

call his forces. Humanity and justice call aloud for this measure. The minister has at length confessed, we cannot conquer America. To what purpose then are more torrents of blood to be shed? The Americans will accept, or they will reject your propositions. If they are accepted, the war is at an end by concession. If they are rejected, the end of the war, conquest, has been found, and is now acknowledged to be impracticable. The shedding of the blood of a single man for an object which confusedly cannot be obtained, is not only unjustifiable, but highly criminal. Many of the measures of opposition have been at length adopted by ministers. I hope this the most important of all, will have the same success. An *immediate cessation of arms* was proposed the very first day of this session, by an excellent young nobleman on this side the house (Marquis of Granby.) It will do more than all your *commissioners* can without it. Perhaps it may save Howe from the fate of Burgoyne. It will give time for cooling on both sides, and at least shew that you are relenting towards your brethren, that you are eager for that reconciliation, which alone can form the solid happiness of both countries, and must be devoutly wished by every friend in each to their mutual prosperity. It may save the fragments of this dismembered empire; for I own I shall tremble for the fate of Canada, nearly lost three years ago, Nova Scotia, the two Floridas, and the West-India islands, if the powerful confederacy of the Thirteen United Colonies continues.

Sir, I heartily wish success to those two conciliatory bills, and that we may regain by treaty, what we have lost by tyranny and arms. I could agree to almost any treaty rather than continue this ruinous war, which has cost already above thirty millions sterling, and the loss of 20,000 men. I entirely approve the effort, although I have my fears, that it is made too late. *Sat bene si sat cito!* Let the experiment however be tried, and may both Britain and America again form one powerful empire, on the principle of equal liberty, just, mild, commercial, and tolerant! We shall then be able to stand the shock of all the adverse powers of the world, again feared and respected abroad, and at home a great, united, and happy people.

POUGHKEEPSIE, July 20.

Since our last, many of the distressed refugees from the Wyoming settlement, on the Susquehanna, who escaped the general massacre of the inhabitants, have passed this way, from whom we have collected the following account, viz.

PREVIOUS to the narrative, it may be necessary to inform some of our readers, that this settlement was made by the people of Connecticut on a grant of Lands purchased by the inhabitants of that colony, under sanction of government, of the Indian proprietors, and that these lands falling within the limits of the Pennsylvania claim, a dispute concerning the right has arisen between the two governments, and proceeded to frequent acts of hostility. When it was at a height that threatened the disturbance of the other governments, Congress interposed, by whose recommendation and authority the decision of the dispute was suspended till that with Great Britain, equally interesting to every American state, was concluded, when there might be more leisure to attend to the other, and consider the justice of each claim.

On this footing, the dispute has lain dormant for two or three years; the inhabitants lived happily, and the settlement increased, consisting of eight townships, viz. Lackewana, Exeter, Kingston, Wilkesborough, Plymouth, Nanticoak, Huntington, and Salem, each containing five miles square. The six lower townships were pretty full of inhabitants; the two upper ones had comparatively but few, thinly scattered. The lands are exceeding good, beautifully situated along both sides of the Susquehanna, navigable for flat bottomed boats, and produced immense quantities of grain of all sorts, roots, fruits, hemp, flax, &c. and stock of all kinds in abundance.

The settlement had lately supplied the continental army with 3000 bushels of grain, and the ground was loaded with the most promising crops of every kind. The settlement included upwards of a thousand families, which had furnished our army with a thousand soldiers, besides the garrisons of four forts, in the townships of Lackewana, Exeter, Kingston, and Wilkesborough.—

One of these forts was garrisoned by upwards of four hundred soldiers, chiefly of the militia, the principal officers in which were colonels Denison and Zebulon Butler.

The tories and indians had given some disturbance to these settlements last year, before general Harkemer's battle at Oneida creek, near fort Stanwix, and our skirmishes soon after with parties of the enemy at and near Schoharie, when they were dispersed, and the tories concealed themselves among our different settlements. The people here remained undisturbed during the rest of the year.

About this time the inhabitants having discovered that many of these villainous tories, who had stirred up the Indians, and been with them in fighting against us, were within the settlements, 27 of them were, in January last, taken up and secured. Of these, 18 were sent to Connecticut; the rest, after being detained some time, and examined, were, for want of sufficient evidence, set at liberty. They immediately joined the enemy, and became active in raising in the Indians a spirit of hostility against us. This disposition soon after began to appear in the behaviour of the tories and indians, which gave the people apprehensions of danger, and occasioned some preparations for defence.

The people had frequent intimation that the Indians had some mischievous design against them, but their fears were somewhat abated by the seeming solicitude of the Indians to preserve peace. They sent down, at different times, several parties with declarations of their peaceable disposition towards us, and to request the like on our part towards them. They were always dismissed with assurances that there was no design to disturb them. But one of those Indians getting drunk, said, he and the other messengers were only sent to amuse the people in the settlement, but that the Indians intended, as soon as they were in order, to attack them. On this the Indian men were confined, and the women sent back with a flag. In March, appearances became more alarming, and the scattered families settled for 30 miles up the river were collected, and brought into the more populous parts. In April and May, strolling parties of indians and tories, about 30, and in a company, made frequent incursions into the settlement, robbing and plundering the inhabitants of provision, grain, and live stock. In June, several persons being at work on a farm, from which the tory inhabitants had gone to the enemy, were attacked, and one man of them killed. Soon after, a woman (wife of one of the 27 tories before mentioned) was killed, with her five children, by a party of these tories and Indians, who plundered the house of every thing they could take away, and destroyed the rest.

On the 1st instant (July) the whole body of the enemy, consisting, it is supposed, of near 1600 (about 300 of whom were thought to be indians, under their own chiefs, the rest tories painted like them, except their officers, who were dressed like regulars) the whole under the command of colonel John Butler (a Connecticut tory, and cousin to colonel Zebulon Butler, the second in command in the settlement) came down near the upper fort, but concealed the greatest part of their number. Here they had a skirmish with the inhabitants, who took and killed two indians, and lost ten of their own men, three of whom they afterwards found killed, scalped, and mangled in the most inhuman manner.

July 2. The enemy appeared on the mountains back of Kingston, where the women and children then fled into the fort.— Most of the garrison of Exeter fort were tories, who treacherously gave it up to the enemy. The same night, after a little resistance, they took Lackewana fort, killed squire Jenkins and his family, with several others, in a barbarous manner, and made prisoners of most of the women and children; a small number only escaped.

July 3. This morning col. Zebulon Butler, leaving a small number to guard the fort (Wilkesborough) crossed the river with about 400 men, and marched into Kingston fort. The enemy sent in a flag, demanding a surrender of the fort in two hours.— Col. Butler answered, he should not surrender, but was ready to receive them. They sent in a second flag, demanding an immediate surrender, otherwise that the fort should be stormed, plun-