AMERICAN ARCHIVES:

Fifth Series.

CONTAINING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

FROM THE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, JULY 4, 1776,

TO THE

DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.

BY PETER FORCE.

VOLUME I.

PUBLISHED BY M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE AND PETER FORCE,

UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833, AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

WASHINGTON, APRIL, 1848.
My dear Friend: Your favor of the 21st of July, and Mr. Caldwell's of the 36th, from the German-Flats, I received a few days ago, which I answered in a letter to Mr. Caldwell, having the day before written to you by a Doctor going through Albany to the Army at Ticonderoga. Yours of the 23d of June, these 2 were read yesterday. I have frequently informed you of the situation of our Army in the Jerseys, watching that under General Howe on Staten Island. Could I believe any letters would come safe to you, my pleasure in writing would be equal to that you express in receiving them.

The King's Army remain on the Island, fortifying every pass; their numbers unknown, but we with reason believe they are daily receiving reinforcements. Forty vessels, great and small, arrived a few days ago. The number of our forces in Jersey, I am not able to inform you of; they are to consist of at least sixteen thousand when completed. The greater part of the Militia of Pennsylvania Colony are either there going, who are to stay till the Army is completed. They form a chain from Ambloey to Elizabeth-Town Point, where strong works are erected at an amazing expense of labour, chiefly effected by our Militia, before the Pennsylvania arrived to assist them. The Jersey Militia, upon the Past it will be turned to get in their harvest; since which, they are again taking the field.

What works are thrown up at Ambloey, Blazing-Star, &c., I am not able to say. I know nothing of any design to attack the King's forces on the Island; it rather seems an attack from this side for; and it is believed the Jersey is soon expected to be made above New-York, near King's Bridge, to which place the ships that went up the river, I hear, are returned. Elizabeth-Town was in great conster nation upon General Howe's taking possession of the Island; but at present I believe they are very easy. I formerly informed you that Mrs. Dayton had sent the chief of her goods into Springfield. Many that moved away from the Island, are returned home to get in their harvest; since which, they are again taking the field.

Our election for Council and Assembly, Sheriffs, &c., comes on next Tuesday in all the Counties of New-Jersey. I now feel the want of you in Elizabeth-Town. I sat down to consider to whom I might vetturate to write on politics, and have none that I dare speak plainly to. Had you, or my much esteemed friend Mr. Caldwell, been there, I should have been happy to have turned to you to get in their harvest; since which, they are again taking the field.

You and Mr. Caldwell, it seems, diverted yourselves with the power given in his commission. I find it was useful, however; for in his last he informs me of his commanding a large division.

General Schuyler makes the same complaint as you do for want of cash. His letter came to Congress the same day with yours and Mr. Caldwell's from the German-Flats. Two hundred thousand dollars were immediately sent to the Chancellor, but the Paymaster had not the means to set all his prisoners at liberty, relying upon the honour of the American States to return him an equal number when in their power. By a flag to General Howe an exchange of prisoners was already agreed upon, so far as fell within his department, Congress being, he said, out of it.

An Indian war hath broken out to the southward. The Overhill Cherokees have commenced hostilities in the back part of Carolina, killed thirty or forty in one settlement, and had about one hundred and twenty besieged in a fortress, which it is thought must surrender before succours could arrive. Forces were marching against the Indians. General Clinton's fleet remain inactive below Charleston since his defeat of the French. No news from Lord Dunmore since my last. The Indians appear in the neighborhood of the Ohio and the new settlements.

Last Saturday our gondolas attacked the King's ships near Dobbs's Ferry; they fought about an hour and a half, hulled the men-of-war several times, and were served in the same manner by the battery below. They lost but four men, several wounded, and, I believe, came off the second best, though the Commander writes that he hopes soon to give the King's ships another drubbing.

This day's post, since I began this letter, brings accounts of the movement in the Narragansett addition to what I have mentioned of at least twenty transports. And by the last accounts brought this day, I find our forces in the Jerseys are by no means equal to what I supposed from former information as above mentioned.

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I spoke to our President for the commissions you desire may be sent. He tells me you must apply to General Schuyler, who has got more commissions, and can supply your regiment. I dare say you have a good regiment, and hear their commendation with pleasure; but had you seen a regiment, that went near two weeks ago to New-York, mixed in Maryland, and another past near the State-Houseyard, from the Delaware Government, you would have altered your opinion; they were all shortmen, mostly of an age and size. The two battalions above mentioned were the finest I ever saw.

I lately mentioned to you a ship belonging to Congress arrived at this town from France, with one thousand stand of arms, ten tons of powder, and blankets; since which, I find she brought thirty or forty tons of lead or more, salt petre, &c., &c. Several valuable prizes, this day's post, were lately brought in to the eastward. We are also informed that the Portuguese have declared war against us by seizing our vessels in their ports.

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I am as agreeably situated as I could expect. Dr. Wither-
write to you or Mr. Caldwell, I mean always to address you both; but, with regard to your families, I can say no more than that I have not heard of their being well.

I am, my dear friend, your sincere and humble servant,

AARON CLARK.

P. S. You'll please to accept this on plain paper; our dignity don't afford gilt, and our pay scarcely any. Richard Lawrence, on Staten-Island, is Colonel of a regiment under the Crown, and commands the forces there, joined with some Lawrence, on Staten-Island, is Colonel of a regiment under the Crown, and commands the forces there, joined with some

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, August 6, 1776.

In consequence of a request of this Board to the Committees of Inspection and Observation of the different Counties, to appoint suitable persons to hear the complaints of the families of those Associators that have gone to camp, and to supply them with such necessaries as they may stand in need for that purpose, viz:

For the First Battalion: Isaac Coates, William Moulder, Jacob Schretner.

For the Second Battalion: Moses Bartram, Gaspier Guyer, Ephraim Bonham.

For the Third Battalion: George Meade, Richard Denisis, Robert Bally.

For the Fourth Battalion: George Greene, Frederick Dushon, Peter Knight.

For the Fifth Battalion: John Hart, John Tittamary, William Drury.

Resolved, therefore, That they be and are hereby appointed accordingly.

Extract from the Minutes:

PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE.

In Committee Chamber, Philadelphia, August 6, 1776.

Resolved unanimously, That the following Resolve of the Provincial Conference be published in all the Newspapers in English and German.

"In Provincial Conference, June 25."

"Resolved, That it be recommended to every County and District Committee in this Province, to pay the strictest attention to the examination of all strangers or persons travelling through the City or Counties, and permit no persons travelling through the City or Counties to remain therein, unless they produce a pass or certificate from the City, County, or District Committee from whence they last came; and it is further recommended to all Committees, to furnish proper passes to all friends to American liberty upon their application therefor."

NATHANIEL DONWELL, Secretary pro tem.

A General Master-Roll of five Artillery Companies under the command of Colonel Mifflin, now lying at the Artillery Park, near Amboy, &c., &c., in East-Jersey.

**Extract of a Letter from Gen. Howe to Lord George Germaine, Dated Head-Quarters, Staten-Island, August 6, 1776.**

Judging your Lordship will be anxious for information, and having two packets on this side, I dispatch the Sandweich, without waiting for further tidings of Commodore Hotham and the part of his fleet not yet arrived, but which, from late reports, may with reason be hourly expected.

The troops that have arrived to this day are expressed in my returns to the Secretary at War and Adjutant-General, whereby your Lordship will observe that we are in force sufficient to enter upon offensive operations; but I am detained by the want of camp-equipage, particularly kettles and canteens, so essential in the field, and without which too much is to be apprehended on the score of health, at a time when sickness among the British troops was never more to be dreaded, from a due consideration of their importance in the prosecution of this distant war, and esteeming the Army present as the stock upon which the national force in America must in future be grafted. However, if the camp-equipage should not arrive with Commodore Hotham, we must use every means to provide against those wants, and the Army will immediately begin to act.

Your Lordship's despatches of the 3d, 12th, and 13th of May, with the duplicates of others since the 22d October, 1775, were received by the Sandweich packet, on the 27th, and by Lord Hyde on the 29th July. His Majesty's most gracious approbation of my withdrawing the troops from Boston under the circumstances, as described in my despatch of 21st March, and the flattering terms wherein it was conveyed by your Lordship, does me the highest honour.