

the war under these circumstances; and if we do continue, poverty, ruin and defeat must necessarily follow us.

What are we then to do in this urgency? How can we extricate ourselves from the difficulties in which we are involved? Reason, as well as humanity, tell us to desist; but ministers, who are making their fortunes by a base and servile compliance with the arbitrary views of some concealed person, at the same time that they profit by every expence that is put on the nation, and keep their places by complying, cry out for perseverance.

They who have no regard for their own dignity and honour, branded cowards and noted profligates, men of such infamous characters, and so corrupt and hacknied in the ways of profligation, as to be despised even by their comrades in iniquity, for their extravagant perfidy, are, for the most part, placed in offices of trust and power; and these men, who have no honour of their own, are the most clamorous for, what they term, the honour and dignity of the nation. They impudently assert, that if we give up the project we have once entered upon, our reputation will be forever destroyed. A madman may reason in this manner, but a man of true honour, who professes the use of his understanding, will never support any system longer than he finds it to be just; nor will a man of policy continue in the same tract, longer than he finds it practicable and expedient; but our ministers, alas! have neither honour nor policy! Void of feeling, void of sense, they are as ignorant of the true interests of this country, as they are indifferent to the principles of honour and policy! Had they possessed either the one or the other, they would long since have altered their conduct.

They are supported by the senseless, the needy and the profligate, who mistaking clamour for argument, boasting for courage, oppressive and unconstitutional acts of parliament for substantial authority, vainly conceive that with their tongues they can subdue America, and tread freedom and liberty under foot.

The immediate sacrifices to this barbarous and mistaken policy, the soldiery, are for the most part men of more honour than their employers. The unhappy and deluded soldier is the first victim. His profession teaches him both to suffer death, and to expect it with fortitude and resignation; and in my opinion, if he courts employ in a wicked and dishonourable cause, he is not ill requited for his pains. Those who are forced into the service, and become involuntarily the tools of oppression, cannot indeed be too sincerely lamented.

From the soldiers and mariners, and those who are actually employed in the prosecution of the war, and suffer in the course of it, the general calamity, like a poison which gradually infuses itself into all the vessels of the body, is distributed through all the orders of the state; none, excepting the ministers of government, are wholly exempt from it; for the increase of taxes and advanced price of living includes those who are not in any way immediate sufferers. Ministers alone seem to revel in the sunshine of prosperity, and profiting by the misfortunes they have brought on others, raise themselves on the ruin of the state. Their increased salaries, the additional offices, the millions of public money passing through their hands, the disposal of lucrative contracts, together with the innumerable posts and offices to be distributed to their friends and partizans, are some of the trifling emoluments with which they are gratified for their constancy and courage in maintaining the war. Far from the scene of action, free from the incursions of the enemy, and cherished by the smiles of the monarch, they imagine themselves out of the reach of adversity; and yet the day will come, and from the nature of things must soon arrive, when the ministers and their adherents will be fully requited for their misdeeds. The liberties of a people are too precious to be trampled under foot, without recrimination.

Distress, poverty and dejection, will probably succeed the present haughty, insolent tone of this over-bearing country.—The deluded people will soon become sensible of their error, and of the loss they have sustained by the separation from America. The mercantile interest already totters, notwithstanding the prevalency of contracts; and the failure of several great houses lately, is only a prelude to many other, I fear too many, similar misfortunes.

When the nation at large comes to be fully convinced of the gross perfidy of its rulers, and the infamy and corruption of parliament, who, in the pretended vindication of their dignity and reputation, are deprived of all dignity and reputation, it will not be easy to set bounds to their just resentment. Even votes in parliament, that sovereign balsam for all disorders, will, at this period, be ineffectual. It will then appear, that a majority in parliament is not the majority of the nation; nay, I doubt, whether even the votes of this assembly, trifling, contemptible, and insignificant as they must necessarily be, will remain constant.

Robbers of every denomination, as we see by daily experience, are ever willing to save their own necks, by impeaching their comrades. In like manner those who now vote in majorities, and make such indecent clamour against truth and conviction,

when offered in argument, may probably be the most forward to arraign those wicked measures they have all along supported; and to save themselves, they will be ready to condemn the ministers.

Associates in plunder, when they find it impossible to escape detection, are often the first who give the alarm; and as renegades and apostates are ever more zealous in support of their new system, as well as vindictive against its opposers, than are those who have been bred up in the doctrine, or embraced it from conviction; so ministers will have more to dread from the defection of their friends than even from the persecuting spirit of their enemies. Enquiry will be made how America came to be lost. Ministers must answer this question with their heads; and their heads, though little worth, yet having contrived so much evil, must atone, in some measure, for their enormous crimes. Public justice and public example demand such a sacrifice. The injured laws, and violated liberties, of this country, and America, demand redress. And as revolutions in state are ever prompt and instantaneous, when they do take effect, so it is much to be apprehended, that the first turn of the tide, which announces our reformation, will also punish the miscreants who have so grossly offended. Judge Jefferies, at the time of the glorious revolution, though a peer of the realm, and high chancellor, did not escape the immediate vengeance of the people.

L U D L O W.

B U R L I N G T O N, Jan. 14.

**A**BOUT eight days ago a very large schooner drove on shore upon the Pea Patch, in the Delaware, with the ice, richly laden; having on board, 101 hogheads of rum and spirits, a large quantity of fine and coarse cloths, India silks, Bohea tea, &c. &c. The ice having cut the vessel through, the crew delivered themselves to the militia of Salem county, and the principal part of the cargo has been saved and stored in a place of security.

I N C O N G R E S S, Dec. 30, 1777.

**R**ESOLVED, that all persons inhabitants of any of these United States, who have voluntarily enlisted or shall so enlist with or join the enemy of the said United States, and have been or shall be taken in arms, be confined in close goals, subject to be delivered up to the respective States, to which they respectively belong, to be dealt with agreeable to the laws thereof; and that the commissary general of prisoners and his deputies be directed from time to time to transmit to the respective States the names of such of their citizens, who have been made prisoners.

*Extract from the minutes,*

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

L O N D O N.

*Extract of a letter from Mr. Mauduit Duplessis, now a French officer in the service of the United States, written to his brother in Porte L'Orient, dated April 19, 1777.*

**O**UR first employment at Boston, was, after arrival, to inspect, at the requisition of the governor, all the fortifications of the town, which we found rather in a bad situation.—We immediately gave in a plan for the better fortifying the town, which was approved and directly begun. We passed from thence to Salem, where we were employed in the like business, as well as on several parts of the coasts.

“We have seen the troops disciplined; who went through their exercise exceeding well; but there are a kind of soldiers called here, rifle men, who exceed all the soldiery of Europe, whom I flattered, by telling, that it would be to them America will be indebted for her independence.

“After having travelled through New-England with great fatigue, we came to the grand army on the second of April, commanded by General Washington, who received us in a very polite and most distinguished manner; his looks, manner of speaking, and conduct to every body, bespeaks the finished gentleman; but his assiduous labours, and great penetration, declare the compleat General. He is beloved by his troops, (39 thousand regulars) accessible to every body, and determines causes in the army with justice and wisdom; he protects the officers from insult, and the common soldiers from ill usage; he punishes none with rigour, and he forms his troops to humanity as well as war, being extremely well disciplined.

“There is a very large number of foreign officers in his army; French, Prussians, Germans, Swiss, Italians, and some Spanish, to the amount of about sixteen hundred; among the rest of the foreign officers, there is the nephew of the famous Cardinal Alberoni, who possesses, as General Washington says, all the wisdom of his father, and he is admitted to all the councils. The nephew of the Marquis of Monti is also here, as Colonel, with a great number of engineers.”

Lord William Campbell, late governor of South Carolina, is appointed governor of Jamaica, in the room of Sir Basil Keith.