

now brand her sons with the name of rebels? Can an opposition, founded in justice, be rebellion? A Scotch casuist might find rebellion in any opposition, unless it originated in his own country; but surely this was not a time, nor was it consistent with the office you have undertaken, to adopt such language. But, if it be rebellion, there is scarce an American but glories in the name of rebel. You invite those who prefer a military life to seek for honour under your standards. They are too much tarnished, too much fallen from their former high pinnacle of glory, to reflect honour upon their unfortunate followers. Britain may well remember the time when the sons of America nobly fought and died under her standards, but the time is now for ever gone.

To those who exercise the functions of religion on this continent, your redress is no less unmanly. It is in America alone that religion has at length gained a free and universal toleration. Europe, say Great Britain with its boasted freedom, still groans under religious bondage. America presents you an example worthy of imitation. She knows no difference, but such as merit alone points out. The good citizen is her object, and not the sectarist. Fear not therefore for her religious liberty. The alliance with France concerns the citizen, and not the divine.

Those who most estimate the blessings of peace, of agriculture, arts, and commerce, those who can feel a due anxiety for the education of their children, are those whom you have most to dread. These are considerations which most intimately concern the interests of men. That peace which renders our commerce as unbounded as the ocean itself can alone introduce agriculture, arts and science, can alone enable us to give our sons that virtuous liberal education, which will render them the firm supporters of what their fathers have achieved, can alone present to their infant minds a pleasing recollection of their brave ancestry.

But if America will not accept of your overtures, and still perseveres in her resolutions of independence, still confide in the **PRETENDED ALLIANCE** of France, the lenevolence of Great Britain must be checked, and war, which you say has been hitherto carried on with tenderness and compassion, must be felt in all its horrors. Thus, after three years of constant hostilities, of a war prosecuted in a manner which has astonished all Europe, censured, condemned, and reprobated by your ablest Senators, nay by your very Generals, we are now told that Great Britain will no longer extend her tender mercies towards us. The horrors of war are now already felt in every cottage almost in America. Thus do you still add insult to insult. What cruelties have you not already committed, what numbers have you not brought to lingering deaths by famine, or by disease! what jails but have disgorged hundreds of our miserable fellow citizens! what means have been left untried to spread ruin and desolation to the utmost extent? Menaces are still left you; but, impotent and weak, you have no longer strength to discharge the venal which rankles in your hearts.

But were you able to satiate your revengeful appetites, by rioting in slaughter and desolation along our sea coasts, it would but more completely rivet our union with France. America would then be rendered more dependent on her, and other European powers, for a thousand articles which she might otherwise be willing to import from Britain. This step alone seems wanting to complete the ruin of your country. You declare, that you have neither the power nor the inclination to acknowledge our independence. All treaties with you are of course at an end. The powers of Europe, nature itself, will soon establish it on a foundation which cannot be shaken.

Your next paragraph is still a repeated mockery of the common understanding of the whole continent. It is true we first took up arms only to gain a redress of grievances, and it is no less true that you have been reduced to the necessity of offering more than we at first desired; but the folly of your own councils has lost the favourable moment of re-union. Wounds, which time can never efface, have for ever separated us. What confidence could we repose in a people who have thirsted after our blood, and sought our utter ruin? What madness, what pusillanimity, could dictate a re-union with a people from whom such unheard of calamities have been derived? What treachery could abandon an alliance which ensures independence, security, and peace.

But you are graciously pleased to offer your pardons once more to the unfortunate rebel. Can you then suppose America, or even a single American, but must decide and condemn such vain insulting proffers? It would be happy for Britain indeed if America would extend her pardons to her; it might be happy for one of her commissioners if the world would pardon him. But for America, she glories in the cause she is engaged in, and future

generations will confess that the annals of mankind cannot present an epocha more illustrious for true patriotism, for those virtues which dignify and ennoble man.

Your proclamation will soon expire, and leave you the mortification to find that America is not only able to withstand your arms, but your artifices. You may return and find some consolation in the smiles of departed majesty. The E. St Ladies may engage you another lucrative commission. You may turn your eyes with regret from the rising grandeur of America to the miserable catastrophe which awaits your own nation. You may behold your present matter as the fatal negative instruction to his successors for ever.

PHILADELPHIA, October 17.

Extract of a letter from the Commissioners of the NAVY BOARD at BOSTON, to the MARINE COMMITTEE of CONGRESS, dated the 7th of October.

THIS will inform you of the loss of the Raleigh frigate, commanded by John Barry, Esquire. She sailed on Friday the 25th of September, and in a few hours after discovered two of the enemy's ships, one of 50 or 60 guns, and the other a frigate, which Captain Barry endeavoured to avoid, and once supposed himself clear of them; but the next day was pursued by the same or two other ships. The frigate after some time, being a copper bottom, and going very fast, came up, and an engagement ensued between the two frigates, which lasted several hours, in which the Raleigh, though the lost her fore-top mast had the advantage, and would have taken the frigate, had not the large ship come up, when Capt. Barry and his crew, after supporting an unequal conflict with the two ships with great gallantry for half an hour, ran the Raleigh on shore, so that though he has lost his ship, he has gained laurels to himself, and honour to his country; perhaps no ship was ever better defended. Captain Barry had made preparations to burn the ship as soon as the sick and wounded could be landed, but by some misfortune that was not executed; the enemy took her off the next day. We shall add no more, but that Capt. Barry's conduct is highly approved here, and that his officers and men are greatly pleased with him."

*Published by order of the MARINE COMMITTEE,
JOHN BROWN, Secretary.*

IN CONGRESS, October 12, 1778.

WHEREAS true religion and good morals are the only solid foundations of public liberty and happiness,
Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the several states, to take the most effectual measure for the encouragement thereof; and for the suppressing of theatrical entertainments, horse racing, gaming, and such other diversions as are productive of idleness, dissipation and a general depravity of principles and manners.

Resolved, That all officers in the army of the United States be, and hereby are strictly enjoined, to see that the good and wholesome rules provided for the discountenancing of prophaneness and vice, and the preservation of morals among the soldiers are duly and punctually observed.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec'y.

WILLIAMSBURG, November 6.

MONDAY last his Excellency the Governor received despatches from Governor Johnson of Maryland, dated Annapolis, October 25th, with the following intelligence, which was received at Philadelphia on the 10th, from Lord Stirling, dated the 7th, viz. That a certain Capt. Clan, who was taken by the enemy some time ago in a merchant ship, came out of New York the day before, and gave him more particular intelligence than he had been able to procure. He says, that two hundred and fifty sail of transports are prepared for the reception of troops; that the embarkation was in part begun, all the heavy iron cannon from the batteries shipped, and that sixteen sail of the line were to go on what they call the grand expedition.— That he had that moment received the report of the officer he had fixed at Amboy to watch the motions of the enemy, who says that twelve ships fell down to Sandy Hook the 16th; and that next day, early in the morning, about one hundred sail of ships of war and transports fell down likewise. That their grand movement was on the point of taking place, and he hoped to be able next day to know their destination.