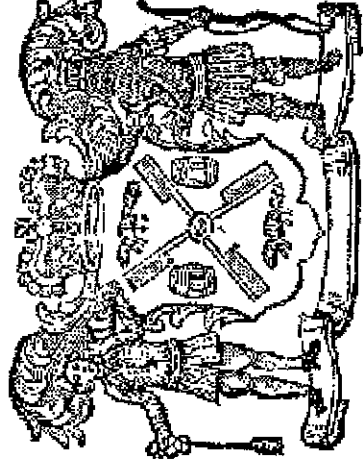


# NEW-YORK AND WEEKLY

Containing the freshest Advertis



# GAZETTE: THE MERCURY.

Foreign and Domestic

PRINTED BY HUGH G A I N E, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER and STATIONER AT THE BIBLE AND CROWN in HANOVER-SQUARE.

ASSIZE of BREAD. Flour at 17s, per Cent.

A Wheaten Loaf of finest FLOUR to weigh 2 lb. 11 1-2 oz. For 4 Coppers.

Published March 18, 1776

HIGH-WATER at NEW-YORK, this Week.

Monday, 47 Min. after 7  
Tuesday, 43 Min. after 8  
Wednesday, 41 Min. after 9  
Thursday, 45 Min. after 10  
Friday, 30 Min. after 11  
Saturday, 22 Min. after 12  
Sunday, 11 Min. after 1.  
Full Moon To-morrow

PRICE CURRENT, in NEW-YORK,

Wheat per Bushel	5s 6d.	Molcovado Sugar	6l. 10s.	Fine Salt, --- None.
Flour	16s. od.	Single refin'd ditto	2s. 9d.	Courfe Salt
Brown Bread,	15s. od.	Molasses	5s. 6d.	Indian Corn per Bu.
West-India Rum,	8s. od.	Beef, per Barrel,	6s. od.	Coffee,
New-England do.	5s. od.	Pork	8s. od.	Chocolate,
				26s. Per Doz.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20.

In CONGRESS, July 19, 1776:

**R**ESOLVED, That a copy of the circular letters and of the declarations they enclosed from Lord Howe to Mr. W. Franklin, Mr. Penn, Mr. Eden, Lord Dunmore, Mr. Martin and Sir James Wright, late Governors, sent to Ansbay by a flag and forwarded to Congress, by General Washington, be published in the several Gazettes, that the good people of these United States may be informed of what nature are the Commissioners and what the terms, with the expectation of which the infamous Court of Britain has endeavored to amuse and disarm them; and that the few, who still remain suspended by a hope founded either in the justice or moderation of their late King, may now, at length, be convinced that the valour alone of their country is to save its liberties.

*Extract from the journals,*

CHARLES TOMPSON, Secretary.

"EAGLE, off the coast of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, June 20, 1776"

"SIR,

**B**EING appointed Commander in Chief of the ships and vessels of his Majesty's fleet, employed in North-America, and having the honour to be by his Majesty constituted one of his COMMISSIONERS for restoring peace to his Colonies and for granting *Pardons* to such of his subjects therein as shall be *duly sollicitous* to benefit by the effect of his gracious indulgence: I embrace this opportunity to inform you of my arrival on the American coast, where my first object will be an early meeting with Gen. Howe, whom his Majesty has been pleased to join with me in this said commission.

In the mean time, I have judged it expedient to issue the enclosed Declaration, in order that all persons may have immediate information of his Majesty's *most gracious intentions*: And I desire you will be pleased forthwith to cause the said Declaration to be promulgated in such manner, and at such places within the province of New-Jersey, as will render the fame of the most public notoriety.

Affured of being favored with your assistance and every measure for the speedy and effectual restoration of the public tranquility, I am to request you will communicate from time to time such information as you may think will facilitate the attainment of that important object to the province over which you preside.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect and consideration,  
Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

HOWE."

(The Declaration of above mention is published as a Supplement.)

Extract of a letter from the Hon. Major General LEE, dated Charlestown, July 2, 1776, to the President of the Congress.

**I** SHOULD have done myself the honor sooner of informing the Congress of the attack made by the enemy's Squadron on Sullivan's island, and their repulse, but conjectured, that by waiting a day or two, I might probably be furnished with the means of sending a more minute, full and satisfactory account.

My conjecture was right; for yesterday five seamen made their escape, one of whom is a more intelligent fellow than is commonly found amongst men of his level. Enclosed is a copy of their narrative. I may venture to congratulate Congress on the event. Not only the advantage must be considerable, but the affair reflects no small credit to the American arms.

On Friday about eleven o'clock, the Commodore (Sir Peter Parker) with his whole Squadron consisting of two line of battle ships and

six Frigates, the rates of which are marked in the enclosed narrative, anchored at less than half of midgett shot from the fort, and commenced one of the most furious and incessant fires I ever saw or heard. It was manifestly their plan to land, at the same time, their whole regulars at the east end of the island, and of course invest the fort by land and sea. As the garrison was composed entirely of raw troops, both officers and men, I thought it my duty to cross over to the island, to encourage the garrison by my presence. But I might have saved myself that trouble, for I found on my arrival they had no occasion for any sort of encouragement. I found them determined and cool to the last degree; their behavior would, in fact, have done honor to the oldest troops.

I therefore beg leave to recommend in the strongest terms to the Congress, the commanding Officer, Col. Moutrie, and his whole garrison, as brave soldiers and excellent citizens. Nor must I omit, at the same time mentioning Col. Thompson, who with the South-Carolina rangers, and a detachment of the North-Carolina regulars, repulsed the enemy in two several attempts to make a lodgement at the extremity of the island.

Our loss, considering the heat and duration of the fire, was inconsiderable. We had only ten men killed on the spot, and twenty-two wounded, seven of whom lost their limbs. But with their limbs, they did not lose their spirits, for they enthusiastically encourage their comrades never to abandon the standard of liberty and their country. This, I do assure you, it is not the style of a galconading romance usual after every successful action, but literally a fact. I with great pleasure mention the circumstance, as it augurs well to the cause of freedom. At eleven the fire ceased, having continue just twelve hours without the least intermission.

The narrative of the five sailors referred to in the foregoing letter, who were on board at the time of the action.

"The Bristol of fifty guns commanded by Sir Peter Parker, greatly damaged in her hull, large knees and timbers shot through and smashed; if the water had not been very smooth, it would have been impossible to have kept her from sinking, all the carpenters in the fleet have been called to her assistance; mizen mast shot through, main-mast badly wounded by three several shot, fore-mast by Capt. of the Commodore lost his left arm above the elbow; he was shot yesterday (June 30th) to England in a brigantine; the Commodore's breaches torn off, his thigh and knee wounded, he walks only when supported by two men; forty-four men killed and thirty wounded, among were many midshipmen and petty officers; twenty of the wounded dead since the action; talk in the fleet, that the two large ships would go over the bar again, and proceed to English Harbor in Antigua, to be repaired. The Bristol, when lightened as much as possible, draws eighteen feet water.

Experiment of fifty guns on two decks all twelve pounders, a lighter built vessel than the Buftol, exceedingly damaged in her hull; several ports beat in one, her mizen-mast hurt, but uncertain of particulars; killed fifty-seven, of whom the Captain was one, wounded thirty, several since dead; draws when lightest seventeen feet water; the general opinion that neither of these large ships will go safely over the bar again; Solebay twenty-eight guns, two men killed, four wounded; Active twenty-eight, Lieutenant killed, four wounded; Acteon twenty-eight; Sphinx twenty, Syren twenty-eight, all got aground; the first in coming up, the two latter in running away; the Sphinx cut away her bowsprit; the Syren got off; Acteon remained fast --- burnt and blown up by her own people. While she was on fire, Mr. Milligan, one of the Carolina Marine officers, and a party of men boarded her, brought off her colors, the ship's bell, and as many falls as three boats could contain. The Thunder bomb lay at a considerable distance, throwing shells at the fort, and by over-

charging had shattered the beds, and damaged the ship so much, as to render it necessary for her to go into dock before she can act again.

The Friendship, an hired armed vessel of 26 guns of various sizes, covered the bomb, as did the Syren who also fired very briskly at the fort. The whole fleet badly manned and sickly, particularly the Syren's crew, as two-thirds short allowance of provisions and water, they have had no fresh meat since their arrival (first of June.)

Lord William Campbell had been very anxious for the attack, and proposed to take all the forts with only the Syren and the Solebay.

Lord Cornwallis and General Clinton are both on shore with the troops at Long-Island; his Lord-ship had, some time ago, urged Sir Peter Parker to attack on the sea side, otherwise he would march up, and take the fort, and complain of Sir Peter's tardiness. The Commodore replied, Lord Cornwallis might march his troops when he pleased, but the fleet required a fair wind, the first that happened he would proceed against the fort. The General at that time believed we had no troops out of garrison, but he was soon better informed, being since repulsed, and drove back with loss; he remained quiet, and left the Commodore to enjoy the glory of being defeated alone.

The negro pilot who is exceedingly carested, was on board the Commodore, and put down with the doctor out of harm's way.

Between nine and ten o'clock, the night of the action, the Commodore and other ships began to steal away, they made no piping nor waited to heave up their anchors, but flipped their cables; the Commodore has only one anchor and cable left.

About two o'clock on Friday, some of the men cried out the Yankees had done fighting, others replied they were glad of it, for they never had such a drubbing in their lives, they had been told the Yankees would not stand two fires, but they never saw better fellows; all the common men in the fleet spoke loudly in praise of the garrison. There was a report in the fleet that no quarters would be given to the Americans, and that 5000. had been offered for General Lee.

The foregoing Extract of a Letter from General Lee, as also the Narrative of the deserters, is published by order of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

## In CONGRESS,

July 17, 1776

*Resolved*, That General WASHINGTON, in refusing to receive a letter said to be sent from Lord Howe, addressed to GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQUIRE, acted with a dignity becoming his station, and therefore this Congress do highly approve the same, and do direct that no letter or message, be received on any occasion whatever, from the enemy, by the commander-in-Chief, or other the Commanders of the American army, but such as shall be directed to them in the characters they respectively sustain.

By order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

## In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

of NEW-JERSEY, TRENTON,

July 16, 1776.

ORDERED,

THAT the several *Township Committees throughout this Colony do immediately exert themselves in procuring LEAD for the use of the army now engaged in our defense, as a demand for that article is very great and pressing; that, to this end, they do forthwith collect all the leaden weights of shops, stores, and mills, of one pound weight and upwards; also all other lead in and about houses and other places; and that they forward all the lead which shall by them be so collected, to the hands of Alexander Chambers, Abraham Hunt, David Pinkerton, and William Tucker, of Trenton, Hendrick Fisher of Somerset County, Azariah*

*Woodbridge; Isaac Woodruff of Elizabeth-Town; and Dr. William Burnett of Newark; or any of them, Commissioners appointed for purchasing arms, &c. And the said Commissioners are directed to pay for all such lead at the rate of six-pence Proclamation money the pound weight, together with the reasonable expenses in forwarding the same.*

JULY 17,

*WHEREAS the Hon. the Continental Congress have declared the United Colonies Free and Independent States; WE the Deputies of New-Jersey, in Provincial Congress assembled, Do Relieve and Declare, That we will support the Freedom and Independence of the said States with our lives, and fortunes, and with the whole force of New-Jersey.*

JULY 18.

RESOLVED,

*That this House from henceforth, instead of the title and title of Provincial Congress of New-Jersey do adopt and assume the title and title of, The Convention of the State of NEW-JERSEY.*

Extracts from the Minutes.

Wm. PATERSON, Secretary.

Extract of a letter from Williamburg

Virginia;

July 13.

"A battery of two 18 pounders was opened on the enemy's fleet on Tuesday morning, whilst another of four 9 pounders play'd on their works and camp at Gwyn's Island. In a short time the whole fleet was forced to tow out of reach of the battery; their fire ceased after a few rounds. Their camp was thrown in confusion and in the night, before we could procure boats to carry over our men, they remove all their tents except one, there cannon except one, and all of their stores, &c. There were three tenders in the haven, which attempted to prevent our passage --- Their works were fill manned as if they meant to dispute their ground, but as soon as our soldiers put off in a few canoes they retreated precipitately to their ships. The tenders fell into our hands, one they set on fire, but our people boarded it and extinguish the flames.

The enemy burnt two small vessels, and the night following a very large ship, supposed to be the Dunmore, for she was very much damaged having received four 18 pound shot thro'-gh her sides and a doubled headed one through her stern which raked her. --- Her mate was killed, a sailor had his arm taken off, and Lord Dunmore had his leg wounded by this shot. The fleet has failed from the Island, which we are in quiet possession of. From their works and preparations for others, and flocks of cattle left on the Island, it is evident that they left it much against their inclination and long before they expected it. We found 150 Graves and 12 dead negroes lying in the open air. They have had a dreadful fever amongst them, and the smallpox, I wish our army may not catch the infection. The Roebuck was at the mouth of the Rappahannock. The Fowey and Otter did not chool to come to the assistance of the Dunmore, which unfortunately for her, had changed fations with the Otter, and by this means came into the jaws of our battery which was concealed. We do not lose a man."

The great Expence, and uncommon Difficulty and Trouble that attends the Printing Business at present, and in particular that of publishing a News-Paper, at this Juncture, may be well known to the Readers of this Paper; tis therefore hoped our Cufromers will, as soon as possible, think of discharging their Accounts, at the Printer may be the better able to carry on his Business and serve the Public to their Satisfaction.