

That a copy of the freedom of this city, with the resolution of the court inserted therein, be delivered to the Right Hon. Sir Fletcher Norton in a gold box, of the value of 50 guineas, and the Lord Mayor was desired to provide the same.

*Extract of a letter from Chatham, May 12.*

"Orders" are received here to use the utmost expedition in fitting up the Buckingham, of 70 guns, to carry out clothing for the use of the troops in America; her name is to be changed to the Grampus storeship.

"John Elliott, Esq; is appointed to the command of the Trident, of 64 guns, now in commission at this port, in the room of Robert Digby, Esq; appointed to the Ramillies, of 74 guns, in the room of Commodore McKenzie, promoted to the rank of Admiral."

The Earl of Chatham is now in a much better state of health than he has been in for a considerable time. His Lordship rides on horseback about the environs of Hayes every morning, and his arthritic complaints have lately given him no uneasiness.

May 16. When Sir William Howe first took the command of the army, he never once, in any of his despatches, stigmatized the Americans with the epithet of rebels, but very civilly and politely called them the enemy, as if he had been speaking of some independent power with which we might happen to be at war. In the extract of his letters, however, as published in Saturday's gazette, there is a remarkable change in his diction, for there the ugly word *rebel* meets us almost in every line. This is supposed by many to be owing to resentment for his late foul flight from a small party of Washington's army. But be that as it may, if a personal disgrace has been more powerful than the public concerns, in giving a sharper point to his pen, it is to be hoped it will likewise give a keener edge to his sword than formerly, whenever his recovery from the fright and bodily fear he was put into on this occasion, will permit him to meet the same enemy, or rebel, face to face.

The indigo carried to France by the Americans is bought up there, and brought to England, there being no prohibition of the importation of any sort of materials for dyeing.

The French, by their connection with the Americans, have got the rice trade up the Straits intirely into their own hands, the Americans importing it into France, and the French shipping it again to Spain and Italy.

#### PROVIDENCE, July 26.

Authentic advise was received here on Monday morning, by express, that 40 sail of ships and other vessels, from New York, were seen in the Western Sound the evening before, steering towards Rhode Island. As there was a probability of their being the van of the enemy's grand fleet, who might have it in view to penetrate the country, by way of this town, orders were issued for the militia to hold themselves in readiness, and expresses despatched to the Massachusetts state, requesting assistance if necessary. The fleet disappeared on Monday; and the master of a vessel, arrived at Bedford from South Carolina, informs, that he saw 21 sail the same day, steering S. E. from Block Island, distant about three leagues. The highest praise is due to the militia of this and the Massachusetts state, who at this busy season were with great spirit assembling in arms to defend their country.

The fleet above mentioned are supposed to be empty transports or victuallers, bound to Europe, under convoy.

#### F I S H - K I L L, August 7.

We learn from the Northward, by a soldier who had been made a prisoner on the retreat from Ticonderoga, but has since made his escape, that there were in the house in which he was confined 170 of the enemy wounded, and that in an open field near that place he had seen 130 of their dead.

*Extract of a letter from Fort Stanwix, July 28.*

"We have received frequent intelligence here that Sir John Johnson has ordered Col. Butler to send about 200 Indians to visit the fort and parts adjoining, who were to set out the 3d of August from ———, near Oswego; and that Sir John, with about 1000 troops, made up of British, Tories, and vagabond Canadians, are with Butler and all the Indians they can muster to follow as soon as possible."

"Yesterday this garrison was alarmed by the firing of four guns, when a party were immediately sent out to the place, which was about 500 yards from the fort; but the villains were fled, having shot, scalped, and tomahawked, two girls, and wounded a third. The girls had been out gathering raspberries. By the best discoveries we could make, there appeared to have been four Indians who perpetrated these murders. We had four men with arms who had just passed by that place, but these mercenaries of Britain came not to fight, but to lie in wait to murder; and it is equally the same to them if they can get a scalp, whether it be from a soldier or an innocent babe. These Indians we are informed are some of those sent out by Sir John Johnson, Col. Close, and Butler."

#### PHILADELPHIA, August 14.

*Extract of a letter from Paris to a gentleman in Pennsylvania, dated April 10, 1777.*

"I think it my duty to give every information in my power which, through your means, in your public character, can possibly be useful to the United States of America.

"I found the ministry at this court anxious to know the success of our opposition to the violent attempts of Great Britain; they were surprized they had not received more frequent intelligence and applications. Partly through the representations which I had the honour of making, a commercial company, with the sanction of administration, is formed under the firm of one of the most reputable houses. By that channel you will soon receive arms, clothing, tents, cannon, mortars, gunpowder, and every other necessary article for an army of 30,000 men, together with a few good officers of artillery. We had for a long time received no certain intelligence from Congress, while English emissaries were busy in retailing the grossest falsehoods; First, that the dispute was like to be soon accommodated; and when the declaration of independence made that impossible, they pretended that dissensions prevailed amongst the colonies, and that the vast armaments employed by Great Britain would infallibly finish the contest in one campaign.

"Our total want of intelligence had for some time rendered the ministry at Versailles timid and apprehensive. In this situation of affairs I quitted France, in order, if possible, to negotiate a loan in Holland, and to open an intercourse with the court of Prussia, which by its ambassador in France had expressed a desire of knowing the true state of the Thirteen United Colonies, and of making some essay in our trade.

"At Amsterdam, Bremen, and Hamburg, I endeavoured to excite speculators to open a direct commerce with us; and nothing but the total want of proper and due intelligence from Congress, or of an equal share of ability in the art of coining, to counteract the abominable lies of England, who stuck at nothing to make Europe believe we were on the point of subjugation, has hitherto prevented my farther success. Companies, however, are actually formed, even in the heart of Germany, from whence our wants will certainly be supplied, and good markets found for vending our commodities.

"At Berlin I met a more favourable reception than I could possibly have expected. I made there proper representations to the king and minister, who gave me strong assurances that all the great powers in Europe wished our independence; but his majesty was pleased to say, "until we threw *fixes*, they must keep up appearances with England." I still have the honour of corresponding with the Prussian minister, and several persons of rank about the court, and I long to be enabled to inform the king that we have thrown *fixes*. The present king is infirm; his presumptive successor is rather inclined to ease and pleasure, whence it is presumed he will prefer commerce to war. I will soon transmit you a sketch of the Prussian trade and manufactures.

"In my way through Saxony, Luface, and the Palatinate, I found the capital merchants meditating a future commerce with us. I received a thousand civilities from them; they sent after me to Paris patterns of various manufactures of the different countries. I have cultivated this good disposition, and make these merchants the vehicles of communicating through Germany true accounts of every important event in the American states, to confront the false reports spread by the creatures of the British ministry.

"There is no doubt of obtaining very large supplies of money to enable you to carry on the war, as long as England is mad enough to continue it; and very large sums are already actually obtained for your use. The French nation is clamorous for war with England; the nobility breathe the same sentiments, and the court in general leans towards us. The minister wishes to provoke Great Britain to attack them; in that event, their allies, the Emperor, Spain, Sweden, &c. will be obliged to support them. Your commissioners are provoking them, by taking English ships in the British channel, and selling them in French ports. Upon the whole, it appears that war on this side is inevitable, although to deprecate the stroke the court of London has stooped very low.

"This letter will be put into your hands by the Marquis de ———, of a noble and ancient family in France, connected by birth and marriage with the first in the kingdom, and in possession of an estate of upwards of 14,000 l. sterling per ann. beloved and almost adored by his numerous acquaintance; but preferring glory to every enjoyment, which these, in the arms of a young and beautiful wife and young family, could give him, he courts danger in defence of our cause, which is here universally celebrated as the cause of mankind; and nothing amazes sensible men in Europe more than to hear there are any disaffected people among you.

"The situation of every friend to America residing in England is now become critical. The American refugees are par-