

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1781.

Number III.

Mr. COLLINS,

IN my last I have endeavoured to shew the dangerous want of sufficient power in Congress.—Perhaps some of my readers will be somewhat surprized at my pleading for giving more power to a body, whose proceedings I had before shewn to have been exceptionable in several respects. But let my readers reflect upon the hint in 5th particular under the subject of mis-rule of government, No. III, and they will find my sentiment then the same. Tho' I fear there have been some bad members in that honourable assembly, yet I doubt not but there have been full as bad, if not worse, in the legislature. If so, ought therefore neither to have sufficient power for the purposes of their appointment? And I am satisfied, that many defaults of government are either ascribed to Congress, where Legislatures were to be blamed; or that the want of proper power in Congress has been the true cause. And I really and sincerely fear, if this evil in the constitution of the government of this empire is not redressed, we will still more repent it. Every republick, particularly an extensive one, must sink under the burthen of its own weight, except the distant powers are sufficiently collected to support it. The contracted republick of Holland could not have supported itself had it not been for their solemn confederation; on which the powers of their States General depend. In consequence of which I remember to have read, that at one time, the province of Utrecht refusing to bring up their quota of money for the support of the common cause, the States General ordered their army into that province and forced a compliance. Which, however disagreeable, appears, in case of unreasonable obstinacy, absolutely necessary for the preservation of the whole. And there seems the same reasons, and no more danger, for the different states to submit such general powers to Congress, than there is for the different counties to submit theirs to the Legislature of the state. These matters I suggest from a mere concern for the well being of my country. I have not the least concern or correspondence with any member in Congress; and my circumstances in life are such that I have not the least distant prospect of ever becoming one of its members. My country's welfare is my darling object.—To the former two capital remedies I add,

3. That government enact laws, and execute them with spirit, for curbing the pernicious effects of malicious machinations against the states, and the preservation of good order, and the property of the subjects. This is the very life and source of vigour to civil society in a time of danger; and the reverse unavoidably leads into decay. All nations in all ages afford demonstrative evidences in support of this observation.—If our laws are insufficient for these salutary purposes, my knowledge is not sufficient to point out the defects. But the executive powers will be pleased to pardon me, if I make bold to offer some remarks on matters of their department.

As to courts of justice, the general clamours of their supposed neglect affords me pain. I wish there may be no foundation for the general rumour, That when culprits, guilty of the most heinous crimes against the state, are apprehended, they generally *escape, or trial, or punishment* after trial. If these assertions are true, they are undoubtedly alarming to the community. For the very end and purpose for which the subjects have yielded many of their inherent rights to government, and pledged their allegiance to them, was for the preservation of their peace and property: If therefore government permits individuals to disturb either of them, they betray their trust; become accessory to the crime; and by receiving their pay for a principal business neglected, rob the publick. These generals, applied to particulars, shew, that if a culprit escapes before trial, government is answerable for it to the community. The publick is at the expense of prisons, and what belongs to safe keeping of prisoners; but the safe keeping itself is committed to the respective government departments, and therefore the community has a right to demand justice, and not permit themselves to be parried off with trifling excuses. Under these may lurk abandoned villainy. If a culprit is tried, and the penalties of the laws not adjudged or executed according to the crimes or guilt, which lay within the power of the court to know, this constitutes a greater misdemeanor. If a court should be inclined to favour a prisoner at the bar, they may easily omit some responsible evidences, or so manage them as to prevent the jurors' verdict against him, though guilty. I do not lay this to the charge of any

court proceedings among us; I declare to have no sufficient reasons for such charge, but I hint it as a warning. The suspicions of many in the community are awake to criminal proceedings; as to their true causes I am not competent to judge. If there should be any real foundation for such murmurs, God forbid it should proceed from bribes: I rather would suppose they would have proceeded from a notion, that punishing one or two leaders in a gang as a terror to the rest, is sufficient. But it is evident, that this belongs to the legislature to judge of, not the court. That must take the law as it is, and by all due and proper means execute it, without any pretence to judge of its right or wrong. For in such case the execution of every law might be suspended; because the court might judge it improper. What then would become of the state? I clearly conceive that any judge, proceeding upon such principles, deserves to be removed from his office. Moreover, I think *such a notion is evidently wrong*. For view this in another case—Soldiers enlist in the army, being encouraged by their bounty, pay, and rations; they know they enter upon danger; if they knew their officers, who lead them on, would only be aimed at, they would think their danger less: But if every soldier expected inevitable death if he was to be led against the enemy, who would be got to enlist? Just so with such gang. Their object is enticing, and are encouraged by a *perhaps* they may escape; and if they are apprehended, every one hopes he will be among the number that will escape punishment. But if every one apprehended, guilty of a capital crime, was duly punished, and none escaped; who would be encouraged to venture?—Therefore, may our courts of justice, in this critical day, be impartially engaged to prosecute offenders according to the laws of their country! And, my fellow-citizens, be cautious, and not believe ungrounded surmises, or propagate them to the prejudice of an institution so necessary and useful to civil society. If friends to their country find reasons for suspicion, let them investigate the matter, and prosecute it to effect. Your own representatives are bound to redress your grievances.

As to courts-martial, it is obvious how much the peace and safety of both army and nation, in time of war, depend upon the due and impartial execution of those laws. The depravity of human nature, influenced by selfish principles and views, expose the gentlemen, to whom the execution of these laws is committed, to the danger of partiality in the abuse of their power, or neglect of their duty. A possession of power, particularly in those unaccustomed to it, too generally creates a haughty, domineering disposition, which is a strong temptation to overlook the rights of non-commissioned individuals; and where-ever such a disposition obtains sway in free popular states, pernicious consequences to the publick mult ensue. Another danger is, when officers are impeached by the community, or non-commissioned citizens; those who are to judge are evidently exposed to the hazard of prejudice in favour of their commissions: And from this hazard proceeds the general jealousy, respecting such judicial proceedings, in the community, both with respect to the army and the military affairs of the militia. And therefore it is of the highest importance to the peace and confidence of the citizens at large, that all such trials are conducted with all possible and demonstrative evidences of ingenuous impartiality. If culprits are permitted to escape just punishment, it evidently encourages pernicious practices in every military department, and creates suspicions of all such proceedings; to that the characters of truly innocents, acquitted from false aspersions by courts suspected of partiality, often suffer in the esteem of their country. Hence is evident, that the strict and impartial execution of justice in these courts is of great importance, as well for the due preservation of the characters connected with them, as for the good of society. Where is a friend to his country, whose feelings are not wounded, when he reflects that Benedict Arnold had been impeached, and *honourably* acquitted by a court-martial; and now, after his attested treason, to hear it generally allowed that the charges then alleged against him were true? To observe a Director-General honourably acquitted, and that acquittal inveighed against with many plausible reasons, as procured by unfair and partial proceedings? To see a militia General publicly defend a field officer suspected of misconduct, whom general report assert to have then not acted under his immediate cognizance, and previous to any trial. Must not any subsequent court, appointed under the direction of that General for the trial of such an officer, become liable to suspicions? I need not shew how exceeding pernicious such suspicions are to us, particularly in our present circumstances.

4. Another capital remedy is, *Let our legislature be truly and zealously engaged to investigate and redress every grievance of the people.* I say, *let the legislature do this*, because they are the representatives of the people; the source of our civil and military powers: And therefore such as neglect or abuse them are responsible to those who have entrusted them with these powers; and to those alone have the people to apply for redress. The Parliaments of England, while no minions of the crown, have at all times proved the bulwarks, in that nation, against the corruptions of the court. And in our states they are entrusted with these powers, for those valuable purposes. Hence a redress of grievances is one important branch of their business. And I feel confident, if our legislature was to take up ten or twelve weeks in inquiring into the causes of the present murmurs and complaints, and redressing them, they would do their constituents infinitely more service than in passing a number of laws. Let them begin in their own body, and make the neglect and misconduct of former legislatures lessons for amendment to themselves.—Let them proceed to Congress, and examine what evils have proceeded from a defect of the national constitution; what from the mismanagement in Congress; what from the officers of Congress. Whether the expenditures of publick monies have been properly accounted for; if not, what the reasons are? Whether proper ways and means are provided to bring publick defaulters to condign punishment?—Whether proper supplies for the army are contracted for, both at home and abroad; if not, what the causes may be? Whether there is any ground for the surmises, that a quantity of clothing for the army has been purchased in France above a year ago, for the payment of which bills have been drawn, which still remains there, and our army suffering, while continental vessels have returned from thence, perhaps loaded with private property? If such surmises are not true, the publick should be undeceived. If true, it is an insufferable grievance; which, if patiently bore, and no way to redress or punish the authors, argues our nation to be in a most wretched condition. Let them return to the different departments of their own internal government; not wait for complaints; the general murmurs and discontents of the people are sufficient. The most honest and disinterested part of the community are unacquainted with the mode of such impeachments; they have been baffled and disappointed in their attempts, and sit down, discouraged and discontented. Some of the more knowing are coadjutors to the grievances; or fellow officers, who do not choose to expose the guilty of their class and rank. Such are the natural effects of their respective causes. The constitution has drawn the power of the people at large to a point, and they have entrusted it to their representatives to prevent or redress such evils. If these neglect the exercise of those powers, they become certainly responsible for all the evils which thence accrue to the community; evils which never fail to prove a cancer to the body politick.—Let me therefore beseech and conjure our legislatures, by every tie of love and regard for the welfare of our country, to examine their powers and duty for the redress of our grievances. Fear not the trouble, nor the expense; I am confident the salutary effects will reward them an hundred fold. Do they discover general discontents respecting the proceedings of their courts, let them inquire in a more private manner what are the reasons? If they discover well founded reasons of suspicion, I humbly conceive it to be their duty to cite such officers before them, and sincerely endeavour to find out what evidences might have been procured, and neglected; how the evidences given in the case have been managed; and where-ever they discover culpable partiality, let such officers, whether civil or military, be broke with infamy, without respect to persons or characters. Let them not only thus guard against the abuse of power, but also against the neglect of its exercise. Judges, justices, or officers in the militia, who wilfully neglect the execution of the laws in their respective departments, may a justly and ought as well to be broke as the others:—For what do the best of laws avail, if not put in execution? Would our legislatures once make trial of this recommended remedy, I am confident the renewed vigour, spirit and life of our civil society would soon convince us of its salutary effects.

I hope my country will indulge me with the liberty I take in my remarks, while I assure them they proceed from a love to its welfare.

So I am,

S I R,

Your's,

And my fellow-citizens, &c.

A TRUE PATRIOT.

THE genius of Great-Britain is, without parallel, fertile in—blunders. Had the despicable dunces who held her helm, the sense to avoid present, from the experience of former absurdities, they would never have dreamt of the reduction of Charlestown.—Whether they will believe it or not, they will find, in the result, that such victories only accelerate their ruin. The desolation of the country in its vicinity, is indeed the present consequence to us: And so far as bare destruction without any real benefit to the destroyer can gratify savage minds, those savage ravagers are doubtless gratified. In human misery they chiefly delight; and *curst be their anger for it is fierce, and their wrath for it is cruel.* But what advantage have they reaped? What advantage do they expect to reap from the reduction of the capital of South-Carolina? Will it enable them to reduce to the power of their merciless sovereign the territory of that state? Groundless hope! Fatal delusion! They cannot penetrate into the country without being driven back to their intrenchments with great slaughter. They add thousands of soldiers to the strength of the United States by rousing to arms the southern peasantry, which had never been called into action against them on this part of the continent. They have converted myriads of Tories into Whigs by an argument which they only can use, and the only argument by which Tories can be converted, the destruction of their property by their good friends and faithful protectors. They have, by the most intolerable cruelties in South-Carolina, compelled us at last to retaliate; and retaliation continued will deprive them in future of the advantages they have hitherto reaped from barbarities unretaliated. They are wasting their troops by marches and countermarches, by desertions, by the sword, and by the unwholeness of the climate; and they are adding millions to their national debt for the sake of exchanging one prison for another, and the pleasure of varying the prospect of *Hudson's* for that of *Ashley* river. And yet the reduction of Charlestown has been blazoned in Europe as an event to them of the most important beneficial consequence; and all the bombast of England has been exhausted in exaggerated and pompous descriptions of this momentous acquisition. If they keep such lying geniuses in pay in Britain as they do in New-York, they ought, I grant, at least to have big words for their money.—But the importance of the acquisition! alas, how long will the world be duped by imposture! Beneficial indeed to individuals, and very important, are such representations. While the war continues they accumulate riches. By a thousand ways which an honest man can never invent, or a rogue will ever discover, these insatiate leeches suck out the very vitals of their devoted nation; a nation industriously kept in constant delusion by magnificent boasts of victories that have never been gained, and of events that may never happen; a nation over which even we might shed a tear, at seeing her obstinately pursuing measures that must infallibly terminate in her deprivation of that importance in the balance of Europe, which, not from affection, (which she has by diabolical and hitherto unheard of cruelties, eternally expunged from our hearts) but for political reasons, we would wish her to preserve, for the common tranquillity of mankind, and our own posterity in future ages. But when totally stripped of her wealth, and drained of her men, her navy reduced, and the marine of her enemies increased, her commerce decayed, and her American dominions for-ever dismembered from her empire, with the world against her for her insufferable insolence, and the Almighty for her outrageous impieties, she calls upon those her deluders who daily flatter her hopes and inflame her insatiation, for the performance of their promise—the conquest of America; how dreadful will be her disappointment! What consolation will she receive from the silly excuse ever on the tip of an Englishman's tongue, when he has played the fool or the knave, *who would have thought it?* What atonement for her perdition in the gibbeting of fifty or an hundred scoundrels?

HORACIUS.

From the New-York Gazette, and the Weekly Mercury, Extraordinary. April 10th.

This morning arrived here the brig *Active*, Capt. Crawford, in 33 days from St. Kitts, by whom we have the following advices, extracted from the St. Christopher Gazette.

BASSETTERRÉ, Feb. 5, 1781.
INTELLIGENCE EXTRAORDINARY.

SATURDAY morning appeared off this island 12 sail of the line, two of them three deckers, several frigates and cutters;—they shewed no colours, and manœuvred in such a manner as made it believed they were the enemy's ships. The 28th regiment then on duty here, were immediately marched for Brimstone Hill, and the militia took charge of the prisoners, amounting to near 600; about 10 o'clock the fleet bore away for St. Eustatius. Yesterday morning Mr. Cathcart, pilot of the *Sandwich*, arrived here from St. Eustatius, he informs, that Admiral Rodney anchored in the road of St. Eustatius, with 12 sail of the line at 12 o'clock on Saturday; that he and General Vaughan sent to inform the Governor, that war was declared against the Dutch, and desired him to surrender the island under his command to his Britannic Majesty's forces under their command, and granted him four hours to consider of it; at 4 o'clock P. M. the Dutch colours were hauled down, and the British colours displayed on all the fortifications in

that island; 2000 men were landed and immediately took possession of it.

The greatest order and regularity was observed on this occasion. One hundred and thirty-eight French, Spanish, American and Dutch vessels were captured, many of them richly laden. A Dutch frigate at anchor got her tomkins out and prepared to salute the Admiral—she did salute and hauled down her colours; she was commanded by Capt. Byland, son of Adm. Byland. One pilot boat escaped. Admiral Rodney received dispatches from government dated the 8th of January, acquainting him of a Dutch and Portuguese war, and that the Empress of Russia had joined Great Britain, and sent her fleet to the relief of Gibraltar. The Danes and Swedes are as yet neutral, but it is imagined they will not long remain so; the former it is said will join Great-Britain. A fleet of men of war, have been sent to the East-Indies, to seize the Dutch spice islands.

His Majesty's ship the *Terrible*, James Ferguson, Esq. commander, with four Dutch ships prizes, richly laden, passed by this road, on their way for St. Eustatius.

February 15.

Extract of a letter from St. Eustatius, dated Feb. 14. "The strictest discipline and decorum is kept up by the military here; a bomb battery and several new fortifications are constructing; Tumble-Down-Dick point, and the hill that commands both it, the town and the harbour, are to be strongly fortified; it is imagined that *Statia* will be made a second Gibraltar. The money, goods, shipping, &c. taken here is astonishing; two millions one hundred thousand pieces of eight; seventy-six thousand of which was in the poor chest, the remainder belonging to the company, has been taken; six hundred and thirty thousand pounds was found on board the Dutch Admiral's ship, and four days ago a ship arrived from Amsterdam, with thirty-two thousand light Joes on board, besides a very valuable cargo of silks, fattins, velvets, &c. Vessels are daily dropping in from different parts of France, Holland and America; the number of shipping in this harbour, at the time of the capture is nearly doubled since that period. Vast quantities of sugar, tobacco, cotton, &c. are now shipping off on board the empty vessels, in order to proceed with the 25 sail of Dutch ships taken by the Monarch, for Europe, which are to be convoyed by the Dutch Admiral's ship, which is now repairing for that purpose. They talk of a general confiscation of property, but I hope there will be a line of distinction drawn between the friends of Great-Britain and the disaffected. Several of the merchants who have been concerned in supporting the American rebels as well as the French islands, are sent on board the men of war, and are to be sent to England in the first fleet, together with the Governor, Fiscal and other Dutch officers. The Jews it is said will be banished.

Also fifteen hundred Dutch vessels have been taken or destroyed in the Texel or Channel; and Admiral Digby has been sent three months ago with 8 sail of the line to the East-Indies to seize the Dutch spice island. I may now say, that the Dutch are completely ruined, and that they will not be able to enter into a war with Great-Britain, but must accede to any terms imposed upon them."

On Tuesday night about 7 o'clock, was brought to this town escorted by the 15th regiment, 500 prisoners who came from St. Eustatius, and were landed at Old Road, and delivered to the 28th, and for want of places of confinement were obliged to guard them in Londonderry fort all night.

The 15th marched for Sandy-point at two o'clock yesterday morning, and on their way are to receive 700 more prisoners, that were to be landed at the Old Road. The church at Sandy-point, and all the spare houses are full of prisoners; the number of prisoners, French, Spaniards, Americans and Dutch in this island, is said to amount to near 2000.

The same day arrived his Majesty's ship the *Shrewsbury*, with between 20 and 30 on board, one of them, in coming off, was searched, and 1400 Joes taken out of his trunk.

March 1.

By a tender arrived here on Tuesday last from Admiral Rodney, we are informed, that the Admiral had received advice by express from England, that his Majesty's ship the *Bellona*, in company with some others, had fallen in with and captured a French convoy, consisting of a 64 gun ship, a 40 gun frigate, and 19 sail of transports, in the Bay of Biscay.

B O S T O N, March 29.

By an intelligent person who lately made his escape from St. Eustatius, an island belonging to the States of Holland in the West-Indies, a free port, and where a vast traffic was carried on between all trading nations, we have obtained the following particulars of the capture of that important place.

On the 3d of February Admiral Rodney, with a British squadron of 13 ships of the line, and with transports that carried, as was said, 2000 men, arrived at that island. The Governor had no previous notice of the approach of this squadron, or that any hostilities had commenced between the two nations; so that *Statia* was completely surprized. The British Admiral immediately sent a message to the Governor, demanding a total and unconditional surrender of the place, allowing him four hours to consider of the demand; but before a quarter of this time had elapsed he landed his troops, and took possession of the fortresses, the town, and all the merchandize and wealth

of the place, without opposition. The American masters of vessels in the harbour went to the Governor, it is said, and offered, with their sailors, amounting to 600, to enter and defend the fortresses, or assist in repelling the invaders in any way that might be pointed out by him; the Governor did not think proper to accept the offer, and no resistance was made. There were upwards of 200 vessels of different nations in the place, all of which fell into the hands of the British. All the stores, merchandize and money that could be discovered, to a vast amount, shared the same fate. Upwards of 20 Danish vessels were seized by the invaders, some of which had been released; a Portuguese ship was detained by them, and the report was, that war either had already commenced or would soon take place between Portugal and Britain. The day after the British troops landed, a drum went round the town, notifying all the Jews there to repair to an appointed place, and produce all their money and effects; the summons was obeyed, and the British commander took all into his possession, but gave the Jews four Johannes a man, and sent them to St. Christopher's.

Two days before Rodney appeared off *Statia*, a Dutch fleet of between 20 and 30 merchant ships sailed from *Statia*, under convoy of a man of war of 64 guns. Rodney, as soon as he was made acquainted with it, dispatched two 74 gun ships and a frigate after this fleet, which was soon overtaken by the British. The Dutch commander fought with great valour and obstinacy, and refused to surrender. He was however overpowered, and the British took possession of his ship, and most, if not all, his convoy, though not till after he had received seven balls in his body, of which he soon expired. The brave defence of this officer so disabled one of the British ships of 74 guns, that she was obliged after the action to be towed in to a near port.

Rodney, by keeping up the Dutch colours upon the fortresses of *Statia*, after he had taken it, decoyed a number of trading vessels bound thither; by which means he has enlarged the advantages gained by him in the capture of the place.

One circumstance deserves particular notice. Three hundred American seamen, finding that the island was to be surrendered without resistance, retired to an eminence in the middle of it, where they displayed the flag of the United States, and stood upon their defence. One hundred of these men soon capitulated with the British, but were immediately forced into service on board their ships. The remaining two hundred continued to defend themselves. A British party was sent to reduce them, which they repulled, and a number of which they made prisoners; and sent a flag to the British officer for an exchange of prisoners, which it is said took place. These brave fellows kept their station, where the American colours were flying when our informant left the island.

April 5. Nothing can be more evident than the warm disposition of our allies effectually to aid the cause of America. The late expedition from Rhode Island are fresh and strong proofs of such a disposition. It discovered no small spirit in the French commander to make two enterprizes for the succour of Virginia, in the face of a superior British squadron. In the naval action which ensued upon the last, great honour was reflected upon the arms of France: Tho' the British squadron was superior by 38 guns, yet the advantage was clearly on the side of the French. And indeed the whole conduct of our allies through the war, convinces us of the folly of our former prejudices respecting the vast superiority of the skill and prowess of the Britons in comparison with the French.

An officer of reputation in the American army, who was on board the French fleet in the late action, and an eye witness to the whole, speaks in the highest terms of the coolness, intrepidity and good conduct of the Chevalier Destouche and his whole squadron. Their superiority, he says, in the engagement was undeniably evident; and the conduct of the British squadron while in action, and when they retired, were but ill adapted to support the vaunts of that nation.

Last Tuesday arrived at Newport, a ship from Bermuda, bound to New-York, prize to the *Hermine* frigate. The *Surveillante* frigate has also taken a large brig, which was afterwards sunk.

Thursday last sailed from Salem the privateers *Brutus* and *Neptune*, in quest of a privateer sloop belonging to the enemy, which had been cruising off Cape Cod, and Sunday the *Brutus* returned into port with her. The *Neptune* being left to cruise for her consort, has since ran ashore near Barnstable, but 'tis said will be got off.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Nantz, dated November 25, 1780.

"The Dutch have at last signed the neutral treaty, the 21st instant, to the great joy of all Europe.—This has been the only answer they have given Sir Joseph Yorke, on the address he had made for satisfaction for the papers found on Mr. Laurens, concerning a treaty between the United States and the State of Amsterdam."

Extract of a letter from New-London, March 20. "Capt. Peck is just arrived in a short passage from St. Croix, and informs, that Admiral Rodney took possession of St. Eustatius, St. Martins, and Saba, on the 3d of February.

"Capt. Seymore is also just arrived from Esquebo, who informs, that that place and Demarara are both taken by the British, and the inhabitants plundered. It was also reported that eight sail of the line and a number of troops were sailed for Curraçoa."

The conduct of the British court in falling upon the Dutch without any previous notice, or declaration of war, is so base and dastardly, so contrary to the laws and practice of civilized nations, and to the common security of mankind, as must excite the abhorrence and indignation of the whole world. The Dutch are now forced to take a part in the present war in their own defence; they can no longer enjoy the sweets of a neutrality. For who would trust his property on bottoms or in ports where they may be rifled by another nation with impunity. Holland is a rich and powerful nation; England in former wars has felt the weight of her resentment, and has been almost crushed by it. She can equip 50 sail of ships of the line as expeditiously as any power in Europe; when pushed she can augment her navy to double that number.— She is slowly roused, but when once determined and exasperated, no nation contends with greater animosity; or abounds with harder and more skilful seamen. Holland will be supported in this contest not only by France, Spain and America, but by all the nations that compose the armed neutrality, and with the good wishes of all the rest of the world. All will be glad to see a nation intoxicated with pride and resentment, and whose power has been so injurious to the commerce and rights of all, reduced within the bounds of justice and moderation. Britain in her madness has gained a present booty, but at the same time has struck a blow, which though painful to individuals, is one of the most important events during the war in favour of the independence of America, and the rights of the whole commercial world.

By the latest accounts from Europe thro' the channels of Jamaica and New-York, there can be nothing in the report of the death of the Empress of Russia; and much less foundation can there be for an addition to this report, that Russia had united with Britain. It is known to all the world that the court of Petersburg took the lead in the treaty of neutrality between the northern powers, and that it was greatly owing to the influence of that court that Holland in November last, acceded completely to the neutral convention. This step of the Dutch was undoubtedly at bottom, the chief ground of the resentment of the British court expressed at Statia and other places.

PROVIDENCE, March 31.

Monday last his most Christian Majesty's fleet, commanded by M. Desfouches, which sailed from Newport the 8th instant, returned to that place. On the 16th instant, at 8 in the morning, 11 leagues E.S.E. from the capes of Virginia, they descried the British fleet, commanded by Adm. Arbuthnot. The French immediately stood for them, and the British at the same time bearing down, a close action commenced at 12, and continued till 3 in the afternoon, when the British fleet drew off. The French ships threw their topmasts to the masts, and in that situation remained 15 hours, with lights in their tops during the night, expecting the action to be renewed; but in the morning the British had disappeared, when a frigate was dispatched in shore, the Captain of which reported, that he had discovered the enemy's fleet going into the capes of Virginia, one of their capital ships being towed by two others, and another large ship having lost her topmasts. The French fleet remained off the capes nearly the whole of next day, but finding the British were not inclined to renew the action, and the wind being to the westward, M. Desfouches thought proper to return to Newport to refit. The loss on board his most Christian Majesty's fleet is said to be about 150 men killed and wounded, while that of the British is thought to be much more considerable, as, when they came a-breast of the French, they were to stand on the same tack with them; this gave the French an opportunity of raking, which was done with great effect.

The above is the best account we have yet been able to obtain of this action, wherein M. Desfouches, and the officers and men under him, acquired great honour, having obliged a much superior fleet to retire into a bay where it was impracticable to engage them.

We learn that the fleet took two prizes on their passage to Newport, one of them a large ship from Jamaica, laden with sugar, &c.

On Monday arrived here the brig John, prize to the Dean and Protector. She was bound from Ireland for the West-Indies, and is laden with beef, bread, butter, cordage, candles, &c.

By the western Post we learn, that a vessel arrived at New-London a few days since, and brought an account that the British have taken the Dutch settlement of Demarara, to leeward of Surinam, where about 50 sail of vessels fell into their hands, some of them Americans.

ANNAPOLIS, April 5.

On Saturday the 31st ult. a party of the enemy from his most gracious Majesty's ships the Monk and Hope, off this city, proceeded up West river, with an intention of destroying, with their accustomed savage cruelty, the property of Mr. Stephen Steward. They arrived at a kind of peninsula called Chalk Point, about a mile from Mr. Steward's. It appears, from the rout they took, they were conducted by a Negro of Mr. Steward's, who lately ventured to try their generosity, and escaped from his master. On Chalk Point was a cannon of six pounds, and six men, who conceiving the enemy's approach must be in front (unless they new the situation of the cannon) were unfortunately alarmed too late to make use of their

cannon; for at their first discovery they were within a few yards of the shore, and considerably in the rear of the guards; on being challenged, they answered, Friends to Congress from Annapolis; they were fired on by two only of the guard, some of their pieces missing fire, the others, frightened at their numbers, immediately ran off; they returned it furiously with swivels and small arms; unfortunately for those whose inclination was to harass them, those who ran off had with them all the ammunition; they were in three large barges; their number is supposed to have been about 100 men; no farther resistance being made (for indeed it was now impracticable) they advanced by land to Mr. Steward's, where the whole force that could be mustered was six or seven on whom there could be any dependence; it was determined to retreat to Captain Harrison's, where they were next expected, and there make what resistance they could with the assistance of what neighbours might join them; but their vengeance was fatiated for that time; when they had so gloriously completed the destruction of every thing valuable to Mr. Steward on that place, how did they exult! how glow'd the generous bosom of the Briton at a sight so glorious! how did the conscious blush, which suffuses each feature of the hero, brighten their looks! how beat the gallant heart when they beheld the flames which British heroism alone could kindle, ascend and consume all before them! A ship of twenty guns, that in a few days would have been launched, the dwelling house with most of the furniture, two or three store-houses, &c. filled with articles of every kind for conducting the business of building ships, as well as for private purposes, provision, tools, timber, every thing was lost. The houses, though not elegant, were, for the purpose they were intended, equal to the most superb; the hospitable door was ever open to the honest, and guests of every degree were welcome as their merits entitled them; and the very savages who effected this horrid affair, a few hours before might have been fed had they been hungry. The loss is not yet to be estimated; every hour they discover their loss greater; some papers and books were consumed. This brave band, at length satisfied with their mighty feat, their vengeance glutted, retired in good order, and made good a retreat, to their immortal honour, although opposed by such numbers. Their malice seemed to be levelled alone at Mr. Steward, they having passed through Mr. Harrison's house without injuring it; and in their way up and returning they passed several others without molesting them. There were cannon at the ship-yard, but they were too well informed of its direction to march that way. Say ye deluded few, whom idle fear, prejudice, or treachery, actuate; ye warm advocates for a union with Britain? Can idle fancy picture the idea? No, even folly laughs at it; insanity derides it. Oh! George, which of the heroes from the long line of Kings which have graced the British throne, can compare with thee? Brave, generous, just, humane, time can never produce any thing to emulate thy worth.

TRENTON, APRIL 18.

We hear that Adm. Arbuthnot's squadron, which lately sailed to Virginia, arrived at New-York a few days ago.

The Journal of the Second Sitting of the Fourth Session of the Legislative-Council; the Votes of Assembly of the last Sitting, same Session; and the Laws and Votes of the last Sitting of the present Assembly, are printed, and ready to be delivered.

MARTIN BECK, Bluedyer,

In Germantown township, Philadelphia county, BEGS leave to inform the Publick in general, and his friends and former customers in particular, that they can send their yarn (linen or cloth) to Mr. Daniel Suter's, in Second-street, the fifth door above Race-street, Philadelphia; from whence they can fetch it again in three weeks from the time they left it, done in the best manner, and as low as the times will admit; and it is expected that each person will put his name and place of abode on a piece of paper to the yarn.

N. B. To be sold at said Suter's, Lisbon wine, Jamaica spirits, West-India and Philadelphia rum, fouchong and bohea tea, coffee, loaf, white and brown Spanish sugars, pepper, allspice, ginger, lampblack, glue, chalk, boiled and raw linseed oil, cotton, cotton and wool cards, men's and women's leather shoes, a quantity of writing paper. 3w†

TO BE SOLD by publick Vendue,

ON Monday the 30th of this month, at the house of the subscriber, in the Western Precinct in the county of Somerset, near Rocky-hill, and within about half a mile of Col. Henry Vandike's, Two valuable horses, cattle, a waggon and gears, a sleigh and sled, a mill for cleaning wheat, plough and harrow, and several farming utensils. Also a bedstead and bedding, and all sorts of household and kitchen furniture. The vendue to begin at ten o'clock of said day, when attendance will be given, and the conditions of sale made known by

ADRIAN HEEGEMAN.
April 14th, 1781.

T O C O V E R,
THIS SEASON,
At Bowhill Farm near Trenton, the full blooded
COLT,
K U H L I K A N,

Rising four years old.

HE is a fine well made colt, fifteen hands high, an iron colour, with a star; begot by Mr. Wilson Hunt's Bajazet out of Mr. Hiltzheimer's full blooded Pacolet mare Molly. The owner bought him a foal, being fully satisfied of the genuine blood, for his own use, as he keeps a stud of breeding mares, and will only let him to a few mares this season, at Sixteen State Dollars the season, or Eight the single leap, and Five Shillings to the groom.

Any mares sent from a distance, not exceeding ten, shall have pasture or hay at Five Shillings state money per week, and proper care shall be taken of them.— No credit will be given, but the money must be paid before the mare is taken away. Some of Bajazet's colts may be seen on the farm, and some of this colt's get are daily expected. A large pedigree could be given on both father and mother, but the owner thinks it needless, as his real motive was to obtain good blood for his own mares, and only wishes to accommodate the neighbourhood by covering a few mares.

T O B E S O L D,
A fine young Bajazet Colt,

At said Farm.

W I L L C O V E R,

THIS SEASON,

At the subscriber's stable near Flemington,

The noted imported Horse

F R E D E R I C K,

Whose pedigree is so well known that it needs no repetition—At

Seven Bushels of Wheat the Season,

The wheat to be delivered at the stable door.

Good pasture will be provided for mares at a moderate price, and proper attendance given by

PETER and PHILIP CASE.

Amwell, March 22d, 1781.

The noted and full blooded

H O R S E,
L I B E R T Y.

LIBERTY is a fine blood bay, fifteen hands and an inch high, very lengthy and strong; allowed by all good judges to be as handsome a horse as any in America, equal to any in moving, for gaiety, good spirits and ease to the rider. It would be needless to say any thing of his pedigree or performance, as it hath been so often ascertained heretofore—

Will cover M A R E S,

THE ENSUING SEASON,

At the stable of the subscriber in Maidenhead township, Hunterdon county, and state of New-Jersey, At TEN BUSHELS of WHEAT, or TEN HARD DOLLARS, the season.

Good pasture will be provided for mares, and proper care taken of them, by

EDMUND BAINBRIDGE.

April 14, 1781.

T O C O V E R,

THE ENSUING SEASON,

In South-Amboy, four miles from Cranberry, the beautiful and high bred HORSE

A R A B I A N,

Rising eleven years old,

At Eight Bushels of Wheat; Buckwheat, Rye, and Corn in the same proportion, to be paid in the season of the crops.

ARABIAN is full blooded, fifteen hands and two inches high, very active, and is a remarkable fine bay, his colts are in general very fine. Arabian was got by that famous stallion Willdair, his dam by Babraham, his grand dam by Old Sterling, his great grand dam by Merry Andrew out of Laughing Polly, she won the King's hundred guineas at Hamilton, and was got by Childers, her dam by Chancellor, and own sister to Thunderbolt, her grand dam by Luggs, and her great grand dam by Davil's Old Woodcock.

Willdair was got by Old Cadé, the best stallion that ever was got by the famous Godolphin Arabian out of a daughter of Steady, a very fleet son of the Duke of Devonshire's flying Childers. This horse, the sire of Arabian, was a few years past purchased of James Delancey, Esq. at a very high price, and shipped back to England at the particular desire of the greatest breeder in that country, and covered at forty guineas the season, his blood being in the highest degree of reputation among the nobility and sportsmen.

Good pasture will be procured for mares that are brought any distance. DAN. LOTT.

Notice is hereby given to all Persons,

THAT JAMES SANDERSON, living near the White Horse, between Trenton and Crosswicks, has set up the BLUE DYING; such as linen and cotton. Any person who will give him their work, may depend on having the same done well, and in as short a time as possible after the delivery of it.

ADVANTAGES of continuing the TENDER LAW in force in the State of Pennsylvania.

1. It will deprive the state of all the benefit to be expected from taxes.
2. It will starve all the officers and members of the government, except the *Assemblymen*.
3. It will prevent loans, so injurious to agriculture, commerce and manufactures.
4. It will destroy widows, orphans, and the aged members of the community, who can neither work nor fight.
5. It will destroy the foundations of all religion and morality, about which the world has been quarrelling for near 6000 years.
6. It will enable the good Whigs to punish the Tories, by cancelling their bonds with depreciated money.
7. It will encourage speculation and monopoly, and thereby enable staff-officers to rise into rank and importance by trading with public money.
8. It will throw all the burthen of the war upon our sister states.
9. It will promote resignations among our officers, and mutiny among our soldiers, for neither of them can live upon *nominal* dollars.
10. It will vex the Congress, who have recommended a repeal of all tender laws.
11. It will shew us in our proper colours to the nations of Europe, and thereby prevent loans and alliances.
12. It will satisfy the British, that their emissaries are doing their duty in the most effectual manner, and that Gov. Johnstone did not carry his guineas back with him.

STATE MONEY.

Morris county, March 24, 1781.

WHEREAS inquisition has been found, and final judgment entered thereon, as the Act of Assembly of the state of New-Jersey directs, against John Hutchison, for forfeiting his allegiance to this state, and the United States,—This is to give notice, that all the real and personal estate that did belong to the said Hutchison in this county, will be sold at public vendue on Tuesday the first day of May next, to be held at the house that did belong to the said offender, at twelve of the clock on said day; which are as follow,—An excellent FARM, containing upwards of 200 acres, on which he lived, in the township of Hanover, and two other tracts of land lying on Rockaway river, which are valuable, and Household stuff and Farming Utensils. All which will be sold for ready money by us,

DAVID THOMSON, }
ALEX. CARMICHAEL, } Commis-
AARON KITCHEL, } sioners.

N. B. All persons that have any just demands against said John Hutchison are desired to make it appear before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas as soon as the sales are over, that they may be settled: And all persons that are indebted to, or that have any of the effects of the said Hutchison in their possession, to pay and deliver up the same, by the said day of vendue to the commissioners.

Strayed or Stolen,

From the stable of George Brown, in Trenton, A BLACK HORSE, 11 years old, 14 hands high, hog backed, and has some saddle marks thereon, shod before, and a natural pacer. Whoever takes up the said horse, and delivers him to the subscriber at Bell Mount, or to George Brown, aforesaid, shall have Two Hundred Dollars reward, and all reasonable charges, paid by

GEORGE EKENSWALLER.

April 6, 1781.

**Wanted immediately,
A PAPER-MAKER,**

Who is industrious, and understands his business well, to whom good wages will be given by the subscriber, at his paper-mill near Allentown, in Monmouth county, New-Jersey.

WILLIAM TAPSCOT.

**WILL COVER,
THIS SEASON,
THE FAMOUS FULL BLOODED HORSE
SELIM,**

At Jacob Vandoren's, near Mr. Worley's tavern, in Somerset county, at Three Pounds the season.

SELIM is a dark bay, rising four years old, fifteen hands and a half high. He was got by Bajazet, and his dam Selima; she was got by the noted horse Selim, the property of Samuel Galloway, Esq. her dam by the late Col. Hopper's Paolet, her great grand dam by Old Spark, her great great grand dam was Queen Mab, and her great great great grand dam was Miss Caldwell, belonging to Col. Tasker, of Maryland.

Pasturing for mares will be provided, if required.
April 8, 1781.

TO BE SOLD,

For HARD MONEY OF CONTINENTAL,

A TRACT of LAND, containing about 1000 Acres, lying in the Corporation of New-Brunswick, on South-River, joining the island belonging to John Lawrence, Esq. late Mayor of Philadelphia. The place is well situated, having a good house and excellent orchard on it, and fresh meadow that will cut yearly at least one hundred loads of hay, a shad-fishery within thirty yards of the house, where great quantities of them are taken in the season, with other fish. The land is well timbered and convenient for the New-York market, having commodious landing places for boats of ten cords, from which place a number were employed to the New-York market.—For further particulars enquire of Levinus Clarkson, at New-Brunswick, Jacobus Van Zandt, at Morris-Town, or Joseph Milnor, at Trenton, who will agree for the same. An indisputable title will be given.

January 12, 1781.

tbctf

TO BE SOLD,

Any time between this and the 20th of April next; and if not sold then, to be rented;

A LOT of good LAND, situated in the township of Hillsborough, Somerset county, containing ten acres; about one half of which is good meadow, firewood and rail timber belonging to it to serve for some time. There is some fruit trees on the same, such as peach, apple and cherry; a good house, small barn, hay barrack and waggon house. Lays in the neighbourhood of several places of worship and mills, and would suit for any publick business, being in the heart of a thick settled country, near the South branch of Raritan. For terms apply to Mr. Jerome Vanderbelt, near New-Shanick church, Mr. Minne Voorhees, near New-Brunswick, or the subscriber, opposite Garrison's tavern, who has some other lots to dispose of.

SAM. H. SULLIVAN.

Hillsborough, March 20, 1781.

To whom it may concern.

THE subscriber, living in Mount-Holly, Burlington county, having admittred on the estate of Elias Bland, late of Woodbridge in New-Jersey, deceased, requests those indebted to the said estate to pay; and those who have accounts are desired to bring them in, properly stated and attested, by the 10th of next month.

2m*

Wm. CALVERT.

3d month 12, 1781.

The SUBSCRIBER in Pompton, on the great road from Boston to Philadelphia, has fitted up the

YELLOW-HOUSE TAVERN,

Just 20 miles from Morristown, 30 from King's ferry, and 40 or 45 from New-Windior,

WHERE his stables, fit to hold twenty horses, are well supplied and carefully attended, and his house every way well furnished, as far as the ability of the owner. All the roads for a few miles round us are safe and direct, and every Gentleman who will ride a little while in the evening to reach us, may depend on getting quarters. The Gentlemen our customers shall be free from all noise but what they chuse to make themselves, as we are unincumbered with children, or country custom, being ourselves young unmarried people, and our neighbours chusing to drink beer at their own houses. They shall find the news-papers of three different Printers kept for their perusal, with a small collection of books, and other amusement—though abroad they shall be at home, find English fare in a Dutch country, and the landlord their most humble servant,

JOSEPH CURTIS.

Mr. JOHN STAATS,

HAVING removed from this state, and some of his accounts remaining unsettled, NOTICE is hereby given to all persons who have any demands against him, to bring their accounts to the subscribers, in Somerset county, for settlement.

3w

JOHN SCHENK,
NICHOLAS PERINE.

Millstone, April 7, 1781.

TO COVER,

THE ENSUING SEASON,

At the Plantation of ROBERT CRAGE, in Hunterdon county, near New-Germantown,

THE FAMOUS HORSE,

YOUNG LOFTY,

Out of a Dawson Mare.

YOUNG LOFTY is a jet black, has a star, snip, and one white foot; full fifteen and a half hands high, and will cover at the low rate of Five Bushels of wheat the season. He was got by the noted horse Old Lofty. It is needless to mention any thing farther in regard to his pedigree, as it is to be seen at his stand.

3w*

TO BE SOLD,

For any current Money,

A NEGRO MAN and WOMAN with two CHILDREN, one a girl two years old; the other a boy on the breast. They will be sold cheap to any person who will take the family. The only cause of selling them is the owner's wanting to lessen his family. For terms and particulars apply to Mr. Abraham Hunt, Trenton, or the owner at Bow-hill farm, Nottingham township, Burlington county.

3w

RANDLE MITCHELL.

TO BE SOLD,

By the Single, Dozen, Gross or Thousand, by ISAAC COLLINS,

At the Printing-Office in Trenton, THE NEW TESTAMENT,

Printed on a good Type, and good Paper.

W H E A T.

A QUANTITY of good merchantable WHEAT is wanted; for which ready money will be given. Inquire of the Printer.

3w

SPELLING-BOOKS

By the Thousand, Dozen or Single,

TO BE SOLD,

At the Printing-Office in TRENTON,

A L S O, The

Laws of the last Sitting.

PRINTING PAPER,

Of different SIZE and QUALITY, By the REAM or HUNDRED REAMS, Bookbinders and Bonnet Pasteboards,

Wrapping Paper, &c.

Made and to be SOLD or EXCHANGED for

R A G S,

By STACY POTTS, in Trenton.

TO BE SOLD,

A Valuable TRACT of LAND, in Hardwick township, Sussex county, state of New-Jersey, now in the tenure of Thomas Silverthorn. It contains 213 acres, 150 very rich meadow land, about 30 of which produce the best clover, timothy, and blue grass. It is excellent for raising hemp, and well calculated for raising and fattening cattle. There are on the premises, beside the dwelling-house, a pretty good Dutch barn, stables, barracks and spring-house, upwards of one hundred apple-trees, and a number of cherry and peach-trees; also a never failing spring of water sufficient for a hemp-mill, and situated conveniently to water a considerable quantity of the meadow. The title is indisputable. For terms apply to the printer of this paper.

TO BE LET,

FOR one or more years, and may be entered up on the first day of April next, the following Plantations, situate in the township of New-Windior and county of Middlesex, within one mile of Hightstown, six of Allentown, ten of Crosswicks, and twelve of Bordentown, viz.

One containing 75 acres good arable land, with a small orchard, a good log house, and other suitable conveniences; now in the tenure of Mr. Rem Vanderbeck, senior.

One containing 250 acres good arable land, with a piece of meadow, a large thriving orchard, a good log house, barn, barracks, stabling, and most other conveniences suitable to a farm; now in the tenure of Mr. Samuel Allen, and joining the above.

One containing 212 acres of good arable land, one large field of which may be kept as a meadow, it being remarkable for good pasture in the season, a good orchard of the best grafted fruit; upon this plantation are a good frame house, a large convenient barn with stables complete, a good well of water, an excellent garden, &c. now occupied by Robert Nixon, and also joining the above mentioned farms.

All the above farms are situated in the heart of a plentiful wheat country, remarkably healthy, and near markets, mills, and meetings, and at present under good fence. They will be let separate or together, as may suit the appliers. For terms enquire of Jos. Read, Esq. of Mountholly, or John Shields in Philadelphia.

Jan. 19, 1781.

4w

N. B. To prevent trouble, the above places will not be let upon the shares, but for a certain quantity of wheat per annum, delivered at Crosswicks, Lewis's mill, or Bordentown.