

ance of the measures necessary for our defence, we shall finally gain the end of the warfare; INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTY, and PEACE.—These are blessings worth contending for, at every hazard. But we hazard nothing; the power of America alone, with their daily exertion, would have nothing to dread from the force of Great-Britain: Yet we stand not alone on our own ground; France yields us every aid we ask; and there are reasons to believe, the period is not far distant, when she will take a more active part, by declaring war against the British Crown. Every motive therefore irresistibly urges and commands us to a firm and manly perseverance, in our opposition to such cruel oppressors; to slight difficulties, endure hardships, and contemn every danger.

The General ardently wishes it were in his power to conduct the troops into the best winter quarters; but where are they to be found? should we retire into the interior parts of the States, we should find them crowded with virtuous citizens, who sacrificed their ALL; have left Philadelphia, and fled from persecution: To their distress, humanity forbids us not to add.—This is not all; we should leave a vast extent of fertile country, to be despoiled and ravaged by the enemy, from which they would drain large supplies, and where many of our firm friends would be exposed to all the miseries of insulting and wanton depredations. A train of evils might be enumerated—but these will suffice.

Considerations make it indispensibly necessary for the army to take such position, as will enable it, most effectually, to prevent distress, and to give the most extensive security; and in this position, we must make ourselves the best shelter in our power. With activity and diligence, tents may be erected that may be warm and dry; in those the troops will be more secure against surprise, than if in a divided State; and at hand to protect their country.

These cogent reasons has determined the General to take post in the neighbourhood of this camp; and influenced by them, he persuades himself, that the officers and soldiers, with one heart, and with one mind, will resolve to surmount every difficulty, with a fortitude and patience becoming their profession, and the sacred cause in which they are engaged in. He himself will partake of the hardships, and likewise of every inconvenience.

We have the pleasure to inform our readers, that a ship is arrived at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, from France, with the following articles, viz. 48 double fortified brass 4 pounders; 19 nine inch mortars; 25,000 bombs; 2400 balls; a large quantity of entrenching tools; 3000 muskets; 1120 ditto, for dragoons; 18,000 weight of powder; 61051 weight of brimstone; and sundry other necessary articles for the use of the army of the United States of America.

*Extract of a letter from East Bradford, Chester County, Dec. 12.*

“ I this day went down to Haverford, and there found the most destructive piece of work I ever saw. Your brother Anthony Morris's house and place is robbed of every thing the merciless wretches, *the English*, could take away. They have not even left them or the children any thing of food, neither bed or blanket, or any cloathing, except what they had on their backs. Every thing of his, yours, and your father's, they could not take off, they took care to destroy; and what is worse, Anthony is wounded, but I hope not mortally; The English light horse overtook him about a mile from home, with a party of our troops, who were obliged to retreat, they pursued, caught him, and wounded him in fifteen different places. All the fingers of one hand are nearly cut off, and the rest are so bad, that Dr. Morris was obliged to take one off; his upper lip is split, a piece cut out of his nose, both cheeks cut; after which they robbed him of his horse and money. The officer then left the five who had attacked him, and told them to split the damned rebel down, and then follow him; after they had given him several wounds on the head, some of which went through his skull, they left him, and he crept down to one Weifs's, where he now lies; his wife is with him, and in great distress, not having any thing to assist him with. I have left them money, but it is of no service, every neighbour being in the same situation with themselves. Farr has taken three of the children to his mother's. He is in fine spirits, and I hope there is no danger.—I would be glad Mrs. Morris would send me some linen, &c. for them and the children; do send them; for they have not any change of clothes till they receive them.”

*The devils have gone to Philadelphia.*

A French brig, called the Lyon, Capt.—, laden at Yarmouth, in England, for Leghorn, was carried into Newbury Port, some time since, and condemned at Salem, on the 11th of November last. That so much thereof as was the property of the people in England, among which was 60 tons of lead, 243 large bales of Yorkshire woollens, and Norwich stuffs, &c. supposed to have cost in England 30,000l. sterling. The brig, with several tons of lead, and a few bales of goods, &c. being the property of some Italians, were not condemned; and the

Captain received his freight, 8000 livres, and discharged with his vessel. Another vessel's cargo is condemned, consisting of 120 bales of fine cloth, laden at Topsham, bound to Italy.

MR. PRINTERS,

I am the poor honest drudge, who carry the postman and his mail; and whether the news be good, or bad, true, or false, it is equally burthensome to me; through all the inclemencies of weather, and with many a hungry belly, am I obliged to trudge up and down the country, to satisfy the curiosity of your customers. We brutes, though we often observe the actions of men, are generally ignorant of their motives and the disposition from whence they proceed. For my part, from a long acquaintance with mankind, and the sagacity they have shewn in subduing us to their yoke, I should expect to find in them all the social virtues, in a degree of perfection proportionate to their superior wisdom. Among us, it is an invariable maxim, that every act of kindness deserves a return; and in conformity to this rule, we all serve the master faithfully who feeds us well; in man, so far surpassing us in other respects, I should expect to see the same principle rising to a divine and heavenly perfection. But, Sir, in going the continual round of duty in my present department, I have frequent the mortification to observe a set of penurious wretches of the human race, who pay nothing either to the post or printer, as officious in opening the newspapers, and appropriating them to their own purposes, and with as little compunction of mind; as those who have generously contributed to the support of both. These are acts that would disgrace an order of beings much inferior to men, as they have a tendency to destroy the bulwark of American liberty, and often disappoint men, whose zeal and public virtue prompt them to consult the interest of their country. Nor is it with less pity and contempt, that I observe in another set of the same class, within the circle of my immediate acquaintance, the mean spirited poverty of soul which has confined their contributions to the small sum of five shillings among fourteen men, who all receive the benefit of the news-papers from one subscription.— Though it is, indeed laughable, to see this notable grope climbing on the shoulders of each other, to hear the first reading of a fresh paper; and had I been blessed with the gift of speech on these occasions, I should have cried out, O! for the pencil of an Hogarth, that I might do justice to so excellent an original. Pray, Mr. printer, admonish these ungenerous eve-droppers of the news, who, wanting a spirit to come honestly by it, should at least be contented with receiving it in verbal detail from those who do. My master, who has been kind and indulgent on all other occasions, says he will no longer burthen me with the papers of those who do not subscribe to the post; and you, Mr. printer, who cannot but feel the injury done to yourself, by those who open papers they do not pay for, will, I hope fall on some method to correct so scandalous an abuse.

I am, Your's, &c. the postman's horse.

D E R R I C K.

F I S H - K I L L, December 18.

ON the 27th ult. General Putnam with the troops under his command, marched down towards Kingsbridge, with a view to draw out the enemy to battle; and for this purpose he detached Col. Meigs over the Brunx, near the fort, with orders to retreat in such a manner, as would most probably draw the enemy out to the main body, posted advantageously about one mile distant. This was attempted by Col. Meigs, but the enemy cautiously avoided the danger, only sending a small party of rangers, who could not be drawn over the river; a skirmish ensued between this party of the enemy and Colonel Meigs, in which they lost three men killed, and about the same number wounded, and one or two made prisoners; Meigs had two men slightly wounded. The following night several small parties were sent down to alarm the enemy's camp, which they did, and turned them out in the severe storm and left them, bringing off Col. James Delancey, Mr. Ogilvie, a Lieutenant in Robinson's regiment, and four other prisoners. The posts at the bridge, are strongly fortified, but with a suitable force and preparations may soon be reduced.

N E W B E R N, January 23, 1778.

SINCE our last, Capt. Tinker, in a sloop from New-London arrived here, but brings no news, only the capture of several valuable English prizes, lately carried into Boston, particularly a ship with many thousand suits of soldier's clothes, and other articles to a great amount. Generals Putnam and Parsons commands near Kingsbridge, and have lately made several successful excursions on the enemy's quarters.

STATE of NORTH-CAROLINA.

His Excellency RICHARD CASWELL, Esq; Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief, of the said State.