

us one fence rail; but we have kept a quantity of poultry, some good mutton, and fine fat hogs, which are at your service. Upon which we told them to come to town with us; they did, but soon found, to their great surprize, we were those they termed rebels.

We are very busy fortifying this place; and as good winter quarters must be very comfortable this cold season, we are determined to fight hard for three miles round this place.

JANUARY 13. By Capt. Cordray, who is just arrived at Sinepuxent, in a short passage from Cape Francois, we are informed, that a few days before he sailed, 12,000 French regular troops arrived there from France. That while he lay at the cape, an armed brig from South-Carolina, fell in with a British frigate, who gave her chase, and would most undoubtedly have taken her, had not a French frigate taken the Carolinian under protection, and safely conveyed her into port.

Last Friday Capt. William Nuten, in the sloop Pennsylvania-Farmer, arrived here in 25 days from Curacoa, who informs us that the news of Burgoyne and his army surrendering themselves prisoners to the Americans was received there before he sailed, which afforded great satisfaction and joy to the people there, who immediately caused a number of cannon to be discharged, and the colours of the shipping in the harbour to be displayed, &c.

Extract of a letter, dated Plymouth Dock, October 12, 1777, on board the ship Clephin, of 94 guns.

“DEAR FATHER,

“THIS is to acquaint you that I am here a prisoner of war, also those that were taken in the Lexington privateer, after an engagement of 7 hours, with a sloop of war of 14 guns. We engaged her 20 leagues off shore, the day after leaving our port. This engagement of 7 hours was at two different times, and after killing all our officers, but Capt. Johnston, amounting to ten, and wounding 7 men, our ammunition expended, and our ship shattered in such a manner that we could scarcely keep her above water, were obliged to strike. However, I have the satisfaction to acquaint you also, that we killed the Capt. and 15 of their men. After which engagement they took possession of the Lexington privateer, exchanged us all on board their vessel, saving two Frenchmen, and put in our stead 17 men; but as God would have it, they all perished at sea, they not being able to keep the Lexington above water.—In short, here we are healthy and well, to the number of 900 prisoners, among whom are 200 Frenchmen, some Chevaliers De St. Louis, who are no more noticed than common men. We are all in confusion, but hope to make our escape before our winter quarters is over. The English have already proposed to us to lift with them, but no likelihood of their tempting any of us. Never was a nation more distressed for men. They are obliged to take three battalions of militia on board their ships, to act as seamen, and notwithstanding, have not a third part of men enough to man their ships. I conclude, your dutiful son, &c.

(Signed)

ROUSSEAU.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in CAPE FRANCOIS to his friend in this town, dated Dec. 8, 1777.

“S I R,

“YOU no doubt have heard of the great preparations of war in the French West-Indies. An embargo laid on all French vessels; the French ports shut to all American vessels; a number of transports with soldiers, expected under a strong convoy. It is true, the embargo was laid, the ports shut to the Americans, and the transports, coming under a convoy, until opposed by the British ambassador, at Paris, who declared, that should the transports come under a convoy, that the King his master would look upon it as a manifest declaration of war, and that he did not know but they would be attacked before they reached the West-Indies; but he hoped that would not be the case, as it was his master's intention to keep up a good understanding between the court of Great-Britain, and that of France and Spain, which he hoped would not take the advantage of the times, while he was quelling the unhappy rebellion, that now subsisted between Great-Britain and the colonies; and that he could not help observing to them, the favour shown to the American vessels in the French ports. France, with her usual policy, denied the Americans her ports, for a while, took off the embargo, agreed to send her transports to the islands, without convoy. The transports arrived here and at Martinico, landing at Martinico 7000 effective men; and at this place, was landed yesterday, about 6500 stout, hearty fellows, among whom is a regiment of dragoons, with all their implements, &c. but no horse, chiefly clothed in heavy wools, and in general old and experienced officers and soldiers. And likewise arrived in the Havannah 10 ships of the line, and 10 frigates, with a number of transports, with soldiers on board, and as many more daily expected. The people here thought at first, they were for taking Jamaica; but since their arrival, the politicians are of that opinion, and judge, by their clothing, they are destined for a colder climate. Query, Whether they are not

for Canada, and that it is agreeable to some agreement of Doctor FRANKLIN.

“The continental agent residing here, waited on General Dargour, after his arrival here, and begged to know his intention, in regard of admitting American vessels; he replied, that he had orders from the King his master, to open all French ports, to the vessels belonging to the Thirteen United States. I am, yours, &c.”

To the printer of the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET.

S I R,

The following will enable the public to judge properly of the conduct of General Howe, towards those who by the fortune of war become his prisoners: Your inserting it will oblige one who was an officer on board the Delaware frigate when she unfortunately fell into the enemy's hands.

ON the 27th of September last, by unavoidable accident, the Delaware frigate was captured by Gen. Lord Cornwallis, at Philadelphia. The treatment received from the officers and soldiers at their first coming on board I shall wave, and only inform the public that several of the same soldiers since, while on guard over us, declared that the General ordered them to plunder whatever might be of use to them; which order was exactly obeyed.

From the ship we were taken to the provost, (the new jail) where we were complimented with having our cockades pulled out and hove in our faces, with “damn you, ye rebel b——rs, how dare you wear cockades.”

All the officers, and as many others as made 20 in number, were for three days locked next to the dungeon, without victuals, &c. and were obliged to ease nature in the same place.—We were kept nine days in the provost, during which time we received about 4 lb. of ship-bread, one half of which was of such a quality as not to be fit for use; and as to meet, one pound and a half was the extent.

The tenth day we were removed to the State-House, as were the officers of our army: The first week our case in regard to provisions was the same as in the provost, being served only once with a small loaf of bread, and once with beef, not exceeding two pounds.

As to the rest of our treatment, it exceeded any thing that can be conceived: We were excluded from seeing our nearest friends; prevented from the use of the State-House yard, although we only requested a few hours in the middle of the day;

One person only was allowed the use of the necessary house, and he with a bayonet at his back, notwithstanding our number was about seventy: We were forbid lifting up any of the windows, so that we were prevented from receiving the benefit of what fresh air might have been communicated that way: And a certain Capt. Hogshaw not only refused to punish a negro for striking one of our officers, but in direct words said that the negro was as good as any of us.

In order to know whether General Howe would remove any of these severities, we remonstrated and prayed for relief, but relief was only to be found in fortitude. One part of his answer, respecting provisions and wood, I shall lay before the public, viz. “If not enough, we might take the benefit of the market.” I would ask any man how we were to avail ourselves of a market, when his orders were such as I have described above. And in order that the public may the better judge whether we had reason to complain or no, I do declare, that for the nine weeks I was a prisoner there was never more served than from 4 to 6 ounces per day, and if the time should be reckoned that we were without any, it would reduce that quantity to from 3 to 4 ounces per day, and about half a pound of ship-bread such as it was. Well may the public believe the many reports respecting the cruel treatment of prisoners in New-York, &c. when officers are used as above.

The case of the privates confined in the provost in Philadelphia is really melancholy, and the more so as the charity of certain inhabitants is rendered less useful than it would be by the cruelty of him that has the care of said jail (Cunningham is his name) who has deliberately overset at the door, victuals sent to the needy within, and laughing said, “damn them, let them swallow their spittle and be damned.” However the serious mind may despise such a wretch, most certain it is that for his good and faithful services he has been preferred. W. G.

NEW-JERSEY.

Abstract of an act, intitled, an act for regulating and limiting the prices of sundry articles of produce, manufacture, and trade; and to prevent forestalling, regrating, and engrossing.

BE it enacted, &c. That from and after the publication of this act, the rates and prices of the following articles of produce, manufacture, and trade, bought, sold, or exchanged in any part of this State, shall not exceed the sums to them severally annexed, that is to say;

Salt, of home manufacture, 55 lb. to the bushel, £. 3 15 0