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.
ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1848,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.
stood by Mr. Adams or myself, which is not the case. He knows my esteem and friendship for him. Adieu.

Your affectionate and obedient servant,

SAM. CHASE.

To Brigadier-General Arnold.

P. S. In what condition is our Navy on the Lakes?

ABRAHAM CLARK TO REV. JAMES CALDWELL,

Philadelphia, August 7, 1776.

My dear friend: Your favour of the 9th July, from the German-Flats, I received, and the next day after wrote you by post; at the same time received a letter from Colonel Dayton, of the 35th, and since that received one the Colonel wrote the 20th from Fort Stanwix, to which I wrote a long answer yesterday, which I have yet by me, as the President will write this day to General Schuyler, and have engaged to send it in his packet, in which I propose to get this place. If this should find you at the German-Flats, and the Colonel is at Fort Stanwix, I hereby authorize you to open and read his letter, and then forward it to him, as I intend my letters to either of you will be considered as intended for both.

We have no news to-day. This morning one of our large frigates was launched; two others, of twenty-four and twenty-six guns, some time ago launched and are rigging. I regret my being moved to this Congress. I think I should have been of more service in our own Province than here. I remember what Caesar said in passing the Alps: "That he had never seen the first in a small village in the Alps, than the second in Rome." This will not exactly apply to myself, as I did not esteem myself the first in the Jersey Convention, and I am sure I am far below the second here. It is in some degree applicable.

In your letter you tell me of our feasting here. Indeed we have plenty; but I dare say you have the best feast: my want of health will not suffer me to relish delicacies.

Now as far as my present station will permit, I have given in the letter to the Colonel. More I might in confidence say, were either of you present; but I dare not risk more in a letter. I think I informed you in my last, that money to pay your regiment was sent forward, and the letter relative to your regiment's returning to the Jerseys in the fall, was not proper to mention yet, from the uncertain issue of the war to the northward. I am, dear sir, most affectionately yours,

ABRA. CLARK.

To the Rev. James Caldwell, Chaplain of a Battalion at German-Flats or Fort Stanwix.

P. S. I don't recollect the death of any of your hearers since you left us, but Thomas Williams, who died two weeks ago, or something more.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY (NEW-JERSEY) COMMITTEE.

On Wednesday, the 7th instant, the Committee of Inspec
tion for the County of Cumberland, in the State of New-Jersey, the Officers of the Militia, and a great number of other inhabitants, having met at Bridgetown, went in pro
cession to the Court-House, where the Declaration of Inde
dependency, the Constitution of New-Jersey, and the Treson
Ordinance, were publicly read and unanimously approved.
These were followed with a spirited Address by Dr. Elmer, Chairman of the Committee; after which the Peace Officers' staves, on which were depicted the King's Coat of Arms, with other ensigns of royalty, were burnt in the street. The whole was conducted with the greatest decency and regularity.

The following, being the substance of the before men
tioned Address, was published at the particular request of the Committee and all who were present:

"Gentlemen of the Committee, Officers of the Militia, and Gentleman spectators:"

"From what has now been read, you see the long wished
for, but much dreaded period has arrived, in which the
connection between Great Britain and America is totally
dissolved, and these Colonies declared Free and Independent
States. As this is an event of the greatest importance, it
must afford satisfaction to every intelligent person to reflect,
that it was brought about by unavoidable necessity on our
part, and has been conducted with a prudence and moder
ation becoming the wisest and best of men.

"With the Independency of the American States a new era
in politics has commenced. Every consideration respecting
the propriety or impurity of a separation from Britain,
is now entirely out of the question; and, we have now no
more to do with the King and people of England, than we
have with the King and people of France or Spain. No
people under Heaven were ever favoured with a fairer
opportunity of laying a sure foundation for future grandeur and
happiness to their country. The plan of Government estab
lished in most States and Kingdoms of the world, has been
the effect of chance or necessity: ours of sober reason and cool
deliberation. Our future happiness or misery, therefore, as a
people, will depend entirely upon ourselves. If actu
ated by principles of virtue and genuine patriotism, we make the
welfare of our country the sole aim of all our actions; if
we intrust none but persons of abilities and integrity with
the management of our publick affairs; if we carefully guard
against corruption and undue influence in the several depart
ments of Government; if we are steady and zealous in put
ning the laws in strict execution;—the spirit and principles of
our new Constitution, which we have just now heard read,
may be preserved for a long time. But if faction and party
spirit, the destruction of popular Governments, take place,
andarchy and confusion will soon ensue, and we shall either
fall an easy prey to an enemy foreign, or our own divisions,
and aspiring demagogue, possessed of popular talents and shi
ning qualities—a Julius Caesar or an Oliver Cromwell—will
spring up among ourselves, who, taking advantage of our
political animosity, will lay violent blast to our govern
ment, and sacrifice the liberty of his country to his own
ambitious and domineering humour. God grant that neither
of these may ever be the unhappy fate of this or any of the
United States. To prevent which, while we are striving to
defend ourselves against the unjust encroachments of a for
eign and unnatural enemy, let us not neglect to keep a
strict and jealous eye over our own internal police and Con
stitution. Let the fate of Greece, Rome, Carthage, and
Great Britain, warn us of our danger; and the lossof
liberty in all those States, for want of timely guarding against
the introduction of tyranny and usurpation, be a standing
admonition to us, to avoid the rock on which they have all
been shipwrecked.

"Let us, as honest citizens and sincere lovers of our coun
try, exert ourselves in the defence of our State and in support
of our new Constitution; but while we strive to vindicate
the glorious cause of liberty on the one hand, let us, on the
other hand, carefully guard against running into the contrary
extreme of disorder and licentiousness.

"In our present situation, engaged in a bloody and dan
gerous war with the power of Great Britain, for the de
fence of our lives, our families, our property, and every
thing that is dear and valuable, every member of this State who enjoys
the benefits of its civil government, is absolutely bound, by
the immutable law of self-preservation, the laws of God and
of society, to assist in protecting and defending it. This is
so plain and self-evident a proposition, that I am persuaded
everyone present makes it the rule of his conduct
on all occasions; and consequently, in a time of such im
minent danger, will be extremely careful, at our ensuing
election, not to intrust any one with the management of our
publick affairs who has not, by its vigilance and activity in
the cause of liberty, proved himself to be a true friend to
his country, without whose succession, gentlemen, of a great
struggle wholly depends upon this single circumstance. For
though the situation and extent of the United States
of America and our numberless internal resources, are sufficient
to enable them to meet and best these foreign and domestic
aliances, without our own danger, we should be so careless about our own safety as to intrust the
affairs of our State, while the bayonet is pointed at our breasts,
to persons whose conduct discovers to them to be enemies to their
country, or whose principles will not suffer them to
lift a hand for our defence, our ruin will inevitably follow.

"As it is impossible for any one possessed of the spirit of
a man, who is a friend to the United States, and whose con
science does not furnish him with an excuse to stand by, an
idle spectator, while his country is struggling and bleeding
in her own necessary defence, all such insatiate persons ought
therefore to be shunned as enemies or despised as cowards.