

An act to enable the Governor to send an aid from the militia to oppose the enemies of the United States, if the same should be required by Congress.

An act to regulate the militia of this state.

An act for the ease and convenience of the militia on the west side of Newport, in Carteret county.

An act for securing lots in Elizabeth town, in Bladen county.

An act for establishing the salaries of the Justices of the superior courts, and of the Attorney General.

An act for adding part of Anson county to Bladen.

F I S H - K I L L, November 20.

*Extract of a letter from Providence, Nov. 10.*

**T**HURSDAY night last the Syren ship of war, of 28 guns, a transport ship, and a tender, bound up the sound of Newport, ran on Point Judith; they were discovered early on Friday morning, when some troops we have posted at that quarter, got down some field pieces, and fired on the two latter; the tender got off, and was getting under way to take out the Syren's hands, &c. but a lucky shot from the shore cut her main halliards, when she grounded a second time, and with the transport, submitted. Meanwhile an 18 pounder was sent to salute the Syren, which lay at a greater distance from the shore than the others; it arrived timely, and a few well directed shot compelled her to strike her colours also. Capt. Forneaux, of the Syren, with 7 other officers, arrived here last evening; the remainder of the prisoners arrived this afternoon, 166 in the whole. The Syren is bilged, but every thing excepting the hull and powder will be saved. A boat was despatched to Newport for assistance, and two ships came out, but durst not approach near enough to afford them any relief. The capture of these vessels, with their crews, will be considered as a valuable acquisition, especially as it will enable us to redeem a number of our brave seamen, who are now in captivity."

*Extract of a letter from Boston, dated Nov. 8.*

"General Burgoyne, and the first division of his disarmed troops, are arrived at Cambridge, and the rest are expected next Saturday. Tomorrow the Colonel of the Queen's dragoons is to dine with General Heath, in this town."

*The following is part of a resolve passed by the general Assembly of Massachusetts Bay, by which the public will observe that the Bostonians mean to keep at a commendable distance from their British neighbours.*

**RESOLVED**, that the troops under General Burgoyne be quartered in the barracks on Prospect and Winter hills, and such others as a committee of both Houses hereafter to be appointed shall judge most safe, retired, and easily guarded, and that they obtain suitable houses for the General officers and proper rooms for other officers of rank; the foreign troops to be kept separate from the British, as far as practicable; both officers and soldiers to be prevented coming into the town of Boston, or on this side Charlestown neck; and the committee aforesaid are directed to fix such limits for the restraint of officers and soldiers as may secure the public from any ill consequences, so far as may be consistent with a strict fulfilment of the convention.

And it is farther resolved, that no inhabitant of the United States, or any other person whatever, shall at any time enter the limits assigned for preventing their communication with the prisoners, without a written licence obtained for that purpose from the Council or General Heath, under pain of military discipline, which General Heath is hereby empowered and required to inflict. That the Hon. Council be requested to order 1000 men, including officers, and as many more as they shall find necessary, from such parts of the militia of this state as they shall judge equitable, to serve as guards, and be under the command of General Heath.

B A L T I M O R E, Dec. 9. 1777.

*Extract of a letter from an officer in France to his friend, a General officer, in the service of the United American States, dated August, March 6th, 1777.*

**Y**OU are then engaged my dear, in the cause of America, for this glorious cause my blood is warmed. May you, my friend, speed well in it! and may Heavens make it prosper, and you an instrument to ensure its success. Whatever your motives, my dear friend, for launching in a career, in many respects so different from that you have hitherto run, I applaud them with all my soul; and were I heat and strong as I am weak and delicate, I would myself embark in so noble a cause, with the greatest alacrity, and share the fate and dangers you are to encounter. Great and arduous as is your task, you are certainly equal to it. You have to assert the rights of humanity, and the freedom of an empire, which if once established, will not have its parallel in history, against the general enemies of mankind, and the cruel and tyrannical oppressors of your own miserable country. The more odious, that themselves, jealous of liberty to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, they have committed fewer crimes in defence of their own, than in depriving of

theirs, every nation that they could master. I flatter myself these sentiments are congenial to your own. I love an Englishman as I love my soul, but I am far from being enamoured with the nation, and I abhor their government. May you, my friend, inspire the same way of thinking to the men you are going to train to the art of war. May you indemnify them for the loss of so gallant an officer as Lee, which I am afraid is too true! And whatever be your success, be assured of my vows for you and your cause. Now, in the decline of life, I shall reflect with pleasure, on an immense continent being armed in defence of their undoubted rights; and less pleasing will it be to me to think, that the companion of my youth, and the friend of my age, my dear, was a principal in so glorious an enterprise."

*Extract of a letter from General Gates, dated Albany Nov. 16.*

"I have now the pleasure to acquaint the Congress, that the enemy have confirmed my opinion of their intentions, by burning and destroying all the works and buildings upon Mount Independence and Ticonderoga, and precipitately retiring to Isle aux Noix, and St. John's. The heavy stores, &c. they threw into the lake, and it is believed carried off only the brass artillery, the powder, the provisions, and the garrison."

"I take it for granted, that General Putnam and General George Clinton acquainted your Excellency, that the enemy abandoned all their forts and posts upon the North river, the 23th ult. and retreated to New-York; and that fort Independence, near Kingsbridge, is also evacuated and destroyed."

*Extract of a letter from General Washington, dated Nov. 26.*

"THE Marquis de la Fayette went to Jersey with General Green, and I find he has not been inactive there; this you will receive by the following extract of a letter, just arrived, from Gen. Green:—"The Marquis, with about 400 militia, and the rifle corps, attacked the enemy's piquet last evening, killed about 20, wounded many more, and took about 20 prisoners. The Marquis is charmed with the spirited behaviour of the militia and rifle corps. They drove the enemy about half a mile, and kept the ground until dark. The enemy's piquet consisting of about 300, and were reinforced during the skirmish. The Marquis is determined to be in the way of danger."

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

I N C O N G R E S S, December 3, 1777.

WHEREAS the Baron de St. Ouary, a gallant gentleman, of France, engaged as a volunteer in the service of the United States, was lately, by the fortune of war, made prisoner by the British troops;

**RESOLVED**, that General Washington be directed to propose to General Howe, that the Baron de St. Ouary be permitted to return from his captivity, agreeable to the practice of Europe, respecting volunteers; that if General Howe shall refuse this, it be proposed to take the Baron's parole for his enlargement, Congress engaging, when an exchange takes place, to return a British officer for the Baron de St. Ouary: And that General Howe be informed, if neither of these propositions be accepted, that it is expected that the gentleman will be treated as a prisoner of war, having respect to his merit and rank in the French army.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

*In the HOUSE of DELEGATES, Williamsburg, December 10.*

**RESOLVED**, that the governor and Council in draughting a detachment of the militia of this Commonwealth, and marching it to head quarters, in the neighbouring State of Pennsylvania, actually invaded by a foreign enemy, have acted according to the laws of this Commonwealth.

JOHN TAZEWELL, c. h. d.

DECEMBER 17, 1777.

Agreed to by the Senate.

J. BECKLEY, c. s.

W I L L I A M S B U R G, Dec. 19.

*Extract of a letter from a member of Congress, dated York-town, Dec. 9, 1777.*

**W**E expect soon to hear of warm work. Mr. Howe has come out of Philadelphia with his whole army, and was last Saturday in sight of our army, which is at least as strong as it has ever been, and in pretty good spirits. A person out of Philadelphia says, a packet was received there last week, with advice that hostilities were commenced, or about to commence, between France and England. It is certain they are building forts to defend New-York towards the sea; still I am afraid England will make them concessions. I saw a letter this morning from St. Eustacia, which says, it was agreed to restore all effects taken in French bottoms, without the limits."

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the Northern Neck, dated December 15, 1777.*

"I arrived last night from Potowmack, where I have been stationed ten days. We have hitherto prevented the enemy getting fresh provisions from our shore, but many Negroes have