

and that Washington would not be able to collect an army strong enough to resist the exertions of Howe. He concluded, by observing that nothing less, in his opinion, than the intervention of Providence, could prevent the ruin of Britain."

*Extract of a letter from FRANCE, dated May 22, 1777.*

"Our privateers and cruisers in the channel have raised the ensurance in London. One of my friends here lately paid ten per cent. between Dover and Calais. Capt. Conyngham imprudently returning into Dunkirk with two prizes, was apprehended, with his people, at the request of the Court of England, and put into prison, on pretence of piracy, but having a commission from Congress, they are discharged; the prizes, however, being reclaimed, will be delivered up, the fitting out at Dunkirk being contrary to treaties, which must be observed till war is declared."

*Extract of a letter from a Gentleman of character at Martinico, St. Pierre, June 24, 1777.*

The act of Parliament that was lately passed for the purpose of destroying our commerce, by imprisoning our seamen, has begun to operate among the islands. All Americans that are now taken, are closely confined until and opportunity offers for sending them to Great-Britain.

By a letter from Boston we learn, that Capt. Fisk, who was said to be taken, is arrived with a very valuable cargo from France, and that Capt. Clouston's richest prize has also got safe in.

In CONGRESS, July 29, 1777.

*Resolved*, that an inquiry be made into the reason of the evacuation of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, and into the conduct of the General officers who were in the northern department at the time of the evacuation.

That a committee be appointed to digest and report the mode of conducting the inquiry.

July 30. *Resolved*, that Major General St. Clair, who commanded at Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, forthwith repair to head quarters.

August 1. *Resolved*, that Major General Schuyler be directed to repair to head quarters.

That General Washington be directed to order such General officer as he shall think proper, immediately to repair to the northern department, to relieve Major General Schuyler in his command there.

That Brigadier Poor, Brigadier Patterson, and Brigadier Roche de Fermoy be directed to repair to head quarters.

August 3. *Resolved*, that General Washington be directed to order the General whom he shall judge proper, to relieve General Schuyler in his command, to repair with all possible expedition, to the northern department, giving him directions what number of militia to call from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

That notice be immediately sent to the executive powers of the said States, and that they be earnestly requested to get the militia in those parts of their respective States most contiguous to the northern department, ready to march at a moment's warning, and to send with all possible expedition, such parts of them as the General commanding in the northern department, shall require, to serve till the 15th of November if not sooner relieved by continental troops, or dismissed by the commanding officer of the department, and be entitled to continental pay and rations.

That the commanding officer in the northern department have discretionary power to make requisitions on the State aforesaid, from time to time, for such additional numbers of the militia to serve in that department as he shall judge necessary for the public service.

Whereas it is represented to Congress that General Washington is of opinion that the immediate recall of all the Brigadiers from the northern department may be productive of inconvenience to the public service.

*Resolved*, that the order of Congress the first day of this month, respecting the said Brigadiers, be suspended, until General Washington shall judge it may be carried into effect with safety.

*Extract from the minutes.*

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

We hear that Major General Gates is appointed to command in the northern department, with orders immediately to repair thither.

*Extract of a letter from Paris, March 12, 1777.*

"All Europe is for you. The separate constitutions of the several States are also translating and publishing here, which afford abundance of speculation to the politicians of Europe, and it is a general opinion, that if you succeed in establishing your liberties, you will, as soon as peace is restored, receive an immense addition of numbers and wealth from Europe, by the families who will go over to participate your privileges, and car-

ry their estates with them. Tyranny is so generally established in the rest of the world, that the prospect of an asylum in America for those who love liberty, gives generally joy, and your cause is esteemed the cause of mankind. Slaves naturally become base as well as wretched: You are fighting for the dignity and happiness of human nature. Glorious is it for the Americans to be called by Providence to this post of honour; cursed and detested will every one be that deserts or betrays it."

*A letter from Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, esquires, to Lord Stormont, the English ambassador at Paris.*

My LORD,

PARIS, April 2, 1777.

We did ourselves the honour of writing some time since to your lordship, on the subject of exchanging prisoners. You did not condescend to give us any answer, and therefore we expect none to this. We however take the liberty of sending you copies of certain depositions which we shall transmit to Congress, whereby it will be known to your court that the United States are not unacquainted with the barbarous treatment their people receive when they have the misfortune of being your prisoners in here in Europe; and that, if your conduct towards us is not altered, it is not unlikely that severe reprisals may be thought justifiable, from the necessity of putting some check to such abominable practices.

For the sake of humanity, it is to be wished that men would endeavour to alleviate, as much as possible, the unavoidable miseries attending a state of war. It has been said, that among the civilized nations of Europe the ancient horrors of that state are much diminished; but the compelling men by chains, stripes, and famine, to fight against their friends and relations, is a new mode of barbarity, which your nation alone has the honour of inventing; and the sending American prisoners of war to Africa and Asia, remote from all probability of exchange, and where they can scarce hope ever to hear from their families, even if the unwholesomeness of the climate does not put a speedy end to their lives, is a manner of treating captives that you can justify by no other precedent or custom except that of the black savages of Guinea.

We are your lordship's most obedient humble servants,

B. FRANKLIN.

S. DEANE.

Lord Viscount STORMONT.

To the above letter the following insolent reply was made.

"The king's ambassador receives no letters from rebels, except when they come to ask mercy."

*Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at Paris, May 27, 1777.*

"There is just published in England a letter from Mr. Burke to the sheriffs of Bristol, in which he paints the present state of Britain in strong colours, but I think with truth. We behold (says he) our native land, which used to sit the envied arbiter of all her neighbours, reduced to a servile dependence on their mercy; acquiescing in assurances of friendship, which she does not trust; complaining of hostilities, which she dares not resent; deficient to her allies; lofty to her subjects; submissive to her enemies. Indeed, our affairs are in a very bad condition. I do assure those gentlemen who have prayed for war, and obtained the blessing they have sought, that they are at this instant in very great straits. The abused wealth of this country continues a little longer to feed its distemper. As yet, they, and their German allies of twenty hireling states, have contended only with the unprepared strength of our own infant colonies; but America is not subdued. Not one unattacked Village, which was originally adverse, throughout that vast continent, has yet submitted from love or terror. You have the ground you encamp on, and you have no more. The events of this war are of so much greater magnitude, than those who either wished or feared it ever looked for, that this alone ought to fill every considerate mind with anxiety and diffidence. Wise men often tremble at the very things which fill the thoughtless with security. For many reasons, I do not choose to expose to public view the particulars of the state in which you stood with regard to foreign powers during the whole course of the last year. Whether you are yet wholly out of danger from those powers is more than I know, or than your rulers can divine; but even, if I were certain of my safety, I could not easily forgive those who had brought me into the most dreadful perils, because, by accidents unforeseen by them or me, I have escaped."

"I have not time to add my own reflections to the above; I will only say, that another year's brave and virtuous defence of our liberties will probably put an end to our difficulties, and establish our independence, which will probably be introductory to a prosperity of which we at present can scarce form a conception."

WILLIAM BURG, August 22.

A Correspondent informs, that upon notice being received of the approach of the British fleet to our capes, the Council immediately met at the Capitol; and as his Excellency the Governor was at that time out of town, orders were immediately issued by the Lieutenant Governor to the county lieutenants throughout the commonwealth to prepare their several corps of militia to march