

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1781.

From the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.

The Oeconomy, POLICY and RESOURCES of the THIRTEEN STATES examined, and the MEANS of their PRESERVATION considered.

By a CITIZEN of PHILADELPHIA.

THE exhausted state of the publick treasury, and the universal disorder of our finances, the pressing demand for supplies for every department of the publick services, the convulsions which begin to appear, and the general confusion that threatens us, are become very serious and alarming, are become matters of very anxious concern, and even painful despondency in the minds of many very wise and good men; and the publick necessities are thence arisen to such a pitch of urgency, as must convince every thinking man that a speedy remedy or ruin must be the consequence. In this dreadful crisis, I will venture to lay before the publick some thoughts on the present state of our affairs, and the ways and means of deliverance, which appear to me most wise, natural and practicable; and this I propose to do with the same openness and freedom of mind and expression, which I have heretofore used, and hope for the same candour and indulgence from the publick which I have heretofore experienced.

1st. Our country is not exhausted, it is full of supplies of every kind, which are needed for publick service. We have men enough who would wish to serve in the army, if they could be properly supported and paid. We have provisions and all other supplies enough in the hands of our own people, who wish to sell them to any body who would pay for them.

2d. We have unanimity and general zeal for the great cause of liberty, for which we are contending. Neither our publick councils nor movements are obstructed or weakened by strong opposite factions, wasting our wisdom or force in counter-working each other. The most dangerous and alarming commotions among us shew such firmness, zeal and unshaken attachment to the great American cause, as plainly demonstrate that they do not at all arise from dissatisfaction, but from real distressing causes.

3d. We want nothing but wisdom, to draw into use the force and supplies of which the country has sufficient plenty. Like the foolish prodigal, we are feeding and starving on husks, while there is bread enough and to spare within our reach; and if we fall at last under the power of our enemies, we shall fall a sacrifice to our own folly, not to their wisdom or power; to the weakness of our councils, not to the want of sufficient strength; if we fall at last, no nation or people ever fell more despised, or less pitied. Our absurdities of council will be topics of ridicule and bye-words of scorn, whilst our posterity are noticed groaning under the iron rod of oppression, and lashed into that effort for the benefit of their masters, which would now be sufficient to secure their and our liberty, but which we have not now wisdom and virtue enough to call into use. How will the by-standers laugh, and our poor posterity groan, at the absurdity of our plans of depreciating our currency month by month, whilst every cause of depreciation continues and increases; ---of lessening the number of buyers, in order to increase the sellers; ---of limiting, forcing and reducing the market, in order to increase the quantity of goods brought for sale; ---of forcing credit, value and desirableness into our currency by tender acts and penal laws; ---and of procuring the vast supplies for the publick service, by taking away every inducement of industry, and throwing every branch of our trade, mechanic arts and husbandry into stagnation, and which caps all the rest, the sacred scheme of supporting our government, and securing all the blessings of liberty by a shameless departure from every principle of honesty and justice, which are essential to the very existence of civil society. There are but few of the absurdities in politics which we have seen adopted, and forced into practice by every application of compulsive methods, and with a perseverance incredible. Nothing but the absolute impossibility of the practice could compel the chimerical zealots to discontinue their mad career; but, however laughable to our enemies, and distressing to our posterity, and incredible to both, these things may appear, they may be of use to us, as the dreadful and destructive consequences, the shame, disgrace and ruin, which we have seen resulting from them, and which now threaten us in a manner that makes every considerate face gather paleness, these, I say, all tend to work an universal conviction in the minds of all men, of their total inutility and the absolute necessity of an immediate reformation; and as a necessary means of it, to reject for ever from our publick councils, those weak unprincipled men of wild projection and madness of design, who have infatuated the land with their extravagant chimeras,

and drawn many of the honest, unthinking, but too easy people into their methods of shame and ruin. A man will not kill his own child, tho' ever so monstrous; nor is it to be supposed that these authors of our present distress will ever heartily concur in the rejection and publick censure of their own darling schemes, or that they are capable of that wisdom necessary to bring about a total reformation. And here I must stop a little, and observe that the thing which makes our nation excel another in glory, political prudence and happiness, is most commonly this, viz. That men of genius, abilities, integrity and industry, are placed at the head of their publick departments. The publick will ever receive its tone, in respect of its dignity, fame, good order and happiness, from the men who are instructed with the management of the publick affairs. This observation is so manifestly true, that every man in the small circle of his own domesticks or neighbours can judge well how any business will be done, if he knows who is to do it. We cannot hope for reformation and good management of our publick affairs, unless we see judicious, upright and steady men in the several departments of the state; men adequate to the offices they fill, and industrious and persevering in attending thereto. But to return,

I will suppose for once that every publick department was filled with the best and most suitable men, and that every individual was willing to adopt and pursue the best methods of safety and deliverance which our case admits, what then can and ought to be done? I answer,

1st. Every man is to be called on for the debt which he owes the publick. Every man stands indebted to the publick for his share or proportion of all the money or supplies necessary to the publick safety, and this debt must be paid, or the publick safety must be insecure, must be in danger. The publick safety cannot be put off, as some people serve their maker, with empty prayers and good wishes. This payment can ruin nobody. 'Tis manifest that if any individual, even the least able to pay, should by some accident lose as much money or other estate as his share of this debt amounts to, it would not ruin him, it would not greatly distress him; for the truth of this I appeal to every man's knowledge of his own and his neighbour's circumstances; but on the other hand, how many thousands of individuals are ruined for want of this payment. Dreadful and swift witnesses of this are all those, who have suffered by the violations of our publick faith, by the depreciation of our currency; all those who are not paid for the produce of their lands, or personal services, or any other fruits of their labour, with which the publick has been furnished. The people of the Thirteen States are almost in the same condition which they would have been in, if they had sold their principal produce to bankrupts or broken merchants, who could not pay them. They, by this means, have not money to pay their debts, to trade with, to buy of the merchant, to lay in their stock for the ensuing year, to increase their scale of business, &c. &c. One disappointment creates another; an universal stagnation of business is the consequence; and all industry is checked even in its first principle, as well as in practice, and of course the produce of the lands and the fabrics of the tradesman are daily lessened, and of course the great stock for home consumption, and the great staples of trade, are daily dwindling away. These are facts notorious to every body, and arise directly from this, viz. that there is not publick money enough to pay the publick creditors. Whereas, if every man was called on for his share of the publick debt, there would be money enough to pay every body, and all this dreadful deluge of calamity would be remedied at once, and every individual would be a gainer by the tax he would pay, because he loses more every year by the confusions and disappointments arising from this want of publick monies than his tax would amount to. This is all mighty well in THEORY, but impossible enough in PRACTICE. Do you say this in earnest? I do most seriously contend, that it is very possible in practice; it is possible, 'tis practicable, 'tis necessary.

2d. To make out a true estimate of the publick debts and demands, and issue a monthly tax for the amount, in which every one shall be called on for his share and no more than his share. The money which is collected in the first month's tax will go out again among the people, and help them to pay the next month's tax; that will go out again, to be again called in by the third tax, and so on; and the quickness of circulation hereby excited will supply the want of medium; for 'tis plain to every man, that a guinea, which passes from hand to hand thirty times in one month, pays as much, and of course goes as far as thirty guineas which are paid but once in a month; 'tis fur-

ther manifest, that such an universal demand for money will give it value, will make it an object of universal desire, because it will become an object of universal necessity; this will give spring to industry, motion to every method of obtaining money, and security to every man who has obtained it. 'Tis necessary for us to know the worst of the matter, let that worst be as bad as it will. Let us know how much it will cost to save our country, to restore our morality, our industry, our safety and happiness. The profits of the year at most will do it, because no more is or can be spent in the year than is raised or produced in the year; for we loan abroad enough to pay for all we import from abroad for the publick use. 'Tis impossible indeed to increase our husbandry or manufactures without a free, open and sufficient market. Shut or diminish the market, and the supplies of it will soon lessen; open and increase the demand of the market, and all supplies of it will soon increase. All this is too manifest to need proof; therefore 'tis necessary to remove wholly all obstructions of our market, all fetters and restraints, and discouragements of business, such as embargoes, tender acts, limitations, regulations, &c. &c. Let every body be at liberty to get money as fast as they can, and be put under every natural advantage for doing it. I am of opinion that our people would receive an enfranchisement of this sort with as much joy, as the inhabitants of Greece received the declaration of their liberties from the mouth of the Roman Ambassador. If premiums had been offered for stupid plans and wild projections, I think worse could not have been offered than such as we have seen, viz. laying embargoes on the exports to increase the produce of the country for the army; forcing people to sell their goods below the market price, in order to induce them to bring more to market; offering money with horrid penalties, in order to make folks love and esteem it; embarrassing all business to get the more of it done, &c. &c. It is such wild, stupid, horrible and unnatural projects, with the effects of them, which discourage our people, and render the wheels of government heavy, and destroy all confidence of the people in the publick councils, much more than the real weight and burdens of the war. These bear no sort of proportion to the distresses which are produced by the madness of our councils, and unnatural way of doing every thing. Laws ought to be conformed to the natural course of things; but we have been absurdly endeavouring to controul the natural course of things, and bend it to our laws. I think it impossible that further arguments should be necessary to prove the expediency, yea, the strong propriety and urgent reason of dismissing at once all these most unnatural and destructive measures, these absurd scandals of human reason and American policy, that so our minds may be open to impressions from the true state of our case, the real difficulties we are under, and the proper measures which will, by their natural operation, afford us relief. We ought to study hard for this. Perhaps we may in this way, by close attention and the blessing of God, be able to find out, that means must be adequate to their ends; that the way to restore our credit is to pay our debts; that the way to pay our debts is to get money to pay them with; that any burthen laid on the whole community is safer for the whole, than when the same burthen is laid on a part only; that the only way to keep the members strong and in health is, to keep the belly full of substantial food, not of husks, &c.

But the absurdity of our measures is not all the objections I have to them. They are inadequate to their own purposes. What can it signify to plauge the continent, and exhaust all the patience of our people with difficult intricate plans of raising money, when all the plans put together, and fully executed, would not produce half, perhaps not a quarter, of the sum necessary to our preservation. This is like bailing a leaky ship with a spoon, when buckets are necessary to keep her free. I think it would be far more natural and satisfactory to our people, to make out our estimates and demands equal to our necessities, which will give this strong inducement to the efforts of each individual, viz. that it will be adequate to the purpose; that the means, however difficult, will be sufficient to produce the great ends designed. When the great demand is made known, the first question will be, Is this enough? Will this be sufficient to the purpose? An assured affirmative answer will inspire great courage and effort, when the object is the great wish, the passionate desire of almost every individual, as is most manifestly the case with our people. 'Tis a false delicacy, a shameful timidity, a dangerous injury to a nation, to keep them ignorant of their true circumstances and real danger, and not give them an opportunity to put the means of their safety in practice. I am clearly of opinion, scarce a man of any weight could be found in the Thirteen States, who would not readi-

ly and with joy pay a much larger sum than his tax would amount to, if he had reasonable hope that the distresses, oppressions and dangers of the country could be thereby removed, a free course of justice be restored, every man's person and property be protected, and the natural inducements of industry be favoured and encouraged, and our insulting enemies be effectually opposed.

The yearly incomes of the country are much more than sufficient to do all this, if properly called into use. We have two armies in the country to feed, and the produce of the country is amply sufficient for both. The supplies of the one we are paid for, 'tis only the other which must be supported from our own resources, and after supplying both armies (if our husbandry and trade could be suffered to take their natural course) we should have large produce to spare for exportation. In addition to all this, I am clearly of opinion that our resources are so great, that with proper management (even tho' the war should continue seven years longer) the treasury of the Thirteen States might be filled with silver and gold coin, and be made a BANK as safe and useful as that of Amsterdam or Venice; and all this within a very short time, as may be clearly demonstrated to any body who is acquainted with the nature and constitution of this kind of subject. The Dutch, as soon as they found out the secret of inspiring their people with the true spirit of industry and enterprise, soon recovered their national credit, and grew amazingly rich, long before their wars with Spain ceased. We have vastly greater means in our power than they had, and want nothing but their wisdom to improve them to as great advantage. I conceive it to be yet very plain and manifest, that our national character, honour and safety, are yet in our own power, and depend on nothing for their full and perfect establishment, but our own wisdom and effort, and the blessing of Divine Providence.

I will conclude this essay with one proposition, which, however much like a paradox it may appear at first sight, I think is very demonstrable, and I conceive will require little more than mere inspection for a short time, to convince every man of discernment and serious attention of its truth, viz. it would be easier and cheaper for every man of business, whether farmer, tradesman or merchant, to pay his share of the whole annual expenditure of the publick within the year, than not to pay it; i. e. he would live more easy through the year, and be richer at the end of it, by paying such tax, than by not paying it. This was the great Postlethwait's grand doctrine in England thirty years ago, and every body now sees the great advantages which would have resulted from his advice, had it then been adopted and pursued.—Oh! that we could know the things of our peace, in this the day of them: God forbid they should be hid from our eyes. Men often look abroad for things that are at home, and seek at a distance for things that are near. I apprehend that union of sentiment and effort, in the practice of means which it does not require any great sagacity to discover, would be quite sufficient for our safety. A plain simplicity is more to our purpose, than any depth of policy. An honest integrity and natural produce always create dignity, confidence and respect. On these I would wish to build our national character, on these I would ground our defence, and in the practice of these I would hope for the divine blessing on ourselves and on our posterity.

Philadelphia, Jan. 29, 1781.

L O N D O N, September 16.

There are advices from a very authentic and intelligent quarter, that the British army under General Clinton has lost near 1300 men in five weeks, by sickness, desertion, killed in action, and taken prisoners, and that they are but very miserably supplied with provisions and camp furniture.

Sept. 18. Government are in possession of the disagreeable intelligence, we hear, that there has been an expedition into the Jerseys, the result of which was a repulse, with the loss of 500 men on our side.

Extract of a letter from Paris, Aug. 4.

"The King of Spain has given orders for using every possible means for taking Gibraltar; that Monarch being determined not to suffer the strongest place in his kingdom to be possessed by a foreign power."

Sept. 30. We hear the Russian Ambassador positively refused to communicate some dispatches from his Court, to any person but his Majesty; a circumstance which has produced much speculation at St. James's, and surprize among the Ministers.

Extract of a letter from the Isle of Man, Sept. 15.

"Our cutter, the General, is arrived from Barbadoes; she sailed the 26th of July, and parted with the convey the 4th instant, in lat. 44, in a heavy gale of wind, and the next day he fell in with the wreck of some ships, which he takes to be a part of the fleet; the sea for miles round him was covered with rum puncheons and bags of cotton, but the sea ran so high, he was able to save but two bags of cotton."

On Monday evening arrived express, at Lord Geo. Germaine's office, Brigadier-Gen. Dalrymple, from Gen. Sir Henry Clinton at New-York. Lord George Germaine being at Stoneland in Suffex, an express was sent to his Lordship, and the dispatches were forwarded to his Majesty at Windsor.

Gen. Dalrymple arrived from New-York in his Majesty's ship the Virginia, which had a remarkable quick passage. Capt. Ord, the commander of the Virginia, arrived at the Admiralty at the same time, being charged with dispatches to their Lordships from Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot.

To the other accounts received by the last dispatches from New-York we subjoin the following:

That General Washington having received a reinforcement from the arrival of M. de Ternay, is strongly encamped near New-York, having upwards of 12 thousand men under his command, a large body of whom are French; that the Americans are in possession of West-Point and Sandy-Hook, at the latter of which posts 1500 men are stationed; and all the landing places about New-York are also in their hands.

That the French and Americans are most firmly united, and that the utmost we can do at present is to stand on the defensive; that the Marquis de la Fayette is very strong at Rhode-Island, his force consisting of 3000 French, besides Continental troops; that the French Commander in Chief has published a proclamation, importing, that on the arrival of a very strong reinforcement that was on its way, and which he daily expected, one grand object would be the conquest of Canada, re-uniting it to the continental government; that the last accounts from Gen. Earl Cornwallis were, that he was in the interior parts of South-Carolina, and that the militia of that province, who had professed so much loyalty, have seized their officers and carried them into North-Carolina, which is still attached to the government of Congress; that the last packet from England was taken within sight of Sandy-Hook, and that several of the Quebec spring fleet have likewise been taken.

From these accounts it also appears, that the French have quitted the object of taking the West-India Islands, and mean, by a powerful exertion, to drive us from the continent of America.

Lord Cornwallis's dispatches are also arrived with Sir Henry Clinton's, and by several letters received from officers on that service, we learn that he had had several engagements with the inhabitants of North-Carolina, in detached parties, and that he had suffered a repulse in every attack; that the idea of a total conquest of that province, as well as the reduction of Virginia, was entirely absurd and impracticable; on which account, he strongly recommends it to Administration to give up all subsequent attempts for that purpose.

A packet had sailed for England from New-York two days before the Virginia left that port; and in the latter, besides Gen. Dalrymple, Governor Tryon, with the Generals Matthews and Pattison, are said to be passengers.

Oct. 7. On Friday Commodore Johnstone arrived in town from Lisbon: He has brought home the Renown, commanded by himself, and the Brilliant frigate, Capt. Ford, which are arrived at Portsmouth; but not one of the prizes he had taken, and carried into Lisbon. The cause of his coming home is stated to be as follows: The two frigates, which he had taken and carried into Lisbon, he had resolved to fit out to cruise against the French and Spaniards. The Court of Portugal remonstrated against it, as highly improper, and a breach of the neutrality they had observed. He still, it is said, insisted upon doing it. The Court of Portugal then applied to the Russian, and to the other Ambassadors of the Northern Courts, who have agreed to the armed neutrality. These Ministers made a point of opposing the measure to the utmost; they asserted, that if the English men of war made prizes, and it was thought proper to fit out those prizes as ships of war, they ought to have sent them home; and that they (the Ambassadors) cannot behold, but with the utmost consternation, any attempt to fit them out in a neutral port; and that, if the Court of Portugal permitted it, such permission must and would be considered by the other powers of Europe as a publick breach of her neutrality. Upon the delivery of this memorial, the Court of Portugal ordered an embargo to be laid upon all Commodore Johnstone's prizes, among which are several Dutchmen, &c. In consequence of these measures he is come home.

Amongst the last dispatches from New-York, Gen. Clinton we hear, has acquainted government of his intention of co-operating, as much as possible, with Lord Cornwallis, in the reduction of North-Carolina; for which purpose a body of troops, consisting of 2000 regulars and loyalists, were embarked and ready to put to sea under the escort of one line of battle ship, and a number of armed vessels and frigates. The land forces are said to be destined against Williamsburg, or to make occasional diversions in the province of Virginia, whilst the ships of war are to perfectly cut off all supplies, by blocking up the entrance between the Capes Charles and Henry.

Oct. 14. The Portuguese being at present in no condition to withstand the English, should they be inclined to wreak their vengeance upon them for joining the armed confederacy, ten Russian ships of the line have entered the Tagus for their protection. His Catholic Majesty has also given orders for six vessels of the line to sail from his ports for Lisbon, where they are to be joined by six others fitting out by order of the Queen of Portugal, to protect her trade and commerce from insult. Measures so preparatory for war, seem to speak nothing else, and will scarce admit of any other aggravation, than an acknowledgement of the independence of America.

All the neutral powers, says a correspondent, have agreed to declare America free, and to lay the foundation of a general peace; and if either Great-Britain or any other power should be hardy enough to say, we will not accede to the terms, they intend to compel them.

From Paris we are informed, that a very fine train

of new brass ordnance, consisting of twelve 18 pounders, twelve 24 pounders, and twelve 32 pounders, with several large mortars, with tumbrells, &c. complete, are ready to be embarked as a present from the Court of Versailles to the United States of America.

B O S T O N, January 12.

Extract of a letter from St. Pierre's, Martinique, December 17, 1780.

"Admiral Rodney is arrived at St. Lucia from N. York, with ten sail of the line, five of which, it is reported, with 3000 troops, are gone against St. Vincent, where we have a garrison of 600 men, 400 are now embarking at Fort Royal on board of frigates, to reinforce the garrison; the British left St. Lucia last Friday. A few days will determine the matter, when I flatter myself I shall have the pleasure of informing you of the enemy's defeat."

Jan. 18. Mr. Bollen, late Agent of Massachusetts-Bay, tells us in a pamphlet of his, that "St. Bernard told Moro the Doge of Venice, that the Republick would last as long as the custom continued of doing justice; which Father Paul in his advice to the Republick says, was a maxim no less politic than holy, because under this short rubric are continued so many good advices, that were they all faithfully observed, we might justly expect thereby to perpetuate the dominion of the Commonwealth to all ages." Afterwards he says, "On all occasions wherein the publick faith is engaged, it is necessary to observe it inviolably without being amused by any profit that may accrue to the Republick by the breach of it. And it is fit to consider that the benefit reaped by breaking it is momentary, but the damage that follows upon the not observing it is perpetual."

Jan. 25. A vessel is lately arrived at Salem from Cape Francois, but left from the Havanna. She left the Cape on the 15th of December last. Just before she sailed from that place a brig arrived there from Marseilles, and brought advice that the Count d'Estaing, commander in chief of the combined fleets of France and Spain, was before Gibraltar with 72 ships of the line, and had completely cut off all supplies by sea from that garrison: That he had attacked some out batteries with four first rate ships, beat down the walls, and killed many of the besieged; while the ships received but little damage: That the commander of Gibraltar refused to receive any prisoners: That a company of British troops in an out post of that fortress, had to a man deserted to the Spaniards: That the garrison of Gibraltar had solicited supplies from the Moors, but were told they might come and fetch them, but they could not be sent to the garrison. The vessel which brought the above account, sailed from the Cape for the Havanna in company with 3 ships of 74, and 1 of 64 guns, 2 frigates and 2 tenders, with all which she arrived at that place, and found there 3 Spanish ships of 74 guns, and a number of frigates well fitted, and two of 74 guns and a frigate dismantled. The report at Havanna was, that the Spanish troops at Pensacola were waiting for a reinforcement.

Sunday arrived a ship from Philadelphia, with a cargo of flour.

P R O V I D E N C E, January 17.

A sloop laden with wheat was captured on Sunday last near Long-Island by two whale boats, and carried into New-London.

C H A T H A M, January 31.

On Saturday evening, the 20th instant, about one hundred and sixty soldiers, of the Jersey brigade following the example of the Pennsylvanians, left their huts and proceeded to this place, under the direction of their sergeants. They were unacquainted with a late resolution of the legislature, appointing commissioners to enquire into their enlistments; but as soon as the commissioners, who met them here the Monday following, had read and explained that resolution to them, they immediately agreed to return to their duty. The commandant of the brigade, in consideration of their great penitence, and of their being unacquainted with the measures adopted for settling the disputes respecting the enlistments, promised full pardon to all who immediately returned to and continued in their duty. But upon the way to, and after their arrival at the huts, a few of the ringleaders, encouraged by emissaries from Sir Harry, and perhaps by the too great clemency of granting them a general pardon, again became insolent and mutinous. A detachment from the main army, under the command of General Howe, which had been sent on to quell the mutineers, arrived about this time, when those who had forfeited the pardon, by not performing the conditions, were apprehended by order of the General, and David Gilmore, sergeant in the 2d regiment, and John Tuttle, private in the 1st, were tried, found guilty, and immediately executed. Every mark of penitence and respect for order was manifested by the others who had offended, and entire order and subordination took place in the brigade.

Last week the enemy hung, at Bergen-Point, one Ball, an inhabitant of Rahway, who was suspected of being a spy.

A letter from New-York mentions "That there is a homeward bound fleet, of upwards of two hundred sail, which it is expected will leave there this week, under convoy of the Brilliant of 32 guns, and the Clinton of 30, in which a number of his Majesty's desponding subjects are to take their departure." Last Friday General Robertson, with between two

and three thousand troops, came from New-York to Staten-Island. It is supposed he has it in contemplation to make an incursion into this state, as some of their dirty productions, to poison the minds of the soldiery, were found last Saturday at this place.—We would recommend it to Sir Harry to silence the clamorous hirelings of Hesse, to whom he is fifteen months in arrear, before he makes overtures to our soldiery.

RICHMOND, (Virginia) Jan. 20.
Extract of a letter from an officer in the southern army.

"It gives me much pleasure that I have it in my power to inform you a detachment of horse from General Morgan's party, consisting of Baylor's regiment of dragoons, and 200 militia horse, commanded by Col. Washington, has totally defeated a party of 250 Tories commanded by a Col. Verner. This happened about twenty-five miles from Ninety-Six. Col. Washington's party killed and mortally wounded one hundred and sixty-four, and made 40 prisoners, without having a single man of his party killed or wounded."

NARRATIVE of the movements of the ENEMY since our last.

Three little rencounters have happened with the enemy. In the first, General Smallwood led on a party of two or three hundred militia, and obliged some armed vessels of the enemy to retire from a prize they had taken at Broadways, and renewing his attack the next day with a four pounder or two, (for on the first day he had only muskets) he obliged some of their vessels to fall down from City Point, to their main fleet at Westover. The enemy's loss is not known; ours was seven men wounded.—A party of the enemy's lighthorse surprised about one hundred or one hundred and fifty militia at Charles City Court-House, wounded four, of whom two died, and took six prisoners. On Baron Steuben's approach towards Hood's, the enemy embarked; the wind, which till then had set directly up the river, from the time of their leaving James town, shifted in a moment to the opposite point. Baron Steuben, with the main body of the troops under his command, was about ten miles from Hood's when the enemy landed twelve hundred there.

On the night of the 10th, Col. Clarke, of Kaskaskie, had been sent on with 230 men, and having properly disposed of them in ambuscade, gave the enemy a deliberate fire, which killed 17 on the spot, and wounded thirty. They returned the fire in confusion, by which we had three or four wounded; our party, being much inferior in numbers, retired. Embarking again, they fell down the river to Cobham, where they plundered the warehouses, and carried off about 60 hogheads of tobacco. The last intelligence received was, that on the 16th they were standing for Newport-news.

BALTIMORE, January 23.
Extract of a letter from Fredericksburg, (Virginia) dated the 16th instant.

"The enemy, by our last accounts, are still on James river at Burwell's ferry, about 4 miles from Williamsburg,—General Nelson has near 1900 men with him there—and we are making up a considerable force in this place, which I hope will be sufficient to check them, if they should pay us a visit.—The enemy have done little or nothing since my last."

PHILADELPHIA, January 31.
From the best authority we learn that the state of Maryland hath agreed to the confederation of the United States, by which means the confederacy is now complete.

We also learn that the state of Virginia have given up their claim to the back lands, and have, in a formal manner, by a law, ceded to the United States all the lands lying to the westward of the River Ohio.

The brig Fame, Capt. Treen, about fourteen days ago, took the privateer schooner Cock, Capt. Brooks, bound from New-York on a cruise to Chesapeake-Bay, and sent her into a port in New-Jersey.

We hear the brig Fame, Capt. Treen, lying in Egg-Harbour, in the gale of wind on the 22d instant, was overset, and it is said twenty-five of her hands were drowned.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Virginia, dated January 22, 1781.

"Our last account was, that the enemy had sent their men in boats up Pagan Creek, and landed at Smithfield, on the south side of James River. Baron Steuben was at Cabin Point, about 30 miles above them; Gen. Nelson at Williamsburg, and Gen. Weedon at Fredericksburg. Gen. Muhlenburg is gone down with a fine body of riflemen to reinforce the Baron and Nelson. I suppose you have heard that Arnold issued a proclamation inviting the inhabitants to enlist with him, ordering a bounty of three guineas, and a commission to any man according to the number he shall bring with him."

Extract of a letter from Williamsburg, dated Jan. 20.
"The enemy marched by land to Portsmouth, where it is probable they will entrench."

Extract of a letter from Annapolis, dated Jan. 22, 1781.

"Captain Forbes, in the Nesbitt, arrived here about two o'clock. He left L'Orient the last of November, with a fleet of 150 sail of merchantmen and a few frigates, and went with them off Brest harbour, where there lay a fleet waiting for the vessels from L'Orient and other ports bound to the West-Indies and America. Capt. Forbes understood that a squadron of 14 or 15 ships of the line lay at Brest; and he understood

a body of troops, 8 or 9000, were to sail with the squadron, but he did not learn their destination. The grand fleet of Great-Britain and the united grand fleet of France and Spain were at sea. Capt. Forbes was five days off our capes, in which he came close by Cape Henry last Thursday afternoon, about an hour by sun; he looked from the topmast head, with a spy-glass, into Hampton road, but saw no vessels there. He was on board Capt. Buchannon, at the mouth of Patuxent yesterday morning, who sailed with the whole fleet about ten o'clock, with intention to put to sea. Capt. Forbes took a prize from Charlestown with rice and indigo, and ordered her to Philadelphia."

TRENTON, FEBRUARY 7.

At the adjourned Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery held in Monmouth the 23d ult. Robert James was convicted of high treason, and Humphry Wade and John Parker were convicted of horsestealing, and are all sentenced to be executed next Friday. At the same Courts, John Van Mater, Israel Pennington, Francis Borden, David Knott, William Morton, Walter West, Cornelius Clayton, Joseph Randolph, sen. Levi Conrow, David Allen, Peter Patterson, Daniel Bray, Thomas Fields, David Houle, jun. Jonathan Stout, Patrick Baily, Edward Doughty, Joseph Price and Jane Millegan were convicted of misdemeanors.

We hear from New-York that a fleet of sixty sail, under convoy of four frigates and a forty gun ship, (the French Indiaman taken by Rodney) sailed last week from that place for Europe, on board of which is shipped most of their hard cash.

Previous to the sailing of the above fleet, there was a very hot press in New-York, in which they took white and black without distinction, to the number of about five hundred persons.

They have received an account at New-York, that one of Graves's fleet, a 74, was cast away in the late violent snow storm, on Brinton's reef, and that all on board perished.

The refugees within the British lines have been elated with the prospect of peace, at the expence of the liberties of the United States, in consequence of some late events, that numbers of them purchased merchandize in order to set up shopkeeping in this state, and went so far as to fix upon their respective places of abode.—Poor deluded wretches!

Extract of a letter from Holland to a gentleman in this state, dated September 20, 1780.

"The same causes which have hindered this republic from openly connecting itself with America, and from protecting its own commerce, still continue in a great degree. She has hitherto suffered herself to be insulted, ill treated, and pillaged with impunity by the English. But the grand point with respect to America which we have gained is, that the English party have not succeeded in their endeavours to engage her in this contest in favour of your enemies; and as to her own commerce, tho' she has not had enterprise sufficient to protect it alone, she will have prudence enough to appear among the foremost in the fleets forming by the confederated maritime powers.

"I congratulate you on the glory which your troops and militia have gained in repulsing the British incendiaries from the village of Springfield. You will have learned, before the receipt of this letter, of the capture of the English East and West Indian fleets by the combined fleets of France and Spain, between Cape St. Vincent and Madeira. A very important stroke in its consequences; for there were 5 ships for the East-Indies, 18 for Admiral Rodney, 13 for Jamaica, and 28 for New-York and Charlestown, with troops, money, ammunition and provision, the loss of which must derange the operations of the enemy on all sides.

"We think it unfortunate for America that Mr. Laurens has met with so many delays in executing the commission Congress had given him for this country; however, the good work shall not be entirely stop'd on that account. I have lately received letters of thanks from the Ministers of the United States of America, both in France and Spain, in consequence of my acceptance of bills in the absence of this gentleman, and shall esteem myself always happy when I can promote the interest of so glorious a cause as that in which America is engaged."

* * * The Piece signed 'A Militia Officer,' has been received, and will be attended to as soon as possible. And the piece signed, 'A lover of true Justice,' must be deferred till our next.

Thirty Shillings Reward.

MADE his escape from the subscriber, one of the Constables for the township of Windsor, a certain Jacob Maple, who was convicted of larceny before two of the Justices of the county of Middlesex, and was sentenced to be whipped at the publick whipping-post, but made his escape while preparation was making to put the said sentence in execution. The said Maple is about five feet ten inches high, of a dark complexion, has very black hair; wore a mixed coloured coat and leather breeches, and an old flog'd hat. Whoever secures the said Jacob Maple, so that he may be brought to punishment, shall be entitled to the above reward and all reasonable charges.

^{3w*} JOHN TOTTEN, Constable.
Princeton, Feb. 5, 1781.

For the information of the Public.

BY a law passed (in last November session) by the Legislature of the state of Maryland, it is enacted, "That after the first of April next no bills of credit issued by Congress, or acts of Assembly under the old government, or resolves of Conventions, shall be received or exchanged by the Commissioner in said state at the city of Annapolis, or the Commissioner on the Eastern Shore; nor will this state ever hereafter redeem, or in any manner be answerable for the redemption or sinking of any of said bills of credit."

The possessors of any of the above mentioned bills of credit, emitted by acts of Assembly under the old government, or resolves of Conventions, are hereby cautioned to get them exchanged agreeably to the above law, otherwise the said bills will be sunk in their hands. A. B.

Trenton, 25th Jan. 1781.

TO BE SOLD,
AN excellent NEGRO GARDENER, about 40 years of age, has had the small-pox and measles. Enquire of the Printer.

Bucks County, January 31, 1781.

RAN AWAY,

From the subscriber, on the 29th ult.

A MULATTO GIRL named Agness Beat, had on when she went away, a dark linsy gown and petticoat, light coloured cloak, black bonnet, low heel'd shoes; and as she has taken with her sundry other clothes, she may alter her dress.—Whoever takes up said Mulatto shall have Three Hundred Dollars reward, and reasonable charges, paid by me.

ADAM VANHART.

N. B. All persons are hereby forbid to harbour her; if they do, they shall be prosecuted according to law. I W*

WANTED,

A MANAGER on a Farm, a middle aged man who has a thorough knowledge of farming: Any person who can be well recommended for his knowledge, industry and sobriety, may hear of good encouragement, by applying to the Printer hereof. None else need apply.

Also wanted, a Blacksmith, who understands country business, he would meet with good encouragement; the person having a shop and tools which would be let on reasonable terms. *

THOSE that purchased Tickets of the subscriber in the Third Class of the United States Lottery, and are desirous of renewing them in the Fourth, are desired to apply in all this month, otherwise they will be excluded from that privilege. Feb. 6, 1781. M. FURMAN.

ABRAHAM DRAKE,
Has for SALE at the SCOTCH-PLAINS,

B Broadcloth,	Nankeen,
Corduroy,	Women's gloves & mitts,
Corded dimitty,	Buckram,
Calico,	Knives and scissars,
Black and white gauze,	Pins and needles,
Damascus,	Chocolate,
Black silk handkerchiefs,	Raisons,
White silk ditto,	Brimstone,
Check silk ditto,	China tea cups & saucers,
Linen handkerchiefs,	Quart & pint Delf bowls,
An assortment of buttons,	Queen's ware plates,
Mohair and silk,	Shoe and knee buckles,
Catgut,	Stock buckles and sleeve buttons,
Cambric and lawn,	Tea and sugar,
Muslin,	Molasses,
Stripe ditto,	Snuff and tobacco,
Pelung,	Writing paper by the ream or quire,
Mode,	Earthen ware,
Taffety,	Cotton,
Wide Persian,	Indigo, best quality,
Ribbons,	And a variety of other articles which will be sold as low as possible. 6†
Calimanco,	
Stockings,	
Stamp'd linen handkerchiefs,	
Irish linen,	

Trenton, 5 February, 1781.

WHEREAS many depredations are committed on the property of the United States in this town, such as stealing the boards and other materials from the public buildings and fences, carrying off parts of waggons and other articles, which cannot be put under cover, or otherwise secured from the plundering hands of those who have a disposition for such vile practices: The Quartermaster requests the assistance of every good citizen in detecting such injurious and worthless members of the community, and offers a reward, equal to the crime, to any person who will discover the person or persons guilty thereof, in such a manner as to enable him to prosecute him or them to conviction. By this means only the property which every individual is interested in can be secured.

^{4w} JOHN NELSON, D.Q.M.

ELIAS BLAND, who had obtained a proper passport to go to Great-Britain, lately died at New-York, as I am informed, intestate; and having before he left New-Jersey empowered me to settle his affairs, I am desirous that every thing should be done for the benefit of all persons interested in his estate: And as it appears to me necessary that his creditors should meet as soon as may be, in order to consult what steps may be most proper to be taken on the occasion, I propose that a meeting be held on Tuesday the 20th of February next, at twelve o'clock, at the dwelling-house of the deceased in Woodbridge; at which time and place all persons interested are desired to attend, with a state of their several demands, for the purposes above-mentioned.

JAMES PARKER.

January 17, 1781. 3

TO BE SOLD,

A PLANTATION lying in the township of Alexandria and county of Hunterdon, on the road that leads from Samuel Everett's mills to Sherred's ferry, now in the possession of Wm. Taylor. It may be laid out to contain 263 acres. There is a good orchard and a sufficiency of meadow on the place, and the buildings and fences are in good order. Whoever inclines to purchase, may apply to James Parker near Pitts-Town, by whom an indisputable title will be given for the same. 6

THIS is to give notice that the Partnership of Downing and Chambers is dissolved:—All persons having any demands against them are desired to make application to Robert Chambers; and those indebted to the partnership are requested to make speedy payment, to prevent further trouble.

Trenton, Jan. 27, 1781. 3

WHEREAS a certain Thomas Kelly has long been supported as one of the poor of the township of Trenton, is frequently strolling about in the neighbouring counties, either begging or spunging on the inhabitants notwithstanding a proper place is provided for his maintenance, without burthening any; wherefore these are to request all persons where-ever he may come, not to harbour or encourage him in so troublesome and unbecoming a practice. And whoever shall take up and deliver him, the said Thomas Kelly, to either of the Overseers of the poor of said township, shall receive One Hundred Dollars reward.

JOS. BRITTON, } Overseers of
EBENEZER ROSE, } the Poor.

Trenton, January 29, 1781.

ISAAC MICHAEL,

At his STORE at Bound-Brook, hath for SALE as cheap as the times will allow, viz. RUM, WINE, SUGARS, LINENS, CHECKS, COFFEE, TEA, TOBACCO, SNUFF, And sundry DRY GOODS.

Trenton, State of New-Jersey, Jan. 31, 1781.

THE Trenton Library Company being desirous to renew the same, request all such Members, and every other person in this state who may have any of the BOOKS belonging thereto, to deliver or send them immediately to R. WILLIAMS, Libr.

N. B. Any person living at a distance, and having books, the expence of transportation will be paid by the Librarian. 3

Bucks county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 30, 1781.

THE wife of the subscriber (late widow of Robert Taylor, jun. and generally known by the name of Hannah Taylor) has absconded from his dwelling without any just cause: And there being no hopes of her returning, notice is hereby given to all persons not to trust her on his account, as he will pay no debts of her contracting from the date hereof. Those with whom she may have already run him in debt, are desired to render their accounts immediately.

JOHN ANDERSON. 3w*

JOSEPH MILNOR,

Has for SALE at his STORE in Trenton, RUM, BRANDY and WINE, SUCHONG and BOHEA TEA, COFFEE and CHOCOLATE, SPANISH and MUSCOVADO SUGAR, PINE and CEDAR BOARDS and SHINGLES, BAR-IRON and NAILS, with an assortment of DRY GOODS.

N. B. All those indebted to him are desired to make immediate payment, and prevent further trouble. 3w*

THE Members of the WHIG SOCIETY of SOMERSET are requested to attend at Hillsborough, at the house of Andrew Merfison, innkeeper, on the second Tuesday of February next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Jan. 27, 1781. JOHN TAYLOR, Sec.

TO BE SOLD,

By the SUBSCRIBER.

A TRACT of Land in the county of Middlesex, about five miles from New-Brunswick and seven from Perth-Amboy, known by the name of the Neck Tract, supposed to contain about five hundred acres, with a dwelling-house and some improvements, and is very convenient for two farms, lying nearly square, one side fronting the river and two sides bounded on creeks, which will save much fencing, and on each considerable quantity of meadow may be made, with a good landing for shallops, and a shad fishery. Also one, two or 300 acres of land to be taken off of other lands the subscriber has in that neighbourhood, with or without a very good mill-seat on an extraordinary good stream, as may best suit the purchaser. The subscriber would also sell a small Farm whereon John Bowne lives, near Princeton, and a Lot of Land by Worth's mills on Stoney-Brook, with a large stone dwelling-house, &c. it is a good stand for a store, one has been kept in said house many years. Likewise a House and Lot in Bordentown, in good repair and pleasantly situated; and two Lots of Land in the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia. Any person inclining to purchase any part of the above premises, may be more particularly informed by applying to the subscriber in Bordentown, or for the last mentioned Lots to Thos. Watson, jun. in Philadelphia.

THOMAS WATSON.

Bordentown, January 29, 1781. 3

TO BE SOLD,

A Valuable TRACT of LAND, in Hardwick township, Suffex 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 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

WILLIAM RICHARDS,

At Trenton Landing, and at his Store in Philadelphia, WILL GIVE THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR GOOD MUSTARD SEED.

The Method of raising MUSTARD SEED in Durham, Old England.

THE ground must be well manured and made into hills about two and a half feet distant each way, much in the same manner as for Indian corn; plant the seed the first good weather after the twentieth of February a little below the surface, let there be about three or four stalks on each hill, and the seed will grow larger and a greater quantity than if sowed: As it does not all come to perfection at one time, it must be gathered as it ripens and spread on a floor to dry. This is work proper for children. 6w

TO BE SOLD,

(For want of employ only) or hired by the year, SUNDRY Negroes, of different ages, sexes, and qualities, all good in their kind. Also a good feather bed and bolster, a handsome set of bed and window curtains, a pair of rose blankets and a rug to be disposed of together, at a reasonable rate for cash. An elegant set of tea-table china complete, and a few half dozens of cups and saucers; also green handled ivory knives and forks. Enquire of the printer.

ROBERT EASTBURN,

IN NEW-BRUNSWICK,

Hath for SALE, on the lowest condition that the times will admit of, viz.

GOOD West-India rum, Black silk lace, White ditto, Coat and jacket metal, wooden & mohair buttons, Shoe and knee buckles, Sleeve buttons, Table and tea spoons, Testaments, Spelling-books, Primers, Almanacks, Men's shoes, Women's stuff and leather ditto, Wool cards, Fine, coarse, and crooked horn combs, Pasteboards, Stay laces and tapes, French and common shoe heels, Pints, half-pints and gill glasses, Iron-ware, viz. Large kettles fit for salt boiling, Large and small pots, Tea kettles & stew pans, Sliding bolts, haips and staples, Earthen ware of various kinds, such as Dishes, Mugs, Bowls, Pots, Tea cups and saucers by the quantity or single article. 3w*

RAN AWAY,

On Saturday the 20th instant, from the subscriber living in Maidenhead,

A NEGRO MAN named WILL, formerly went by the name of YERRAH, about twenty-three years of age, five feet eight inches high, has a very remarkable hair mole on his cheek: Had on and took with him a pair of new leather breeches, two pair of stockings, a pair of new shoes, light coloured homespun coat much worn, and hat. It is thought he will endeavour to get to Ancoas or within the enemy's lines. Whoever takes up and secures said servant so that his master may get him again, shall have FOUR SPECIE DOLLARS REWARD, and all reasonable charges paid by

Jan. 22d, 1781.

SAMUEL HUNT.

STAGE-WAGGON.

THE subscriber informs the Publick, that he has provided a commodious Stage-Waggon, with four horses, suitable for carrying Passengers and their baggage, and will set out from the sign of the Bunch of Grapes in Third-street, in the city of Philadelphia, on every Monday morning precisely at ten o'clock, and proceed with all convenient speed for Elizabeth-Town, passing by the Four-Lanes-End, Trenton, Princeton and Brunswick; and will set out from Jeremiah Smith's at Elizabeth-Town precisely at eight o'clock on every Thursday morning, and proceed the same way back again to Philadelphia, without any unnecessary delay.

The price for each passenger from Philadelphia to Elizabeth-Town to be Forty Shillings in specie, or the value thereof in other money, and the like sum for 150lb. weight of baggage; and the same sums for passage and carriage from Elizabeth-Town to Philadelphia: And so in proportion for any greater or less weight.

All Passengers favouring him with their custom, to be freemen of the United States, and others who can produce proper passes, otherwise they may expect to be refused a passage in this stage. No prohibited goods will be carried at any rate. No sealed letters to be carried by the stage unless they are directed to some commissioned officer belonging to the United States, to or from Elizabeth-Town.

The subscriber begs leave to return his thanks to all Gentlemen and Ladies who have been pleased to favour him with their custom, and hopes for a continuance of the same, and they may depend on the punctual attendance of their humble servant,

Jan. 27, 1781.

GERSHOM JOHNSTON.

A FEW days ago was found in Trenton, a Pair of SPURS. The owner proving his property and paying charges, may have them again, by applying to the Printer hereof.

January 24, 1781.