

# NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1781.

### To "A LOVER OF TRUE JUSTICE."

If you are really what you pretend, I am sorry to see you so widely mistaken in the meaning of the word, as to make use of your pen in support of the most flagrant injustice.

You say rightly, "it must be acknowledged that all mankind are born equally free." This is however going very far for one who means to support the practice of keeping the children of slaves in a state of perpetual servitude; because, whatever reasons may be adduced for keeping the parent in slavery, yet the child is born as free as its master.

But you say that "to promote the good of society, the greatest part of mankind are necessarily deprived of that liberty to which they were born." This I utterly deny in the general sense in which it is here expressed. True it is, that every person who enters into society, and who expects to share the advantages of it, must give up a part of his natural liberty in exchange for the benefits of society: But how this voluntary and partial dereliction, or the laws and customs of most societies with respect to wives and children, are to be made use of in favour of absolute and perpetual slavery, is what I confess I do not understand.

Begging the German Doctor's pardon for slighting so great an authority, I shall proceed to examine the several origins of the right of slavery, as I find them laid down by Justinian, who I think has stated them the best of any writer I have met with, and who says (Inst. 1, 3, 4.) slavery is held to arise, 1st, "Jure gentium," from a state of captivity in war. 2d, "Jure civili," when one man sells himself to another. And, 3d, "Servi nascuntur," the children of acquired slaves, being "jure naturæ," by a kind of negative birthright slaves also.

These then are the grand corner stones on which the whole arguments in favour of slavery are built; the not having seen this foundation fairly examined, induced me to take up my pen—presuming that if the foundation should be proved insufficient the whole superstructure must fall.

I shall therefore proceed to examine the first case in which one man is said to acquire a right to hold another in perpetual slavery, viz. by captivity in war. This seems to be the palladium of your whole party, for I find your predecessor *Impartial*\* alledging, that, "if the usages of the nations of Africa justify the foreign and domestic slavery of their captives, they can be purchased without iniquity." You assert, that "if the custom of nations at war is the killing or selling their captives, then buying is just and humane," and "lawful" too, you say "you have proved;" as I suppose "because qualified slavery is preferable to death." What you mean by qualified slavery, when pleading in favour of absolute perpetual slavery, I confess I cannot comprehend.

However, the validity of the whole must depend on the following position, viz. *That the conqueror has a right to the life of his captive; and having spared that, has a right to deal with him as he pleases:* because, if the captor has not a right to dispose of his prisoner, no other can have a right to purchase, let the custom or usage of savage nations in this respect be what it may.

The position, that by the law of nature or nations a man may kill his enemy, is untrue, when taken generally, he has only a right to kill him in particular cases—in cases of absolute necessity—for his own preservation. And it is plain in this case, this absolute necessity did not subsist, since the victor did not actually kill him; but made him prisoner.

War itself is justifiable only on principles of self-preservation, and therefore it gives no other right over prisoners but merely to disable them from doing harm to us, by confining their persons; much less can it give a right to kill, torture, or even to enslave them, when the war is at an end.

Since then the right of making slaves by captivity depends on a supposed right of slaughter, that foundation failing, the consequences drawn from it must fail also, for I presume no lover of true justice will attempt to support a right founded on a custom of savage nations, when that custom appears evidently to have injustice for its foundation.

2. The second instance in which one man is said to acquire a property in another, is by civil compact, where one man sells himself to another. This if only meant of contracts to serve or work for another during life, in consideration of being furnished with the necessaries or some of the conveniences of it, may be very just, and seems to be authorized in what you very improperly call "the law of perpetual slavery," Exod. xxi. 6. Deut. xv. 17, but when applied to absolute perpetual slavery is absurd, as might be easily shewn.

However, as this kind of traffick is little in use in our day, and as the slavery against which I am contending is confessedly not of this kind, I shall say no more of it, but proceed to—

3. The last case, viz. that by birth, it being generally said that the children of slaves are slaves also.—This you have fairly given up, and deduce the right of the master to the children from another quarter. Indeed, as this right is built on one or the other of the former, if they fall, this must fall together with them. If neither captivity, nor the sale of one's self, can, by the law of nature and reason, reduce the parent to slavery, much less can they reduce the offspring.

Here then you introduce a new and unheard of claim; you say, "slavery by birth is not founded on being born of a slave, but because the time and labour of the mother, the food and raiment of the child belongs to the master: Therefore, as such child has no parents who can give it necessary support, it is bound in justice to make satisfaction, if able." To have made good your argument you should have added, by becoming a slave for life, and of course entailing the same fate on all its posterity. Your whole position however is to me both new and curious, having always understood that the child of a female slave was a slave merely because its mother was so, however able and willing its free father might be to support it, and pay for its nurture; and that the child of a free woman was free, because its mother was so, notwithstanding its father was a slave, and it obliged to the parish for support.

Let us now consider a little the consequences of this strange doctrine. On this principle the children of every person (no matter how affluent his present circumstances) who through misfortune shall be reduced to such a state of indigence as to be unable to provide for his infant offspring, must in true justice, with their whole posterity become slaves to their foster fathers: Thus the children of every pauper, with their descendants to the latest generation, must be sunk in perpetual and irremediable slavery; for it matters not whether they receive their "food and raiment" from the community at large or from an individual, they are equally "bound in justice to make satisfaction" in the one case as the other.

Let us now compare your calculation of the "expense and trouble" with every day's experience, and we shall find, if not more "than one in ten," yet that there are numbers who will be "at the trouble and expense of bringing up children until" they are fourteen years of age for less than one-third part of the money you have mentioned; nay, I have known instances of it for one-sixth, and we have every day instances of persons who will give a sum equal to the first, for their services from that time 'til they arrive at the age of twenty-one years, and give them legal tuition and freedoms into the bargain. Why, then this pompous calculation, except to gain a specious cover for perpetual slavery!

Let us next take a view of your authorities drawn from scripture. And here I must observe that you are constantly begging the question; which however I do not mean to grant, until you fairly prove that where-ever the word servant is used in scripture, it is meant to convey the idea of absolute and perpetual slavery.—That Abraham had children born in his house, and servants purchased with his money, I shall not deny, but that the first were slaves at all, or the last slaves even for life, I conceive lies on you to prove; and was that proved, I should contend that the tenure of their slavery was different from ours, as I find Abraham mentions them, Gen. xv. 3, as having a title to become his heirs, and this too (as is allowed by good writers on the subject) such a title as he could not defeat but by having issue of his own body.

As well might we Americans torture our British prisoners under saws and harrows of iron, or hew them to pieces in cold blood, and plead the command of the Lord, and the practice of David and Samuel, as keep the natives of Africa in slavery, and plead the authority of scripture and the practice of Abraham. And in this case "I answer, that if such treatment would be savage barbarity now, it was so then; if prisoners are entitled to better treatment now, they were so then." But perhaps you would be willing to be called a barbarian with holy Samuel and David.

That the case of Onesimus should be matter of so much exultation to your party, is, I confess, to me matter of astonishment, since granting that Onesimus was a slave for life, or if you please, forever, (which by the way you neither have proved nor can prove) yet it is evident that Philemon, a Christian, was not permitted to keep him so. Read the 16th and 17th verses of the epistle, and disbelieve what I have asserted if you can.

I shall now beg leave to turn my reader's attention

for a moment from you to your friend *Impartial*, whose position I have already quoted, and therefore mean only to draw a parallel, by saying, that "if the usages of the nations of America justify the roasting of their captives, taken from us, alive, before a slow fire, or burning them by lighted pine knots stuck in various parts of their bodies, then they may be purchased by us, and treated in the same manner, without iniquity." Your heart recoils not at the horrid idea? yet what is that it stands on the same foundation with the position of *Impartial*? Indeed, that it is in every respect an exact parallel, except that this respects white men, that black; this the sons of America, that of Africa.

"But," says he, "let us suppose our Negroes were stolen from their country, divested of that natural liberty given to them by Heaven, and reduced to vassalage, it may be asked whether the whole of the guilt devolves not on the perpetrators of the deed? whether any of the guilt devolves on those who have purchased of the posterity of the slaves, or inherit them by the gift or will of parents." I think I have fairly proved that if the first possessor of them did not steal them, he could not possibly become possessed of them but by injustice, and therefore could not convey a right to another which he had not in himself; so that the first, or any after-purchaser, could have no better right than the original possessor, be he captor, thief, or what he might: Hence it follows, that if our slaves were unjustly obtained, it must be unjust to hold them in bondage. This, says he, "we readily grant it would be for the unjust importer of them, or the heirs of the importer, who received them without paying what is deemed an equivalent for the property."—Pray Mr. *Impartial*, was you to purchase a horse from a person who you knew had stolen him, and keep him out of reach of the owner, admit you to pay an equivalent for the property, would this exonerate you from all blame? Would "the whole of the guilt devolve on the perpetrator of the deed?" And is not this the case exactly as you have stated it? "But," say you, "as the slaves are among us, &c." This is generally the last subterfuge, and perhaps the best; it is in fact saying that you hold your slaves by the same tenure that too many people do their religion, because your fathers did so before you, without ever enquiring into the right or wrong of the matter.

My design not being to enter into the subject of emancipating the present race of slaves among us, but to shew that we neither have, nor can have a right to detain them, I shall conclude, leaving the time and manner of setting them free to the consciences of the holders of them—But first permit me to address a word to the humanity of their masters.

Do you then feel no compunction, or are you grown deaf to the calls of nature and callous to the tender feelings of the human heart; do you, I say, feel no compunction at beholding, or can you with composure see the distresses of your slaves, when to satisfy your avarice, or promote your convenience, the tender husband is torn from the soft embraces of his affectionate wife, or the fond father from the sight of his endearing, his beloved child, with this distressing consideration, (added to that of the probability that he shall never see them more) that they are left to be governed by the capricious will of—he knows not who! and to be dealt with—he knows not how—without friend—without property—without even protection by the laws of the country—without anything he can leave them—without anything he can give them, except his parting blessing. Look, I beseech you, for a moment on your wives—on your tender helpless babes—consider what would be your own feelings in such a situation, and let those feelings plead in their behalf; for, whatever you may pretend, you do not, you cannot in your serious moments believe, that your black complexioned, any more than your red or black haired neighbours are void of the like tender sensations. E.

L O N D O N, October 24.

MR. Wedderburne has cost this country the small price of two peerages. Mr. De Grey would have accepted the seals if Ministry would have given him a peerage, but they did not think his merits, in that situation, and as being an Englishman, deserved one; but to make way for Wedderburne, being a Scotchman, and to do their dirty work in the upper House, Mr. De Grey is made a Peer, and Sawney exalted to an English peerage. How long will this persecuted country bear to be ridden and trampled on by a Scotch faction?

The sober, thinking part of mankind are exceedingly surprized at the appointment of the noble Earl of Red-hills to the Lieutenancy of Ireland. At so critical a moment as the present, when the temper of the

\* See New-Jersey Gazette, No. 159.

Irish is upon the balance, and the least wrong turn will again throw them into ill-humour, surely some grave character, with the reputation of solidity, and a good disposition to Ireland, was the most proper to be fixed on. His Lordship's trip to America, and correspondence with the French commander, does not place him very high in the line of embassy; besides, that the petite insignificance and general stile of the man has given the world an impression of contempt.

Oct. 25. This day *twenty years* his Majesty, God bless him! mounted the throne, in full possession of the hearts of his people, and with an applause and confidence unparalleled in the history of mankind. England was then at her highest pitch of glory; blest with unbounded strength, wealth, power and dominion; united in her councils, courted in her alliances, and formidable to her enemies; she wanted nothing but the blessing of a native Prince, to harmonize her happiness, and complete her glory. Every English bosom glowed with honest pride to see an Englishman at the head of this free state, whose interests were apparently inseparable from the general welfare. But alas! this fond delusion was of short duration; every flattering prospect vanished with the moment. No sooner did that scourge of England, the Earl of Bute, appear high in favour of the Sovereign and his mother, than every snake and scorpion of the North crawled from his lurking hole, to bask in the unwholesome rays of this malignant meteor, to blight our power, and to poison all our happiness. A most inglorious peace with the natural enemies of the country first marked the *weakness*, as a most unjust and unnatural war with our brethren and fellow-citizens in America first ascertained the *wickedness* of our public councils. To detail the unfortunate gradations by which we have passed from our former greatness, and from wealth and power have descended to beggary and contempt, would be too painful to a good mind, and too grateful to those malignant fiends whose baleful influence has wrought our ruin. The fact is flagrant, and the mortifying change is so severely felt by the whole nation, that it is only necessary to appeal to individuals for the melancholy proof of our calamities.

Our superiority at sea is at an end. When we attempt to negotiate, we truckle; we go to market on terms of disgrace and bad bargain for auxiliaries; and America, our best inheritance, is lost to us for ever. The spirit of our people is subdued by corruption, aided by despair and force. The King is absolute, without an absolute controul; and England is in a state of unconscious slavery. Her foreign dominion lost; her rights invaded or disregarded; her Sovereign, unmindful of his own interest and real honour, sacrificing to little unworthy attachments and base principles; a situation which only fools would envy and hypocrites would court. With such education, such sentiments, and such a conduct, there is no rational hope of reformation.

Oct. 26. It is no wonder that ministers should hope to succeed in imposing on the people of this country, with regard to the dispositions of the Americans, when their instruments attempt the same game within the lines of our army on the very spot. The late expedition into the Jerseys, the particulars of which ministers have so carefully concealed, was undertaken in consequence of the representations made to a certain superannuated Governor by the Tories of that province, of the strength of their party; yet, in the whole line of their march, they did not find a man to join them but one lame decrepid farmer, carried by his blacks in an arm-chair, and who was more anxious to pay his court to the royal Physician than to the royal General.

The same Governor, who is indebted for his appointment to the testimony he bore in the House of Commons, of this pretended loyalty of the Americans, had well nigh paid the forfeit of his credulity on this expedition. He was so terrified at the intrepidity with which the Americans received our troops, and the universal resistance they met with, that he fled in the utmost terror, and would have drawn off the troops with equal disgrace to our arms, had he not been restrained by the venerable foreigner who was chief in command. Under his direction and management they contrived to make a *decent retreat*.

The draught of men from Ireland has been so great, that there is not above 5000 men left out of their establishment of 16000. There are no troops more averse to the American service than the regulars in Ireland; and such is the general dislike to it, that it is very difficult to raise recruits there upon any terms.

Nov. 2. The world is greatly divided respecting the steps to be taken with Mr. Laurens. If deliberate treason and active rebellion are crimes against the state, his conduct certainly deserves the severest reprobation; yet such is the distraction of the times, that while one party sentence him to the scaffold, the other would vote him into Parliament! Not only the strength and spirit of the contending parties, but the very justice of the war in which we are engaged, will be eventually decided by the fate of this captive; so that we cannot but be anxious to see whether government dare enforce the laws against the enemies of the nation, or if obstinacy of opposition is still powerful enough to avert their punishment, and raise them into popularity!

Nov. 4. It is time that the Committees of the several counties began to meet and deliberate. The whole now depends upon the people themselves. This Parliament is no better than the last; and while the rotten boroughs have power to *betray* and *sell* this nation, this will ever be the case.

There are many complaining letters from America in France, about the treatment of Lord Cornwallis towards some of the principal men of South-Carolina; their being sent into banishment at St. Augustine, &c. and for the hanging a number of unarmed inhabitants of South-Carolina, for a breach of their oaths of fidelity to his Majesty. These oaths, first forced upon the people by the British, and afterwards by the American army, have been violated on both sides, as is generally the case with compulsory oaths. It is feared, from these rigorous measures of that successful General, and the late severe treatment shewn a former President of Congress, that the hatred of America towards this country will be irrevocably sealed.

The opposition have acquired a considerable additional weight by being joined by the late Speaker. He, from his sound and deep knowledge of the principles of the constitution, will prove a most formidable opponent to the present Attorney-General.

His Majesty has ordered a sideboard of plate to be presented to Charles Wolfran Cornwallis, Esq. the new Speaker of the House of Commons.

Who are Mr. Charles Jenkinson and Mr. Cornwallis? Who are their fathers, and where do they come from? Are they after the order of *Melchisedec*, "of whom there are many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing we are dull of hearing;" without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life; but like unto their *invisible* political father, "who abideth continually?" Some say Mr. Jenkinson, about 20 years ago, was a clerk behind a counter in the city of London. What Lord Bute found in him besides an assiduity to do his work, the public know not. Mr. Cornwallis is Mr. Jenkinson's brother-in-law; but what other pretension has he, more than any other clerk in the offices at Whitehall, in which situation alone Mr. Cornwallis was ever known, and where he would have remained, but for his alliance to Mr. Jenkinson? Who then is this extraordinary man, Mr. Jenkinson, that can make a Speaker of the House of Commons, make government purchase a sinecure place for him for life in Ireland, and whom our gracious Sovereign could descend to make a personal merit of rewarding, as an act of his peculiar affection, for being persecuted on his (*i. e.* the *invisible fiend's*) account, who is now holding one of the first offices of the state, and which he only condescends to fill, as the stirrup to the Premier's place?—It is natural for men to ask these questions, when they observe such extraordinary phenomena. It is very probable that the plentiful stream of honour that has already enobled so many worthy personages will, in due time, add both of them to the list of Peers, and the heralds will be employed to give them a pedigree: But in the mean time the descendants of ancient English Peers would be glad to know, at this time, something of these personages—"to whom related, and by whom begot?"—Is not this same Mr. Jenkinson that spirit (whether evil or good I say not) by whom the extraordinary personage who once condescended, for a short time, to appear on the political theatre, now administers our affairs, since he is withdrawn into his invisible state? When he departed, he might, in the language of a good book, have told us, "It is expedient for you that I go away; but I will send the Comforter unto you." It was indeed expedient for us that Lord Bute should go away; but whether it was expedient that he should send such a Comforter as Mr. Jenkinson, let Britain's woes declare; "for he abideth continually." He might have added, "I have many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now: howbeit, when he (Mr. Jenkinson, that spirit of truth) is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will shew you things to come. (Indeed we have seen things which we never believed would come!) He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."—The prophetic language here quoted needs no further explanation, but only an application to that invisible spirit, Lord Bute, who abided long enough to divulge part of his system, and has sent Mr. Jenkinson to complete the prophecy; the rapid progress he has made is obvious to the greatest infidel in English politics.

Nov. 24. Every week teems now with something extraordinary and unlooked for!—Surely the multitude of wonders will produce some event propitious to this island ere long! In North-America, a rebel chief has revolted from his new masters, and joined the royal standard; but he has revolted alone, that is, come like a common deserter, without bringing a single sentinel with him! For his desertion we have paid dear, in the ignominious, untimely death of a brave officer of distinguished rank and merit!

Commodore Leslie, our naval commander at Gibraltar, has just written home a disagreeable confirmation of the inimical disposition of the Emperor of Morocco towards the British, and an avowed predilection in favour of the Spanish. The English vessels are repeatedly taken under the very guns of Tangiers, in spite of every remonstrance on the part of our Consul.

#### BOSTON, March 1.

We are well informed, that a merchant of character in England has lately wrote to his correspondent in America, to get insurance of his property on this side the water, as the insurers in London had broke for a million sterling more than they were able to pay.

By authentic accounts from South-Carolina, nothing can exceed the face of misery in Charlestown,

and the district within 40 or 50 miles of that town, since it fell under the domination of Britain. Pretextes have been found for breaking almost every article of the capitulation. An affecting proof is there seen, that no dependence is to be placed upon British promises and stipulations. Gentlemen of the first character and fortunes, in violation of the most solemn agreements, have been confined in prison-ships, and sent to the garrison of Augustine. Many families, who a little while ago lived in affluence and splendor, are now reduced to beggary; and not allowed to sell the least article of their household furniture or other property, for their necessary subsistence. The conditions upon which the soldiers of the United States, who defended that place surrendered, are totally disregarded, and those unfortunate men are now treated with the greatest inhumanity. It is even a crime in the eyes of the British government there, for a gentleman of feelings to speak to them, or afford the least alleviation to their sufferings. Whoever would see a specimen of the blessings to be expected from a surrender to the power with which we are contending, let him go to Charlestown; there he will behold trade reduced—citizens impoverished and crouching to the soldier—property wrested from the owner—the residue precarious—and even life itself dependant on arbitrary will.

Monday arrived a French frigate, in 67 days from Brest.

Yesterday arrived here the ship Mars, Capt. Sampson, in 11 weeks from Nantz.

Capt. Sampson, on his homeward bound passage, took a brig from London, bound to New-York, laden with English goods, said to be worth 11,000 sterling, which has safe arrived.

We are informed that Gen. Wadsworth and wife have lately been taken by a party of the enemy from Penobscot.

By authentic accounts from Europe, dated in the beginning of last December, we are assured, that the English in a late memorial have treated the Dutch with much insolence. Some imagine it must produce a war, others relying on the phlegm and patience of the Dutch, think it will pass. Holland, however, has at length acceded to the armed neutrality.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Newport to his friend in this town, dated Sunday, Feb. 25.

"I congratulate you on the success of the French squadron, who sailed from hence a fortnight since; they have returned this morning, with the British ship Romulus, of 44 guns, which they took in the Chesapeake; they brought with them 600 prisoners, and a number of officers, bound to Arnold in the Romulus; likewise 2500 guineas, sent, in the same ship, with which to pay the troops. They destroyed six large privateers, and left four large transports with 100 prisoners, in the hands of the Americans at the southward."

#### PROVIDENCE, February 26.

It is with pleasure we take the earliest opportunity of communicating to the public the following agreeable and interesting intelligence. Last night several French gentlemen of character came to town from Newport, and inform, that his Most Christian Majesty's ship Eveille, of 64 guns, commanded by Monsieur Tilly, with the frigates la Gentille and Surveillante, (which sailed from Newport for Virginia on the 9th instant) returned to that port on Saturday evening, after having captured the whole piratical fleet which had for some time infested Chesapeake bay, under direction of the traitor Arnold, excepting some small vessels that took shelter in a creek. His Most Christian Majesty's ships have brought in with them the Romulus, a British ship of war mounting 44 guns; also, about 500 prisoners, taken in the enemy's fleet, six armed transports laden with stores, one of them having a considerable sum of specie on board, were sent to York, in Virginia, and four others burnt. The above French ships carried with them 1500 stand of arms for the Virginia militia, who were assembling with great alacrity, and Arnold's retreat being effectually cut off, we hope in our next Gazette to have it in our power to congratulate the public on the capture of him and his whole banditti, as well as to furnish a more particular account of the above important event, wherein our faithful and generous allies have rendered such essential service to the common cause.

#### HARTFORD, March 6.

Sunday last his Excellency General Washington, with his suite, passed through this town, on his way to the eastward.

#### FISH-KILL, March 8.

An embarkation of about 1500 men is taking place at New-York, said to be destined for Virginia.

#### RICHMOND, February 24.

Last Saturday evening was captured in our bay, the brig Cornwallis, and the schooner Hibernia; the former mounting 12 double fortified fours, and the latter 10 six pounders; they had in company when taken six small vessels loaded with tobacco, which they had taken up the bay. In one of the privateers, it is said, is a large quantity of plate, and other valuable articles, which they had stole from Mr. Armistead, of Gloucester county, the week before. The prisoners, about 80, were landed at Hampton, and are on their way to this place.

Last Sunday Gen. Mühlenburgh marched with 600 men within sight of Arnold's works at Portsmouth, and there remained six hours; during which time a

party of his horse surprized and took a picket consisting of a sergeant and twelve men, together with a waggon and eight horses.

BALTIMORE, February 27.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the southern army, dated Guilford courthouse, Feb. 10, 1781.

"Since the action with Tarleton, Lord Cornwallis has pushed us to this place (200 miles) where we joined General Greene; one motive that urged him on so rapidly, was the recovery of the prisoners, but they luckily are safe in Virginia. This place is about midway between Hillsborough and Salisbury. His Lordship, by the last accounts, had crossed the Yadkin. We are not so formidable as I could wish. Col. Otho Williams this day takes command of the light infantry (now reinforced by Col. Lee's legion, and about 60 riflemen) during the illness of Gen. Morgan, whose absence is sincerely regretted, as he is exactly calculated for this service. A great many militia are turning out, and I hope we shall shortly be strong enough for his Lordship; but the militia are as yet but raw. Since Col. Lee's surprize of George Town, Col. Marian has penetrated as far as Dorchester, within twenty miles of Charlestown, destroyed a number of stores, and captured a number of prisoners."

Extract of a letter from Alexandria, Fairfax county, Virginia, dated the 21st instant.

"Our Governor has ordered out the fourth part of the militia of this county, to rendezvous at Williamsburgh. There are various conjectures as to the cause: some think the enemy have received a powerful reinforcement at Portsmouth, or that the militia are to co-operate with our French allies hourly expected, if not already arrived, in an attempt to dislodge Benedict and his corps."

One fourth part of the militia of the state of Virginia have taken the field, and a body of them have already marched for Williamsburgh.

Gen. Arnold and his troops, by the last accounts, were busily engaged in fortifying themselves at Portsmouth. Among the British armed vessels lying in Portsmouth harbour, on Elizabeth river, is the Charon of 44 guns.

The southern American army, consisting of 1500 Continentals, and a number of militia, by a retreat that reflects the highest honour on the commander, General Greene, and indeed the officers and privates of every corps, have, in a great degree, frustrated the designs of Earl Cornwallis, who had rapidly advanced upon him with 3000 regulars, besides militia. On the 14th inst. Gen. Greene, with his army, were encamped on the north side of Dan river, in Virginia, having crossed it at Boyd's ferry that and the preceding day. It appeared to be his intention to cross the Stanton river, distant about thirteen miles, where it was imagined he would soon have such an accession of strength, by the junction of the armed yeomanry of Virginia, as would enable him to make an effectual stand. Notwithstanding the rapid movement of Lord Cornwallis, he did not reach Dan river until the whole of the American army had crossed it in the handsomest manner, the baggage and stores of which had previously passed over Roanoke, at Taylor's ferry, and were perfectly safe. On the 14th instant, his Lordship was encamped with his (no doubt fatigued) troops, about three miles southward of Dan river. His further views could not be penetrated. This intelligence we received from a gentleman who crossed Roanoke with Gen. Greene's heavy baggage.

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.

Yesterday arrived Capt. M'Clenahan, in 3 weeks from Dominica, who informs that it was reported there, that after the arrival of Admiral Hood, at St. Lucia, the English fleet put to sea, and that eight of them went to St. Eustatia, and it was said they had taken the island and seized all the vessels of what nation soever in that road. He further adds, that accounts were received at Dominica, that the English had seized all the Dutch vessels in their ports, and where-ever else they could lay their hands on them in Europe.

By a gentleman from New-York we learn, that the 17th light dragoons and a detachment of infantry had marched from New-York and the environs, towards the East end of Long-Island;---that the 22d and 47th British regiments, one Hessian regiment of grenadiers, and the regiment of Anspach, with some more troops, were about to embark from New-York for the southward;---that the transports were not quite ready the 24th ult.---that these troops were supposed to be bound to the Chesapeake, to reinforce or relieve Arnold;---that an express had been sent up the sound on the 20th ult. and another by land, from New-York to Arbutnot, at Gardiner's bay, to hasten his departure from thence, whether to go to New-York or the Chesapeake, is not known. By the same gentleman we are assured, that they are under very great anxiety at New-York, being in expectation of the arrival of a French fleet and 10,000 troops from Europe, of which they were advised by the arrival of the last packet from England;---that the cannon have been actually removed from Nutten-Island on board the ships. The gentleman further adds, that it was confidently said that Mr. Galloway has wrote to Mr. Shoemaker, informing him, that the French fleet had failed from Brest with troops; and that he was under great concern for his friends, the refugees, and says, he fears New-York will be lost to the King, early in the spring.

Extract of a letter from Fredericksburg, in Virginia, dated February 27, 1781.

"The 21st instant General Greene crossed Stanton river. His head-quarters were at Halifax courthouse, about 115 miles from Peterburg. The baggage of our army was at Prince Edward courthouse. Lord Cornwallis's army is on the north side of Dan river, and it is said extends twelve miles up and down the same. By later accounts we are informed, that the whole militia of the counties of Prince Edward, Charlotte, Mecklenburg, Halifax, Henry, Pittsylvania, and part of Bedford, have joined General Greene, amounting to no less than 6000 men; and that he intended to act again on the offensive;---that Lord Cornwallis had retreated one and half miles from Dan river; that he has 13 pieces of artillery;---that Gen. Caswell, with 4000 North-Carolina militia, is in his rear; Baron Steuben, with 500 regulars, and as many riflemen, has marched from Richmond towards Taylor's ferry; and Gen. Weedon is to march in a day or two with 800 from Fredericksburg."

MARCH 10.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the southern army, dated Halifax county, Feb. 17, 1781.

"Notwithstanding the signal victory, obtained by General Morgan, and the surprize of the King's regiment at George-Town, Cornwallis has pushed us to Halifax court-house, and is now encamped within seven miles of our yan, on the west side of the river Dan. I am at a loss which to commend most, the conduct of General Greene's retreat, or the vigor of his Lordship's advance. Our small army, amounting only to 1500, has been exceedingly fortunate, neither stores, baggage nor men lost on the retreat. The enemy pursued with 3000 effectives, Lieut. Colonel Lee's legion, and the light-infantry, covered our rear. Tarleton's dragoons have been feverely handled. Lee's gallant partizans retaliate for past massacres where-ever they meet them; one of his trumpeters was murdered by some of Tarleton's legion, in sight of the corps, which immediately made a charge, and sacrificed 16 of the enemy to his manes. In short, the enemy's cavalry were completely confined within their pickets, and whenever they advanced they suffered for their temerity."

Extract of another letter, dated Dan river, February 18th and 19th, 1781.

"The enemy, after a halt of three days, are retreating in the direction of Hillsborough. Our force, from large collections of militia, is become formidable. I should particularize, but duty calls me on. We are just after the enemy."

TRENTON, MARCH 14.

General DICKINSON desires the MILITIA of this state will hold themselves in the most perfect readiness to march on the shortest notice; it being probable their services may soon be required. He requests the officers will pay the strictest attention to their men's arms and accoutrements, that their appearance in the field may reflect honor on themselves; and flatters himself, that when called upon, they will turn out with that spirit which characterizes the Militia of New-Jersey.

The Brigadiers and Colonels, or Lieutenant-Colonels Commandants of brigades, will be pleased to make their returns agreeably to the direction of the last militia law, passed at Trenton, January 8, 1781.

+++ We would advise the gentleman who sent us the account of the "conduct of a guard," whenever such behaviour shall be repeated, to practise the method he proposes, of guarding such guard to a safe place, there to remain until they shall be taught that their duty is to protect, not plunder, the good people of the state. The money sent will be returned when called for.

The Trustees of the College of New-Jersey will recollect that the third Wednesday in April yearly is the time of their Spring-meeting.

THE WHIG inhabitants of the Western Precinct, (Somerset county) are requested to meet at the house of Henry Harrison, at Rocky-Hill, on Tuesday the 3d of April next, on business of importance; to which time and place the last meeting adjourned.

By order of the meeting,

THO. EGBERT.

Princeton, March 12, 1781.

TO BE SOLD,

By the Single, Dozen, Gross or Thousand, by

ISAAC COLLINS,

At the Printing-Office in Trenton,

THE NEW TESTAMENT,

Printed on a good Type, and good Paper.

Will be RENTED at Vendue,

On Saturday the 24th of this instant, March, THE elegant FARM formerly belonging to Capt. Howard, but now in the possession of Thomas Forman, situate on the main road leading from Philadelphia to New-York, one mile from Princeton and two from Kingston. The vendue to be held on the premises, and will begin at one o'clock, where the conditions will be made known, and attendance given by

Wm. SCUDDER.

Princeton, March 6, 1781.

AT a Court of Inquiry held at the house of Aaron T. Lucas, in Readington, by order of Major-General Dickinson, on the 5th and 6th days of February, 1781, for the investigation of a charge of cowardice alledged against Colonel JOHN TAYLOR, of the fourth regiment of Hunterdon county militia, at the battle at Springfield, June 23, 1780.

The Court consisted of the following officers, viz.

Colonel Joseph Phillips, President,

Lieutenant-Colonel Joab Houghton, Major Cornelius Stout, Major Richard M'Donald, Major Joseph Brearley, Major Henry Phillips, Members.

The Court, after hearing the proofs and allegations of both parties, and having maturely considered the same, unanimously beg leave to report, That the said Colonel John Taylor's conduct at Springfield was unexceptionable; that he did not manifest any degree of timidity or cowardice on that occasion, but on the contrary (situated as he was) discovered spirit, prudence, and sagacity; conspicuous and inherent qualities in a good officer: And therefore ought to be honourably acquitted of the charge abovementioned.

By order of the Court,

JOS. PHILLIPS, Presid.

The above report approved of by

PHILEMON DICKINSON, M. Gen.

THE District Society of WHIGS of the townships of Windsor and South-Brunswick, (Middlesex county) will meet at the house of Mr. Haiah Shaw, in Cranberry, on Thursday the 29th inst. (March) at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

By order of the Society,

NATHANIEL HUNT, Clk.

March 12th, 1781.

TO BE SOLD,

A Negro WENCH,

FORTY-SIX years old, remarkably healthy and active, has had the small-pox, is an excellent cook, in which station he has served many years in a very genteel family;---is honest, industrious, neat, and a very good economist, spins very well, and is fond of children. Would particularly suit a genteel tavern or family that entertains much.---Price £. 60, hard cash, or the current exchange in continental.---Enquire of the Printer. March 12. 4W

TO BE SOLD by public Vendue,

On Tuesday the 20th of March, instant,

THE PLANTATION whereon James Hazlitt now lives, it was part of a tract of land belonging to Rebecca Coxe; it is situated in a very pleasant healthy part of the country in Mansfieldwoodhouse township, Sussex county, and state of New-Jersey; containing 175 acres of excellent wheat and pasture land, 100 acres cleared, the rest well timbered, 16 acres of good English meadow, and more can be made. On the premises are two good dwelling houses, a good barn, stables, and barracks, a good thriving orchard; the whole place well watered by a constant stream besides good springs; the fences in good repair. The vendue will begin at 12 o'clock, when attendance will be given, conditions of sale made known, and an indisputable title will be given by

JAMES & SAMUEL HAZLITT.

TO BE SOLD,

At Chesnut-Neck, in Gloucester county, on Friday the 16th instant, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, The Sloop HANNAH,

With all her tackle, and furniture; and also her CARGO, consisting of thirty-seven thousand feet of pine boards, ninety-two thousand 18 inch shingles, a quantity of bar iron, and a considerable quantity of tar.

By order of the Judge of the Admiralty of the state of New-Jersey.

J. BURROWS, Marshal.

To whom it may concern.

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

2m\*

Wm. CALVERT.

3d month 12, 1781.

One Thousand Dollars Reward.

BROKE out of Burlington gaol, on the night of the 6th inst. the following persons, viz. JOHN WORKMAN, (advertised in the Pennsylvania papers for breaking out of Easton gaol) about five feet nine or ten inches high, dark complexion, pitted with the small pox, about thirty-four years of age. JOHN KETCHAM, five feet eleven inches high, stoops when he walks, a deserter from the 6th Pennsylvania regiment. THOMAS M'CALVEY and JOHN HANLY, formerly belonging to the Pennsylvania line. Whoever secures the said John Workman in any gaol, shall have FIVE HUNDRED and FIFTY DOLLARS, and ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY for each of the pther three, with all reasonable charges, paid by me

RALPH PRICE, Gaoler.

March 7, 1781. 2

Joseph Insee, at Pennington,  
Has for SALE, a few barrels of the best  
**LIVER OIL.**

Also PEPPER and ALSPICE, by the  
hundred weight or less quantity.

Trenton, March 5, 1781.  
**WHEREAS** by information from the Superintendant of Purchases it appears that many of the County Contractors have been very negligent in making their Returns and Settlements: Therefore those Contractors in the several counties who are delinquent in making their returns and settlements agreeably to law, are required to make them immediately; and those who have made purchases, and since resigned their offices, are required forthwith to make a final settlement of their accounts.

JAMES EWING,  
Auditor of Accounts.

**STAGE-WAGGON.**

**T**HE 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.

**ABRAHAM DRAKE,**

Has for SALE at the SCOTCH-PLAINS,

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>B</b> ROADCLOTH,          | 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,   |
| Cambrick and lawn,           | Tea and sugar,  |
| Mullin,                      | Molasses,   |
| Stripe ditto,                | Snuff and tobacco,  |
| Pelung,                      | Writing paper by the ream or quire,                                       |
| Mode,                        | Earthen ware,   |
| Tasety,                      | 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,                 |   |

**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.

**T**HE 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

Readingtown, Hunterdon county, near the White-House, February 20, 1781.

**T**HE subscriber takes this method of acquainting his former customers, and the publick in general, that he has furnished himself with a quantity of Carolina Cane, intends to carry on the  
**REED-MAKING Business**

as usual; and hopes, by his knowledge of, and attention to his business, to give satisfaction to all those who shall please to favour him with their custom.

CHARLES EVERSOLE.

**TO BE SOLD by publick Vendue,**

At the house of OKEY HENDRICKSON, Innkeeper, in Height's town, on Friday, 23d of March,

**T**HREE horses, two of them very good for the gears, and the other an elegant saddle horse; also a good breeding mare, cattle, a waggon and gears, two sets of boxes, with wings and screws for a riding chair; one plough; half a dozen chairs; half a dozen knives and forks; a set of new China; and 1000 feet of inch pine boards. The vendue to begin at ten o'clock, when the conditions of sale will be made known by me

OKEY HENDRICKSON.  
N. B. Also a hogshhead of good RUM to be sold, of high proof and excellent quality, for which loan-office certificates or state money will be taken in payment.

**WANTED,**

**A** GOOD SCHOOLMASTER, to teach reading and writing. A single or married man, well recommended, will hear of a place, and meet with proper encouragement by applying to the Printer.

Likewise good wages will be given by a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Morris-Town for a good NEGRO MAN, who can be well recommended for Cooking, Sobriety, &c. For further information enquire of the Printer. 3w\*

**TO BE SOLD,**

**A** NEGRO MAN and his WIFE, with two male CHILDREN. The man is a complete farmer. The wench is an exceeding good dairy woman, and can wash, iron, and cook very well. They are honest and sober. Enquire of the Printer. 3w\*

Isaac Michael, at Bound-Brook,

Has for SALE,

RUM, GIN, WINE, FRENCH BRANDY;  
TOBACCO, SNUFF, EARTHEN WARE, and  
all sorts of DRY GOODS, by wholesale and retail,  
on the most reasonable terms. 3w\*

**MADE his ESCAPE,**

From the Constable of the township of Windsor, in Middlesex county,

**A** Certain WILLIAM TURNER, apprehended for theft. He is about five feet eleven inches high, and in but poor habit. Whoever will take up and secure the said Turner, shall receive TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS reward, and reasonable charges. 3w\* LIPPINCOT SOUTH.

**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 Sherer'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

**LOST,**

On the 22d instant, on the Morristown road, between Mr. Clark's schoolhouse and John Bullen's tavern, near Middle Brook,

**A** POCKET-BOOK, containing one Seven Dollar Bill Jersey state money, one Forty Shilling ditto, Pennsylvania ditto, one Seventy Dollar Bill, continental, and some other small money. Whoever finds and delivers the said Pocket-Book and Money to Mr. Clark, schoolmaster, near Middle Brook aforesaid, or to the subscriber, Post-Rider, shall have ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY DOLLARS reward. Feb. 24. 3\* JAMES MARTIN.

**A** S I propose leaving this state in a short time, notice is given to all persons who have any demands against the subscriber, are desired to bring in their accounts as speedily as possible, as I shall attend at this place some time to complete the settlement of the same. JOHN STAATS.  
Bound Brook, Feb 6, 1781.

**WANTED,**

**A** PRINTED Copy of the Acts of Assembly of the last Sitting of the first Assembly since the Revolution, passed in September 1777, for which a generous price will be given by the Printer hereof.

**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.

**W**HILE committed to the gaol of the county of Burlington, on the 16th of January last, a certain John Workman and John Teams, who acknowledge they broke out of Easton gaol some time ago. Also a certain John Ketcham, a deserter from the 6th Pennsylvania regiment. Those concerned with said prisoners are desired to come immediately, pay charges, and take them away. Feb. 24, 1781. 3\* RALPH PRICE, Gaoler.

**TO BE SOLD,**

**A** QUANTITY of West-Jersey RIGHTS to LOCATE LANDS in any part of the Western Division. The title warranted good. Any sort of specie now current, or continental currency, will be received in payment, or country produce, &c.

Wanted to purchase or hire, for a term of years, a Negro Man who has been brought up to husbandry, and knows plantation work well. Also a Negro Girl, about 14 years of age, who has been brought up to country work. None need apply but such as can warrant their characters good. Application may be made to the subscriber, who is ready to treat with any person for the above contents. Mount-Pleasant, near Mount- } JOHN LEE.  
Holly, February 26, 1781. }

N. B. Wanted, a quantity of cedar rails, boards and shingles, &c. 3

**TWO FARMS TO BE SOLD.**

**T**HE one on which the subscriber lives, containing 273 acres of land, one third of which is good mowing ground, one third plow land, the other third well covered with timber of the best quality; the whole farm is enclosed and under complete fence and small enclosures; there is on it a good dwelling house almost new, two stories high, a large Dutch barn, barracks, shades, &c. two large apple orchards, a number of peach trees, and a large peach nursery fit to plant out. The other farm joins this one, and contains 163 acres, above one third of which is well timbered wood land, 15 acres of mowing ground, and much more may be made at an easy expence, the rest good plow land; there is on said farm a good dwelling house and shop, a large English barn, two apple orchards and a number of other fruit trees, the whole under good fence. Both farms are exceedingly well watered, and will be sold very cheap for ready money by the owner

Bernard's Town, Balken- } JOHN SHAW.  
ridge, Feb. 24, 1781. }

**WANTED,**

**M**ATERIALS for erecting a house in Trenton, twenty-six feet by twenty, two stories high, with a cellar under the whole, viz. stone or brick, pine and cedar boards, pine and oak scantling, shingles, nails and lime; to be delivered at Trenton, or such convenient place as may be agreed on. Also, WORKMEN, who will engage by the piece.

Those who are willing to contract for furnishing any of the said materials, or for doing any branch of the work, will please to leave their proposals in writing with the Printer hereof, as soon as possible.

Ready money will be paid in every case; to which circumstance it is expected attention will be paid in stating proposals.

**TO BE SOLD,**

For HARD MONEY or 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. tbcf