

authority, tribunals in the country itself fully competent to administer justice on all offenders. But if there are not, and that we must suppose a thing so humiliating to our government, as that all this vast continent should unanimously concur in thinking that no ill fortune can convert resistance to the royal authority into a criminal act, we may call the effect of our victory peace or obedience, or what we will, but the war is not ended: the hostile mind continues in full vigour, and it continues under a worse form. If your peace be no more than a fullen pause from arms, if their quiet be nothing but the meditation of revenge, where smitten pride, smarting from its wounds, festers into new rancour, neither the act of Henry the 8th, nor its handmaid of this reign, will answer any wise end of policy or justice. For if the bloody fields, which they saw and felt, are not sufficient to subdue the reason of Americans, (to use the expressive phrase of a great Lord in office) it is not the judicial slaughter which is made in another hemisphere against their universal sense of justice, that will ever reconcile them to the British government.

I take it for granted, gentlemen, that we sympathize in a proper horror of all punishment further than as it serves for an example. To whom then does the example of an execution in England for this American rebellion apply? Remember! we are told every day that the present is a contest between the two countries, and that we in England are at war for our own dignity against our rebellious children. Is this true? If it be, it is surely among such rebellious children that examples for disobedience should be made. For whoever thought of instructing parents in their duty by an example from the punishment of a disobedient son? As well might the execution of a fugitive Negro in the plantations be considered as a lesson to teach masters humanity to their slaves. Such executions may indeed satiate our revenge, they may harden our hearts, and puff us with pride and arrogance. Alas! this is not instruction.

If any thing can be drawn from such examples by a parity of the case, it is to shew how deep their crime, and how heavy their punishment will be, who shall at any time dare to resist a distant power (actually disposing of their property) without their voice or consent to the disposition; and overturning their franchises, without charge or hearing. God forbid that England should ever read this lesson written in the blood of any of her offspring!

War is at present carried on between the King's natural and foreign troops on one side, and the English in America on the other, upon the usual footing of other wars; and accordingly an actual exchange of prisoners has been regularly made from the beginning. If, notwithstanding this hitherto equal procedure, upon some prospect of ending the war with success (which however may be delusive) administration prepares to act against those traitors who remain in their hands at the end of the present troubles, in my opinion, we shall exhibit to the world as indecent a piece of injustice as ever civil fury has presented. If the prisoners who have been exchanged have not by the exchange been virtually pardoned, the cartel (whether avowed or understood) is a cruel fraud; for you have received the life of a man, and you ought to return a life for it, or there is no parity or fairness in the transaction.

If, on the other hand, we admit that they who are actually exchanged are pardoned, but contend that we may justly reserve for vengeance those who remain unexchanged, then this unpleasant consequence will follow: That you judge of the delinquency of men merely by the time of their guilt, and not by the heinousness of it; and you make fortune and accidents, and not the moral qualities of human action, the rule of your justice.

FISH-KILL, August 14.

LAST Friday a few of the enemy's vessels appeared standing up the North River; and the next morning about 30 sail, great and small, with a number of flat bottomed boats came up as far as Tarry Town, where they landed some of their men, with a view, no doubt, to draw our forces from Pecks Kill that way; the next morning they re-shipped them, and, with a fresh southerly breeze, proceeded up the river, till nearly opposite Pecks Kill, where they again landed a few of their troops, but their main body they landed on the opposite shore; and on Monday those at Pecks Kill crossed likewise. The enemy then, to the amount of about 4000 men, marched towards forts Montgomery and Clinton, which were garrisoned by about 600 men, and between the hours of one and two, P. M. attacked them. Our fire, which was very hot, put them into confusion several times; but about the dusk of the evening, through the superiority of their numbers, they got our breastworks, and possessed themselves of the forts. Many of the garrison, taking the advantage of the night, made their escape, even after the enemy had been some time master of the posts. It is said the enemy refused to give quarter, and continued firing on our people after they had scaled the ramparts, but being favoured by the night, our men received little damage from their fire. Our men fought with surprising bravery, made a gallant defence, and nothing was wanting but

more men. His Excellency General Clinton narrowly made his escape, as did the General his brother, who is wounded. Colonels Dubois and Lamb, and several other officers got safe off.— The enemy knowing but too well our weakness, and the tardy march of our militia, availed themselves of these advantages by a most sudden attack; for had the forts been able to hold out but two or three hours longer, they had been supplied with a reinforcement fully sufficient to defend them. Their loss at these forts was very considerable; the British General Campbell was killed in the assault, and we were under the disagreeable necessity of destroying fort Constitution, after removing part of the stores, and of burning the frigates Congress and Montgomery, to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands, the wind and tide being unfavourable to their moving farther up the river.

The enemy sent in a flag to demand the fort, which the Governor refused in the most peremptory terms; at the same time they were most dishonourably surrounding it.

Mr. Loudon,

In Mr. Gaine's paper of the 22 instant I observed a fable comparing the Americans to sheep; the Britons to dogs; the French to foxes; the Spaniards to wolves; and the Dutch to boars.— The simplicity and innocence of sheep are emblematical of the Americans, and the Britons, for ferocity, are rightly compared to the canine tribe, though not like the generous mastiff, whose disposition and duty is to guard and protect the innocent; but like blood thirsty hounds, calling their murderous neighbours, the goats of Hesse with their high horns and long stinking beards, the boars of Waldeck and Hanover, the bears and badgers of Antpach Hanau, and all carnivorous beasts, whom mercenary and cruel motives could influence, are hired by the hounds of Britain to devour the flock and partake in the carnage—But lo! a worder under the sun, those fierce hounds of Britain, and fierce beasts of Germany, are taken captive by the lambs of the flock, and a large drove of them brought to Albany last Sunday, by a small party of the sheep.

B O S T O N, - September 29.

SINCE our last four or five prizes are arrived safe in different ports, two of which are laden with beef, butter, flour, and pease, being provision vessels; the former we hear bound for New-York, and the other for Halifax.

Extract of a letter, dated Bourdeaux, July 12, 1777.

"The Americans have all the indulgence they can expect, and there is great appearance of a French war. The King of France has issued a proclamation, that all the vessels which are loaded with American goods, and properly cleared out from the French West Indies, and bound for France, if taken, he will make a demand for them; and if they will not give them up he shall declare war against them, which seems very pleasing to all the merchants."

Extract of a letter from a customhouse officer at Brixham, in England, to his son in New-York, taken in a prize, lately arrived, dated June 15, 1777.

"I was glad to hear of your health and safe arrival at New-York, and am very glad to hear that the English army have made such great conquests in the East river, but should be better satisfied if a speedy reconciliation between England and America took place, and put an end to the rebellion, that trade may flourish here as it did before it began. I wish it may not make a rebellion in England before there is an end put to it. There is a great many American privateers in the English channel, and on the coast of Ireland; they take a great many of our coasters and merchant vessels that go up and down the coast, and send them all to France. I suppose it will at last end in a French war, and believe it will be soon. The press keeps on as when you went away, although the grand fleet of observation at Spithead is fully manned; I suppose it is to man other ships, that are daily putting in commission. Every thing in trade goes on very dull in England; never was there such times as now; the very fishermen here at Brixham are starving for want of employment; however, smuggling keeps on here pretty well yet; but if there comes a French war, I suppose there will be an end to that too. Thank God, I have made a tolerable good hand of it since you went away; I made a middling good seizure yesterday in Tingmouth bay, of a sloop and cargo."

The following is an extract from the *London Gazette*, Monday, July 28, 1777.

Copy of a letter from M. De Sartine, to all the Chambers of Commerce (as they are called in France) to be forwarded to their governments abroad. This letter, which came by Friday's French mail, needs neither comment nor paraphrase; the text speaks plain enough to every capacity.

VERSAILLES, July 4, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

IHAVE just been informed, by letters from Martinico, that it was given out there that the governor of that colony had declared to the merchants and owners of ships, that it was agre-