

The following Proclamation is published at the request of our Government.

By his Excellency the Honourable THOMAS GAGE, Esq; Governor, and Commander in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of MASSACHUSETTS BAY, and Vice Admiral of the said Province.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the infatuated multitudes who have long suffered themselves to be seduced by certain well-known incendiaries and traitors, in a fatal progression of crimes, against the constitutional authority of the State, have, at length, proceeded to avowed rebellion; and the good effects which were expected to arise from the patience and lenity of the king's government, have been often frustrated, and are now rendered hopeless, by the influence of the same evil counsels: it only remains to those who are enrolled with supine ruffians, as well to the punishment of the guilty, as the protection of the well-affected, to prove they do not bear the sword in vain.

The insurrections which have been committed upon the most sacred rights of the crown and people of Great-Britain, are too manifest to need a rate on one side, and are all too atrocious to be pardoned on the other. All the good people who have been witness to the late transactions in this and the neighbouring provinces, will find, upon a transient review, marks of premeditation and conspiracy, that would justify the utmost severity; and yet, not without a full acquiescence with the common law of the land, the cause whereof has, for a long time past, been violently invaded, and wholly interrupted; so that it is now a necessity for using and carrying in the law martial. I have therefore thought fit, by the authority vested in me, by the royal charter to this province, to publish, and I do hereby publish, proclaim and order the use and exercise of the law martial, which shall throughout this province, for so long time as the present unhappy rebellion shall continue, until that rebellious and heretical rebellion shall be suppressed, and the government restored, as well to maintain order and regularity among the peaceable inhabitants of the province, as to punish, execute, and justice the rebels and traitors who are delinquent by such as shall be called upon for these purposes.

It is therefore inevitable, but I trust salutary measures, it is a far more pleasing part of my duty to add the assurances of protection and support to all who by forsaking a crisis, shall manifest their allegiance to the king, and affection to the parliament; so that such persons as may have been intimidated to quit their habitations in the course of this alarm, may return to their former abodes, and enjoy the same rights and liberties as the peaceable and loyal inhabitants of the province, and in his mercy shall restore to his subjects, in this distracted land, that freedom of worship, from which they have been driven, the religion of peace, and a happy reunion to the law.

GIVEN at Boston this 12th day of June, in the fifth year of the reign of his Majesty GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Dom. 1775. THO. GAGE By his Excellency's command, THOMAS HICKS, Secretary. GOD save the KING.

spread a melancholy confirmation of the frequent assertions.

In this emergency of complicated calamities I avail myself of the last effort within the bounds of my duty, to spare the effusion of blood; to offer, and I do hereby in his Majesty's name, offer and promise his most gracious pardon, to all persons who shall forthwith lay down their arms and return to the duties of peaceable subjects, excepting only, from the benefit of such pardon, SAMUEL ADAMS, and JOHN HANCOCK, whose offences are of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of consign punishment.

And to the end that no person within the limits of this proffered mercy, may plead ignorance of the consequences of refusing it, I by these presents proclaim, not only the persons above named and excepted, but also all their adherents, associates and abettors, meaning to comprehend in those terms all and every person and persons of what class, denomination or description soever, who have appeared in arms against the king's government, and shall not lay down the same as aforesaid; and likewise all such as shall take arms after the date hereof, or who shall in any wise protect or conceal such offenders or assist them with money, provision, cattle, arms, ammunition, carriages, or any other necessary for subsistence or offence, or should hold secret correspondence with them, by letter, message, signal or otherwise, to be rebels and traitors, and as such to be treated.

And whereas, during the continuance of the present unnatural rebellion, justice cannot be administered by the common law of the land, the course whereof has, for a long time past, been violently invaded, and wholly interrupted; so that it is now a necessity for using and carrying in the law martial. I have therefore thought fit, by the authority vested in me, by the royal charter to this province, to publish, and I do hereby publish, proclaim and order the use and exercise of the law martial, which shall throughout this province, for so long time as the present unhappy rebellion shall continue, until that rebellious and heretical rebellion shall be suppressed, and the government restored, as well to maintain order and regularity among the peaceable inhabitants of the province, as to punish, execute, and justice the rebels and traitors who are delinquent by such as shall be called upon for these purposes.

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IN COMMITTEE July 21, 1775. Mr. Boyd being called upon to shew the papers he had lately received from the governor, he laid them before the committee. One of them, intitled, "copy of general Gage's account of the action of the 17th of June 1775, between the king's troops and the rebels, in Massachusetts-Bay," was ordered to be read, and is as follows:

Boston, 26th of June, 1775. THIS town was alarmed on the 17th inst. at break of day, by a firing from the Live-ship of war, and a report was immediately spread, that the rebels had broke ground, and were raising a battery on the heights of the peninsula of Charlestown, against the town, in Boston; they were plainly seen, and in a

few minutes a volley of shot was fired from their works. The rebels were immediately ordered to the landing place, and the king's troops, some of the militia and some of the regulars, being in the whole about 2000 men, and the command of the king's troops, and brigadier RIGGS, were embarked with great precipitation, and landed on the peninsula without opposition, under cover of some boats of war and armed vessels.

The troops landed as from an island. The rebels upon the heights, were pursued to sea in great force, and strongly posted, a round shot thrown up on the rocks at night, with other works full of men, surrounded with cannon, and a large body of men, in the houses of Charlestown, covered their right and their left was covered by a bonfire, part of it caught fire, which reached from the left of the redoubt to the right flank.

Behind the appearance of the rebels strength, large columns were seen pouring into their assistance; but the king's troops advanced, and attack began by a cannonade, and notwithstanding various disadvantages of wind, ground, &c. and the heavy fire they were exposed to, from the vast number of rounds and shot which galled from the houses of Charlestown, the troops made their way to the redoubt, mounted the works, and carried it; the rebels were then forced from their strong holds, and pursued till they were driven clear of the peninsula, leaving five pieces of cannon, and the Charlestown was set on fire during the engagement, and both parts of it were considerably damaged. From the vast numbers they were seen to carry off during the action, exclusive of what they intended to burn, about 150 were buried the day after, and thirty found wounded on the field, some of which are since dead. About 170 of the king's troops were killed, and five dead of their wounds, and a great many were wounded.

This action has shown the bravery of the king's troops, who, under every disadvantage, gained a complete victory over three times their number, strongly posted, and covered by breastworks—but they fought for their king and their laws, and constitution.

This account appearing to be a full and virtual misrepresentation of facts, it was ordered, that the subsequent situation thereof, be published in the London papers, and immediately after the last account.

Let the measures of government be ever so prompt or vigorous, there is no breach of truth lower regarding, or dangerous, that the tools of administration will be so greedy to promote them. It is not so much the quantity of what they sell to the public, as the quality of what they sell; when they sell to the public, it is not by any means, to prove, too much, they sell of that which they sell to the public. The foregoing account of the action between the regulars and militia is fully demonstrated. The account of it, aims at making the bravery of the militia troops, and also to show how superior they are to the king's troops, in opposition. It gives you an account, that the king's troops, upon the night of the 17th of June, pursued to the rebels, and that by the light of the moon, they were seen in such a manner, that some of their works were carried, and the king's troops, who were with an intention to be put to sea, were obliged to retreat, and to go to the house of the rebels; but this account is so full of contradictions, that it is not possible to believe it. It is a full and complete misrepresentation of facts, and is a full and complete misrepresentation of the bravery of the king's troops, and of the militia. It is a full and complete misrepresentation of the facts, and is a full and complete misrepresentation of the bravery of the king's troops, and of the militia. It is a full and complete misrepresentation of the facts, and is a full and complete misrepresentation of the bravery of the king's troops, and of the militia.