

agreeable to the true intent and meaning of this act, shall be free and exempt from serving again as a soldier for the space of three years next after the time of his procuring a certificate, of his having served as aforesaid. And if any person shall harbour, or conceal any of the men who shall voluntarily enter or be voted into the service as aforesaid, such person, on conviction thereof, before any justice of the peace in the county wherein the offence shall be committed, shall be deemed a continental soldier, and shall be turned over by the said justice to a continental officer, or committed to gaol for that purpose, and shall serve for three years, or during the war.

AND be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the captains of each and every company, shall return descriptive lists of the men raised in such company, specifying the name, size, age, complexion and occupation of the men so raised, and also the name and number of the company from whence they were taken; and the said commanding officer shall make two fair copies of such descriptive lists, one of which he shall deliver to the continental or other officer appointed to take charge of the men, and he shall take a receipt for the delivery of the men, on the other.

AND be it further enacted, That the Quakers, Dunkers, Moravians, and Menonists, shall furnish men in proportion to their respective numbers in each county, and in default thereof, the commanding officer of each and every county, is hereby empowered to hire men in stead of the men to be by them furnished, and by warrant under his hand, directed to the sheriff of the county, to levy the sum given for such man or men, on the goods and chattels, lands and tenements, of any person belonging to such as shall refuse or fail to furnish a man or men, agreeable to the act.

XI. AND be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Men raised in the County of Rowan, and those raised in the County of Guilford, shall have the Liberty of electing Two Captains for each County, and the Men raised in New-Hanover County and Brunswick, shall elect one Captain jointly; and in such Counties as raise more than Fifty Men, the Men so raised shall and may elect a Captain in every County, and in the Counties which raise a smaller Number than Fifty, the Men shall and may elect one Lieutenant for every County, and the Persons so elected shall be commissioned accordingly by the Governor, and shall march and continue with their respective Companies, with the Rank of Militia, and the Pay and Rations of regular Captains and Lieutenants, during the Time of their continuing in Service.

XII. AND be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That James Roper and William Sheppard, be appointed Contractors for the District of Salisbury, Thomas Part for the District of Hillsborough, to contract for and purchase Provisions and issue them to the Men raised in the said Districts until their Arrival at Peytonsburg in Virginia, and that William Bennet be appointed for the District of Edenton, Hardy Bryan for the District of Newbern, Thomas Amis for the District of Wilmington, and William Amis for the District of Halifax, for the like Purposes, until the Men raised in the said Districts respectively shall arrive at Halifax, and then that William Amis be appointed to take charge of all those who rendezvous at Halifax, and conduct them as far as Petersburg: And the said Contractors, and every of them, shall grant Certificates to the Owners for the Provisions by them respectively furnished, and shall have full Power to seize Provisions of every Kind from any Persons who shall or may have more Provisions than may be necessary for their own Use or Family Consumption, if the Owners shall refuse to sell the same, and shall grant Certificates as aforesaid; and the said Certificates shall be redeemed at the next Session of Assembly: And the said Contractors shall keep regular Accounts of their Disbursements or Purchases, and of all Certificates by them granted, that the Assembly may not be defrauded by Claimants, and may more easily settle with the said Contractors, who shall be allowed One Hundred and Twenty Dollars per Month for their Trouble, over and above all Sums of Money by them expended for the Purposes aforesaid.

XIII. AND be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Colonel or commanding Officer of the Militia in each County be, and he is hereby impowered and required, to furnish the necessary Waggons and Carts for marching the Troops raised in such County, agreeable to the Militia Law.

XIV. AND be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Owners of said Waggons shall be allowed Forty Shillings per Day, and Forage and Shoes for their Horses, and every Cart the Sum of Twenty Shillings per Day, with Forage and Shoes for their Horses; and the said Waggons and Carts, with their Teams, before marching, shall be appraised by Three Freeholders, that in case of loss or Death, the Owner may be paid for the same.

XV. AND be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the continental Deputy Paymaster General be, and he is hereby directed to pay the Troops aforesaid; and that his Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby impowered to grant Warrants on the Treasury to the said Paymaster for the necessary Sums, taking Security for due Application of the same.

Y O R K T O W N.

The following is taken from a Philadelphia news-paper, of the 17th of April, published by James Robertson.

By a ship of war, which arrived here on Tuesday last, in 28 days from England, with dispatches for his Excellency the commander in chief, we have been favoured with the latest London papers, from which we have extracted the following intelligence.

L O N D O N, Feb. 19.

THE house of commons went into a committee on Tuesday night after the debate was over, upon the proposals offered by Lord North relative to America; and as soon as the chairman left the chair, a motion was made,

“ That leave be given to bring in a bill, to enable his majesty to appoint commissioners to treat, consent, and agree on the means of quieting the disorders now subsisting in certain of the colonies, plantations, and provinces of America.” Also, “ A bill for declaring the intentions of the parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exercise of the right of imposing taxes on the colonies, plantations, and provinces of America.”

The question was then put and agreed, and the bills ordered to be brought in by Lord North, the attorney and solicitor general, Sir Grey Cooper, &c.

FEBRUARY 19.

Lord NORTH'S SPEECH, ON HIS CONCILIATORY MOTION, on Tuesday last, from a member.

THE proposition which I have the honour to offer to this house is for two acts of parliament. I will now open the contents of them full, and will then refer them to a committee of the whole house. At the opening of the present session, on the first day, during the debate on the address to his majesty, I told the house, that in my opinion terms might be made with the colonies, short of unconditional submission, and that the time of making them was the moment of victory. I said this, thinking that the victory gained by Sir William Howe was more decisive than it really was, and ignorant at the time of the disaster which had fallen on General Burgoyne's army. When the news of that melancholy event arrived, I was struck, that the time of proposed terms was past, and that the first point to be done was the raising of new levies, and a new force. The consequences of that misfortune were unknown; the general idea was, that the victorious army would march to Philadelphia, and that, flushed with victory, a general engagement might have happened, which would have been decisive. I thought it necessary, therefore, to wait till the end of the campaign, till I had a knowledge of all the events of it; it is ended, and nothing decisive has happened.— The forces of Washington are not sufficient to make him quit his defensive plan. Our army is great, our navy is great; our men in health, in spirits, and well supplied; but the resistance of America is greater, and the war has lasted longer, than was at first apprehended, much longer than any friend to this country could wish, and I do not think that it will end this campaign. I think that our forces are sufficient to compel America to accept of reasonable terms; but I make my proposition on this ground, that it is better to offer a concession to the colonies now, which may end the contest within the year, than to continue the war for three or four years longer, though with the assurance of complete conquest. In the present situation of affairs only three propositions can be made.

I. To strengthen our force, and continue the war upon the present plan.

II. To recall it from America. And,

III. To offer terms of conciliation to her.

The first proposition is attended with too great an expence of men and money; an expence which conquest itself would not ballance. The second is, to subscribe to the independency of America. The third is that which appears to me to be the best and wisest. I never thought of proposing an ultimatum to America. In a contest which contains so many nice and difficult points, so many matters which demand future remedies, without any person present on the part of the colonies, that would be impossible and impracticable. Whatever you give, unless it is first settled and agreed on by persons authorised by the colonies, might be given in vain. The danger also of publishing such an ultimatum would be great; every word would be critically examined by jealous powers, and receive an invidious and false construction, or unjust comment. Every proposition would be blasted before it reach'd America. If it got there entire, the colonies, by refusing one condition, would destroy all. I wish,