Quebec arrived at Portsmouth. She brings an account of the provincials having taken Montreal.

Some distinguished members of the minority have, it is confidently said, been offered to have their names inserted in the commission appointing delegates to pardon the American colonies, which several of them have accepted.

B O S T O N, March 29.

The address of the hon. council and house of representatives, to his excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; general and commander in chief of the forces of the united colonies.

May it please your excellency,

WHEN the liberties of America were attacked by the violent hand of oppression—when troops hostile to the rights of humanity, invaded this colony, seized our capital, and spread havoc and destruction around it—when our virtuous sons were murdered, and our houses destroyed by the troops of Britain—the inhabitants of this, and the other American colonies, impelled by self preservation and the love of freedom, forgetting their domestic concerns, determined resolutely and unitedly to oppose the sons of tyranny.

Convinced of the vast importance of having a gentleman of great military accomplishments, to discipline, lead and conduct the forces of the colonies, it gave us the greatest satisfaction to hear that the honourable congress of the united colonies, had made choice of a gentleman thus qualified, who leaving the pleasures of domestic and rural life, was ready to undertake the arduous task. And your nobly declining to accept the pecuniary emoluments annexed to this high office, fully evidenced to us that a warm regard to the sacred rights of humanity, and sincere love to your country, solely influenced you in the acceptance of this important trust.

From your acknowledged abilities as a soldier, and your virtues in public and private life, we had the most pleasing hopes; but the fortitude and equanimity so conspicuous in your conduct; the wisdom of your councils; the mild, yet strict government of the army; your attention to the civil constitution of this colony; the regard you have at all times shewn for the lives and health of those under your command; the fatigues you have with cheerfulness endured; the regard you have shewn for the preservation of our metropolis, and the great address with which our military operations have been conducted, have exceeded our most sanguine expectations, and demand the warmest returns of gratitude.

The supreme ruler of the universe having smiled on our arms, and crowned your labours with remarkable success; we are now, without that effusion of blood, we so much wished to avoid, again in the quiet possession of our capital; the wisdom and prudence of those movements, which have obliged the enemy to abandon our metropolis, will ever be remembered by the inhabitants of this colony.

May you still go on approved by heaven, revered by all good men, and dreaded by those tyrants who claim their fellow men as their property. May the united colonies be defended from slavery by your victorious arms. May they still see their enemies flying before you; and (the deliverance of your country being effected) may you, in retirement, enjoy that peace and satisfaction of mind, which always attends the good and

joyment of that freedom, the exercise of which your sword shall have established, raise the richest and most lasting monuments to the name of WASHINGTON.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I return you my most sincere and hearty thanks, for your polite address; and feel myself called upon by every principle of gratitude, to acknowledge the honour you have done me in this testimonial of your approbation of my appointment to the exalted station I now fill; and what is more pleasing, of my conduct in discharging its important duties.

When the councils of the British nation had formed a plan for enslaving America, and depriving her sons of their most sacred and invaluable privileges, against the clearest remonstrances of the constitution—of justice and of truth; and to execute their schemes, had appealed to the sword, I esteemed it my duty to take a part in the contest, and more especially, when called thereto by the unolicited suffrages of the representatives of a free people; wishing for no other reward, than that arising from a conscientious discharge of the important trust, and that my services might contribute to the establishment of freedom and peace, upon a permanent foundation, and merit the applause of my countrymen, and every virtuous citizen.

Your professions of my attention to the civil constitution of this colony, whilst acting in the line of my department, also demand my grateful thanks. A regard to every provincial institution, where not incompatible with the common interest, I hold a principal part of duty and policy, and shall ever form a part of my conduct. Had I not learnt this before, the happy experience of the advantages resulting from a friendly intercourse with your honourable body, their ready and willing concurrence to aid and to counsel whenever called upon in cases of difficulty and emergency, would have taught me the useful lesson.

That the metropolis of your colony is now relieved from the cruel and oppressive invasion of those who were sent to erect the standard of lawless domination, and to trample on the rights of humanity, and is again open and free for its rightful possessors, must give pleasure to every virtuous and sympathetic heart, and being effected without the blood of our soldiers and fellow citizens, must be ascribed to the interposition of that providence, which has manifestly appeared in our behalf through the whole of this important struggle, as well as to the measures pursued for bringing about the happy event.

May that being who is powerful to save, and in whose hands is the fate of nations, look down with an eye of tender pity and compassion, upon the whole of the united colonies; may he continue to smile upon their councils and arms, and crown them with success, whilst employed in the cause of virtue and of mankind. May this distressed colony and its capital, and every part of this wide extended continent, through his divine favour, be restored to more than their former lustre and once happy state, and have peace, liberty and safety secured upon a solid, permanent, and lasting foundation.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

W A T E R T O W N, April 8.

Last Wednesday capt. Manly took and sent into Beverly, a large brig, after some resistance. This vessel was purchased by William Jackson, at the Brazen head, who with Crean Brush, and a number of others women and children, were on board, besides a sergeant and 12 privates, of the 4th or king's own regiment, who are made prisoners. She was bound for Halifax, and has on board a variety of articles; she is estimated to be worth about 35,000 sterling.

Since our last the select men of the town of Boston, waited upon his excellency gen. WASHINGTON with the following address, viz.

May it please your excellency,

THE select men of Boston, in behalf of themselves and fellow citizens, with all grateful respect, congratulate your excellency on the success of your military operations, in the recovery of this town from an enemy, collected from the once respected Britons, who, in this instance, are characterized by malice and fraud, rapine and plunder, in every trace left behind them.

Happy are we, that this acquisition has been made with so little effusion of human blood, which, next to the divine favour, permit us to ascribe to your excellency's wisdom, evidenced in every part of a long beleaguement.

If it be possible to enhance the noble feelings of that person who, from the most affluent enjoyments, could throw himself into the hardships of a camp to save his country, uncertain of success, 'tis then possible this victory will heighten your excellency's happiness, when you consider you have not only saved a large, elegant, and once populous city from destruction; but relieved the few wretched inhabitants from all the horrors of a besieged town, from the insults and abuses of a disgraced and chagrined army, and restored many inhabitants to their quiet habitations, who had fled for safety to the bosom of their country.

May your excellency live to see the just rights of America settled on a firm basis, which felicity we sincerely wish you, and at a late period may that felicity be changed into happiness eternal.

JOHN SCOLLY, }
TIMO NEWELL, } Select
THO. MARSHALL, } men
SAMUEL AUSTIN, } of
OLIVER WENDELL, } BOSTON.
JOHN PITTS. }

To his excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq; general of the united forces in America.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

To the select men and citizens of Boston.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR congratulations, on the success of the American arms gives me the greatest pleasure.

I most sincerely rejoice with you on your being once more in the quiet possession of your former habitations; and what greatly adds to my happiness, that this de-

frable eye human blood I am ex are pleased effort in t ritude with human cal membrance pray that t your reposi dence may of Boston.

Last Frid the moun returned dington's p small tend was light t rished on ers upon th than Alger times, the through ar which capt away the t and made o followed i fired abou least effect, as open as t work or o Yesterda can regula which the fright, a la carried out very thic lying where fore they o laid her ab board 7 me with flour bound from Last we navy on th

N

By a gen on staten are inflan that indm ministerial half receiv tender had safety, an number of muket and appeared t ran for the ship began who were men, with withstandi men, took their boat one of the sing his g fell over-l to the vell some hour who lay fi der, and was seen t whom the were kille board the cable, an the tide, men. A been one his count fox is cau Saturda rived here Eq; his general; his comm morning large qua at New-F he also ca ders bel off Bloc part of t gow of z whom he London night, v culars, We he Nautil Hook th

Extra

"Th pounder longing by a lie ed men Virginia brig ca was con when t killed a April tion, a city an safe; t are to to Jen Given 1776.

...able event has been effected with little effusion of human blood.

I am exceedingly obliged by the good opinion you are pleased to entertain of my conduct. Your virtuous effort in the cause of freedom, and the unparalleled fortitude with which you have sustained the greatest of all human calamities justly entitle you to the grateful remembrance of your American brethren; and I heartily pray that the hand of tyranny may never more disturb your repose; and that every blessing of a kind providence may give happiness and prosperity to the town of Boston.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

PORT, April 3.

Last Friday the ministerial fleet went a little without the mouth of our harbour, and in the evening they all returned and anchored between Gould Island and Cod-dington's point, except the Glasgow of 24 guns, and a small tender, which kept out all night. As soon as it was light the next morning, a party of the troops stationed on this island got down two of their 18 pounders upon the point, and played so well upon those worse than Algerie rovers, that they hulled the Rose 2 or 3 times, the Nautilus once or twice, and sent one shot through and through one of the armed tenders, upon which capt Wallace, of the Rose, sent a boat to cut away the buoy of his anchor, and slipped his cable, and made off as fast as possible, and the rest of his fleet followed in the utmost hurry and confusion, having fired about 15 cannon upon our people without the least effect, though they stood in considerable numbers as open as they could well be, without the least breast-work or other shelter.

Yesterday in the forenoon, as a company of American regulars were getting up the cable and anchor which the Glasgow had a little before left in her great fright, a large prize sloop came in, which Wallace had carried out with him the day before; and it being a very thick air, and she expecting to find the Glasgow lying where she was left, got close in with the boat before they discovered her, when the boat immediately laid her aboard, and brought her in here. She had on board 7 men and one woman. This sloop was loaded with flour, &c. and was, when taken by the pirates, bound from Maryland to Providence.

Last week nine men deserted from the ministerial navy on this station, and brought off three boats.

NEW-YORK, April 15.

By a gentleman who was present yesterday se'night, on Staten Island, about nine miles from this city; we are informed, that the riflemen who were stationed on that island to guard it against the depredations of the ministerial robbers on board the king's ships in the bay, had received intelligence, that the Savage sloop and a tender had come as near the shore as they could with safety, and had sent on shore two of their boats and a number of men, who had placed a sentinel with his musket and colours on an eminence; when our riflemen appeared the sentinel fired, struck his colours, and ran for the boat with all speed; in the mean time the ship began to cover the embarkation of her men, who were all going to their boats, but our brave riflemen, with unparalleled agility, out-ran them, and notwithstanding the fire from the ship, surrounded the men, took ten of them prisoners, and secured one of their boats, the other pushed off and two men in it; one of the riflemen ran after it in the water, but missing his grasp, fired and killed one of the men, who fell over-board, the other by lying on his back rowed to the vessel. The savage kept up a continual fire for some hours, without the least hurt to any of our men, who lay snug behind the rocks, and defied their thunder, and at lucid intervals fired at the ship. One man was seen to tumble off the quarter-deck into the water, whom they took to be an officer. More, it is thought, were killed. In a few hours there was not one man on board the ship appeared on deck: the tender split her cable, and the ship cut hers, and both lay down with the tide, which proved kinder to them than the riflemen. Among the prisoners is one Killigrew, who had been one of our pilots, but was base enough to desert his country's cause, and assist its enemies; however the fox is caught.

Saturday last his excellency general Washington arrived here from Cambridge, attended by — Poltre, Esq; his aid de-camp, Horatio Gates, Esq; adjutant-general, and several other gentlemen of distinction.

Admiral Hopkins, with the continental fleet under his command, arrived at New-London last Saturday morning from a cruise, and brought in with him a large quantity of cannon, mortars, &c. which he took at New-Providence, as also the governor of that island: he also carried in with him a bomb brig and three tenders belonging to capt. Wallace's fleet, which he took off Block Island; and we hear the admiral and some part of the fleet fell in with his majesty's ship the Glasgow of 20 guns, the morning before he arrived, with whom he had a very hot engagement, but as the New-London paper did not come to hand last Saturday night, we have not yet been able to learn the particulars.

We hear his majesty's ships Phenix, Savage and Nautilus now on this station, will fall down to Sandy-Hook this day or to-morrow.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated April 11.

"This morning arrived a sloop mounting six three pounders, and eight or ten swivels, late a tender belonging to the Liverpool man of war, and commanded by a lieutenant Boucher, of said sloop, having 35 picked men on board, who on Saturday last off the capes of Virginia, fell in with capt. Barry of the continental brig called the Lexington. A battle ensued, which was continued desperately for one hour and 20 minutes, when the tender struck. Capt. Barry lost two men killed and had four wounded. The other, one man killed and one wounded."

April 17. Whereas the Asia having quitted her station, and left the harbour, the navigation between this city and New-Jersey, by the kills, is become quite safe; the troops upon Staten-Island and Bergen Neck, are to let all boats come to New-York, or returning to Jersey, to pass and repass without molestation. Given at head-quarters, in New-York, 14th April, 1776.

HORATIO GATES, adjutant-general.

PHILADELPHIA.

IN CONGRESS, April 16, 1776.

Whereas much inconvenience may be derived to the public from committees (other than the committees of safety in each colony) on the public post roads, stopping and opening the mails, and detaining letters from the constitutional post; it is therefore resolved, that no committees, but the council or committee of safety, in each colony, or such person as they shall, on extraordinary occasions, authorise, should stop the constitutional post, open the mail, or detain any letters therefrom.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec.

Extract of a letter from Esck Hopkins, Esq; commander in chief of the American fleet, to the president of the congress, dated on board the ship Alfred, New-London harbour, April 9, 1776.

"When out to sea, on the 17th of February, from Cape-Henlopen, not thinking we were in a condition to keep on a cold coast, I appointed our rendezvous at Abacco, one of the Bahama Islands.

"I arrived at the rendezvous, in order to wait for them fifteen days, agreeable to orders. I then formed an expedition against New-Providence, which I put in execution the third of March, by landing 200 marines under the command of capt. Nicholas, and fifty sailors under the command of lieutenant We-ver, of the Cabot, who was well acquainted there. The same day they took possession of a small fort, of seventeen pieces of cannon, without any opposition, save five guns which were fired at them without doing any damage. I received that evening, an account that they had two hundred and odd men in the main fort, all inhabitants. I then caused a manifesto to be published, the purport of which was, that the inhabitants and their property should be safe, if they did not oppose me in taking possession of the fort and king's stores. This had the desired effect, for the inhabitants left the fort almost alone. Captain Nicholas, by my order, sent to the governor for the keys of the fort, which were delivered, and the troops marched directly in, where we found the several warlike stores agreeable to the inventory inclosed; but the governor sent 150 barrels of powder off in a small sloop the night before. I have taken the governor, Montford Browne, the lieutenant governor, who is a half pay officer, and Mr. Thomas Arwin, who is a counsellor and collector of his majesty's quit-rents in South-Carolina; and it appears, by the Court Calendar, that he is also inspector-general of his majesty's customs of North-America. Since we came out, we have lost company with the Walp.

"The fourth instant we fell in with the east end of Long-Island, and took the schooner —, commanded by young Wallace, of 6 carriage guns and 8 swivels; and the 5th we took the bomb brig of 8 guns and 2 howitzers, 10 swivels and 48 hands, well found with all sorts of stores, arms, powder, &c. The sixth in the morning we fell in with the Glasgow, and her tender, and engaged her near three hours. We lost six men killed, and as many wounded. The Cabot had four men killed and 7 wounded, the captain is among the latter. The Columbus had one man who lost his arm. We received a considerable damage in our ship, but the greatest was in having our wheel rope and blocks shot away, which gave the Glasgow time to make sail, and I did not think proper to follow as it would have brought on an action with the whole of their fleet, and I had upwards of thirty of our best seamen on board the prizes. I therefore thought it most prudent to give over the chase, and secure our prizes, and having taken the Glasgow's tender, arrived the seventh with all the fleet.

"Among the dead are Mr. Sinclair S'mour, master of the Cabot, a good officer; lieut. Wilson, of the Cabot; and lieut. Fitzpatrick, of the Alfred.

"The officers all behaved well on board the Alfred; but too much praise cannot be given to the officers of the Cabot, who gave and sustained the whole fire for some considerable time, within pistol-shot."

INVENTORY of STORES, taken at Fort Montague, March 3, 1776.

- 17 cannon, from 9 to 36 pounders.
1240 round shot.
121 shells.
81 iron trucks for carriages.
22 copper hoops.
2 copper powder measures.
1 worm.
1 ladle.
Some old iron, copper and lead.

STORES taken at Fort Nassau, March 4, 1776.

- 71 cannon, from 9 to 32 pounders.
15 mortars, from 4 to 11 inches diameter, and beds.
5337 shells.
9831 round shot, and 165 chain and double head ditto.
140 hand grenades.
816 fuzes, of false fires.
99 sponges, rammers and worms.
46 copper ladders.
477 copper hoops, and 5 copper powder measures.
220 iron trucks for carriages.
3 bells.
24 casks of powder.
A quantity of match rope, not weighed.
2 double blocks, with brass sheafs.
1 scale-beam, 1 hammer, 3 tanned hides.
2 boxes of tallow candles.
4 barrels of flour, 4 ditto bread, ditto beef.
Part of a cask of spirit, 1 sun-dial, and 1 English flag.

Published by order of congress,

CHARLES THOMPSON, secretary.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the Alfred ship of war, dated New-London harbour, April 10, 1776.

"I doubt not but you have heard of our arrival at this place, and of our engagement with the Glasgow man of war, of which I shall now give you some particulars. On the fourth instant we made the east end of Long-Island, and discovered the Columbus, who had parted from us the night before, to windward, with a schooner of 12 guns (one of capt. Wallace's tenders) which he had taken in the morning. We made Block-Island in the afternoon, when the commodore ordered the brig to stand in for Rhode-Island to see if any more of the fleet were out, and to join us the next morning,

...without seeing any... except a... which capt. Biddle... to the sea, and after her papers were examined... released. At day-light we discovered a brig to leeward, made sail, soon came up with, and after a few shot took her; she proved to be the bomb-brig belonging to Wallace's fleet, mounting 8 guns and 2 howitzers, commanded by one snead, a lieutenant in the navy. We continued to cruise all day within sight of Block-Island, and in the evening took a brig and a sloop from New-York, and brought both into port with us, not being satisfied as to their clearances. At sun-set we were twelve sail in all, and had a very pleasant evening: At half past one I was awaked by the cry of "all hands to quarters."... We were soon ready for action, the main body of my company, with my first lieutenant, being placed in the barge on the main deck, and the remaining part, with my second lieutenant and myself, on the quarter deck. We soon discovered a large ship standing directly for us. The Cabot was foremost in the fleet, our ship close after, not more than 100 yards behind, but to windward withal. When the brig came close up she was hailed by the ship, which we then learned was the Glasgow man of war. The brig immediately fired a broadside, and received a return two-fold, which, owing to the weight of metal, damaged her so much in her hull and rigging, that she was obliged to retire for a while to rest. Our ship then came up (not having it in our power to fire a shot before without hurting the brig) and engaged her side by side for three glasses, as hot as it could possibly be on both sides.

The first broadside she fired, my 2d lieutenant fell dead by my side, having a musket-ball through his head. In him I have lost a worthy officer, a sincere friend, and a companion that was beloved by all the ship's company. Unfortunately for us, our tiller-rope and main-brace were shot away soon after the fight began, which made the ship broach to, and gave the enemy an opportunity of raking fore and aft. The engagement continued until day-light, at which time she crowded all the sail she could, and stood in for New-Port: our rigging was so much hurt, that we could not make sail time enough to come up with her again. At sunrise the commodore made the signal to leave off chasing, he not thinking it prudent to risk the prizes near the land, lest the whole fleet should come out of the harbour. The Glasgow continued firing signal-guns the whole day after. I lost three of my people out of 12 that were on the quarter-deck, and two others who were in the barge were slightly wounded. Capt. Hopkins, of the Cabot, is wounded, his master killed, and the 2d lieutenant of marines is since dead of his wounds. Upon the whole, it was a very hot engagement, in which our ship and the brig were much damaged; but we have this consolation, that the enemy suffered full as much—for, by several expresses from Rhode-Island, we are assured that it was with much difficulty she got into port, with both pumps going."

The following proclamation was issued previous to the evacuation of Boston by the ministerial troops:

By his excellency WILLIAM HOWE, major general &c. &c. &c.

AS linen and woollen goods are articles much wanted by the rebels, and would aid and assist them in their rebellion, the commander in chief expects that all good subjects will use their utmost endeavours to have all such articles conveyed from this place. Any who have not opportunity to convey their goods under their own care, may deliver them on board the Minerva, at Hubbard's wharf, to Crean Brush, Esq; marked with their names, who will give a certificate of the delivery, and will oblige himself to return them to the owners, all unavoidable accidents excepted. If, after this notice, any person secretes or keeps in his possession such articles, he will be treated as a favourer of the rebels.

Boston, March 10, 1776.

NEW-BERN, March 29.

A brig belonging to New-York, with wines from Lisbon, got into St. Eustatia the 11th instant. The master says a requisition was daily expected to be made by the court of Great-Britain for the delivery of all American vessels in the port, which would undoubtedly be complied with. In Martinique and Guadaloupe there are at this time about 8000 troops, not long since arrived from France, who are industriously employed in repairing their old fortifications, and erecting new ones, particularly on the heights that command the plain through which the British troops passed to the back of Fort-Royal when they reduced that place.

The French appear exceedingly friendly to the American cause, which they would have promoted by a much larger supply of arms and ammunition than they have hitherto imported, had they not been doubtful of the Americans submission to the claims of parliament, and of course a discontinuance of the demand for warlike stores, which in that case would remain in the hands of the importers.

A privateer sloop of 10 guns, and a fine brig of 16, were fitted out, the first in Martinique, the second in St. Eustatia, and sent to America; and it is not to be doubted but that any continental armed vessels that might cruise in those seas would be admitted into the French ports and protected while there.

ANNAPOLIS, April 22.

IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

RESOLVED, That there be a CONVENTION of the DELEGATES of this province held at the city of Annapolis, on Tuesday the 7th of May next.

By order,

G. DUVALL, clerk

The following are copies of the intercepted letters from lord George Germain, to his excellency Robert Eden, Esq; governor of Maryland.

Nº I.

Whitehall, 22d Dec. 1775.

To Robert Eden, Esq; deputy governor of Maryland.

SIR,

IT was not till the 27th of November that your dispatch to lord Dartmouth, of the 27th of August, was received here, when I had the honour of laying it be-

fore the king; and I have it in command from his majesty to express to you his majesty's approbation of your zeal for the public service, and of the unalterable attachment you have shewn to his person and government, from the first commencement of the present unhappy disputes, which have involved his majesty's faithful servants in the colonies in difficulties and distress, that are only to be equalled by the fortitude with which they are borne.

Your letter contains a great deal of very useful information, and your confidential communication of the characters of individuals, more especially of such as come over into England, is of great advantage; and you may rest assured that every possible precaution will be used that no part of your letter shall transpire.

An armament, consisting of seven regiments and a fleet of frigates and small ships, is now in readiness to proceed to the southern colonies, in order to attempt the restoration of legal government in that part of America. It will proceed in the first place to North-Carolina, and from thence either to South-Carolina or Virginia, as circumstances of greater or less advantage shall point out;—if to the latter, it may have very important consequences to the colony under your government; and therefore you will do well to consider of every means by which you may, in conjunction with lord Dunmore, give facility and assistance to its operations.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
GEO. GERMAIN.

Nº II.

CIRCULAR. Whitehall, 23d December, 1775.
To Robert Eden, Esq; deputy governor of Maryland.

SIR,
THE king being determined, in concurrence with his parliament, to pursue the most vigorous measures for reducing his rebellious subjects in North-America to obedience, and for restoring legal government, has given the royal assent to the inclosed act, which I am commanded by his majesty to transmit to you, and at the same time to signify to you his majesty's pleasure, that you do exhort all persons, upon whom the execution of this law shall depend, to pay a due attention thereto, and to use their best endeavours for carrying the provisions of it into effect; and I trust that when his majesty's deluded subjects in the associated colonies are better apprized of the fatal consequence of the conduct they have adopted, and see the determined spirit of the nation to maintain its constitutional rights, they will avail themselves of the means which the justice and benevolence of the supreme legislature have held out to them, of being restored to the king's grace and peace, and that a happy and lasting reconciliation and union will be effected. And I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that, in order to accelerate this desirable object, the proper steps have been taken for passing a commission under the great seal, in conformity to the last section but one of that act, and that the commissioner or commissioners to be appointed for that purpose will have full power to enquire into the state and condition of the colonies, and to confer with proper persons upon such points as may be necessary for effecting a restoration of the public tranquillity.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
GEO. GERMAIN.

To be sold by public vendue, for ready money, at Mr. Whetcroft's, in West-street, Annapolis, on Monday, May 6, 1776.

A VARIETY of merchandize, consisting principally of the following articles: figured fatten, Wilton, macaroni stuff, black mode, figured stuff, black figured everlasting, green callimanco, red napt cloth, great variety of silk ribbon, blue callimanco, brown durants, shalloon of different colours, twist and mohair, and a bag of human hair.
N. B. The sale to begin at 11 o'clock, a m.

The beautiful full-blooded hunter,
B A Y B O L T O N,
Full 16 hands high and well formed, a dark bay, eight years old,

STANDS on Constitution-hill, near Piscataway, and will cover mares this season at two guineas, or forty shillings the leap, if paid when the mare is taken away, or four pounds credit till the first of April 1777, and if not paid in that time to pay interest from the date. I have very fine pasture for mares, and will have great care taken of them, but will not be answerable in case of loss.

EDWARD EDELEN.
I think it needless to describe him as he is generally known; he stood last season at col. John Carlyle's plantation in Virginia. 10. 7/16 w3

S P R I G H T L Y
To be let to mares the ensuing season, at School-field, Prince-George's county.

THE high bred English horse, SPRIGHTLY, full fifteen hands high, rising seven years old, is of a beautiful dark chestnut colour; was got by Wildman's Babram, his dam by Rogers's Babram, his grandam by Sedbury out of lord Portmore's Ebony; is well suited to breed for either the saddle or turf, being remarkably light, and quick in his movements, free from any blemish or incumbrance of gum, and is imagined equal to any horse on the continent, four mile heats at nine stone. He will be let at six dollars, for the season, and half a crown to the groom, and as at so low a rate the cast will be expected before the horse is led out. Good pasture for mares to be had at half a crown a week, or at half a dollar, with proper feeding; and mares above 15 miles distance two weeks gratis.

D. Hamilton

April 16, 1776.
To be sold at public vendue, by the subscriber, on Thursday the 16th day of May next, on the premises, for sterling or current money, at the general exchange,

PART of a tract of land called Duvall's range, conveyed to the subscriber for 276 acres more or less, situate in Anne-Arundel county, on the east side of the north branch of Patuxent river. On this land are two tenements, with plenty of good board, shingle and rail timber; forty acres of good meadow may be made on the said land, with very little trouble; the tenements are in good repair and produce very fine tobacco and Indian corn. Twelve months credit will be given the purchaser, on giving bond on interest with security if required. The land may be viewed any time before the day of sale, by applying to the subscriber.

DAVID STEUART, son of DAVID.

THE noted half blooded horse, Frederick Jones, full fifteen and a half hands high, a fine dapple gray, eight years old, strong, active and boney, stands at Notley-hall, Prince-George's county, and will cover at thirty shillings the season. Good Pasturage for mares gratis. 2 3w

Bladensburg, April 10, 1776.
RAN away last night from the subscriber, an indentured servant named John Teasdale, an English man, about twenty-two years of age, five feet six or seven inches high, well set, of a fair complexion and good countenance, wears his own short strait hair of a dark brown colour, and is by trade a cooper: he had on a blue searought sailor's top jacket about half worn, a waistcoat of London brown cloth, and ragged breeches of strong superfine dark drab cloth, a check shirt, and an old small brim'd dirty felt hat bound round the edging with white canvas. Whoever secures said servant and brings him to me shall receive forty shillings reward and all reasonable charges

W3 2 WILLIAM SYDEBOTHAM.

April 15, 1776.
ALL persons indebted to George Matthews, late of Kingsbury furnace in Baltimore county, deceased, are desired to make immediate payment, to enable us to execute his will, and all those who have claims against him are desired to exhibit them properly authenticated, to

T. RUSSELL and JAMES SMITH, } ex-cutors. w8 2

THERE is at the plantation of Isaac Simmons, near Herring-bay, in Anne-Arundel county, taken up as a stray, a dark bay horse, near fifteen hands high, a star in his forehead, has many white spots on his back, suppled to be hurt with a saddle, a bit of his right ear cut off, his mane hangs on the wrong side, his off hind foot white, shoes on about half worn, branded but cannot make it out. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges. 2 X w2

Harford county, March 21, 1776.
TAKEN up as a stray, a bright bay mare, about nine years old, thirteen hands and a half high, no brand appears, paces and trots, short dock. Any person proving property and paying charges may have her again.

JOHN PACA. 2 X

April 10, 1776.
C A R E L E S S.
STANDS the ensuing season at Strawberry-hill, within one mile of Annapolis, and will cover mares at six dollars the season, if pastured; four dollars, if not pastured; or two dollars, the single leap. CARELESS is a fine bay, rising five years, upwards of fourteen hands two inches, and was got by col. Baylor's Fearnought; his dam by Dove, his grand-dam by Othello, his great-grand-dam by old Spark, out of the high bred mare Queen Mab, who was the dam of col. Hopper's Pacolet. Good grass for mares. Indian corn will be taken in payment at 2 s. 6 d. per bushel, delivered at Strawberry-hill before the first of July, by

THOMAS WILLIAMSON. P. S. I will be answerable for no mares that may get away.

Bladensburg, April 1, 1776.
I HAVE for disposal, on very reasonable terms, a servant man, who has about three years to serve. He was bred a cuder, is an ingenious fellow in his business, and can do any country blacksmith's work. He might be very useful to any person in the gun or locksmith business.

JAMES HOGGAN. w3 3 X

SIX DOLLARS REWARD.
STRAYED away from the widow M'Donall's, between Baltimore and Annapolis, on Thursday night the 13th of March, out of the fodder house, a bay horse, about 14 hands and an half high, paces, trots, and gallops, marked CS on his left shoulder. Whoever takes up said horse, and brings him to capt. Samuel Maynard's at Herring-Creek, or to William Hayes, Fell's Point, Baltimore, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges paid if brought home.

4

JEREMIAH SATCHWELL, in West-street, Annapolis, to the military gentlemen.

As the use of arms is become absolutely necessary for the preservation of American liberty, this is to inform the above gentlemen, that he makes all sorts of silver and fine metal sword hilts; likewise cleans and repairs the same. Those gentlemen who please to favour him with their custom, may depend on having their work done with the greatest punctuality and at the most reasonable rate, which he hopes will give satisfaction to the public in general, having served a regular apprenticeship to the said branches in London.

N. B. All sorts of silversmith work done also.

Patuxent Iron Works, February 6, 1776.
BEING desirous of settling the estate of our father, RICHARD SNOWDEN, late of Patuxent Iron Works, deceased, we request all such as are indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, as no longer indulgence will be given them. Also all persons who are indebted to the Patuxent Iron-Works Company, of more than twelve months standing, are requested to come immediately and make payment; and those who have it not in their power to make immediate payment, it is expected they will come and settle their accounts by note or bond. If the above requests are not complied with, we shall take such methods as will compel a settlement, without respect to persons, although it will be disagreeable to

SAMUEL and JOHN SNOWDEN.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office,
P R O C E E D I N G S
O F T H E
C O N V E N T I O N
O F T H E
P R O V I N C E O F M A R Y L A N D,
Held at the City of Annapolis, on Thursday the 7th of December, 1775.

P R E R O G A T I V E O F F I C E,
March 13, 1776.

WHEREAS the records of the commissary's office are removed to Upper Marlborough, by the direction of the Council of Safety for the province of Maryland, I am directed to give this public notice, that the common business of that office will from henceforth be transacted at that place.

And as the commissary's courts are by law appointed to be held at the city of Annapolis, where the same must indispensably be continued, the commissary general, anxious to relieve as far as in his power the difficulties arising to the people, from the removal of the records to such distance from the city, hath resolved to attend at both places in every week, which will be on the second Tuesdays of July, September, and November; and to that end, will hold his court every second Tuesday in said months at the city of Annapolis, for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Eastern-shore, and others whom it may bet suit. And he will from thence proceed on the Thursday to Upper Marlborough, there to sit during the remainder of the week for the dispatch of public business.

I also give notice, that for the greater ease and convenience of the inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, who may have business with me as deputy commissary of that county, I shall give attendance every Tuesday at the house of Mr. Cornelius Garretson in the city of Annapolis for that purpose.

ELIE VALLETTE, register.

Wanted immediately, delivered at the contractor's store in Annapolis,

A QUANTITY of potatoes, parsneps, carrots, beans, cockstone beans, or any kind of Indian peas, for which will be given the highest prices, by ISAAC M'HARD, for Mr. ROBERT CUMMINS.

Annapolis, March 26, 1776.
RAN away from the subscriber, an indentured servant lad, named Edward Burford, born in Hampshire, about five feet two inches high, fair complexion and brown hair: had with him two cloth coats, one a London brown, the other of coarse light coloured cloth with waistcoat of the same, much worn, good buckskin breeches, ribbd worsted stockings and English made shoes. He is very fond of liquor, and can give no better reason for his elopement, than that he often merited chastisement and never received it. He was seen at Mr. Jacob Sampson's in Prince-George's county, pretending leave to visit a ship-mate. Should he be taken 100 miles from home I will give 40 shillings reward on his return.

J. CLAPHAM.

ABRAHAM CLAUDE,
WATCHMAKER, JEWELLER, and SILVERSMITH,
Opposite Mrs. Johnson's tavern, ANNAPOLIS.

BEGS leave to acquaint the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he still continues to carry on the above said trades in all their various branches, and at the most reasonable rates; also that he cleans and repairs all sorts of fire-arms, fowling swords, hangers, and cutlaff's. He also makes hangers for swords in the neatest and most approved manner. N. B. He has several grots of hoot-aw's and will dispose of cheap.