

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

of the bay were preserved. Capt. Biddle with a party of his crew, also assisted, as did most of the masters and sailors belonging to the other vessels in the harbour, and were of finishing service. The fire did not proceed any farther after 12 o'clock on the 5th but it is not yet entirely extinguished. The number of dwelling houses destroyed, exclusive of stores and out houses, is upwards of 250. The quantity of merchant and furniture lost is very considerable. The whole loss, in the most moderate computation, exceeds three millions of dollars: Many are of opinion it exceeds a million sterling. The number of lives lost is not so great as was at first apprehended: We have not heard of more than six, some of whom were ne-

The Charlestown Library Society's valuable collection of instruments and apparatus for astronomical and philosophical observations and experiments, &c. &c. being unfortunately placed in a house, in the neighbourhood of that in which the fire broke out, is almost entirely lost.

In the evening of the 15th, public notice was given to all who were at a loss for lodgings and victuals, that both were provided for them, at the public expence, in the several public buildings; and on the 16th the general Assembly voted to provide for the immediate relief of the sufferers.

Our sister state of Georgia has remembered us in the hour of distress: Their Assembly has generously voted 10,000 dollars for the unfortunate sufferers.

### P R O V I D E N C E, Nov. 22.

The following very extraordinary letter was found on board the Syren frigate, which lately fell into our hands at point-Judith.

*Copy of a letter from Capt. Symonds, commander of the Cerberus frigate, to Rear admiral Sir Peter Parker, dated August 15.*

WEDNESDAY night, being at anchor to the westward of New-London, in black point bay, a schooner I had taken being at anchor close by me a stern, about 11 o'clock at night we discovered a line towing a stern that came from the bows. We immediately conjectured it was some one who had perished himself away by it, and began to haul in; we found the hands on board the schooner had got hold on it, and had (taking it for a fishing line) gathered in near 150 fathoms, which was buoyed up by small sticks at stated distances, at the end of which was fastened a machine, which was too heavy for one man to haul up, being upwards of one hundred weight: The other people of the boat turning out, assisted them, got it in upon deck, and were unfortunately examining it too curiously, when it went off like the sound of a gun, blew the schooner all to pieces, and set her in a flame, killed the three men that were on the stern, the fourth who was standing forward, was blown into the water. I hoisted out the boat, and picked him up without much hurt. As soon as he could recollect himself, he gave me the following description as near as he could remember. It was two vessels, shaped like a boat, about 20 inches long, and a foot broad; secured together at a distance of four feet, by two iron bars, one at each end, and an iron tube or gun-barrel in the centre, which was loose (as he had himself turned it round with his hand) they swam one over the other, the upper one, keel upwards, the lower swam properly, but was so deep under water as just to keep the upper one a few inches above the surface: To the after iron bar hung a flat board moving on pintles, which seemed to serve as a rudder; on the inside of the upper one was a large iron wheel about 6 inches diameter, with cogs, which turned upon an axis, and communicated itself to one on the upper side of the boat of lesser diameter; opposite was another wheel on the flat of the under or loaded vessel, which had likewise communication with the wheels of the upper boat; it was covered with lead, and the keel heavy leaded, in order to keep it down in the water.

The fatal curiosity of the seamen (one of whom unfortunately was bred to working in iron) set this wheel in motion, which he did with great ease, backwards and forwards, and during their looking at it, which was about 5 minutes from the time of its being first put in motion, it burst. Upon examining round the ship after this accident, we found the other part of the line on the larboard side, buoyed up in the same manner, which I ordered to be cut away immediately, for fear of hauling up another machine, which I concluded was fast at the end, and might burst when too near the ship.

The mode these villains must have taken to have swifter the ship, must have been to have rowed off in the stream a considerable distance a head of her, leaving one of their infernals on shore, and floating the other at the distance of the line, which from the quantity we have got on board (near 70 fathom) and what the man tells me they gathered in the schooner, upwards of 150 fathom more, must have been near 300 fathom. They at the length of this line put the other in the water, and left it for the tide to float down, which in this place runs very strong.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant. J. SYMONDS.

STATE of NORTH-CAROLINA.  
By his Excellency RICHARD CASWELL, Esq; Governor,  
Captain-General, and Commander in Chief, of the said  
State.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.  
WHEREAS the demands of the army of the United States of America make it necessary that the exportation of salt and provisions be prohibited for a limited time, I have therefore thought proper by and with the advice of the council of state, to issue this proclamation hereby prohibiting the exportation of salt, corn, pease, flour, pork, bacon, and beef, out of this state by land or by water after this date until the expiration of thirty days, except such as shall be sent thereout for the use of the continental army, or any troops sent out of this state, and such quantity as may be really necessary for the crew of any vessel going out on a voyage or cruize, and such as may be purchased by the agents of the United States, as sea stores for any vessels in the continental service on a voyage or cruize.

GIVEN under my hand, and seal at arms, at Newbern, the 20th day of February, Anno domini 1778, and in the second year of our independence.

RICHARD CASWELL.

By his Excellency's command.  
J. GLASGOW, Sec'y.

State of North Carolina, Craven County, ff.  
By JAMES DAVIS and JOHN FONVILLE, Esqrs. two of  
the justices for the said County.

WHEREAS complaint hath been made to us, by Ann Barron, that a mulatto man named Lewis, 5 feet 6 inches high, well set, has black hair which curls naturally, remarkable large black eyes and thick lips, his face is freckled, late the property of Major David Barron, deceased, is ran away; had on when he went away a mixed-grey cloth coatee, a blue homespun waistcoat, white breeches and shirt, carried with him a variety of other clothing, and is supposed to have gone to Virginia.

These are therefore to command the said slave forthwith to surrender himself, and return home to his said Mistress. And we do also require the sheriff of the said County to make diligent search and pursuit after the said slave, and him having found, to apprehend and secure, so that he may be conveyed to his said mistress, or otherwise discharged as the law directs. And the said sheriff is hereby empowered to raise and take with him such power of his County as he shall think fit, for apprehending the said slave. And we do hereby, by virtue of an act of assembly of this state concerning servants and slaves, intimate and declare, if the said slave doth not surrender himself, and return home, immediately after the publication of these presents, that then any person may kill or destroy the said slave, by such means as he or they may think fit, without accusation or impeachment of any crime or offence for so doing, or without incurring any penalty or forfeiture thereby.

JAMES DAVIS.  
J. FONVILLE.

N. B. Whoever apprehends the said slave, and secures him in Newbern gaol, shall have 50 dollars reward, and handsome rewarded if secured in any other gaol in this state.

ANN BARRON.

### NEWBERN, Feb. 18.

NOTICE is hereby given to the freeholders and freemen of the county of Craven, that an election will be held at the courthouse in Newbern, on the 10th and 11th days of March next, for electing one senator, and two members of the house of commons, to represent the said county in general assembly, and on the same days the freeholders and freemen, inhabitants of the town of Newbern are hereby noticed to attend and elect one member to represent the said town.

J. BRYAN, shff.

The printers in the state of North Carolina, are requested to publish in their news papers, the following advertisement:

AT a general court martial held at white marsh, in the state of Pennsylvania, on the 2d day of December 1777, by order of his Excellency General Washington.

Capt. Vail of the second North-Carolina battalion, charged with COWARDICE, at the battle of Germantown, was tried, found guilty of that crime, and sentenced therefor to be cashiered; and to have his crime, name, place of abode, and punishment, published in the news-papers in and about the camp, and of that particular state from which he came; and that it should be deemed scandalous for any officer to associate with him.

This sentenced was approved by his Excellency the commander in chief; and in pursuance thereof is transmitted to the printers for publication.

T. PICKERING, A. G.