

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1778.

EXTRACTS from His Excellency's Message to the GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Gentlemen,

CONSIDERING the multiplicity of business that will require your attention at this setting, and how much was left unfinished at the last, I am persuaded that your zeal for the publick interest will not suffer you to rise till you have dispatched every matter of moment that shall require your deliberation.

As the completing our battalions demands your speedy consideration, I herewith lay before you a state of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the four New-Jersey regiments according to the weekly return of the 5th of January last. By this you will be convinced of the necessity of the most expeditious and vigorous measures for increasing those regiments to the full complement of men of which, according to the establishment, they ought to consist. I am confident I need not use any arguments with you to shew the importance of our having a respectable army to open an early campaign before the enemy can be strengthened by reinforcements from Europe. Whatever expectations we may have of a rupture between Great-Britain and France, which is doubtless highly probable, it is surely not the part of wise men to depend upon uncertain contingencies. We ought under God to rely solely upon ourselves and our own resources; and act as though we had no expectations of foreign succours, because we may, for any thing that can be known to the contrary, be disappointed, how rational and well-founded soever such expectations may at present appear. If, however, in addition to our own preparations, we should derive any advantage from a declaration of war against the enemy by the king of France, or any other potentate, such coadjutant power will facilitate the final establishment of our independence. But in a work so glorious, and thus far so happily achieved without foreign aid, it will neither be consistent with our honour or safety to be in a condition that will make such assistance necessary.

From the repeated blunders of our enemies in what they vainly imagined a sufficient force to reduce us to vassalage, and the insupportable disgrace of their arms in the attempt, it is to be presumed that they will be stimulated to prolong the war by indignation and disappointment. And as they may continue it another year without being totally ruined, nor will ever come to their senses till they are, and it is well known to be a profitable job to the principal agents employed in carrying it on, and to a numerous set of dependants, who cannot otherwise be provided for, they will doubtless strain every nerve both at home and abroad to raise and procure as early as possible all the troops they can collect for reducing us to absolute submission. To put ourselves in a proper posture of defence is therefore evidently both our duty and our interest.

I also lay before you a memorial of Col. Shreve of the second, and Lieutenant-Colonel Breatly of the fourth New-Jersey regiments. As this memorial is addressed to the Council and Assembly as well as to me, it will of course obtain your consideration. But as it is presented by authority and in behalf of the whole of the troops raised in this state, and I conceive the matters contained in it to be of great importance to the army, I cannot but recommend it as a matter worthy of your early attention to remedy the evils complained of.

I am now to request your attention to a very solemn act of Congress of the 8th of January, for suspending the embarkation of Lieutenant-General Burgoyne and the troops under his command, till a distinct and explicit ratification of the Convention of Saratoga shall be properly notified by the Court of Great-Britain to Congress. The reasons for adopting this measure are set forth at large in the act which I herewith lay before you. As the Congress, after long and mature consideration, judged the measure to be indispensably their duty, and equally justifiable and necessary, they are confident their resolutions will be confirmed by the approbation of all their constituents in these United States, who are most nearly concerned. They conceiving it an act of such solemnity, as to deserve the concurrence of all the States in the union, though they are doubtless competent to the business of ratifying or disapproving any capitulations made by their Generals, I doubt not it will meet with your confirmation.

I am further to acquaint you, Gentlemen, that Congress, conceiving it expedient to promote a speedy reformation in the army, as well for the purpose of discipline, economy, and the number of officers,

being already out of all proportion to that of the privates, to avoid further embarrassments in this respect, they have recommended it to the governments of the several states by a resolution of the 31st of December, to suspend filling up any vacancies in their respective regiments until they shall hear farther from Congress on the subject.

You will also be pleased to turn your thoughts to a very important resolution of Congress of the 3d of December last, earnestly recommending it to the legislative authorities of the respective states, forthwith to enact laws requiring all persons within their respective states who may be possessed of any bills of credit struck under the sanction and authority of the king of Great-Britain on or before the 19th day of April 1775, forthwith to deliver in the same to a commissioner or commissioners for that purpose to be appointed in each county of the respective states, authorizing such commissioner or commissioners to give in exchange for any sum so paid in continental money or bills of credit of their respective states, and to declare in the laws so enacted, that all bills of credit under the description above-mentioned, which shall not be so delivered in within such reasonable time as the respective states shall for such purpose limit, shall thenceforth become utterly irredeemable.—A law to this purpose must be so evidently conducive at once to abolish the infamous practice of making a difference between what is called the old and the new money, and to increase the value of the continental currency, (under both which views I recommended it to you before I was honoured with the last mentioned resolution of Congress) that I doubt not it will receive your ready approbation. And should such an act be accompanied by a tax at least of £. 100,000, the effect it will have in supporting the credit of our money, and reducing the price of provisions, cannot but strike the most inconsiderate mind.

I also submit to your consideration a number of most momentous resolutions of Congress of the 20th of December, upon the immediate adoption of which, and the enacting them into a law, the safety of this state appears most intimately to depend, and which I therefore hope will meet with that dispatch, which their importance will appear to you to deserve.

Your attention, Gentlemen, is farther solicited by a resolution of Congress of the 15th of January last, accompanied with a letter from the Board of War of the 19th of the same month.—As good steel is an article so indispensably necessary not only for the purposes of war, but those of internal husbandry, and it is said that the Andover iron is better suited to this business than any other in America, I doubt not you will readily comply with the expectations of the Congress in this respect.

I cannot upon this occasion help remarking that as no articles whatsoever can with less difficulty be dispensed with in military operations than iron and steel, you will find upon the slightest recollection, that none of our citizens are more generally disaffected than those who are interested or employed in the manufacturing of iron. A strong presumption that the enemy has been particularly industrious in corrupting these men, with a view to distress us in a most essential point. And as I suppose one of the first things that will engage your attention will be the confiscation of the estates of our internal enemies, recommended to you at the last sitting, this requisition may be carried into execution by the general bill of forfeitures.

From the difficulty of having recourse to the number of separate acts into which our military code is already branched, I would recommend to you a revision of all our militia laws, and to have them comprised in one. In forming this digest, I hope the procuring of substitutes, of which we have experienced the fatal consequences, and which must at last inevitably ruin our militia, will be repealed.

In lieu of calling out the militia to be statedly posted in such parts of the state as are more particularly exposed to the incursions of the enemy, I would recommend a plan both more effectual against hostile irruptions, and attended with much less expense to the public.

I would propose two state regiments properly officered, and by the best officers, to be raised for a year, and not liable to be called out of it, except by the authority appointed to call out the militia. As these corps would be better disciplined than the common militia, they would of consequence be better troops, and more formidable to the enemy.—The time that is at present lost by the militia's going from and returning home in their monthly tours, would be saved. The posts to be occupied by them would not be vacant, till there was reason for wholly dis-

ting them, as it now frequently happens (in great measure) by the monthly reliefs. The bounty which is now paid monthly in addition to the continental pay, would in all probability raise the regiments for a year. Such men as could best be spared from home would be most likely to enter into the service, and the more industrious farmer remain at his husbandry, except in case of an actual invasion. The disorders and depredations so often committed by the militia on the property of their fellow citizens, which is principally to be imputed to the connivance of such worthless officers by whom they are sometimes commanded, as have not the spirit to maintain a proper subordination, would be prevented. The superiority of this plan to our present practice of harrassing the husbandman in a state subsisting by agriculture, needs I think to be but mentioned, in order to be approved.

I would moreover recommend to you, Gentlemen, the passing a law which I recommended to the former assembly in September last, to enable every obligor or debtor whose creditor is removed out of the state, or cannot be found in it, or who refuses to receive the debt when tendered, to pay the same into the treasury for his use, and to be thereupon discharged from the sum so paid, and all the interest thereafter accruing, or to be discharged from the principal and interest in such other manner, without paying the sum into the treasury, as the legislature shall think most proper.

As there is great reason to apprehend that a considerable part of many of the personal estates which are forfeited in consequence of an act, intitled, "An Act of free and general pardon, and for other purposes therein mentioned," is secreted and concealed from the commissioners by the said act appointed, it appears highly necessary for the more effectually attaining the valuable ends thereby intended, to pass a law for authorizing the commissioners to compel the appearance of persons suspected of concealing such effects, or of being indebted to the delinquent, and to examine them as well as other witnesses upon oath, with proper penalties for such concealment, and adequate rewards to induce a discovery. A law to this purpose will save the state many thousand pounds, which will otherwise be lost through the fraudulent practices of the friends and agents of the offenders, whose personal estates are by the said act declared forfeited.

The militia posted along such of our frontiers from which the disaffected among us carry on a commercial intercourse with the enemy, frequently seize the commodities so carried, or the merchandize brought back in exchange for them, and appropriate them to their own use. This being altogether illegal, cannot be countenanced by government, and the militia being thus judges in their own case, and immediately interested in condemning as prize the booty they take, are under strong temptations to plunder under that pretext persons near the enemy's lines who have no intention of conveying into them the effects they are transporting. If on the other hand they are restrained from confiscating the provisions or other effects actually designed to be conveyed to the enemy, or the return cargo bartered for them, considering the additional service and hazard in making such seizures, they will not make them at all; and thus this pernicious traffic will be carried on without interruption. I would therefore recommend to your consideration a law authorizing the militia, or any other persons, to seize all effects suspected to be carrying to or coming from the enemy, and to have them properly inventoried and secured till the person from whom they are taken shall be legally tried; and if convicted of the offence, to be appropriated to the person who seized them as part of the punishment to be inflicted upon the delinquent, but if acquitted, to be restored to the owner.—This will be both an encouragement to make such seizures, and oblige the person making them to bring the criminal to justice, without whose conviction he cannot be entitled to the property, at the same time that it will prevent the lawless and indiscriminate violation of private property, under the specious pretence of an illicit correspondence.

Considering the sufferings of such of our militia as have been made prisoners by the enemy, I doubt not you will see the necessity of appointing a state commissary to supply them with provisions and such other necessaries as they may want.

Gentlemen, We are now arrived at a very important crisis of the contest. The next campaign will probably terminate in something very decisive. Considering the natural strength of America, and the reason we have from the justice of our cause to depend upon the

Divine Interposition in our behalf, it will be our own fault, if it does not terminate in our favour. Our constituents expect our most strenuous efforts—and I trust your patriotism will not suffer them to be disappointed.

Trenton, Feb. 16, 1778. WIL. LIVINGSTON.

For the NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

FRIENDLY HINTS TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY.

AS it is the honour, the highest honour, that can be conferred upon mortals, to be the legislative Representatives of a free people, so it is the happiness and unalienable privilege of every constituent, to suggest to their consideration such things as tend to promote the interest of his country. Hints from the unskilful have often been improved by those of more enlarged understandings for the subserviency of the most important purposes.—The desires of all in authority, whether legislative or executive, must be so perfectly interested in the public weal, that every suggestion to secure and advance the same, and to prevent or correct whatever may be detrimental hereto, will be received by them with the highest pleasure. My pen shall ever be guarded with propriety, decency and a proper respect to all in authority. But if any of my hints at any time seem unwise or unseasonable, let them be treated with that neglect which they deserve; if otherwise, I have the fullest confidence in the integrity, wisdom and zeal of those in authority, that they will apply and improve them for the public good.

As the highly respected Legislature of this State is now sitting, I shall address myself at present to you. And while honour is the guardian of my pen, general utility my chief end, and the love of my country my only motive, I may indulge myself with the assurance you will condescend to hear me, as I intend neither to occupy a large place in your news-paper, nor impose on your patience.

I. Let none of our honourable Legislators entertain the thought that they are assembled only to hurry up some *acts*, and in a few days return home. A Legislator is an august, an important character, and cannot be supported with dignity by hurrying over his duties in a desultory manner.—Our government is but young, and therefore many new laws to enact, and old ones to amend; all which require time, and a patient and diligent application to business. The State is now suffering through want of some new laws and the amendment of others: Hence many of your constituents have expressed themselves with surprize, at your not sitting constantly this winter, so that having gone thro' the business of the State, you might have been at home in the spring. But if you choose to sit rather in the vernal season, it is well; and sure I am you cannot do your duty to your country, or faithfully discharge the obligations resulting from the acceptance of your delegation, if you do not. In the present conjuncture of affairs, the Assembly ought to sit a great part of their time. The absolutely necessary business of the State cannot be well done without it. Wherefore when you accept of the appointment of your countrymen to be Legislators, you should consider you are obliged to leave your families and private affairs for a considerable part of the year. And if you cannot do this, and patiently give the most of your time to the public business of your country, you ought in all good conscience not to have suffered yourselves to have been elected.—Further, be pleased to be careful you allow none of your members to be absent but upon reasons of the greatest importance. Yea, as you are delegated by the people, and their servants, tho' most honourable ones, if any of you absent yourselves from the business of your delegation, it should ever be for such reasons as you would not be ashamed your constituents should know them.—I will not harrow up the conscience, nor put propriety to the blush, by mentioning reasons accepted by the House, for granting leave of absence to their members, in hopes, it is said, of a reciprocal indulgence.

II. Be entreated not to spend your important time in disputing the distinct privileges, or determining with mathematical exactness, the peculiar rights of each house. Altho' one house is called the Council and the other the General Assembly, yet it is not as formerly, the one appointed by the crown and the other by the people. We are no longer under the *British* constitution, which is neither *monarchy*, *aristocracy*, nor *democracy*, but an absurd collection of contradictory and jarring qualities from all three. In it the crown is ever endeavouring to make inroads on the rights of the people, and the people choose once in seven years, six or seven hundred men to limit its power and keep the prerogative within some bounds. So that the *British* constitution is founded in an eternal struggle or war between the rights of humanity, and the proud ambitious claims of a creature called a *king*. Perhaps this influenced Mr. Hobbes, a shrewd philosopher, an admirer of this strange constitution, and a great friend to *prerogative*, to fancy that "moral obligation was founded in contest or war." And the *English* now act in conformity to his philosophy and their own constitution, fully demonstrating by their sanguinary measures, that *right* is only to be determined by *might*. Nothing ever maintained peace in the *British* empire but foreign wars. If they were at peace with their neighbouring nations, they were always sure to be embroiled in a civil war at home. I defy any person to point out from the *English* history, their

enjoying a peace with other nations of any considerable continuance, that was not interrupted with domestic discord, and the shedding of blood among themselves. Why should the *English* be more incident to quarrels than any other nations? The matter is easily accounted for. It arises from the very constitution of their government. It is founded in contention, and contention, war and bloodshed, have always proceeded from it, as streams from a fountain, and always will proceed from it as long as it exists. Therefore I congratulate you, O happy Americans, on your deliverance from so irrational, so ridiculous, and so bloody a form of government! Our Legislators I hope will ever remember, that both houses are creatures of the people, and cannot possibly, virtue and honour being preserved, have jarring or different interests; wherefore all disputes between you about privilege and prerogative are mere *logomachies*. And I have too high an opinion of your honesty and understanding to indulge the disagreeable idea that you will at all waste your time about matters absolutely nugatory. AN ELECTOR.

From a New-York (*British*) Paper.

L O N D O N.
Debate in the House of Commons on
Tuesday, December 2.

MR. Fox rose and informed the House, that agreeable to his promise, he moved the House, that on a future day they should form themselves into a Committee of the whole House to consider the state of the nation. He thought it necessary, he said, to explain the meaning and extent of his motion, which he would do in a very few words. He meant then, that the Committee should consider the expenses that the nation had incurred from the American war, and the resources that we possess to raise the supplies necessary for its continuance. In the second place, the loss of men from that war. 3dly, the situation of trade, both with regard to America and the foreign markets. 4thly, the present situation of the war, and the hopes that we may rightly entertain from its continuance, and the conduct and measures of the present Administration of a lasting peace, and also our present situation in regard to foreign powers. And 5thly, to consider what progress Sir William and Lord Howe have made in consequence of the powers entrusted to them as Commissioners of peace to bring about a peace. Beneath these general heads, many other enquiries would arise, and it would be the business of the Committee to follow every path that promised to lead to a thorough investigation and discovery of the state of the nation. If, continues he, it appears that the nation is in a bad state, and that the late and present measures of Administration have reduced us to an extremity, which he was afraid they certainly had, a new system must be introduced, and a new set of Ministers appointed; but if, on the contrary, the nation should be found in a flourishing state, and the present measures likely to prove successful, the present system should be by all means continued, and the present Ministers remain in power; for none, he was assured, but the present Ministers could prosecute the present system.

Lord North said he cheerfully agreed to the motion of the honourable gentleman, and would do all in his power to promote the great end he had in view. Nothing, he said, would give him more true delight, than to convince the House that the state of the nation was much more flourishing than many of the opposite side actually did, or affected to believe. At the same time he hoped to be understood, that his ready compliance with the motion should preclude him from the necessity of laying papers before the House that might prove inconvenient, dangerous, or hurtful to Government.

The motion having passed without a division, Mr. Fox rose again, and moved, that on the 2d of February next, the day appointed for the Committee to meet on his first motion, "An account of all troops, foreign and domestic, that were, or had been engaged in the British service since the first of November, 1774." Also, "A list of all the ships of war, sloops, and armed vessels that have been engaged in the service, the numbers that have been taken, lost, or destroyed, with the exact returns of men killed or taken prisoners from the first of November, 1774." Also, "The last general returns of all the hospitals belonging to his Majesty in North-America." Also, "A list of all ships of war employed by Government as convoys to the trading fleets of this country." Also, "Copies of the last general monthly returns of all the troops in his Majesty's service within Great Britain." Also, "Copies of the returns of the troops in Ireland; and copies of the returns of all the troops in North-America and the West-Indies." All these motions passed without opposition; when he continued to move, "That an humble Address should be presented to his Majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to order the proper officers to lay before the House all the papers that relate to the transactions of Lord and Sir William Howe, as Commissioners of Peace, to bring about a negotiation and treaty of peace with the Americans."

Lord North rose in opposition to this motion; he said he must object to it from the reason that papers produced during the existence of a negotiation, if any had taken place, must be very injurious to the cause. Every fair discovery he was amenable to, but he could not consent that discoveries should be made

prejudicial to government, and to the true interests of this country.

Mr. Serjeant Adair said he could not see what discovery could be made in the least injurious. None was called for that the Americans did not know already. They must only be withheld, he presumed, because they might prove injurious to Administration from being known to the House of Commons.

Mr. Stanley objected to the motion for several reasons. Negotiations, he said, to rebels in arms, must be made not to the people at large, but to select bodies; perhaps to individuals; and the discovery of such bodies of men might draw upon them the vengeance of the others. But in truth, he said, he knew not that any negotiation had been entered into. With rebels in arms, standing up for independence, no treaty of conciliation could be made. The very proposition acknowledged their independence.

Mr. Burke observed, that he never heard the noble Lord (Lord North) behave with so much candour, generosity, and spirit, as to-day; he had agreed to every little of his friend's request; he had published a bond wherein he granted all; but in the end was inserted a little defeasance, with a power of revocation, by which he preserved himself from the execution of every grant he had made. His conduct, he said, reminded him of a certain Governor, who, when he arrived at his place of appointment, sat down to a table covered with profusion, and abounding with every dainty and delicacy that art, nature, and a provident steward could furnish; but a pigmy Physician, who watched over the health of the Governor, excepted to one dish, because it was disagreeable; to another, because it was hard of digestion; to a third, because it was unhealthy; and in this progressive mode robb'd the Governor of every dish on table, and left him without a dinner. He answered minutely the arguments of Mr. Stanley, exposing the folly of the idea, that we must not negotiate with the Americans until they had renounced their claim of independence. Are they not, he observed, in possession? are they not independent *de facto*? They possess the whole country of America. What we have, we have gained by arms. If we have a Government in America, it is founded upon conquest, since they set up their independence; and as they enjoy the right *de facto*, and we alone *de jure*, we must and ought to treat with them on the terms of a feudal union. He intimated the supposition of a treaty with France. The King of Britain enjoys the right *de jure* to the kingdom of France. The French King enjoys it *de facto*; he is merely a Congress usurper; and yet would it be argued, that no treaty of peace could take place with him until he had renounced his claim. He begged to have leave to consider the effects that would arise from a renunciation of their independence. By renouncing their independence, they acknowledge their rebellion; by acknowledging their rebellion, they acknowledged their crime; by their crime they were deprived of their rights, and obnoxious to punishment. In such case, no conciliation or treaty could be consistent with the honour of the British name; so that terms of negotiation must be entered into during their independence. He said that the act on which Lord and Sir William Howe were vested with their commissions, proposes two methods to be prosecuted to bring about a peace; the one by force of arms, and the other by terms of conciliation. It would be necessary, he said, to inquire if both these methods had been practised; the first, he was sensible, and all must know, had been indeed practised, but he was afraid the second had not, else why were not New-York, Staten and Long-Islands, with any other territory we are in possession of, restored to the King's peace. Governor Tryon, he said, had written to General Howe for the purpose of restoring New-York to the King's peace. General Howe answered that he could not do it without the concurrence of the Secretary of State; and there it stopped. This, he hoped, would be particularly inquired into. He made several other defenses of the propriety of his honourable friend's motion, and concluded with saying, that he hoped his friend would not depart from a title of his proposition.

[The Parliamentary Proceedings to be continued.]

B O S T O N, January 29.

Friday last a privateer sloop of ten guns, commanded by Capt. Connolly, of Manchester, returned to Salem from a cruise. About a month ago he fell in with and engaged a ship of 20 guns, with 40 men, during which the ship blew up, and all the hands but nine were lost. She was bound from London to Antigua, with a very valuable cargo, estimated as the hands say who were taken off the wreck after she blew up, at upwards of 80,000l. They say also, there was a lady of an immense fortune on board, who likewise perished.

Since our last arrived at a safe port, a prize ship of 290 tons, mounting 14 carriage and 12 swivel guns, and navigated with 45 men, taken by the Cumberland privateer, belonging to this place, with the following cargo, viz. 30 pipes port wine, 4 hogheads ditto, 4 and a half hogheads Lisbon ditto, 166 pipes Madeira ditto, 78 hogheads ditto, 62 quarter casks ditto, 300 boxes of claret, 13 chests green tea, 40 tons pig iron, a quantity of gin, brandy, &c. We hear the ship Portsmouth, of 20 guns, returned to Portsmouth last Thursday from a cruise; during which she took two prizes, and carried them into Bilbao, and on her return she took two more, one of which was a 20 gun ship with 40 men, bound

from London for New-York, laden with woollens, &c. to the amount of 3000l. prime cost, which last prize the parted with only four days before her arrival. The other a brig, laden with provisions, is arrived in a safe port.

At a legal Meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boston, on Tuesday the 21st instant the following Resolve passed unanimously, viz.

THE Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, between the several States, now represented in the Continental Congress, having been laid before this town, were distinctly and repeatedly read, and maturely considered; Whereupon,

Resolved, as the opinion of this town, That the said articles appear to be well adapted to cement the Union of the said States—to confirm their mutual friendship—establish their freedom and independence; and promote their general welfare. And the representatives of the town are hereby instructed to give their votes in the General Assembly, that the Delegates of this State may be authorized to ratify the said Articles of Confederation, in order that the same may become conclusive.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 24.

Since our last flag arrived from Newport, with a large sum of money, to defray the expenses of Boscawen's troops at Cambridge.

LANCASTER, Feb. 25.

We hear from good authority, that Col. William Coats, who was lately taken and carried into Philadelphia, was treated with inhuman insults through the streets, and has been confined in a room with persons sick of a putrid fever, and in which two field-officers died while he was there.

TRENTON, March 4.

To the **INHABITANTS** of NEW-JERSEY, GENTLEMEN,

CONSIDERING the noble ardor which this State has uniformly manifested in the common cause, I am confident that our virtuous Farmers will take a particular pleasure in complying with his Excellency the General's request: They will disdain in the close of our struggle to sully the honour which New-Jersey has deservedly acquired by affording all possible aid during the whole contest. 'Tis hoped the next campaign will make the enemy repent their execrable purpose of enslaving a free people; and teach even British stupidity, wisdom. For liberty's sake, Gentlemen, let not our expectations of this campaign be disappointed for want of the supplies we can so easily furnish. I know you will exert yourselves, and want neither arguments to convince, nor exhortations to rouse you. Your country calls; and to the call of your country you were never deaf.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Trenton, 25 Feb. 1778.

To the *Inhabitants of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.*

Friends, Countrymen and Fellow-Citizens!

AFTER three campaigns, during which the brave subjects of these states have contended, not unsuccessfully, with one of the most powerful kingdoms on earth, we now find ourselves at least upon a level with our opponents; and there is the best reason to believe, that efforts adequate to the abilities of this country, would enable us speedily to conclude the war, and to secure the invaluable blessings of peace, liberty and safety. With this view, it is in contemplation, at the opening of the next campaign, to assemble a force sufficient, not barely to cover the country from a repetition of those depredations which it hath already suffered, but also to operate offensively, and to strike some decisive blow.

In the prosecution of this object, it is to be feared, that so large an army may suffer for the want of provisions.—The distance between this and the eastern states, whence considerable supplies of flesh have been hitherto drawn, will necessarily render those supplies extremely precarious. And unless the virtuous yeomanry of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Maryland and Virginia, will exert themselves to prepare cattle for the use of the army, during the months of May, June and July next, great difficulties may arise in the course of the campaign: It is, therefore, recommended to the inhabitants of those states, to put up and feed immediately, as many of their flock-cattle as they can spare, so that they may be driven to this army within that period. A bountiful price will be given, and the proprietors may assure themselves that they will render a most essential service to the illustrious cause of their country, and contribute, in a great degree, to shorten this bloody contest. But should there be any so insensible to the common interest, as not to exert themselves upon these generous principles, the private interest of those whose situation makes them liable to become immediate subjects to the enemy's incursions, should prompt them at least to a measure which is calculated to save their property from plunder, their families from insult, and their own persons from abuse, hopeless confinement, or perhaps a violent death.

G. WASHINGTON.

Head-Quarters, Valley-Forge, February 18, 1778.

We learn from a New-York paper of the 19th of February, that the Hessian Lieutenant-General Philip De Heister, died at Cassel, in Germany, on the 19th of November last, in the sixty-first year of his age. His

death was occasioned by an inflammation in his lungs, which carried him off in four days.

On Wednesday last the enemy landed about 3000 men at Billingsfort, and marched down the road towards Salem, and on intelligence received that another body intended to land at Cooper's ferry, in order to surprize General Wayne (who had lately landed in New-Jersey with 500 of the Continental Troops) and Col. Ellis, who commanded a detachment of the Jersey Militia at Haddonfield, our troops not being sufficient to make a stand, it was thought most advisable to move towards Moores-Town, to prevent being surrounded, which was accordingly done a few hours before the enemy landed about 1500 men agreeable to the intelligence received, and marched to Haddonfield early in the morning of the 26th. Upon this our men marched to Mount-Holly to wait for reinforcements.—The Governor upon receiving the above intelligence, ordered out a proper number of the Militia to join those under Col. Ellis, who are now collecting with great alacrity, and unless the enemy retire before they are attacked by the united vigour of General Wayne's Troops and our Militia, we doubt not they will repent their rash visit to this State.—Last Friday Brigadier General Count Polaski, of the Cavalry, left this place with a body of horse in excellent order, to join the Continental Troops under General Wayne, and who from the former exhibitions of his valour and alertness, will give a good account of the enemy's horse, if they do not deprive him of that pleasure by a precipitate flight.

About ten days ago a report was spread in this town, that a party of the enemy had penetrated into Bucks County as far as Newtown. The intelligence reached this place in the afternoon, and in the evening a respectable number of Militia were assembled at the different ferries. The next morning a party was preparing to cross the river in quest of the enemy, when intelligence was received that they were returned to Philadelphia, having plundered many of the inhabitants, and carried off with them two coach loads of lumber from the house of Joseph Callaway, Esquire, Superintendent-General in Philadelphia.

His Excellency the Governor has thought proper to station strong guards of Militia at the several ferries on Delaware, and many others are in readiness at a moment's warning to fly to the aid of their brethren in Bucks County, should another plundering party shew themselves in that quarter.

On the 15th ult. at night the house of Asher Mott, on Boyle's island near this place, by accident took fire, and was entirely consumed. The family provisionally escaped, with saving only a small part of their wearing apparel.

To all whom it may concern.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the house of Renselaer Williams, in Trenton, on Monday the 23d day of March instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to try the truth of the facts alleged in the bills of Joseph Wade, commander of the armed boat called the Fame, (who as well, &c.) against the sloop or vessel called the Duck, and the sloop or vessel called the Betsy, with their respective tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes, lately captured by the said Joseph Wade, and Capt. Martin Wert, commander of the armed sloop Arnold. To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said sloops respectively, or any person or persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said sloops or vessels and their respective cargoes, should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bills.

By order of the Judge,
B. REED, Pro. Reg.

James and Alexander Stewart

Have for **SALE**, in Hackett's-Town, Sussex county, New-Jersey.

A Large quantity of **PAINTS**, viz. Spanish brown, red lead, white lead, yellow oker and mahogany colours; glass 6 by 8 and 8 by 10; muscovado sugar at 6/ per lb. by the hoghead, or 6/6. by the barrel, best white clay'd do. at 9/ by the hoghead or barrel, second ditto at 3/6. third ditto at 2/.

N. B. They give 3/9. per lb. for **BEE-S-WAX.** 3w*

Burlington, February 16, 1778.

T O B E S O L D,

A TRACT of 418 acres of unimproved land, situate in the township of Roxborough, and county of Morris, lying between the head of the Little Pond and Audover Forge, adjoining on the west side of the line run by John Lawrence for the division between East and West Jersey, and adjoining land of Daniel Smith, and land surveyed to John Reading, Esquire.

The tract is well watered and timbered, with several pieces of natural meadow thereon. For further particulars inquire of

WILLIAM HEULINGS.

11th Month, 28, 1777.

WAS sent to HENRY BURR's Farm near Burlington, by an officer in the army, a small dark grey MARE, about six years old, nearly blind. The owner is requested to come, prove his property, pay charges and take her away.

B O N D and P A I N,

Have for sale at their Store in Morris-Town,
BEST bohea tea, Muscovado sugar, spices of different kinds; a quantity of Dutch linen by the piece or yard, black and coloured Barcelona handkerchiefs by the dozen, black and coloured ribbons, with a variety of other articles too tedious to enumerate.

N. B. Said Bond and Pain make great allowance to those who buy to sell again; and would be willing to take country produce in barter. 4w†

Morris-Town, Feb. 21, 1778.

ANY person properly recommended who understands the business of a Riding-Char Maker, and would be willing to act in the capacity of a Journeyman, may meet with good encouragement by applying to Frederick King at the Post-Office in Morris-Town, who carries on the business.

Said King would also be willing to take a young lad of a good character as an apprentice.

Trenton, February 28, 1778.

T O B E S O L D,

AN extraordinary good, strong, and very handsome one horse CHAISE, elegantly painted, with an iron axle, steel springs, and leather fall-back head, gears, &c. Enquire of Mr. B. Smith, saddler, opposite Mr. Williams's tavern.

N. B. A pair of good strong horses wanted to buy; and a few horses to sell. Enquire as above. 3w†

March 4, 1778.

T O B E S O L D,

SEVERAL Tracts of valuable LAND; one lying situate at the head of Mulconetung river, in New-Jersey, about thirty-five miles from Elizabeth Town and four from Suckasunney Plains, containing about three thousand acres, having on it a large forge with four fires and two hammers, a grist mill and saw mill on one of the best streams in America, with eighty acres of choice meadow and many valuable buildings on the same, all in good order, which is now under lease for eight and a half tons of bar iron per annum; it will be sold together or separate. Also another tract lying situate on the said river, known by the name of Squire's Point, about fifteen miles from Easton on the river Delaware, containing about one thousand eight hundred acres, having on it an old forge and very good grist mill, a dwelling-house and barn, all in good order. Also another tract lying situate about fifty miles from Elopus, containing about nine thousand acres. Also another tract lying situate on Otter Creek, choice good land, containing about four thousand acres. Also a large parcel of cattle, sheep, and hogs, and a large quantity of farming utensils too tedious to mention. Also a paction and pair of neat horses, chair and sulkey, a fine English stallion and several breeding mares. All those that have demands to bring in their accounts, and they will be adjusted; and those that are indebted to me either by bond, note, or book accounts, are requested to discharge the same immediately, as I intend to remove to West-Florida, chief of my family being now there. Any person or persons by applying to the subscriber for any of the above articles or land, may purchase as they can agree for Continental Money or credit, with giving bonds and good security, by

3w† **GARRET RAPALJE.**

T O B E S O L D,

A quantity of excellent

L O A F S U G A R,

By George Wilson, jun.

Near Kingston, about two miles and a half from Princeton. 3w†

March 3, 1778.

T O B E S O L D,

BY public vendue, at the house of Thomas Leland and Company, in Allentown, on Thursday the 12th inst. (March) viz. A variety of Merchandize, among which are the following articles; thirty-two dozen hemp stockings, fifteen pieces pistol lawns, four pieces Holland, a large quantity of country-made linens, white drillings, checks, cambrick, lawn, Barcelona handkerchiefs, printed linen, ivory combs, binding, with a variety of other goods too tedious to insert; also a beautiful stallion rising five years old, got by Northumberland out of a noted fine mare. Also two fine mares with foal by the best blooded horses; a horse and chair, and many other articles.

The vendue to begin at 10 o'clock. Attendance will be given, and the conditions made known by

2w† **THOMAS LELAND & Co.**

ALL persons indebted to the estate of JANE COMMANS, deceased, of Trenton, whether by bond, note or book accounts, are desired to come and make payment by the 15th of April next: All those, likewise, who have any demands against said estate, are requested to bring in their accounts, properly attested, that they may be settled, by me

JOSEPH GREEN, administrator.
Feb. 27, 1778. 4w†

Resolved,
THAT every officer, who holds or shall hereafter hold a commission or office from Congress, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:
 "I do acknowledge the United States of America, to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear (or affirm) that I will to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States, against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors and his and their abettors, assistants and adherents and will serve the said United States in the office of _____ which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding. So help me God?"

That all officers of the army shall take and subscribe the foregoing oath or affirmation, before the Commander in Chief, or any Major General or Brigadier General.

That all officers of the navy shall take and subscribe the same, before one of the Commissioners of the Navy Boards, or before a Judge or Justice of the Peace of the State, wherein they respectively reside or shall receive their commissions or warrants.

That all persons holding any civil office of trust or profit, under the Congress of these United States, shall take and subscribe the said oath or affirmation before a Judge or Justice of the Peace of the State, wherein they respectively reside.

That every officer having the disposal of public money, or who is or shall be intrusted with the charge or distribution of public stores, shall, at the time of taking and subscribing the foregoing oath or affirmation, also take an oath or affirmation of office in the following words:

"I do swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully, truly and impartially execute the office of _____ to which I am appointed, and render a true account, when thereunto required, of all public monies by me received or expended, and of all stores or other effects to me intrusted, which belong to the United States, and will, in all respects, discharge the trust reposed in me with justice and integrity, to the best of my skill and understanding."

That every officer, taking the foregoing oaths or affirmations or either of them, shall obtain from the person administering the same, duplicate certificates specifying the time of his taking it or them, and also his name and rank or employment.

That every military officer shall deliver or transmit one of the certificates so obtained, to the Commander in Chief or the Commander of a Department, or to such person, as by General orders shall be appointed to receive the same; and the said commanding officers shall cause the certificates so received to be sent to the Secretary of Congress, and shall keep an exact list of the names of all officers whose certificates shall be received and forwarded, together with their several ranks and the times of their being qualified.

That every officer in the navy shall deliver or send one of the certificates by him obtained to the Navy Board most convenient, who are required to transmit the same, and also a certificate of their own qualifications, to the Marine Committee, as soon as conveniently may be.

That every other person employed in any civil department or office as above-mentioned, shall send or deliver one of the certificates by him obtained to the Secretary of the State to which he belongs, or to such other person or persons, as the Governor or President of such State shall direct. And the Governors or Presidents of the several States, are hereby requested to attend to this matter and to cause the certificates, when received, to be transmitted to the Secretary of Congress.

That each deponent or affirmant shall retain and keep the other certificate, by him obtained, as a voucher of his having complied with what is hereby enjoined him.

Resolved, That every officer civil or military, now in office, shall take and subscribe the qualification above directed, within twenty days after notice hereof; and every person hereafter appointed to any office, by or under the authority of the Congress of the United States of America, shall take and subscribe the same, previous to his acting in such office: And every officer who shall continue or presume to exercise any commission civil or military, under the authority of the Congress of the United States of America, without taking the qualification, in time and manner above directed, shall be cashiered and forfeit two months pay to the use of the United States of America, and be rendered incapable of serving in the army of the said States, and of executing thereafter any office under Congress.

And whereas many persons, employed as Deputy or Assistant Commissaries or Quarter-Masters or in other civil departments are dispersed in various parts of the continent, over whom neither Congress nor the head of their respective departments can have the immediate inspection,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislative and executive authority of every State, to take effectual measures for preventing any person, within their State, from exercising any office in the civil department of the army or in any other civil department under Congress, who shall not, when thereunto required by any Magistrate, produce a legal appointment to that office and a certificate of his having taken the foregoing oaths or affirmations, or who shall neglect or refuse to take and subscribe the said oaths or affirmations within the time above limited.

Resolved, That the resolutions passed the 21st day of October 1776, prescribing the form of an oath or affirmation, and directing the same to be subscribed by officers holding commissions or offices from Congress, be and they are hereby repealed.

Extract from the minutes,
 CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

DILLON and SHINN,

Have for sale in Mountbolly, the following Articles:

SUPERFINE buff, scarlet, blue and light coloured broad-cloths; light and brown homespun do. green and red baiz; cotton and linen checks; Irish sheeting, and a few pieces of Britannias; cambricks, muslins and lawns; cotton calicoes and chintz; plain silk gauze; pins and needles; cotton and linen handkerchiefs; threads---with a variety of grocery, consisting of Muscovado and loaf sugar, by the barrel or smaller quantity; excellent fresh Bohea tea; allum and copperas; molasses; West India rum, and some choice old Jamaica spirit by the gallon or barrel, a small quantity of china, some of which are odd; pepper and allspice; a few wool hats, &c. &c. 3 w 5

A SMALL parcel of ALLUM, LOAF SUGAR, and good BOHEA TEA, to be sold by
JOHN MURRAY,
 In Potts-Grove, Philadelphia County. 4 w 1

T O B E S O L D,

A LARGE new DWELLING-HOUSE and forty-six acres of LAND, now in the possession of Henry Waddell at Freehold, in the county of Monmouth, New-Jersey. The house contains nine rooms, (seven of them with fire-places) two kitchens with bed-rooms for servants, a fine dry cellar, &c. The out-houses consist of a small building of three rooms, (two of them with fire-places) built for an office, a bathing-house, a milk-room, a smoke-house, large and convenient stables for horses, a barn, an house for cattle, &c. The land is in good fence, and has on it an apple orchard and a peach orchard, containing together about seven hundred trees, also about one hundred and eighty trees, (brought from Prince's famous nursery on Long-Island) being a collection of the best fruit of all kinds, such as apples, pears, peaches, plumbs, nectarines, apricots, cherries, &c. Any person desirous of purchasing the above house and land may know the terms of sale by applying to Henry Waddell, who has also to dispose of one hundred acres of pasture land, lying within three quarters of a mile of the above premises. 10 w *

Freehold, 7th February, 1778.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of the Widow Van Allen, late of the city of New-Brunswick, deceased, are hereby requested to pay their respective accounts to the subscriber at Trenton, or to Mr. William Harrison in New-Brunswick: And those that have any demands against the said estate, are desired to bring in their accounts properly attested to the above-named persons. 3 w *

T O B E S O L D,

On the 12th day of March next, at the house of Mr. Geromus Vanderbelt, in the township of New-Shanneck, and county of Somerset;

SUNDRY HOUSEHOLD GOODS, viz. a good eight day clock, beds, chairs, tables and kitchen furniture. The vendue to begin at ten o'clock in the forenoon, where attendance will be given by me, 3 w *

S. H. SULLIVAN.

Cumberland County, West New-Jersey, Jan. 21.

TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN AWAY from the subscriber, on the 20th of August last, an indented **MULATTO BOY** named Levi, eighteen years of age; he has a down look, slim and straight built: Had on and took with him five shirts, two of them striped flannel; three pair of trowlers, one pair of them striped; three vests, one a light colour, the other a pale red; one pair of light coloured cloth breeches; a cloth coloured great coat. He passes for a free negro, says he has worked about Cohansey Bridge. Any person securing said servant, so that his master may get him again, shall have the above reward paid by 6 w *

ABIJAH HOLMES.

To whom it may concern:

THE boat or vessel known by the name of LEWIS'S MILL BOAT, which was lately condemned by a court of admiralty in the State of New-Jersey, and sold by Publick Vendue in the city of Burlington, was in September last employed in the continental service for carrying cloathing from Philadelphia to Trenton, and from thence was ordered by the commissaries to return with publick stores to that city, calling at Bristol for further directions; but by the villainy of the skipper the vessel was run into a dock in Philadelphia on the 26th September last (the day on which the enemy arrived there) from whence she was taken an hour or two afterwards by a party of Gloucester county militia, together with all the publick stores (having no other goods) on board, which stores were also condemned for the use of the captors.

The above is a true state of facts as they appeared on the trial. 2 w *
 BOWES REED, PRO. REG.
 February 18, 1778.

Hopewell, February 2, 1778.

WAS taken out of a yard between Andrew Merston's tavern and Pennington, in Hopewell, a black roan MARE, about five years old, English made, with a saddle and bridle; she trots, paces and gallops, her off hind foot white, the other has a little white about the hoof, a black head, mane and foretop, the two latter very bushy. She is about 14 hands high, with a blaze. The saddle has neither housin or saddle-cloth, and otherwise out of repair; a snaffle bridle with a running rein. The thief, as is supposed, is a short well set man, has dark brown bushy hair, had on a small hat, an old brown coat, leather breeches, a new pair of shoes, and calls himself William Williams. Whoever takes up the thief so that he may be brought to justice, and secures the mare, saddle and bridle so that the owner may have them again, shall receive Twenty Dollars reward and reasonable charges paid by
 NATHAN MOORE.

350 Dollars Reward.

RAN AWAY the 8th day of February, 1778, from the subscribers, three Negro men, viz. one named NEAN, about 25 years old, a middle sized fellow, has thick lips, and flutters very much in his speech when he speaks in a hurry; had on a brown coat, a blue jacket and buckskin breeches. One named JAMES, about 20 years old, a short chunky fellow, had on a good castor hat, two jackets, the upper one a light grey, and leather breeches, and likes much to play on the fife.---The other named CUFF, about 30 years old, a well set fellow, about 5 feet 8 inches high; had on a beaver hat, a blue coat, red jacket, cloth breeches and new shoes, and is very fond of playing on the fiddle. As they were seen near Frankfort, it is supposed they are in or near Philadelphia. Whoever takes up and secures the said Negroes in Trenton goal, so that their masters may have them again, shall have the above reward, or an equal reward for either of them.

WILLSON HUNT,
 JOHN HUNT,
 JOSEPH BURROWES.

40 DOLLARS REWARD.

STOLEN from the subscriber the sixteenth of July last, a chestnut brown HORSE, about fifteen hands high, seven or eight years old, with a bald face, one of his hind feet white, had a small piece of skin sticking out about three quarters of an inch long, on the left side of his breast, occasioned by a rowel. Any person delivering said horse to the subscriber, living near Somerset court-house, in New-Jersey, shall be entitled to the above reward, or Twenty Dollars reward for any person that shall give information where said horse may be had, and all reasonable charges paid by 3 w *

REYNEER VEGHTE.

Second month, 23d, 1778.

RUN AWAY from the subscriber, near Mount-Holly, about the 19th of last month, an apprentice lad named LEVI BISHOP, by trade a taylor, between 19 and 20 years of age, about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, has a down look and bushy hair; had on and took with him when he went away a light coloured homespun coattee with wooden buttons, a home made mixed under jacket, half worn leather breeches, homespun shirts, two pair of grey stockings, one pair ribbed, old neat's leather shoes that had been caped and soaled, with carved buckles, a half worn fur hat, but it is likely he will change his name and cloathes. He was draughted out in the Northampton Militia, with Capt. Weaver, but left him, and I hear is gone to the salt works at Squan, where he has a brother that goes by the name of Joseph Bishop. Any person that will apprehend the said apprentice and confine him in Burlington goal, so that his master shall get him again, shall have ONE SIXTH OF A DOLLAR reward, paid by me 2 w *

JABEZ WOOLSTON.

Green