

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1781.

For the NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

"Hominem pagina nostra sapit."

I HAVE often heard many of the disaffected lament the declaration of independence before the arrival of the British commission, in 1776, upon *supposition* that the Commissioners were therein charged with power to offer reasonable terms to this country. They are of opinion that the declaration had precluded those Commissioners from making their offers, and unnecessarily referred to the chance of war, what might have been happily settled and secured by negotiation. On this ground do many at this day endeavour to maintain their principle of neutrality, or active interference with respect to the American cause:—They do not hesitate to acknowledge the validity of the principle on which we petitioned and remonstrated to the King and Parliament of Great-Britain; they say the grievances were real, and that they ought to have been redressed, but insist that these points were the principal objects of the commission in question, and had America only held back her declaration of independence till the arrival of the commission, the powers of the Commissioners would have been unfolded to Congress, and the good intentions of the King made known to us.

In order to countervail these *suppositions*, for they are nothing more than mere conjectures, you will be pleased to insert in your Gazette, the following parts of Major-General Robertson's examination in the House of Commons of Great-Britain, taken from the Parliamentary Register, No. LXXVI. p. 308, 309.

Q. "Do you remember the King's speech in 1775, promising to send Commissioners into America to make peace?"

A. I do not remember it particularly; I dare say I have seen it.

Q. Do you not remember that it was reported in America, assurances were given from the Throne that Commissioners would be sent to America for making peace?"

A. I remember it very well.

Q. Did that commission arrive in America?"

A. Yes.

Q. Was it seven months, or thereabouts, after the opening of that session?"

A. I am perhaps the least able here to tell that.

Q. Do you remember when the commission arrived in America?"

A. Pretty well.

Q. The time?"

A. I believe about the month of August, 1776.

Q. Was it not expected with eagerness by numbers of the Americans, particularly the well affected?"

A. Certainly it was so.

Q. Was not independency declared in the interval between the declaration from the Throne, and the arrival of that commission?"

A. I believe independency was declared before Lord Howe's arrival.

Q. Was it long before?"

A. Not very long; I don't remember the day.

Q. Was it in the beginning of July?"

A. I believe about June or July.

Q. Not long before Lord Howe's arrival?"

A. No.

Q. Did not the postponing a conciliatory commission till that time produce mischief?"

A. The sooner the King's gracious intentions were known it would have been better.

Q. Was it not assigned as one reason of the declaration of independence, that they were put out of the King's protection, and that no redress of grievance was held out?"

A. I have no way of knowing but by reading the Congress's papers, which are in every body's hands.

Q. Was not that in the Congress's papers?"

A. I believe so.

Q. Was there not a complaint in America, that the powers of the Commissioners were so limited that they had no power to offer any specific redress of grievances?"

A. The people of America did not know what powers the Commissioners had, nor do I know to this day.

Q. Was it made known in America that the Commissioners had a power to give satisfaction relative to the matter of taxation?"

A. I don't know that it was known; I did not know it; nor do I know it now.

Q. Would not the knowledge of such a power have facilitated peace, if such a power had been?"

A. Such an offer made to the grofs of the people, would certainly have had a very great effect.

Q. Do you think if the Commissioners had had such a power, they would not have made it known?"

A. I did not know what reasons the Commissioners might have for concealing their powers.

Q. Were they not charged with not having such power by Dr. Franklin and others, as well as by the Congress, and whether that charge was not made publick?"

A. Dr. Franklin said so.

Q. Did the Commissioners contradict it?"

A. I really am not averse to answering the question, but I do not know what the powers of the Commissioners were; nor were they known in America; they were differently spoke of and guessed at."

In the fourth day's examination of General Robertson, Parliamentary Register, No. LXXVIII. p. 395, are the following questions and answers.

Sir William Howe. Q. You have said that the grofs of the people were desirous to treat; did they make any offer towards it to the first Commissioners?"

A. I know nothing of that; the grofs of the people cannot make offers; they would be hanged if they did.

Q. Was there any means for the Commissioners in the first commission to treat with the people in general without having first defeated the American army?"

A. I apprehend that the great art of the Commissioners was to contrive how to carry on such a treaty, without its being discovered.

Q. Were the first Commissioners authorized by their instructions to treat in the mode you have supposed they might treat?"

A. I know nothing of the Commissioners powers.

In the foregoing examination it appears that General Robertson, an officer of high rank in the British army, a man of observation and intelligence, and who had resided above twenty years in America, could never ascertain either from circumstances or information, the powers of the Commissioners in 1776, or whether they had any power to treat with America at all. It is true Lord and General Howe said they had a commission, but of what nature or import they never revealed, either to raise the spirits and confirm the loyalty of the friends of Britain in this country, or to endeavour to bring over the whigs to their side. The only facts we are possessed of, are, that they came to New-York in 1776, with a naval and great military force, and that instead of making conciliatory offers, they employed this force to ruin our commerce and lay waste our country; for which they have had their reward.

CANDIDUS.

From the PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL.

The following letter, written by that great ornament of science, religion, and human nature, the late Dr. Fothergill of London, to a gentleman in Massachusetts-Bay, we hope will prove acceptable to all classes of our readers.—While it recommends justice and toleration to rulers, it conveys to the timid friends of America, and the deluded adherents of Great Britain the best arguments for acquiescing in the government and independence of the United States. The original of this letter in the Doctor's hand writing, may be seen with the Printers of this paper.

Respected Friend, Lond. Oct. 20, 1780.

THE difficulty of conveying a letter safely, has been the principal cause of my silence, and not a disregard either to the writer, or the obliging and informing letters, which at three different times I have received from him. I have endeavoured faithfully to make use of the very sensible hints they contained, as far as they lay in my power for the good of both countries, but in vain. Neither advice, information, nor experience make any impression. The cause of this infatuation is not a common one, and its effects may turn to our humiliation and amendment, when Providence may see meet to turn our hearts to wisdom. It will not, I think, be long in our power to molest you. It is not only France and Spain that are in alliance with you, but most of the states of Europe, they wish to share your commerce, and, at the same time, they wish to humble the pride of this country, whose insolence and haughtiness has created us many, many enemies.

I sometimes flatter myself that there may be at the bottom of this confederacy, a plan highly useful and advantageous to humanity, and yet when I reflect how far short of perfect civilization the foremost powers of Europe are, I almost despair of it. Their

union in one point, may produce union in another, and, if the powers of Europe and America could form a college of justice to whom the sovereigns should appeal in all cases, and be found to obey, what an honour to christianity, and what a saving of blood and treasure. The temple of Janus might then probably be shut, and may it be shut forever!

I have perused your frame of government with satisfaction. It approaches nearer perfection than any I believe yet in being, and may those who framed it be blessed, and their posterity forever happy.

The general ignorance that prevails here of your abilities, intentions, and resources, is inconceivable. I often tell a story that my late deceased friend Dr. Russel used to relate: He was one morning at the Bashaw's Divan (at Aleppo) when a countryman brought an Antelope, which he said he had just caught, as a present; the Bashaw enquired if it was male or female, he stooped down to ask one of the officers which he would have it to be? resolved to say what was pleasing, though the falsehood might have been detected in a moment. Just so are our superiors too often treated. People tell them what they wish to hear, and thus become the worst of enemies to both sides. And after such kinds of falsehoods have been successfully practised for a time, and at length have been found like the "baseless fabrick of a vision," all confidence in any set of men is given up. Then the passions take the lead, the effects have been, are, and ever will be felt, beyond what it was possible for the authors of these calamities ever to comprehend.

I have endeavoured, as far as it was in my power, to give the best information I could to those within my reach, but it was talking to the winds; experience itself will not convince them. But it will not be long that we shall do what we please, we must submit to laws given us by others. But I trust it will be for our good, it will make many think. We are as dissipated, as full of schemes for promoting diversions, as regardless of every thing serious, as if we were in high prosperity. War drains off multitudes, manufacturers especially, those who are left have consequently more chance of employment, they are content with their lot, and think every thing goes on as well as usual, so a general deception prevails from the highest to the lowest, and to doubt of your subjugation is heresy with many.

I most seriously wish that the calamities which have befallen you, or may yet be permitted to befall you, may have the proper effect of humbling your minds, and preserving you gratefully dependent on that invisible arm which has delivered those who honestly trust in it, in all ages. Little did I expect to see the present disunion, rather disjunction, but so it has been wisely permitted to happen. We were growing too great, powerful, proud and wicked, the forces are gradually diminishing, and we are kindly prevented by force to be less abandoned than we wished to be.

Our new Parliament will meet ere long, and follow the steps exactly of the preceding. The minority in general, are far from being better men, in the true sense of the word, in my opinion than their opponents. No two are agreed exactly in the same opinion; and I am afraid there are few amongst them, who would speak theirs even in light matters to another were it to save a state from ruin. I give up all hopes of recovery to any human means. We deserve chastisement and must feel it. The affair of Charlestown has changed our tone a little, and we trust to the like good fortune at last. You are supine, negligent and incautious; most of your losses have originated from this quarter, and nothing will teach you circumspection. The moment you lose sight of immediate destruction you are asleep.

I wish you could banish oaths entirely. They are an indignity to truth. The dissenters objected to swearing as well as we, allowing our affirmation is a favour we own. But why should it not be extended to all? Let us increase the consequence and dignity of simple truth. Guard yourselves from impositions as much as you can, but let it not be at the expence of the sacred Name. I wish likewise

we could all become so far christians as to forbear fighting. It is the remains, the Gothick savageness, un subdued by the spirit of the gospel. It knows nothing of the immortal soul or its state in futurity, it is merely the beast that fights, not the man. But the world is not yet ripe for such doctrines. A socratic teacher amongst us, arguing on this subject, asks, if it would not be better for mankind in general if there were no wars? Yes certainly. We are assured that such a time is to come, and whether it is more probable that this disposition shall become general at once or begin amongst a few, spread further by degrees, and at length become universal? Ought not those few then, who think in their consciences that to them war is unlawful, to abstain from fighting? most certainly. This we think a good foundation for us to stand upon, without condemning others who are not to be persuaded. Have as much tenderness to such a people as you can. They are the best friends of humanity.

There is nothing tends so much to keep alive the spirit of war, as our education. We take part in all the spirit of heroism displayed with so much elegance by the Greek and Roman historians, till the spirit of christianity, meek, humble, patient, forgiving, is obliterated from our minds. A woful exchange for a system replete with good-will to all men. I am not censuring others, I am pleading for ourselves, and most fervently wish the day may be fast advancing, when wars will be no more. I am the brother of all mankind. I know I am writing to a gentleman who has charity enough to enter fully into my sentiments, and to wish there was not a classick extant capable of producing, cherishing, confirming such sentiments.

I am obliged to write in haste, though the length of this may afford suspicion my time is not always employed to the best purposes: But as I have conceived a very favourable opinion of my very sensible correspondent, I could wish to give him every proof of it in my power.

With fervent wishes for universal peace, the happiness of America and of every individual in it, that endeavours to promote its real interest, *Piety and Virtue*--I am to all such a very cordial friend.

J. FOTHERGILL.

Late London advices, taken from English prints found on board a prize sent into Salem.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 11.

WE have accounts the plague has this year destroyed upwards of 40,000 persons in Salonica, the capital of Macedonia, near one half of the inhabitants of Grand Cairo, and at least one third of those of Alexandria.

Dublin, August 21. It is computed that not four out of ten ships bound here escape being captured either by American or French privateers.

Hague, August 26. A letter from Versailles, dated July 30, says, "The Dutch Ambassador is very pressing to the Court, for the loan of the shipwrights and other artificers, which were promised to the States by the King at the commencement of hostilities with the English, and has certainly received for answer, that as soon as the ships preparing for service are completed, 200 shall be sent agreeable to promise, and that 70 were already ordered from Brest."

Sept. 2. Our fleet have orders to sail after the 5th of this month, if then joined by the ships from the Meuse and Zeland, we know not yet who is to command it; it is to consist of 16 sail, and is to have more ships of the line than Vice-Admiral Zoutman had.

Toulon, Sept. 4. Divers letters, dated 20th August last, written by officers whose veracity and military merit are well known, do all agree in the circumstances of the duc de Crillon's descent on the island of Minorca; they mention particularly that his arrival was perfectly unexpected. The particulars of the expedition are the following: Yesterday being the 19th, we landed on the island of Minorca, after a passage of 30 days from Cadiz. At first the winds were favourable to us, for in three days we had passed the straits; our fleet consisting of 105 sail, among which two were of 70 guns, five frigates, six xebecs, and six bomb vessels. In sight of Carthage, the wind became quite contrary, and obliged us to come to for 17 days in a road. Afterwards the winds permitting, we proceeded on our voyage; but calms coming on we were still retarded; however, about the latitude of Malaga the wind favoured us, and in three days brought us in sight of Minorca. The ardour of the General and of the troops at this moment was such, as to make us forget the length and tediousness of our voyage. Every thing was prepared for the descent, and if the winds had not been stronger than usual upon this coast, and the disembarkation of the troops thereby rendered long and troublesome, we would have perfectly surpris'd the enemy; for they did not know in the least of our approach, neither did expect us. The commander in chief having previously concerted the plan of operations, and given all his officers the most particular instructions, the descent was made in the following manner: 1. Some vessels of war commanded by don Diego Quevedo were dispatched, before the con-

voy could be perceived, to block up Port Mahon, and prevent any vessels escaping. 2. Several other vessels of war, commanded by don Pedro Carnaveal, and by don Antonio Ortego, were sent to shut up in like manner the ports of Fornella and Citadella. 3. A long boat manned with sailors and grenadiers, under the command of an officer of infantry, was sent before to reconnoitre the coast of the bay of Muschetto, the intended landing place. 4. Several long boats belonging to the Squadron of don Bonaventura Moreno, landed the duc de Crillon, followed by his Brigade Major and Aid de Camps; this General was at the head of a brigade of grenadiers, and the volunteers of Catalonia, commanded by the Marechal de-Camp the Marquis de Cagigal. 5. At the same time, don Felix, second in command, and don Louis de las Casas, disembarked several regiments. 6. A third division composed of grenadiers, chasseurs, and dragoons a foot, under the command of Colonel the Marquis de Aviles, took possession of the town of Citadella and of the forts that defended the entrance of the port, by storming them. 7. As soon as a descent was effected at the bay of Muschetto, a brigade of grenadiers and chasseurs, under the Marquis de Penafiel, son of the duc d'Osuna, were ordered to proceed, either by land or water, to seize upon Fornella, and to storm the two forts which defend the entrance of this port. This descent was covered by several vessels of war, commanded by don Bonaventura de Moreno. 8. During this time, don Balthazar de Perma covered the brigade of Savoy on their landing at the bay of Alcofar, a league and a half from Mahon; don Antonio Ortego covered that of the Marquis d'Aviles, in the environs of Citadella; and don Pedro Carnaveal was to cover that of the Marquis of Penafiel, if it had been necessary for this detachment to have gone by sea to Fornella. 9. Thirty-two transports carrying artillery, fascines, gabions, powder, provisions, hospital-stores, &c. were arranged in the rear of the two principal disembarkations at Muschetto and Alcofar, in order to put it out of the power of the enemy, to judge which was to be the true attack.

From this plan of descent, which could not be so completely executed as wished, owing to the contrary winds, we may judge how much more successful it would have been, if the brigade of Savoy had not been prevented from effecting a landing for 36 hours, by the bad weather. The two bays, de la Mulcheto and d'Alcofar, are one league and a half from fort St. Philip, and about the same distance from each other; and if the division at Alcofar could have effected a landing at the same time with that at Muschetto, they would have prevented the English troops which were at Mahon from retiring into fort St. Philip; but the brigade of Savoy could not effect a landing with the rest of the army, and the alarm being given, the governor of the fort was enabled, by the delay, to draw in the two battalions which were at Mahon, and to force 500 of the inhabitants into the fort, which already consisted of 2500 men.

The towns and forts of Citadella and Fornella, surrendered without making any defence. The landing which began at three o'clock in the afternoon, was finished at midnight, and in 24 hours we became masters of the whole island, except fort St. Philip. We expect a reinforcement of 5000 men in a few days.

L O N D O N, August 7

Another of our first houses have failed for 300,000 sterling; our late losses in India, it is said, has been the cause of the failure: And on Wednesday last two houses of equal importance stopt payment. It was said yesterday that St. Helena was taken by the French.

Extract of a letter from Rye.

"Our coasts swarm with French privateers, our vessels dare not leave the road; their crews pillaged many farmers, and carried away their cattle, poultry, &c. They took this morning a vessel from the Isle of Wight bound here, and have taken many coasters, within these eight days that they have been off."

Sept. 20. By the latest accounts of the combined fleets, we learn, that they separated in four divisions, one of which bore away for the west of Ireland to cruise some leagues off the mouth of the Shannon, and the other three to cruise in the tracks of our homeward-bound fleets.

A letter from Plymouth, of the 16th, says, "This evening the fleet was out of sight from the Tower, and if the wind continues brisk, will be out of the channel to-morrow; it consists of 27 sail of the line, 10 frigates, and 3 fire ships."

Admiralty Office, August 12, 1781.

Copy of a letter from Captain Drury, of His Majesty's ship *Camelion*, to Mr. Stephens, dated Shields, Aug. 16, 1781.

Be pleased to inform my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in consequence of an order from Vice-Admiral Drake, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in the Downs, to exercise between the Galloper, Middleburgh, and the Broad Fourteens, the 14th instant at 6 A. M. the *Texel* bearing S. E. distant six leagues, we gave chase to a Dutch dogger, belonging to the States of Holland, mounting 18 six pounders and 20 swivels; a quarter before nine got close along side and desired him to strike his colours to his Britannic Majesty's flag; he immediately fired his broadside into us, which we instantly returned, and continued the action yard-arm and yard-arm till half past nine, she then blew

up close along side. The flock was so very great, that it shook the people off their legs, and the cloud of smoke was so very thick, that it was impossible to see each other on the deck for the space of two minutes. It then began to clear away, and we perceived our topsails on fire in several places, particularly the main-top-sail and fore top-gallant-sail, which I was obliged to cut from the yards. The fire in our sails was occasioned by the splinters from the wreck, which had blown up in the explosion; many pieces of human flesh were found sticking against our masts and rigging, and some limbs of the Dutchmen were taken up upon deck. We have great reason to believe that his mainmast went over us, as we saw it about the vessel's length to leeward of us; his colours flew on board us all on fire. We, as soon as possible, hoisted out our boat, in hopes of taking up some of the people, but could not see one living; we picked up his pendant and a marine's hat.

It is with great pleasure I can inform their Lordships, that I had only twelve men wounded in the action, none of which appear at present dangerous. I am the only officer hurt, having from a splinter received a slight hurt in my leg, which in all probability will be well soon.

A good deal of injury is done to the ship in her sails and rigging; in her hull there was no shot of consequence that I at present know of except one, which went through between wind and water, knocked down two men in the magazine, and afterwards lodged in the master's bedplace.

In justice to my ship's company, I cannot conclude without acquainting their Lordships with the steady and resolute behaviour of my officers and crew on this occasion, as it merits my warmest praises and admiration, and I hope it will recommend them to their Lordships favour.

N. B. The *Camelion* mounts 14 guns, 6 pounders, 4 carronades, and 90 men.

From the London Gazette Extraordinary, October 15. Admiralty Office, Oct. 15, 1781.

Capt. Duncan, of His Majesty's frigate *Medea*, arrived at this office late on Saturday night, with despatches from Rear Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of His Majesty's fleet in North-America, to Mr. Stephens, of which the following are extracts: London, at Sandy Hook, August 31, 1781.

The 28th Sir Samuel Hood arrived off the Hook with fourteen sail of the line, four frigates, one sloop, and a fire ship, from the West-Indies. The same evening intelligence was brought that Mont. de Baras had failed the Saturday before with his whole squadron. As Sir Samuel Hood had brought intelligence from the West-Indies, that all the French fleet from the Cape were failed, I immediately determined to proceed to the southward, in hopes to intercept the one, or both, if possible.

London, at Sea, Sept. 14, 1781.

I beg you will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that the moment the wind served to carry the ships over the bar, which was buoyed for the purpose, the squadron came out, and Sir Samuel Hood getting under sail at the same time, the fleet proceeded together, on the 31st of August, to the southward.

The cruizers which I had placed before the Delaware, could give me no certain information, and the cruizers off the Chesapeak had not joined; the winds being rather favourable, we approached the Chesapeak the morning of the 5th of September, when the advanced ship made the signal of a fleet. We soon discovered a number of great ships at anchor, which seemed to be extended across the entrance of the Chesapeak, from Cape Henry to Middle Ground; they had a frigate cruising off the Cape, which stood in and joined them, and as we approached, the whole fleet got under sail, and stretched out to sea, with the wind at N. N. E. As we drew nearer, I formed the line first a-head, and then in such a manner as to bring His Majesty's fleet nearly parallel to the line of approach of the enemy, and when I found that our van was advanced as far as the shoal of the Middle Ground would admit of, I wore the fleet and brought them upon the same tack with the enemy, and nearly parallel to them, though we were by no means extended with their rear. So soon as I judged that our van would be able to operate, I made the signal to bear away and approach, and soon after, to engage the enemy close.

Somewhat after four the action began amongst the headmost pretty close, and soon became general as far, as the second from the centre towards the rear. The van of the enemy bore away to enable their centre to support them, or they would have been cut up. The action did not entirely cease till a little after sunset, though at a considerable distance, for the centre of the enemy continued to bear up as it advanced, and at that moment seemed to have little more in view than to shelter their own van as it went away before the wind.

His Majesty's fleet consisted of nineteen sail of the line; that of the French formed twenty-four sail of the line. After night I sent the frigates to the van and rear, to push forward the line and keep it extended with the enemy, with a full intention to renew the engagement in the morning; but when the frigate *Fortunee* returned from the van, I was informed that several ships had suffered so much, they were in no condition to renew the action until they had secured their masts; we however kept well extended with the enemy all night.

We continued all day, the 6th, in sight of each

other, repairing our damages. Rear-Admiral Drake shifted his flag into the Alcide, until the Princessa had got up another main-topmast. The Shrewsbury, whose Captain lost a leg, and had the first Lieut. killed, was obliged to reef both top-masts, shifted her top-fail yards, and had sustained very great damage. I ordered Captain Colpoys, of the Orpheus, to take command of her, and put her into a state for action.

The Intripid had both top-fail yards shot down, her top-mast in great danger of falling, and her lower masts and yards very much damaged, her Captain having behaved with the greatest gallantry to cover the Shrewsbury. The Montague was in great danger of losing her masts; the Terrible was so leaky as to keep all her pumps going; and the Ajax also very leaky.

In the present state of the fleet, and being five sail of the line less than the enemy, and they having advanced very much in the wind upon us during the day, I determined to tack after eight, to prevent being drawn too far from the Chesapeake, and to stand to the northward.

The ships in general did their duty well, and the officers and people exerted themselves exceedingly. On the 8th it came to blow pretty fresh, and, in standing against a head sea, the Terrible made the signal of distress: I immediately sent the Fortune and the Orpheus frigates to attend upon her.

It being determined in a council of war, on the 10th to evacuate the Terrible and destroy her, I took the first calm day to effect it, and at times distributed the water and provisions. This took up the whole of the 11th; the wreck was set fire to, and I bore up for the Chesapeake about nine at night.

The fleets had continued in fight of each other for five days successively, and at times were very near. We had not speed enough in so mutilated a state to attack them, and they shewed no inclination to renew the action, for they generally maintained the wind of us, and had it often in their power.—I sent Captain Duncan to reconnoitre the Chesapeake, who brought me information of the French fleet being all anchored within the Cape, so as to block up the passage. I then determined to follow the resolution of a Council of War, to proceed with the fleet to New-York before the equinox, and there use every possible means for putting the ships into the best state for service; and I immediately dispatched the Medea with this packet for their Lordships information.

N. B. Captain Duncan reports, that before he left the fleet the Prudent of 64 guns had joined it; and the account was just received of Rear-Admiral Digby being upon the coast.

Sept. 11. This day some despatches were received from Admiral Darby, at Torbay, by which we are informed, that the grand fleet are all unmoored, and were under way on Sunday morning.

The report of Commodore Stuart joining Admiral Darby at Torbay, is without foundation, the Commodore having proceeded with his squadron to his station before the Texel.

A Cadiz letter to an Agent in Ostend, says, "Our fleet has no more than two months full sea provision on board, the French but about six weeks: the latter may be supplied with provisions on their destined stations, by victuallers from their ports, to enable them to keep longer at sea, but fifty sail of the line, besides other ships, never can."

It is said that a secret and important expedition, was proposed at the Board of Admiralty on Friday last, and which had since met with the concurrence of the council. The land forces will consist of a large body of men, who are to be marched down to Portsmouth, where a powerful squadron is ordered to be got in immediate readiness, to cover the transports on board of which they are to embark: a train of cannon with all other necessary implements, are to be shipped on board the men of war for the above expedition, which is expected will be complete, and ready to put to sea within a fortnight.

In consequence of a letter which it is said Lord George Gordon wrote to Lord North, acquainting him that he had a book to deliver to His Majesty; it is said, that his Lordship returned him the following answer: Lord North's compliments to Lord George Gordon. If his Lordship has any book to present to the King, he must present it at the levee.

PORTSMOUTH, December 8.

We hear from Charlestown, in the county of Cheshire, in this state, on the east side of Connecticut river, that Colonel Enoch Hale, of Rindge, the high-sheriff of said county, having received orders to proceed to that town, and there to liberate two prisoners who were confined in the county gaol by the usurped authority of Vermont, having demanded the keys, and being denied, he attempted to break open the prison-doors, but was knocked down by two men, and much wounded: And application being made to one Giles, a new made Justice in Vermont, (who has been in commission under New-Hampshire all the war till lately) very readily made out a warrant, and committed the high-sheriff close prisoner, where he remained at the last account.

The day is at length arrived, big with the fate

of Vermont or New-Hampshire;—now we feel the want of a well established government, to put in force its laws, and which we hope soon to see.—If the high-sheriff can be imprisoned within his own county gaol, of which he was appointed the keeper, by the laws of this state, and in the execution of his office, and that too by the authority of a man acting under the pretended state of Vermont, without a spirited resentment to the audacity of the attempt, adieu to all government; the way is now clear, and the remedy is at hand: This attack upon the person of one of the executive officers of this state, will convince the Honourable Congress of the necessity of quelling these insurgents—for by indulging them with only a hearing on the subject of a union, they have taken it for granted, they are really recognized as a state; but if any thing might once be said in their favour before, this presumptuous conduct will obliterate every favourable impression; and if the United States can be thus trampled upon, and their resolves disregarded, the confederation is set at nought, therefore nothing less than a solemn resolve to annihilate this usurped state, can be the consequence of an application from this state.

The eastern post informs, that on Sunday last arrived at a safe port, a vessel in 16 days from the West-Indies, with a valuable cargo of rum, &c. The Captain of which informs, that 10 days before his arrival, he spoke with the French fleet from the Chesapeake, bound to the West-Indies.

NEW-LONDON, Dec. 14.

Last Saturday a flag returned here from White-stone, near New-York, that carried 17 prisoners from hence; and though she waited 10 days, returned without an answer of any kind, or even a prisoner.

The privateer schooner Young-Cromwell, Captain Cook, from this port, is carried into New-York.

By a vessel arrived at Providence, from Cape Francois, in 15 days, there are several letters which mention the arrival of 5 sail of Mons. Barras's fleet, from the Chesapeake; and that some others of the fleet were arrived at the Windward.

TRENTON, DEC. 26.

On Thursday the 29th ult. died at his seat on Raritan, Mr. Derrick Van-Vechten, in the 84th year of his age.—This gentleman possessed the virtues of patriotism and hospitality in a very eminent degree;—warmly attached to the cause of his country, he took peculiar pleasure in rendering it any services in his power, and when his property was very essentially injured by the winter quarters of a division of our army being fixed on his possessions, like a good citizen, he submitted without repining, to suffer as an individual, to promote the publick good. His benevolence and hospitality were not confined to the circle of his friends and acquaintances—His doors were ever open to the friendless stranger;—his house afforded a resting place and a cheerful welcome to the weary traveller—the blessings of the poor and needy, the widow and orphan daily ascended to Heaven in his behalf.—Providence blessed him with a good constitution, and he met the gradual approaches of death with that composure and resignation which proceed from the consciousness of a virtuous life, and a well grounded hope of the divine acceptance.—The general sorrow of the numerous assembly which attended the funeral on the Sunday following, testified their sense of his merit, and their loss.

Peter Hopkins, Esq. was lately elected a Representative to serve in General Assembly for the county of Suffex, in the room of William Maxwell, Esq. who did not take his seat.

††† The person who left a quarto bible at the Printing-Office several months ago, to be rebound, is requested to call for it.

Mr. COLLINS,

The inclosed being sent to me by Col. A. Walton White, as a friend of his I desire you will insert the same in your next paper, and you will oblige your humble servant,

A. W.

Camp near York, in Virginia, Oct. 25, 1781.

SIR,

I have informed His Excellency the Commander in Chief of your application for a hearing on the charges exhibited against you by Capt. John Heard, of the 4th regiment of light dragoons, and find that Capt. Heard has declared he was misinformed by the officers he expected to produce in support of the charges he has preferred, and petitioned to withdraw them, which his Excellency acquiesces in.

This, Sir, in my opinion, amounts to as ample a justification of your conduct as an acquittal by a General Court Martial, and ought for that reason to be as satisfactory to you. I am, Sir, with regard and esteem, your obedient and very humble servant,

EDWARD HAND, Adj. Gen.

Col. Anthony W. White, 1st. regt. Light Dragoons.

(Copy)

Extract from GENERAL ORDERS.

COLONEL WHITE, of the 1st regiment of dragoons, being favoured with an opportunity, by the arrival of the northern army, to request a hearing by Court Martial, upon the charges exhibited against him by Capt. Heard, of the 4th regiment of light dragoons, in the year 1779, and having obtained the Commander in Chief's permission for that purpose, informed Capt. Heard officially of his determination, and requested him to prepare his evidences accordingly. In consequence of which Capt. Heard replied, that upon investigation he found that his charges against Col. White were grounded upon misinformation, and expressed his wishes to withdraw them. The General, in order that this declaration may have its proper effect, and that Col. White may be totally freed from the aspersions cast on his character in consequence of the charges alluded to, directs it to be published to the army.

The General cannot forbear adding, that accusations of so serious a nature should be made with the most scrupulous caution, an officer's character being too sacred to be impeached with levity or without a sufficient foundation."

Why the charges alluded to in the above letter and general orders were not inquired into at an earlier period, the publick will be informed by the following remarks:

Colonel White, as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th regiment of light dragoons, then with the northern army, commanded the regiment on the lines most part of the campaign of the year 1778, during all which time Capt. Heard was with the regiment. In the beginning of the year following Col. White was appointed to the command of the first regiment of dragoons, then serving with the southern army, and ordered to join that regiment immediately, which he did: And although Capt. Heard had been frequently heard to declare, during the campaign before mentioned, that he had and intended to exhibit several charges of a most serious nature against Col. White, he delayed, for reasons too obvious, doing it until Col. White had joined the southern army, when he exhibited the charges alluded to in the general orders, notwithstanding he was cautioned and told at the time, that his delaying to exhibit the charges during Col. White's presence, and offering them when the Colonel was at too great a distance to vindicate himself, would bear a very unfavourable aspect. Col. White having continued to the southward ever since his joining the first regiment, never had an opportunity of a hearing until this time, when he joined the northern army before York, in Virginia, and immediately applied for a hearing;—the issue of which the above letter and general orders fully explains.

Mr. COLLINS.

Please to give this Hymn (which was sung in several Churches on the Day of our publick Thanksgiving) a Place in your useful Gazette, and it will be very acceptable to many.

1. TO Thee, great sov'reign of the skies!
This day our grateful songs resound;
From ev'ry heart shall incense rise,
And praise through all thy temples found.
2. Our land, a tributary slave,
Doom'd to rebellion's awful fate,
When Heav'n a pow'ful monarch gave
To aid new pillars of the state.
3. Our States supported by thy pow'r;
Firm prop of the Republic's laws;—
Thy blessings on the people show;
Thine arm defends th' united cause.
4. Union 'tis God alone inspires;
Founded by Heav'n the fabrics rise:
Th' astonish'd world the work admires,
And owns the counsel of the skies.
5. New empires never rise by chance;
No veering gales promotion blow;
A sov'reign judge doth states advance,
And lays oppressing kingdoms low.
6. He forms our gen'ral prudent, brave,
Gives the young Captains warlike skill;
Angelic shields our troops preserve,
Who scale proud tow'rs with breasts of steel.
7. No savage deed distains the sword;
While Heav'n's taught chief directs the host;
Submission hears the joyous word—
—Mercy!—the christian conqueror's boast!
8. The mem'ry of thy recent grace,
Afresh shall fire them for the field:
The foe shall find renew'd disgrace,
And fly our shores, or shameful yield.
9. Our fertile fields thy favour show;
With gifts revolving moons appear;
Gifts!—that in streams luxuriant flow—
Thy goodness crowns th' auspicious year.
10. Save us from all depondent cries;
Now may our trust in God be strong,
Till full salvation shall arise,
And heav'n-born peace attend the song.

NATHAN BEAKES

HAS just opened store at the house lately occupied by David Pinckerton, deceased, where he has an assortment of dry goods suitable to the season. Also West-India and country rum, sugar, pepper, tea, coffee, &c. which he will sell by wholesale or retail. As he has laid in his goods upon the best terms, and being determined to sell for a moderate profit, he wishes to claim the attention of the publick in general, and his friends and acquaintances in particular. 3W

THIS is to inform the publick, that **JAMES SHEA** takes in and dresses boot legs in the neatest and best manner. Also carries leather of all kinds, for boots, shoes, &c. He is to be found at his dwelling nearly opposite the gaol, and next door to Archibald Yard's, in Trenton. 3w

TO BE SOLD,

By **WILLIAM RICHARDS,**

At his **STORE** at Trenton Landing, the following general assortment of Medicines, Groceries, Paints, Dye Stuffs, Ironmongery, and Dry Goods, viz.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| A NTIMONY, | White and red lead, |
| Arg. viv. | Spanish brown, |
| Borax, | Venetian red, |
| Bacc. junip. | Yellow oker, |
| Lauri, | Prussian blue, |
| Balsam Capivi, | Verdigrise, |
| Peruvian, | Litharge, |
| Traumatic, | Rose pink, |
| Calomel, | Spanish white, |
| Camphor, | Vermilion, |
| Cantharides, | Braffetto, |
| Cortex. Peru. | Ground red wood, |
| Crem. tart. | Log wood, |
| Carolina pink root, | Allum, |
| Elect. Lemnive, | Copperas, |
| Theriac. | Madder. |
| Elix. athmatic. | Fine old spirits, |
| Vitriol, | West-India rum, |
| Flor. Benzoin, | Taffa, |
| Chamœmel, | Whisky, |
| Sulphur, | Geneva, |
| Gall. aleppo, | French and cherry brandy |
| Gum. ammon. | Molasses, |
| Aloes. hepatic, | Loaf lump, Muicovado |
| Succotr. | and Spanish sugars, |
| Arabic, | Raiins, |
| Affacetid. | Tea, |
| Opium, | Coffee, |
| Hiera. Picra. | Chocolate, |
| Ichyocola, | Rice, |
| Lap. calam. ppt. | Sago, |
| Laud. liq. | Scotch, French and pearl |
| Magnesia, | barley, |
| Merc. dulcis. | Oatmeal, |
| Precip. rub. | Sugar candy, |
| Ol. amygd. | Cinnamon, |
| Catorei, | Cloves, |
| Minthæ, | Nutmegs, |
| Pulegi, | Alpice, |
| Sassafras, | Ginger, |
| Vitrioli. | Pepper, |
| Oxymell. scillitic. | Mustard, |
| Barbad. tar, | Cotton, |
| Pulv. jalap. | Hair powder & pomatum, |
| Ipecacuanha, | Fine mould candles, |
| Rhubarb, | White and Castile soap, |
| Pompholix, | Ink powder, |
| Sal. amon. | Indigo and powder blue, |
| Eptom and glauber salts, | Threads, needles & pins. |
| Sal. Nitri. | German steel, |
| Tartari. crud. | Iron pots, |
| Vol. ammon. | Waggon boxes, |
| Seeds anise. | Iron tea kettles, |
| Card. min. | Broad axes, |
| Carui. | Narrow ditto, |
| Coriand. | Nails and nail rods, |
| Fenicul. | Locks of different sorts, |
| Sperm. ceti. | with a good assortment |
| Spir. c. c. | of cutlery, |
| Lavend. com. | English & Dutch scythes, |
| Vol. olevs. | Crading ditto, |
| Spongia, | Fishing hooks and lines, |
| Succ. glycyrr. | Bed cords, |
| Tart. emetic. | Halters and lines, |
| Tinct. cort. Peru. | Powder and shot, |
| Thebaic. | Window glats, |
| Vitriol. alb. | Putty for glazing, |
| Roman, | Mens shoes, |
| Ung. ex. althea, | Chalk, |
| Basil. flav. | Tobacco, |
| Tutty, | Snuff, |
| Manna, | Fine and coarse salt, |
| Senna, | Stone lime by any quan- |
| Tamarinds, | tity, |
| Liquorice ball, | Grind stones, |
| Orange peal, | Whetstones, |
| Extract of lead, | Tar, |
| Swt. spirit. nitre, | Spirit of turpentine, |
| Wine bitters, | Oakum, |
| Pearl ash, | Leather breeches, |
| Lancets, | Lined and surgeon oil, |
| Whiting, | Indian corn, |
| Anderfon's, Hooper's | Pickled herrings and |
| and Lockyer's pills, | sturgeons. |
| Bateman's drops, | Corks of different sorts, |
| British oil, | Earthen, stone and |
| Balsam of honey, | wooden ware, |
| Daffy's elixir, | Oars and poles for vessels. |
| Godfrey's cordial, | A L S O, |
| James's fever powders, | An assortment of DRY |
| Turlington's balsam, | GOODS suitable to |
| Paulian's American | the season. |
| balsam. | |
| And a number of other articles too tedious to mention. | |

TO BE SOLD,

At publick vendue, on Friday the 28th day of this infant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of James Willie, at Cape-May;

THE SLOOP BETSEY, burthen about 40 tons, with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo, consisting of flour, wheat and Indian corn.

By order of the Judge,
JOHN BURROWES, Marshal.

Dec. 17, 1781. 2w
RUN away from the subscriber, on the 18th of March, in the year 1779, an apprentice lad named Joseph Phillips, about 16 years of age, by trade a shoemaker.—Whoever will apprehend the said apprentice, and bring him to the subscriber living at Sanpink, near the Dutch Meeting-House, shall receive One Dollar reward, and all reasonable charges paid by **WILLIAM DE-HART.** 3w†

ON the night of the 17th of November last the shop of the subscriber, living in Cranberry, was broken open, and the following articles taken therefrom, viz. One bolt of ozenbrigs, containing upwards of forty yards, one piece of fine yard-wide linen, one piece of yard-wide mode, two buckskins, two wool hats, one piece of broad stamped riband, a quantity of fine thread, and sundry other articles. Whoever apprehends the thief with the above goods, shall receive a reward of **TWENTY DOLLARS** in gold or silver, or an equal proportion for any part thereof, from **WILLIAM SLOAN.** 3w†

Cranberry, Dec. 12, 1781. 3w†

JOHN SINGER,

Has for sale, at his store opposite Mr. Abraham Hunt's in Trenton, the following articles:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| S CARLET broad cloth, | Black and white striped |
| Blue and green ditto, | and spotted gauze, |
| Brown, blue and flesh | Broad & narrow ribands, |
| coloured velvet, | Black satin and mode, |
| Brown and white coarse | Ell-wide perian, |
| cloths, | Pelung and mantuas, |
| Blue and crimson baize, | Pink and white farcenets, |
| Brown and scarlet serge, | Pins and threads, |
| Checks and stripes, | Sugar and tea, |
| An assortment of calicoes | Pepper, |
| and chintzes, | Copperas, indigo, |
| Silk and linen handker- | Cotton, |
| chiefs, | Shoe buckles, and some |
| Gauze ditto, | hard ware, |
| Cambricks and lawns, | Snuff and tobacco, |
| Black and white laces, | Holland gin. |
| With sundry other GOODS. | 4w |

To all whom it may concern:

New-Jersey, ff. } **N**OTICE is hereby given, that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the dwelling-house of Gilbert Barton, in Allentown, on Thursday the 27th day of December inst. at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of Adam Hyler, (who as well, &c.) against the ship Father's Desire, her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo, taken from the enemy at the Narrows, near Long-Island, and also a certain negro fellow named Will, taken on board said ship: To the end and intent, that any person or persons concerned therein may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said ship, with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo, together with the said negro, should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge,
JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, Register.

December 1, 1781.
The trial of the schooner Hare, and a certain cutter advertised for trial the 22d day of November last, together with the other articles mentioned in the said advertisement, is adjourned over to the day and place above mentioned.

To whom it may concern:

State of } **N**OTICE is hereby given, that New-Jersey, ff. } a Court of Admiralty will be held at the house of Gilbert Barton, in Allentown, on Thursday the 27th day of December next, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of Robert Magee, (who as well, &c.) against a certain sloop or vessel called the Sally, lately commanded by John Harman, taken on her intended voyage, as is said, from Maurice-River to New-York, loaded with lumber, together with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo: To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said vessel, or any person interested therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel, with her tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo should not be condemned to the captors thereof, and a decree thereon pass, according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge,
JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, Register.

Burlington, Nov. 24, 1781.

POCKET ALMANACKS

TO BE SOLD,

By the dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Trenton.

TO BE SOLD,

The following tracts of **LAND**, situate on the south-branch of Raritan, in Hunterdon county, about 30 miles from Trenton, 12 from Delaware river, and 28 from New-Brunswick, viz.

LOT No. 1, containing 150 acres, near one half cleared, about 15 acres of which is excellent meadow, and more may be made; the remainder timber land. There is on it a frame dwelling-house and kitchen, a large stone barn, a large stone grist-mill with two pair of stones, two water wheels and every necessary conveniency for merchant and country business; also an oil-mill and saw-mill, the whole being almost new, and stands on the south branch of Raritan, a large and constant stream of water.—There is also a small orchard and sundry small tenements, &c.

LOT No. 2, adjoining the above, containing 234 acres, about 100 is cleared, between 40 and 50 acres of which is excellent meadow, a great part watered, the rest timber land; there is a lime kiln and plenty of good limestone convenient to the kiln, an orchard of near 200 apple trees, &c.

LOT No. 3, adjoining lot No. 2, containing 145 acres, one half cleared, the rest wood-land.—There is thereon a frame house and barn, a small orchard, and a spring of good water near the door. For terms apply to **MAHLON TAYLOR,** on the premises. 6w

AN ENTIRE NEW WORK.

Now selling at Bell's Book-Store, near St. Paul's Church, in Third-Street, Philadelphia; also by James Burnside, in Trenton, and James Martin, post-rider to Morris-Town;

'The Revolution of America.

By the **ABBE RAYNAL,** Author of the philosophical and political history of the establishments and commerce of the Europeans in both the Indies. Price Half a Dollar.

* * * Variety of curious and useful **BOOKS** in history, divinity, voyages, travels, poetry, novels, and entertainment, may be had at said Bell's Book-Store. 8w†

L O S T,

ON Tuesday the 4th of December, 1781, a parchment slip, containing two state notes; one, No. 14, for Three Hundred and Seventeen Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Eight-pence; the other, No. 133, for Fifty Pounds. The former my own property, the latter the property of Joseph Wright, soldier in the first Jersey regiment. Said parchment also contained about One Hundred State Dollars. Whoever finds the same, and will return it to me or the printer hereof, shall receive Sixteen State Dollars as a reward. All persons are forewarned purchasing the above notes, as they will be stopped by the treasurer, and are requested to apprehend them if offered for sale.

E. WHITLOCK, Adj. 1st Jer. Regt.

December 5, 1781. 3w*

TO BE SOLD,

At **PUBLICK SALE,**

On **TUESDAY** the eighth day of January next,

A HOUSE and lot of land, situate in Kingstreet, in Trenton, in which David Pinkerton, deceased, lately lived. Possession of the premises will be given in April. The house is two stories high, with four rooms on a floor, well finished; a good kitchen and store-house adjoining, with cellars under the whole, and a smook-house and stable on the lot, which contains one quarter of an acre, and a good well of water in the yard.—The whole in good repair, and very convenient for a store or other publick business. To be sold at the same time, situate within half a mile of Trenton, five acres of meadow, and two lots of upland; one containing six acres, the other five acres and a half, each having a good collection of fruit. Conditions will be made known at the day of sale, by

MARY PINKERTON,
DAVID PINKERTON, } Execut.
ISAAC D'COW,

Trenton, December 4, 1781.

WILLIAM INNES

ACQUAINTS the publick, and also his customers, that he has begun brewing, and has beer for sale, which he hopes will give satisfaction, at the current prices.

Said **INNES** gives the highest price for good clean barley.

N. B. All persons who have casks of his are earnestly requested to return them, or pay the worth of them.

Burlington, Dec. 3, 1781. 3w

TO BE SOLD,

At the Printing-Office in Trenton,

The New-Jersey

ALMANACK,

For the Year 1782.