

Although we have no doubt of his Majesty's disposition to remove every subject of uneasiness from the colonies, yet there are circumstances of precaution against our ancient enemies, which, joined to the regard that must be paid to the safety of men who, from affection to Great Britain, have exposed themselves to suffer in this contest, and to whom Great Britain owes support at every expence of blood and treasure, that will not allow us to begin with this measure. How soon it may follow the first advances to peace, on your part, will depend on the favourable prospect you give of a reconciliation with your fellow citizens of this continent and with those in Britain. In the meantime, we assure you that no circumstance will give us more satisfaction than to find that the extent of our future connexion is to be determined on principles of mere reason, and the considerations of mutual interest, on which we are willing likewise to rest the permanency of any arrangements we may form.

In making those declarations, we do not wait for the decision of any military events. Having determined our judgment by what we believe to be the interests of our country we shall abide by the declarations we now make, in every possible situation of our affairs.

You refer to treaties, already subsisting, but are pleased to withhold from us any particular information in respect to their nature or tendency.

If they are in any degree to affect our deliberations, we think that you cannot refuse a full communication of the particulars in which they consist, both for our consideration and that of your own constituents, who are to judge between us whether any alliance you may have contracted be a sufficient reason for continuing this unnatural war. We likewise think ourselves entitled to a full communication of the powers by which you conceive yourselves authorized to make treaties with foreign nations.

And we are led to ask satisfaction on this point because we have observed, in your proposed articles of confederation, No. 6 and 9, it is stated that you should have the power of entering into treaties and alliances under certain restrictions therein specified, yet we do not find promulgated any act or resolution of the Assemblies of particular states conferring this power on you.

As we have communicated our powers to you, we mean to proceed without reserve in this business. We will not suppose that any objection can arise on your part to our communicating to the public so much of your correspondence as may be necessary to explain our own proceedings. At the same time, we assure you, that in all such publications the respect which we pay to the great body of people you are supposed to represent shall be evidenced in every possible mark of consideration and regard.

We are, with perfect respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servants,

CARLISLE.
H. CLINTON.
Wm. EDEN.
GEO JOHNSTONE.

NEW YORK,
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CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

F I S H K I L L, July 30.

Last week two brigades marched to the eastward, to join the army there. The Marquis de la Fayette is gone to Rhode Island, to take the command of 5000 French troops. The French Squadron have sailed from Sandy Hook, to co-operate with the army against Rhode Island.

By a gentleman who left Boston on Thursday last we hear, that an express arrived from Governor Cook, of Rhode Island, to the Council of Massachusetts Bay, informing them that the enemy had landed 4000 men at Newport, from New York.

General Gates is advancing towards New York, with an army of 8000 fine men, in the highest spirits. Our last accounts left him near White Plains.

T R E N T O N, July 29.

By a gentleman from the eastward we are informed, that last week an action happened between a French and an English frigate on the New England coast, which continued with great obstinacy on both sides for a considerable time; but the French captain, having lost many of his men, and his vessel being much

shattered, was finally obliged to submit, and was carried into Newport. During the action, the Captain of the British frigate, first lieutenant, and several of her men, were killed.

We hear that the enemy, previous to the arrival of the French fleet, reinforced Newport with 1300 men from New York. A detachment from our army of about 3000 continental troops marched last week for Rhode Island.

Extract of a letter from Elizabeth Town, dated July 14, 1778.

"Lord Howe has stripped the British transports, &c. at New York of their seamen, and took on board two or three thousand soldiers to complete their marines, and fell down to the Hook with the whole of his ships of force. General Maxwell's brigade is stationed here.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, August 4.

By a gentleman from the American army at White Plains, which he left last thursday, we have the following accounts. That some time since a detachment of about 2000 men, under command of that active young officer the Marquis de la Fayette, were sent to reinforce a body of troops in the vicinity of Rhode Island, commanded by General Sullivan. These forces are designed to act in concert with Count d'Estaing's Squadron, and we may flatter ourselves with the speedy rout or capture of that nest of infernals who have so long with impunity ravaged the neighbouring coasts; that desertion prevails in the British army to such a degree, that no pickets or sentries are trusted outside of their lines; and a corporal with his guard of six men had come off. The accounts of all the deserters are, that provisions are very scarce with the enemy; that they have no bread, but rice is served to the men; that a general dissatisfaction prevails among both the officers and men; and that a cornet of horse had lately come off from the enemy, and brought his wife and a quantity of baggage with him. This was a matter of much speculation in the American camp.

Extract of a letter from Elizabeth Town, dated July 27.

"We are told, the French fleet, which sailed off a few days ago, appears again at their former station, but whether the whole fleet, I am in doubt."

W I L L I A M S B U R G, August 14.

A VESSEL in thirteen days from St. Eustatia, just arrived at York, brings advice of Admiral Byron's having sailed from England, in quest of the Count d'Estaing, with twelve sail of the line and a number of frigates; and that Admiral Barrington was arrived in the West Indies to relieve Admiral Young, who had ordered all the heavy ships off that station to the relief of Lord Howe at New York. We have certain intelligence likewise, by the same vessel, of his Prussian Majesty and the Emperor of Germany having engaged in a war, which will give full employment to the mercenary soldiers of that country, leave Great Britain to shift for herself, who, seeing nothing but ruin before her, will gladly acknowledge our independence, and court our friendship almost upon any terms.

We learn, by an express from Philadelphia, that 13 sail of the Corke fleet, laden with provisions for the starving crew at New York, are taken by the Count d'Estaing's Squadron; that the city is closely blocked up, so that not a single vessel can get in or out; and that the foreign troops have actually mutinied, and refuse to do any duty.

The grand army, encamped on the 21st ult. near White Plains, had been joined by the troops under General Gates, amounting to about 8000 men; and it was expected that the whole would soon move towards Kingsbridge, to dislodge the enemy from that important post, which will quickly give them possession of New York, and put a finishing stroke to the tyrant power of Britain in America.

A French ship mounting twenty guns, from Nantz, is arrived at Hampton, laden with dry goods, salt, and wines. Another vessel, from the same port, was cast away off Old Point Comfort last Tuesday night during the storm; and scarcely any thing was saved out of her, notwithstanding she had every assistance possible from Hampton. Most of the vessels which lay in Hampton creek were likewise drove ashore.