

P. H. I. L. A. D. E. L. P. H. I. A., June 29.
The DECLARATION of the Deputies of Pennsylvania met in PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE at Philadelphia, June 24, 1776.

WHEREAS George the Third, King of Great-Britain, &c. in violation of the principles of the British constitution, and of the laws of justice and humanity, hath, by an accumulation of oppressions unparalleled in history, excluded the inhabitants of this, with the other American Colonies from his protection: And whereas he hath paid no regard to any of our remonstrances and dutiful petitions for redress of our complicated grievances, but hath lately purchased foreign troops to assist in enslaving us, and hath excited the Savages of this country to carry on a war against us, as also the Negroes to embrace their hands in the blood of their masters, in a manner unpractised by civilized nations; and moreover hath lately insulted our calamities by declaring that he will show us no mercy until he hath subdued us; and whereas the obligations of allegiance (being reciprocal between the King and his Subjects) are now dissolved on the face of the Colonies by the despotical and declarative of the said King, in such a manner that it now appears that by his conduct is treason against the good people of his country; and whereas not only the parliament, but there is reason to believe too many of the people of Great-Britain have concurred in the aforesaid arbitrary and unjust proceedings against us; and whereas the public virtue of this colony (so essential to its liberty and happiness) must be endangered by a future political union with, or dependence upon a crown and nation so lost to justice, patriotism and magnanimity:

We the Deputies of the people of Pennsylvania, assembled in full Provincial Conference for forming a plan for executing the resolve of Congress of the fifteenth of May last, for suppressing all authority in this Province derived from the crown of Great Britain, and for establishing a government upon the authority of the people only, DO in this public manner, in behalf of ourselves, and with the approbation, consent and authority of our constituents, unanimously declare our willingness to concur in a vote of the Congress declaring the United Colonies Free and Independent States; provided the forming the government, and the regulation of the internal police of this colony, be always referred to the people of the said colony; and we do farther call upon the nations of Europe, and appeal to the great Arbitrator and Governor of the empires of the world, to witness for us, that this declaration did not originate in ambition, or in an impatience of lawful authority, but that we are driven to it in obedience to the first principles of nature by the oppression and cruelties of the aforesaid King and Parliament of Great Britain, as the only possible measure that was left us to preserve and establish our liberties, and transmit them inviolate to posterity.

Signed by order of the Conference,

THOMAS M'KEAN, President.

Extract of a letter from Brigadier General Armstrong, to Brigadier General Howe, dated Charlestown, South Carolina, May 29, 1776.

"Last Saturday a sloop arrived here from St. Eustatia with 1000 weight of powder, the master of which says, that a large vessel arrived there from Holland deeply loaded with arms and ammunition. He also says that the French ports in the West Indies are open to us, and that the French men of war have orders to protect our vessels in and out of their harbours, that the French are fortifying Duikuk which produced a remonstrance from the British Court, but without effect."

By letters just received from Gen. Lee, by express, we learn that 51 sail of vessels were, on the 4th of June, lying off the bar of Charlestown, in sight of the town, and that an attack was expected as soon as the wind should permit them to come over the bar.

PHILADELPHIA, July 3.

Yesterday the CONGRESS unanimously Resolved to declare the United Colonies, FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES.

By accounts from the Capes we are informed; that a brig from St. Thomas's with 400 barrels of powder, arms, dry goods, &c. coming into our Capes on Saturday last, was chased by the King Fisher and run aground off Cape May. Captains Barre and Weekes sent their boats to assist in unloading her; having taken but all the arms, cannon, 160 barrels of powder, and some dry goods, as much as their boats would hold—they discovered the men of war's boats coming to her; upon which they opened the remainder of the powder, and spreading some doubled canvass upon it they laid on the canvas's live coals, and left her—one of the men of war's boats having got along side, they had hardly boarded her before she blew up.

Extract of a letter from an officer in St. Mary's county, Maryland, dated the ninth ult.

"Our neighbour Dunmore has removed up to Gwyn's Island, and has there intrenched himself. Four days ago he sent a party of marines and sailors ashore to get wood, to the amount of fifty; who to a man deserted, with their arms and tools. Three of them would have insisted with us, but we being full, could not take them. They say he intends to make a push at us in harvest. I apprehend his crop will hardly be worth gathering."

NEW YORK, July 4.

On Sunday last, one of our cruizers on the south side of Long Island, took a large Bermudian built sloop from Halifax, laden with intrenching tools, &c. bound for this place; in which were a number of the Boston Refugees, among whom it is said, is Robert Auchmuty, Esq; late judge of the admiralty at Boston: and brother to the Rev. Dr. Auchmuty of this city.

Last Sunday arrived at the Hook (like the swarm of locusts, escaped from the bottomless pit) a fleet said to be 130 sail of ships and vessels from Halifax, having on board Gen. Howe, &c. sent out by the tyrants of Great Britain, after destroying the English constitution there, on the pious design of enslaving the British colonies, and plundering their property at pleasure or murdering them at once and taking possession of all, as Ahab did of Naboth's vineyard.

It was apprehended they intended to penetrate into the interior parts of the island, or to some of the neighbouring towns, but it does not appear that they have yet attempted it, or done any thing on shore, except taking up a little bridge on the causeway between the Landing and the Highlands at the Ferry. We hear Gen. Mercer, with a detachment, was yesterday dispatched to watch their motions, and act as occasion might require.

We are assured that Major Lamb, Capt. Oswald, and Capt. Burr, are prisoners on board this fleet.

NEW YORK, July 8.

The fleet from Halifax, we informed our readers in our last was arrived at Sandy Hook, to the amount of 113 sail. This difficult, from their situation to ascertain their number; but we suppose it does not exceed 130 sail: Monday it came up into Yales's Bay below the Narrows; Tuesday several ships came to anchor at the Watering-Place; Wednesday more followed; and by Thursday noon the whole fleet was at anchor in a line from Kill Van Kull to Simonson's Ferry, on the east side of Staten Island. The Asia brought up the rear of the fleet, and in the Narrows was fired at from a small battery on Long Island, which complement was returned by about 40 24 pounders, one of which lodged in the wall of the house of Mr. Bennet, but did no hurt to the family; and three shot had near done some mischief to the house and family of Mr. Dennis, one of them narrowly missing the kitchen, wherein was a number of the family; a second struck a barn, and the third destroyed much of the fence of the garden opposite the front door of the mansion house.

Part of the army is now encamped on Staten Island, and we have not the least reason to doubt, will endeavour to secure the north side thereof by entrenchments, whilst the shipping protects the other parts of it.

As soon as the troops landed, they paraded the north shore, and on Wednesday morning made their appearance near Elizabeth Town Point; but the country being soon alarmed, they retreated, took up the floor of the draw bridge in the salt meadows & immediately threw up some works.

Their near approach to Elizabeth Town Point greatly alarmed the inhabitants of Essex county and particularly the people of Elizabeth Town and Newark, but they are now in a condition to receive them whenever they may think proper to approach.

Two young men from Elizabeth Town crossed the river in a canoe last Thursday, and fired upon the regulars; but a number of them rushing out of the woods, they were obliged to retreat and cross the river again.

A sloop of 126 pounders, belonging to the fleet from Halifax, laying in the Kills, near Mr. Decker's ferry, was almost torn to pieces last Wednesday morning, by a party under the command of General Herd, from the opposite shore, with 218 pounders. The crew soon abandoned the sloop and we suppose she is rendered entirely unfit for any further service.

We hear two men of war now lay near Amboy, in order 'tis supposed to stop all navigation that way.

Since our last arrived the first division of Connecticut forces, commanded by the Hon. Brigadier General Waterbury and Wadsworth.

Yesterday 7 seamen belonging to the Killingsworth transport, of 700 tons, was brought to town from Long Island, having deserted the ship the night before: They say the number of sol-

diers with the next is about 8500, who are all encamped; and that many of the seamen intended to desert the fleet when an opportunity presented.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, July 3.

"Last Night Mr. Sykes arrived here from Charlestown, South Carolina who informs, that 30 Sail of Transports had got over Charlestown Bar; that a Fifty Gun Ship got over by taking out her Guns; with several small Men of War; that one 50 Gun Ship struck on the Bar going in, and was entirely lost; and, that General Lee had arrived there with 1500 Men from North Carolina. A Boat from some of the Ships attempted to land a Flag, but was fired on by the Fort. The commanding Officer of the Fort afterwards went on board with a Flag, and asked Pardon for firing on theirs, and desired to know what was the Purport of that Flag, was answered, that it was to desire them to deliver up the Town; upon which our Officer replied, that it would not be done as long as they were able to defend it, and that they would stand to the last extremity.

The Hon. Convention of Virginia have made choice of the following Gentlemen to represent that Province in General Congress for one Year, viz George Wythe, Thomas Neilson jun Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, and Francis Lightfoot Lee, Esquires.

Last Wednesday night the Capt. of a transport, and four of his men, were taken at the Narrows, and brought to town: They were looking for a boat that had gone ashore, and going too near the shore were taken by the riflemen.

HARTFORD, July 8.

Last Wednesday passed through this place, Governor Franklin of New Jersey, on his way to Governor Trumbull, at Lebanon. Mr Franklin is a noted tory and ministerial tool, and has been exceedingly busy in perplexing the cause of liberty, and in scolding the designs of the British King and his minions. The people of the Jerseys on account of his principles, connections, abilities and address, viewed him as a mischievous and dangerous enemy in that province, and consequently thought it expedient to remove him, under a strong guard, to Connecticut. He is safely arrived, and will probably have leisure to reconnoitre his past life. He is son to Dr Benjamin Franklin, the genius of the day, and the great patron of American liberty. His excellency escapes the vengeance of the people, due to the enormity of his crimes his redemption will flow, not from his personal merit but from the high esteem and veneration which this country entertain for his honored father. Last Saturday he returned from Lebanon to Wallingford, where he is stationed.

Friday last a house pack of tory prisoners, 49 in number, taken some time since at Johnson, were brought to this town under guard from Albany, and delivered to the committee for the disposition of prisoners in this colony. We hear a number more of the same class are on their way to this place.

Since our last, several regiments of foot, ordered to be raised in this colony together with three regiments of the troop of light horse, have marched for New York, to assist in the defence of the capital of that invaded province.

We have intelligence from Albany, that all the sick, who are unfit for duty, in the northern army, are returned to Crown Point, and that the main body had retreated to the hills of Noix, where they are fortifying.

PORTSMOUTH, June 29.

Last Sunday arrived at Falmouth, Casco Bay, a large French sloop in 19 days from Martinico, laden with rum, wines, drugs, linens, cloths &c. The master informs us there are 2 number of vessels on their passage bound to this and other ports; also assures us the French in general are firm friends to the American cause.

WATER TOWN, July 15.

The General Court in their late session past an act allowing of Inoculation with the Small Pox in the Town of Boston till this Day being the 15th Instant, after which Time it is forbidden on severe Penalties both on the Inoculator and Inoculated. And the Selectmen are empowered and directed to remove all Persons sick of the Small Pox on the third of August next in Order that the Town may be cleared of all Infection immediately after. The Court have also past an Act allowing of Hospitals for inoculating the Small Pox in each County in this Colony.

On the 27th ult. the privateer sloop Yanky, of Boston, commanded by Captain Johnson, who sailed from thence about six weeks ago, took in lat 28, two fine valuable ships; one of which is a three decker, about 400 tons burthen, bound from the North side of Jamaica to London, laden with 400 hogheads of sugar, 200 ditto of rum, piecemeal &c. The other from Antigua with 439 hogheads of rum for Gen. Howe; and Wednesday last they arrived safe at Boston.