

them fully aware of the change which the maintaining such a position must make in the whole nature and future conduct of this war; more especially, when to this position is added the pretended alliance with the court of France.—The policy, as well as the benevolence of Great Britain, have thus far checked the extremes of war when they tended to distress a people still considered as our fellow subjects, and to desolate a country shortly to become again a source of mutual advantage: But when that country professes the unnatural design not only of estranging herself from us, but of mortgaging herself and her resources to our enemies, the whole context is changed; and the question is, how far Great Britain may, by every means in her power, destroy or render useless a connection contrived for her ruin, and for the aggrandizement of France. Under such circumstances, the laws of self-preservation must direct the conduct of Great Britain, and if the British colonies are to become an accession to France, will direct her to render that accession of as little avail as possible to her enemy.

If, however, there are any who think, that notwithstanding these reasonings, the independence of the colonies, will in the result, be acknowledged by Great Britain, to them we answer without reserve, that we neither possess or expect powers for that purpose; and that if Great Britain could ever have sunk so low as to adopt such a measure, we should not have thought ourselves compellible to be the instruments in making a concession, which would, in our opinion, be calamitous to the colonies, for whom it is made, and disgraceful as well as calamitous to the country from which it is required. And we think proper to declare, that in this spirit and sentiment we have regularly written from this continent to Great Britain.

It will now become the colonies in general, to call to mind their own solemn appeals to Heaven in the beginning of this contest, that they took arms only for the redress of grievances; and that it would be their wish, as well as their interest, to remain for ever connected with Great Britain. We again ask them, whether all their grievances, real or supposed, have not been amply and fully redressed; and we insist that the offers we have made, leave nothing to be wished, in point either of immediate liberty or permanent security: If those offers are now rejected, we withdraw from the exercise of a commission, with which we have in vain been honoured; the same liberality will no longer be due from Great Britain, nor can it either in justice or policy be expected from her.

In fine, and for the fuller manifestation as well of the disposition we bear, as of the gracious and generous purposes of the commission under which we act, we hereby declare, that *Whereas* his Majesty in pursuance of an act, made and passed in the eighteenth session of parliament, entitled "An act to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners with sufficient powers to treat, consult and agree upon the means of quieting the disorders now subsisting in certain of the colonies, plantations and provinces of North America," having been pleased to authorise and empower us to grant a pardon or pardons to any number or description of persons within the colonies, plantations and provinces of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia; And *Whereas* the good effects of the said authorities and powers towards the people at large, would have long since taken place, if a due use had been made of our first communications and overtures, and have thus far been frustrated only by the precipitate resolution of the members of the Congress not to treat with us, and by their declining to consult with their constituents; we now in making our appeal to those constituents, and to the free inhabitants of this continent in general, have determined to give to them what in our opinion should have been the first object of those who appeared to have taken the management of their interests; and adopt this mode of carrying the said authorities and powers into execution. *We accordingly hereby grant and proclaim a pardon or pardons of all, and all manner of, treasons or misprisions of treasons, by any person or persons, or by any number or description of persons within the said Colonies, Plantations or Provinces, counselled, commanded, acted, or done on or before the date of this Manifesto and Proclamation.*

And we farther declare and proclaim, that if any person or persons, or any number or description of persons within the said Colonies, Plantations and Provinces, now actually serving either in a civil or military capacity in this rebellion, shall, at any time, during the continuance of this Manifesto and Proclamation, withdraw himself or themselves from such civil or military service, and shall continue thenceforth peaceably as a good and

faithful subject or subjects to his Majesty to demean himself themselves, such person or persons, or such number and description of persons, shall become, and be, fully entitled to, and hereby obtain all the benefits of the pardon or pardons here granted; excepting only from the said pardon or pardons every person, and every number or description of persons, who, at the date of this Manifesto and Proclamation, shall, under the pretext of authority, as judges, jurymen, ministers, or officers of civil justice, be instrumental in executing and putting to death any of his Majesty's subjects within the said Colonies, Plantations and Provinces.

And we think proper farther to declare, that nothing herein contained is meant, or shall be construed to set at liberty any person or persons, now being a prisoner or prisoners, or who during the continuance of this rebellion shall become a prisoner or prisoners.

And we offer to the colonies at large, or separately, a general or separate peace, with the revival of their antient governments secured against any future infringements, and protected for ever from taxation by Great Britain. And with respect to such farther regulations, whether civil, military, or commercial, as they may wish to be framed and established, we promise all the concurrence and assistance that his Majesty's commission authorises and enables us to give.

And we declare that this Manifesto and Proclamation shall continue, and be in force *Forty Days* from the date thereof, that is to say from the third day of October, to the eleventh day of November, both inclusive.

And in order that the whole contents of this Manifesto and Proclamation may be more fully known we shall direct copies thereof both in the English and German language to be transmitted by flags of truce to the Congress, the general assemblies or conventions of the Colonies, Plantations, and Provinces, and to several persons both in civil and military capacities within the said Colonies, Plantations, and Provinces. And for the further security in times to come of the several persons or numbers or descriptions of persons who are or may be the objects of this Manifesto and Proclamation, we have set our hands and seals to thirteen copies thereof, and have transmitted the same to the Thirteen Colonies, Plantations and Provinces, abovementioned, and we are willing to hope that the whole of this Manifesto and Proclamation will be fairly and freely published and circulated for the immediate, general, and most serious consideration and benefit of all his Majesty's subjects on this continent. And we earnestly exhort all persons who by this instrument forthwith receive the benefit of the King's pardon, at the same time that they entertain a becoming sense of those lenient and affectionate measures whereby they are now freed from many grievous charges which might have risen in judgment or have been brought in question against them, to make a wise improvement of the situation in which this Manifesto and Proclamation places them, and not only to recollect that a perseverance in the present rebellion, or any adherence to the treasonable connection attempted to be framed with a foreign power, will, after the present grace extended, be considered as crimes of the most aggravated kind, but to vie with each other in eager and cordial endeavours to secure their own peace and promote and establish the prosperity of their countrymen and the general weal of the empire.

And pursuant to his Majesty's commission we hereby require all officers civil and military and all others his Majesty's loving subjects whatsoever to be aiding and assisting unto us in the execution of this our Manifesto and Proclamation, and of all the matters herein contained,

GIVEN at New-York, this third day of October, 1778.

CARLISLE (L. S.)
H. CLINTON (L. S.)
WM. EDEN (L. S.)

By their Excellencies command,

A D A M F E R G U S O N, Sec.

B O S T O N, September 24.

IN our last, we mentioned the ravages of the enemy upon the South shore, since which, we have received the following particulars of their hellish transactions, at Martha's Vineyard, viz. The enemy's fleet began to sail westward from the Vineyard, the morning of the 15th, to the number of 25 ships, besides small craft, and by the morning of the 16th, were out of sight of the Highlands of Wood's Hole. A boat from the Vineyard returned to Barnstable the morning of the 16th, with intelligence, that they demanded 10,000 sheep; 400 head of horned cattle; all the arms, ammunition, and accoutrements on the island, and con-