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A historical collection from official records, files, &c., of the part sustained by Connecticut, during the war of the revolution

Hinman, R. R.

Hartford, 1842

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Appendix.

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APPENDIX.

THE following correspondence, in 1774, between Samuel Holden Parsons and Silas Dean, of this State, and Pelatiah Webster, of Philadelphia, was handed the author of this work by S. H. Parsons, Esq., of Hartford, (a grandson of Gen. Parsons,) which letters contain some important facts never before published; particularly the plan adopted to procure a country at the west, to which the whigs, in case of a war with Great Britain, and a defeat should ensue, might retreat from New England, for their (then) future safety.

A LETTER FROM PELATIAH WEBSTER.

PHILADELPHIA, 2d April, 1774.

MR. SILAS DEAN,

SIR,—I received your favor of 21st ult., per post, and note its contents. My knowledge of the Virginia settlements on the Ohio is not perfect, but on the best information I can get, and which I think I have no reason to doubt the truth of the facts, are as follows, viz.: 1st. The several charters formerly made to the Virginia company, have been all at sundry times, surrendered to the crown. They now are a royal government, the limits of which are ascertained by the commission of their Governor, or instructions he receives from the crown; and all lands within those limits, not private property, belong to the crown, and are granted by the Governor pursuant to such instructions, general or special, as he receives from the crown. 2d. The government of Virginia have lately erected two new countries extending beyond the Alleghany mountains; the one (called Fin Castle,) covering the great tract of land through which the grand Conaway runs; the other covers the several rivers which have their conflux at or near fort Pitt to a vast extent. 3d. The lands within these two countries are granted by the Governor of Virginia to the officers, &c., who served in the late American expeditions, and to none others. 4th. The government of Virginia have granted all necessary commissions of peace and militia, within both said countries, some of which are given to persons residing at fort Pitt and its neighborhood. 5th. The Virginians consider all the crown lands, (i. e.) lands not granted to any other colony, as belonging to their jurisdiction; and that Maryland and Pennsylvania on one side, and both the Carolinas and Georgia on the other, are carved out of their province; but all the lands contiguous, which have not been granted, do still belong to them in right of their being the oldest colony, &c. I shall soon be more perfectly informed of these matters. I lately suggested the importance of such information to Dr. Johnson, but he did not seem immediately to apprehend it, so it was neglected.

As to the expediency of sending a party on discovery to Mississippi, &c., I do not see any advantage that can arise from it at present. It is in my opinion most vain to attempt any settlement westward of Pennsylvania, without first making a fast lodgement on the Delaware and Susquehannah. Such a lodgement you have already on the east branch of the Susquehannah, which I apprehend our proprietors, or Assembly, have no present thought of disturbing, and which you ought to increase and strengthen as soon, and as much as possible. The lands on the west branch of Susquehannah, are mostly granted and settled by grantors of our proprietors, and worth from 20 shillings to 80 shillings per acre; but of such doubtful title, that if your colony had a land office open here, most of those patentees would apply and purchase your colony right, at 1 shilling or 2 shillings per acre, which would soon fill your treasury with cash to an amount of many thousands sterling, and enable you, without being burdensome to your own colony's company, to make a very respectable figure wherever you may be disposed to appear. The western lands within your latitude, from the Alleghany mountains to the sources of the Missouri river, 500 miles west of the Mississippi, have been sufficiently explored already, to put it past doubt that they are the finest lands, and most healthy climate in the universe, and naturally secure of the advantages of the most extensive inland navigation, and will in time be the seat of grand population in America, from whence the numerous legions must issue that will give law to the whole land; from which it is easy to foresee the advantages that will accrue to New England, from having a settlement of their own sons extending through that vast region of 150 miles wide, (for if you succeed you may be assured Boston stands ready to extend their width to the South sea also, which with yours will make a breadth of 150 miles at least). These ideas are indeed vast, and will, therefore, without any regard to their natural probability, be treated as chimerical; but if sagely weighed, must be allowed of great moment and importance. Another century will begin to realise them; all our grand children will see them; the authority and influence of Great Britain, or any other part of the earth over America, will lessen fast till it dwindles into nothing. Therefore I apprehend any application to Great Britain, further than just to keep up appearances and delay, their decisions to be altogether needless; and not needless only, but very improper. I lament the strong opposition made in Connecticut, to attempt to settle and secure these vast western lands; but one advantage will arise from them—they lull our proprietors asleep, who cease to exert themselves against you; firmly expecting your divisions will do their business. But all these matters are too much for a letter. I wish I could see you before your next Assembly meets. You must come to New York on spring business. Can't you come as far as Philadelphia? I have straw and provinder at your service.

I am, Sir, your most obedient,

humble servant,

PELATIAH WEBSTER.

P. S. Fort Augusta, half a mile south-east of the conflux of the east and west branches of the Susquehannah is by exact observation, in latitude $40^{\circ} 53' 32''$; fort Durkee, at Wyoming, in $41^{\circ} 14' 27''$; of Buffalo creek, $41^{\circ} 1'$, as taken by Mr. Samuel Wallace, a gentleman of great merit and well known to the Wyoming people, who is now going up with very accurate instruments to take the latitude 42° , in order to ascertain, how far north you extend; and offers the use of his instruments to any gentleman you will appoint to attend him. I think

it of consequence to take the exact latitude of the mouth of Maromack river, which I take to be your southern bounds, as the commissioners in 1669, confirmed your line so far; if so, and the mouth of Maromack river is in north latitude $40^{\circ} 46'$, as generally computed; the conflux of the two branches of the Susquehannah is 8 miles north of your southern line. My best compliments to Messrs. Dyer, Johnson, Strong, and all your company. The Ohio has English settlements from the mouth of Conaway up to Kittanning, 300 miles, who generally claim under Virginia, and call themselves Virginians; but by what particular title they hold I don't certainly know; the government of Virginia protects them, but whether that government really claims higher up than 41° , the utmost northern extent of any charter they ever had, is uncertain. I should be obliged if you will keep me advised of the most material occurrences relative to this important subject. Though I have no interest, yet I have a curiosity somewhat anxious to know the step you are taking. I will pay you in any kind of advices which you may need, and I can procure from this city.

I am, &c.

PELATIAH WEBSTER.

FROM SILAS DEAN TO S. H. PARSONS.

WETHERSFIELD, April 13, 1774.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment wrote Mr. Bishop and the Speaker, per post, to meet the 22d inst., in order to choose members for the Congress, and have left it uncertain as to place—saying that Middletown or Wethersfield may be the place as most agreeable to the committee. You will see Capt. Trumbull, to whom communicate this; and though I am not over solicitous as to the place, am unwilling to meet at Middletown, and hope you will prefer Wethersfield, or even Hartford. The reasons I have for calling a meeting, are these: The southern colonies appear ardently engaged, to confer together, and to form one general plan for future action and proceeding. It is judged by all of the greatest importance; the calling of town meetings is growing fast into fashion in the colony; the consequent diversity, and in some instances, perhaps, inconsistency and absurdity of their resolves, will soon throw us into a scene of confusion, and gradually sink all proceedings of this kind into contempt. While fixing the attention of the public on so rational, manly, and promising a mode of proceeding, as that of a general conference, will calm their minds, and they will be ready to receive, and comply with whatever may be advised them by such assembly; and in the mean time they will be kept from forming those narrow, partial, and indigested resolves, which they otherwise may come into, and grow fond of, from principle paternal, though from no other, and be averse to exchange them even for better, or the best possible to be invented.

I have wrote to Portsmouth, Newport, Boston, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Maryland, and Virginia, and inclosed the needful, which has cost me much time, beside clerk hire in copying; for I could not well make one letter answer as a circular for all, as our correspondence with them is various, as well as their situations and tempers. Boston, in sending out their solemn league and covenant, before they have consulted any other colony in the affair, is, in my humble opinion, very wrong, totally and absolutely so; as it is directly contrary to every principle of good reason and sound policy, to apply partial means

to remedy a general evil, or to take measures on a subject so universal and important, equally interesting to all, without consulting all. Good steps, and the best meant endeavors, so taken and pursued, lose greatly, and are often as fatal to the cause, as the very worst that can be taken. But their present distracted situation must atone for their errors, and we must do the best we can, for and with them. I am fully persuaded the ministry design to seize on some of the Boston leaders, and try them capitally in Great Britain; if so, (and Lord North's speech in Parliament fully points out such a design,) will they submit to go like prisoners of the holy office, to a distant country, to take their trial; or will they have the spirit to die like men, and sell their lives as dearly as they can, leaving to posterity their testimony, sealed with their blood, that death is to be preferred to slavery. I fear we are degenerated; but this is nothing more than what our ancestors actually did for us, and for liberty. This town met on Thursday, this week; they are spirited. But Sheriff Williams, in his boiling zeal, has almost preached them to death; he neglects serving writs or levying executions, and is now so hoarse that he can only whisper, but his desire of communicating is no way abated, which, were the subject less interesting than it is, would render him a diverting figure.

My design in our meeting, is, if possible, to carry only two points: 1st. Approve of the resolves of the Assembly, in a strong style, and order them to be preserved as parcel of our records, to oblige our people now and hereafter, with ready access to them on all occasions. 2d. To anticipate the general constitution, by giving now our proportion to the relief of Boston, to be raised in an equal way, by subscription; each one entering against his name so much on the grand list as he has a mind to give, whether it be one penny or more on the pound.

I have wrote a long letter to our friend E. Hazard, a copy of which is enclosed, and after perusal, you will return to me, as I have no other. To which wild scheme, as you may freely call it without offence to me, I subjoin this alternative—that if tracing the river Mississippi so far up be considered as too remote and laborious, that we attempt the south-west corner of lake Erie, which will be less so, and may answer our purpose quite as well, if it succeed. Had the memorial been granted, and we seriously pursued it, one of these places must have been the spot for our first beginning on; and ten thousand pounds will go so far in making the experiment of a settlement on either place, that if it answer our expectations, we may easily obtain partners able to carry it on. Is it impossible, while the crown and its slaves are busy in quarreling with the old colonies, to fix such a lodgement at one or the other of those places, that let the affairs of America turn as they will, we may be secure in our possessions? There is now six thousand, and in less than one year, there will be ten thousand inhabitants at Susquehannah. This settlement had every discouragement and obstacle that we can possibly meet with, and some that we may most probably avoid. Disowned by every government; persecuted with fire and sword by one of the most powerful; unsupported by any proprietaries of wealth, or influence, and so wretchedly poor themselves, that the place was an asylum from the gaol, or an assignment in service to most of them; yet this has thus increased in about three or four years, and will in all probability soon become an opulent and populous plantation. Can we not start on as good grounds and better, though disowned by government? We shall have none to contend with on our first settling down; and put the case—the American difficulties—if they should last but four or five years, and there is not, in my view, the least prospect of their ending in twice that time, we may have without charge to ourselves, at least two thousand

men able to bear arms, with their families on the spot. Then, I say, let the affairs of America turn as they will, we may be secure; for if arbitrary measures are still pursued, whatever success the arms of these tyrants may meet with, they will not in that time subdue the tempers of the colonists, so but that it will require all their attention to keep up the appearance of submission; which is all they can ever hereafter expect in America. And such a proceeding on their part will cause many to fly to any place that will afford them peace, and a tolerable competency for support; so that unobserved or beyond the power of their immediate attention, our plantation in ten years may be some thousand strong; and by a properly humane and timely hospitable treatment of the natives, have some powerful tribes in our allegiance and friendship. Should, as I observed, arbitrary and coercive measures be pursued, this may the more readily be effected. And on the other hand, we are not to expect lenient and conciliating measures on other terms than a general alteration of the whole system of American government, by the repeal of all revenue laws now in being, enacted by the parliament of Great Britain; and in lieu thereof, have a new but an equivalent code formed by a Parliament of our own, with a Lord Lieutenant at their head, or some alteration similar; for I have not the least prospect, even in idea, that Great Britain will ever condescend to give up their right of taxing America, without fixing some hold on us, in their view equally binding. And indeed should they now repeal the tea act, and restore Boston to the state they once were in, we all know it would have no decisive effect as to ending the dispute. The post office, and the admiralty judges, would be our next grievances, and would doubtless be productive of as serious consequences. Now as a general system, either of tyrannical, arbitrary, and despotic government, supported by the sword, or some civil constitution adopted, to take in the whole continent, must take place soon; that is, within ten years at farthest. We have no great to fear, situated in that inland country, from the former, after we have got but two thousand men.

[The remainder of the letter is not to be found.]

FROM SILAS DEAN TO S. H. PARSONS.

WETHERSFIELD, 21st of June, 1774.

DEAR SIR,—Yours I received per post. The proposed meeting of the committee is laid aside, and I have wrote accordingly to Messrs. Bishop and Silliman. We had last Thursday a town meeting, and yesterday there was one at Hartford; the result of each of which you will have a sketch of in the papers. I like well to have the people spirited, and to give proof of it; but confess I do not so well approve of any town's striking out a plan of their own, as it is next to impossible but that they should be in some degree inconsistent with each other; but I have said the same thing to you before—so will drop the subject. If you see Col. Williams, I pray you to get a copy of his journal of our appointment, May, 1773; and of the resolution of the House last session, respecting the Congress.

I am in haste,

Sir, yours, &c.

S. DEAN.

DEPOSITIONS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BATTLE OF
LEXINGTON, CONCORD, &c.

CONCORD, April 23, 1775.

I, Timothy Minot, Jr., of Concord, on the 19th day of this inst., (April) after that I had heard of the regular troops firing upon Lexington men, and fearing hostilities might be commenced at Concord, thought it my incumbent duty to secure my family. After I had secured my family—sometime after that—returning towards my own dwelling, and finding that the bridge on the northern part of said Concord was guarded by regular troops, being a spectator of what had happened at said bridge; declare that the regular troops stationed on said bridge, after they saw the men that were collected on the westerly side of said bridge, marched towards said bridge, then the troops returned towards the easterly side of said bridge, and formed themselves, as I thought, for a regular fight; after that they fired one gun, then two or three more, before the men that were stationed on the westerly part of said bridge fired upon them.

TIMOTHY MINOT, JR.

Sworn before us, William Reed, Jonathan Hastings, John Cummings, Duncan Ingraham, Justices of the Peace.

Sworn by Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public.
Middlesex, April 23, 1775.

MEDFORD, April 25, 1775.

I, Edward Thoraton Gould, of his Majesty's own regiment of foot, being of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the evening of the 18th inst., under the order of Gen. Gage, I embarked with the light infantry and grenadiers of the line, commanded by Col. Smith, and landed on the marsh of Cambridge, from whence we proceeded to Lexington. On our arrival at that place, we saw a body of provincial troops, armed to the number of about 60 or 70 men. On our approach they dispersed, and soon after firing began, but which party fired first, I cannot exactly say, as our troops rushed on shouting and huzzaing previous to the firing, which was continued by our troops so long as any of the provincials were to be seen. From thence we marched to Concord. On a hill near the entrance of the town, we saw another body of provincials assembled; the light infantry company were ordered up the hill to disperse them; on our approach they retreated towards Concord; the grenadiers continued the road under the hill towards the town. Six companies of light infantry were ordered down to take possession of the bridge, which the provincials retreated over; the company I commanded was one of three companies of the above detachment, went forwards about two miles; in the mean time the provincial troops returned to the number of about 300 or 400. We drew up on the Concord side of the bridge; the provincials came down upon us, upon which we engaged, and gave the first fire. This was the first engagement after the one at Lexington. Continued firing from both parties lasted through the whole day. I myself was wounded at the attack of the bridge, and am now treated with the greatest humanity, and taken all possible care of by the provincials at Medford.

EDWARD THORATON GOULD.

Sworn before Thaddeus Mason, Josiah Johnson, Simon Tufts, Justices of the Peace.

Sworn before Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public.

LEXINGTON, April 23, 1775.

I, James Barrett, of Concord, colonel of a regiment of militia, in the county of Middlesex, do testify and say, that on Wednesday morning last, about day break, I was informed of the approach of a number of the regular troops to the town of Concord, where were some magazines belonging to this province, and where there was assembled some of the militia of this and the neighboring towns; when I ordered them to march to the north bridge, (so called) which they had passed, and were taking up. I ordered said militia to march to said bridge and pass the same, but not to fire on the King's troops unless they were first fired upon. We advanced near said bridge, when the said troops fired upon our militia, and killed two men dead on the spot, and wounded several others; which was the first firing of guns in the town of Concord. My detachment then returned the fire, which killed and wounded several of the King's troops.

JAMES BARRETT.

Sworn before us, Jonathan Hastings, Duncan Ingraham, Justices of the Peace.
Sworn before Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public.

We, Nathan Barrott, captain; Jonathan Farrer, Joseph Butler, and Francis Wheeler, lieutenants; John Barrett, ensign; John Brown, Silas Walker, Ephraim Melvin, Nathan Buttrick, Stephen Hosmer, Jr., Samuel Burnett, Thomas Jones, Joseph Chandler, Peter Wheeler, Nathan Pierce, and Edward Richard, Jr., all of Concord, in the county of Middlesex, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, of lawful age, testify and declare, that on Wednesday, the 19th inst., about an hour after sun rise, we assembled on a hill near the meeting house, in Concord aforesaid, in consequence of information that a number of regular troops had killed six of our countrymen at Lexington, and were on their march to said Concord; and about an hour afterward we saw them approaching to the number, as we imagined of about 1,200; on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the aforesaid troops then took possession of a hill where we were first posted. Presently after this we saw them moving towards the north bridge, about one mile from said meeting house; we then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them, to the number of about 200 arrived; they there left about one half of these 200 at the bridge, and proceeded with the rest towards Col. Barrett's, about two miles from the said bridge; we then seeing several fires in the town, thought our houses were in danger, and immediately marched back towards said bridge; and the troops who were stationed there, observing our approach, marched back over the bridge, and then took up some of the planks. We then hastened our steps toward the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge they fired on our men, first three guns one after the other, and then a considerable number more; upon which, and not before, (having orders from our commanding officer not to fire till we were fired upon,) we fired upon the regulars, and they retreated. At Concord, and on their retreat through Lexington, they plundered many houses; burnt three at Lexington, together with a shop and a barn, and committed damage more or less to almost every house from Concord to Charlestown.

(Signed)

Samuel Barrett, Thomas Jones, Joseph Chandler, Peter Wheeler, Nathan Pierce, Edward Richardson, John Barrett, John Brown, Silas Walker, Ephraim

Melvin, Nathan Buttrick, Stephen Hosmer, Jr., Nathan Barrett, Jonathan Farrar, Joseph Butler, Francis Wheeler.

Sworn before Jonathan Hastings, John Cummings, Duncan Ingraham, Justices of the Peace.

Sworn before Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public.

LEXINGTON, April 23, 1775.

We, John Hoar, John Whitehead, Abraham Garfield, Benjamin Monroe, Isaac Park, William Hosmer, John Adams, and Gregory Stone, all of Lincoln, in the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts Bay, all of lawful age, do testify and say, that on Wednesday last, we were assembled at Concord, in the morning of said day, in consequence of information received, that a brigade of regular troops were on their march to the said town of Concord, who had killed six men at the town of Lexington. About an hour afterwards we saw them approaching to the number, as we apprehended, of about 1,200; on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the said troops then took possession of the hill where we were first posted. Presently after this we saw the troops moving towards the north bridge, about one mile from the said Concord meeting house; we then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them to the number of about 200 arrived; they there left about one half of their 200 at the bridge, and proceeded with the rest towards Col. Barrett's, about two miles from the said bridge; we then seeing several fires in the town, thought the houses in Concord were in danger, and marched toward the said bridge; and the troops who were stationed there observing our approach, marched back over the bridge, and then took up some of the plank. We then hastened our march towards the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge, they fired on our men, first three guns one after the other, and then a considerable number more, and then, and not before, (having orders from our commanding officers not to fire till we were fired upon,) we fired upon the regulars, and they retreated. On their retreat through this town, (Lexington) to Charlestown, they ravaged and destroyed private property, and burnt three houses, one barn, and one shop.

(Signed)

John Hoar, John Whitehead, Abraham Garfield, Benjamin Monroe, Isaac Park, William Hosmer, John Adams, Gregory Stone.

Sworn before William Reed, John Cummings, Jonathan Hastings, Justices of the Peace.

Sworn before Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public.

LEXINGTON, April 23, 1775.

We, Joseph Butler and Ephraim Melvin, do testify and declare, that when the regular troops fired on our people at the north bridge in Concord, as related in the foregoing depositions, they shot one, and we believe two of our people before we fired a single gun at them.

JOSEPH BUTLER,
EPHRAIM MELVIN.

COPY OF A LETTER TO GREAT BRITAIN.

APRIL 26, 1775.

By the Governor and Company of the colony of Connecticut, in General Assembly, convened at Hartford, 26th of April, 1775. To the people of Great Britain.

Whereas on the 19th day of April, 1775, a number of the inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay, and also a number of the King's troops in that province, were killed by their firing on each other, in consequence of which, a genural alarm has taken place through all the colonies, and a very great army of Americans are collected near Boston, to oppose force to force. And whereas it is credibly reported to us, that depositions are taken and transmitted to Great Britain, affirming and shewing that the Americans were the aggressors, and began the fire:—Be it known, that a brigade of about 1,000 of the King's troops marched, in the night following the 18th, from Boston to Lexington, twelve miles, and there found in the morning following about 50 Americans collected for military exercise, without any knowledge that soldiers were near them, and accosted them with most profane and opprobrious language, and commanded them instantly to disperse; which they obeyed, and began to disperse; but at the same time the King's troops fired upon them, and repeated the fire a second time, and killed 8 men on the spot, before any fire was returned, and then but one American opened on them. And is it then possible to believe, that such a handful would expose themselves to certain death, by beginning a fire on such a body of well-armed troops? And it is declared by every voice, and universally believed to be without the least doubt or hesitation, that the firing began in manner aforesaid, which may and will certainly be proved and attested by irrefragable evidence. This Assembly is firmly persuaded that this is the truth. And it is earnestly requested that if any of the nation doubts, they will suspend their belief, till evidence be received, which must convince every rational mind, that said troops were first in hostilities; such evidence will be transmitted as soon as possible; but it is impossible for this Assembly, at such a distance, to obtain it immediately.

MAY, 1775.

In the Lower House, Mr. Hosmer, Col. Wolcott, Col. Elderkin, and Mr. Sturges were appointed a committee, with such gentlemen as the Senate appointed, to consider what intelligence, papers, and documents were material and necessary to be transmitted to the Continental Congress, then sitting in Philadelphia. Also, what matters and things relative to the transactions at Boston, it was expedient to make public, and report.

Report of the committee:—To the Honorable the General Assembly, now sitting in Hartford. We, your Honor's committee to consider what intelligence, papers, and documents are material and necessary to be transmitted and communicated to the Continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia; and likewise what matters and things relative to the late hostile transactions, it is expedient to make public—beg leave to report our opinion.

First, That it is material and necessary, that copies of the letter wrote by the Governor to Gen. Gage, at the request and in behalf of the Assembly, and of Gen. Gage's answer to said letter, and of his narration of the proceedings of the troops on the 18th and 19th of April last, accompanied with a letter from this

Assembly, should be prepared and transmitted to Col. E. Dyer, Roger Sherman, and Silas Dean, delegates in the Continental Congress, as soon as may be. The narrative from the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts Bay, and the depositions taken by and received from them, being, as we are well informed, already sent to said Continental Congress, we are of opinion it is not necessary to forward from hence.

Secondly, That a concise and true narration of the late hostile attack, made by the troops under the command of Gen. Gage, upon the inhabitants of the province of the Massachusetts Bay, with the depositions to support and confirm the same, should be prepared for the press, and printed and dispersed through this colony. And we further beg leave to submit it to the consideration of the Assembly, whether it would not answer some good purpose, if the narrative of said transactions received from Gen. Gage, were printed and published with the narrative and proofs aforesaid.

Per order,

J. HAMLIN.

THE PETITION OF CAPT. DELAPLACE,

A PRISONER TAKEN AT TICONDEROGA, BY COL. ETHAN ALLEN, AND SENT TO HARTFORD, IN MAY, 1775.

The Memorial of William Delaplace, a captain in His Majesty's 26th regiment, and commandant of the fort and garrison of Ticonderoga, in behalf of himself and the officers and soldiers under his command, beg leave to represent our difficult situation to your Honors, and petition for redress.

Your memorialist would represent, that on the morning of the 10th of May, the garrison of the fortress of Ticonderoga, in the province of New York, was surprised by a party of armed men, under the command of one Ethan Allen, consisting of about 150, who had taken such measures so effectually to surprise the same, that very little resistance could be made, and to whom your memorialists were obliged to surrender as prisoners; and overpowered by a superior force, were disarmed, and by said Allen ordered immediately to be sent to Hartford, in the colony of Connecticut, where your memorialists now are detained as prisoners of war, consisting of officers, and 47 private soldiers, of His Majesty's troops, besides women and children.

That your memorialists being ignorant of any crime by them committed, whereby they should be thus taken and held; also are ignorant by what authority said Allen thus took them, or that they are thus detained in a strange country, and at a distance from the post assigned them, they know not in what light they are considered by your Honors, consequently know not what part to act; would therefore ask your Honors' interposition and protection, and order that they be set at liberty, to return to the post from whence they were taken, or to join the regiment to which they belong; or if they are considered in the light of prisoners of war, your Honors would be pleased to signify the same to them, and by whom they are detained; and that your Honors would afford us your favor and protection during the time we shall tarry in the colony, and your memorialist shall ever pray.

Dated at Hartford, the 24th day of May, A. D. 1775.

WILLIAM DELAPLACE, Captain,
Commandant of Ticonderoga.

[The General Assembly had no action upon the petition.]

FORTIFICATIONS AT NEW LONDON.

On the 13th of May, 1775, G. Saltonstall, Deshon, and Mumford, Esq's., who had been appointed by the Assembly to devise the best method for securing, defending, and protecting the sea coast in the colony, with the ports and shipping—stated in their report, that they found the battery at New London in a ruinous condition, with four new 18 pounders, and two new 12 pounders, with several other small old cannon, upon which no dependence could be placed; and proposed to the Assembly, to provide fourteen more new cannon, 24 pounders, to defend the port and shipping at New London. The committee advised, not that the twenty-four new cannon should be planted in one battery, but to place them in diverse places, where their forces would be divided, and their attention brought to different batteries at the same time, and of course render the attack of the enemy of less importance to us, and the resistance from the different points of much greater advantage. And proposed to mount five cannon at Mamacock, in New London, on the west side of the harbor, and five at Groton, on the east side, nearly opposite to Mamacock; and ten of the heaviest cannon to be mounted on the high bank on Winthrop's Neck, fronting south to the entrance of the harbor, and near the middle of it. At that particular juncture, they deferred giving an opinion as to securing the sea coast and shipping, in any other manner than by making New London port an asylum for the ships, but referred it to the wisdom of the General Assembly.

GOVERNOR TRUMBULL'S LETTER.

A letter to Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, and Silas Dean, Esq's., by Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of Connecticut, dated

HARTFORD, July 7th, 1775.

Gentlemen,—I received your joint letter of the 26th and Mr. Sherman's of the 28th of June, and am now to acquaint you that the General Assembly, which met here on Saturday last, have agreed to augment our troops with two regiments of 700 men each, who will be raised and sent forward to join the continental army before Boston, with all possible despatch. It was much wished we could have had the advice and direction of Congress, before we took this step; but it was thought that the delay of obtaining that direction, would be too great in the present critical situation of our affairs, and we hope it may meet the approbation of Congress. As the expense we are daily incurring is so very great, we should be extremely glad to find that the continental currency is in such forwardness as to be applied to the purpose of equipping and furnishing these troops; should this be the case, you will be so good as to apply for the money, and forward it to me with all despatch. We estimate the present expense at £40,000. It will be so much more convenient and less expensive for our troops stationed at New York, by order of Congress, to be supplied with provisions, &c., by New York, than from us, that we hope the Congress will direct the convention of that province to furnish them during their residence there, in the same manner as this colony has agreed to do—less than we have engaged them, I need not tell you, will by no means give them satisfaction.

We were a little surprised that so large a requisition of money, especially, was made upon us in favor of Gen. Schuyler, when it is known how much we have already exhausted ourselves; and we cannot suspect but that the money might have been raised with great ease in a short time, either in Philadelphia or New

York. However that nothing in our power might be omitted to promote the service, the Assembly have agreed to advance him £15,000, knowing the inability of other colonies with respect to the other article, we should very gladly have complied with the full requisition, but it was impossible. We have done all that we could, and are only sorry that we could do no more.

I cannot tell you that we are all well pleased with the arrangement, made by Congress, of the general officers. We wish the order, &c., adopted with our generals had been preferred, and fear Gen's. Wooster and Spencer will think they have reason to complain. Indeed we should have rather expected that a matter of so much delicacy would have been first submitted to the approbation of the Assembly, before it was finally fixed. However, we will do the best we can to prevent its being any prejudice to the service.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

P. S. I am now further desired, by the Assembly, to acquaint you that Gen's. Wooster and Spencer are held in great estimation by them, and by the officers and troops under their command. And from the intelligence lately received from the army, they are under some apprehensions that great inconvenience will be the consequence of the alteration made by the Congress, in the rank and station of those generals. At the same time they have the highest sense of Gen. Putnam's singular merit and services; and request, if it be practicable, that some method may be devised to obviate the difficulties that are apprehended.

Mr. James Dean, the bearer of this, is lately returned from a mission among the tribes of Indians in Canada. His information appears to us of importance; we have therefore employed him on this journey, that he may communicate his intelligence to the Congress.

J. TRUMBULL.

To Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, and Silas Dean, Esq'rs.

GEN. SPENCER SUPERSEDED BY GEN. PUTNAM.

JULY, 1775.

Soon after Congress had superseded Gen. Spencer, by the appointment of Gen. Putnam to the office of major general in the American army, it was apparent that it gave great offence to Gen. Spencer, and many of the officers and soldiers under his command, so much so that the officers of the army, at Roxbury, in Massachusetts, made a representation to the General Assembly of Connecticut, respecting the arrangement of general officers. And the Assembly, in July, 1775, appointed a committee, of which Matthew Griswold, Esq., was chairman, to take said representation into consideration. The committee to obviate the inconvenience that might arise from the alteration made by Congress in the rank of Gen's. Wooster, Spencer, and Putnam, which had caused so great uneasiness to Gen. Spencer, and the officers more immediately under his command, reported—

That the Governor of Connecticut, in behalf of said Assembly, should be desired to confer with, and acquaint Congress with the estimation in which Gen's. Wooster and Spencer were held by the Assembly, and the officers and troops under their command; that they had been so far overlooked in the appointment of general officers by them, and of the probable inconvenience that might ensue; and at the same time to testify their sense of the singular merit of

Gen. Putnam, and request Congress, if practicable, to devise some method of obviating the difficulties apprehended. Also to desire the Governor to acquaint Gen. Spencer of said application in his behalf, and conjure him, by the love of his country, to call to mind the signal affection of his country to him, so often testified, and request Gen. Spencer not to precipitately resign his command, which would distress the troops, attached to him by the warmest affection and duty, and give great dissatisfaction and anxiety to his country, which had placed and continued to place high confidence in his wisdom, prudence, integrity, and military skill. Gen. Spencer went to Roxbury the first in command of the Connecticut forces, and had continued so, respected by his officers, and loved by his soldiers, until he was degraded from the rank he held, by the appointment of Gen. Putnam over him, by Congress. Though the appointments of Generals Washington and Lee were perfectly satisfactory to the Connecticut troops, yet Gen. Spencer's men had too much military pride to see their general degraded by the appointment of Gen. Putnam, who had held an inferior rank in the army. Therefore, S. H. Parsons, John Tyler, S. Prentice, Return J. Meigs, H. Champion, Jr., and about forty-five others, officers and principal men in the Connecticut troops, stated to the General Assembly of Connecticut, that the appointment of Gen. Putnam would and must force Gen. Spencer from the army; and that the procedure they apprehended would be injurious to the morals, good order, and discipline of the troops; and most earnestly intreated the Assembly to use every exertion with Congress, to prevent Gen. Spencer's being superseded, and to satisfy his troops.

EFFECT OF THE EMBARGOES.

JULY, 1775.

The embargoes, which had been laid by this colony, and prevented the exporting from this State, might have conduced to the safety of it in supplying the Connecticut troops, and its inhabitants; yet while it afforded these comforts, it operated most destructively upon the vessels owned in the colony, which were long laid up and useless, decayed, destroyed by worms, and suffered to rot at the wharves; while the large quantities of provisions that had been purchased for exportation were either sold at such prices as the commissaries chose to pay, or remained on the hands of the owners, much of which was ruined and became a total loss, with large bills of expense for storage. Frequent petitions were preferred to the General Assembly during the war, to be relieved from the burthens imposed upon importers, by the different embargoes that were laid upon the people of the colony and State, yet the love of country and a desire to shake off the British yoke, induced the inhabitants to endure, with christian patience, every hardship of a most unjust, oppressive, and unequal war.

WATERBURY TORIES.

OCTOBER, 1775.

To the Honorable General Assembly, to be holden at New Haven, on the 2d Thursday of October, A. D. 1775.

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of Waterbury, within the limits of the military company, or train band, under the command of Capt. Hezekiah Brown, humbly sheweth—That your memorialists, sensible of the importance of supporting the natural and chartered rights, liberties, privileges, and properties

of the inhabitants of the American colonies, and anxious to find any person or persons unfriendly to the continental method of defending said colonies, think ourselves obliged to inform your Honors, that the said Brown is disaffected with, and unfriendly to the present method advised by the Continental Congress, and adopted by your Honors, for our common defence; which fully appears by the following sentences pronounced by said Brown in the hearing of sundry people, at sundry times, viz.: that the Congress ought to be punished for putting the country to so much cost and charge; for they did no more good than a parcel of squaws. And some time in the latter end of May last, did say, that he did not see the necessity of this colony raising soldiers, as it was unnecessary expense, and the Assembly had no right to do it; and that Boston had wrongfully undertaken to quarrel with the Parliament about the tea, and we had no hand in it; and by his justifying his brother, John Brown, in exclaiming against the authority of this colony for raising men to defend the colony; and by saying that our General Assembly was as arbitrary as the Pope of Rome, when they cashiered Capt. Amos Bronson, and Ensign Samuel Scovill, by saying that the Congress, in some of the Articles of their Association, was as arbitrary as ever they were in Rome. And soon after the battle of Lexington, in April last, by saying in the time of the alarm, that he would not go one step further for the relief of the people of Boston, than he was obliged to go.

Therefore your memorialists would humbly observe, that as all military officers in this colony, hold their commissions by your Honors' authority, solely for the purpose of defending the lives, liberties, and properties of the people, we think it is very inconsistent that any person should hold a commission, who is inclined to use his influence against the authority that granted it; and very unsafe for this colony at the present critical and important crisis, and is very grievous to your memorialists to be under the command of an officer in whom we cannot confide. And therefore pray your Honors to grant such relief as your wisdom and justice shall direct; and we as in duty bound shall ever pray. Dated at Waterbury, this 3d day of October, A. D. 1775.

(Signed) Joseph Beach, Phineas Castle, Daniel Bronson, Moses Cook, Amos Prichard, Thomas Bronson, Jr.

On the 1st day of October, 1775, the warrant was served, which was signed by Jonathan Baldwin, Justice of the Peace.

PETITION OF REV. SAMUEL SEABURY.

DECEMBER 20th, 1775.

Samuel Seabury, rector of the parish of Westchester, in the province of New York, brought his petition on the 20th day of December, 1776, to the General Assembly of Connecticut, then sitting at New Haven, in which he stated, That on the 22d day of November, 1775, he was seized at his grammar school in said Westchester, by a company of about 40 armed men, carried by force to his own house, allowed only time to get his horse, then compelled to take the road to King's Bridge, where they soon met another company of armed men who joined them, and proceeded to Eastchester. Capt. Lathrop commanded the first company, and after the union, Capt. Isaac Sears took the command of the whole, being about 100 men; that after their arrival at Eastchester, said Seabury, with Jonathan Fowler, Esq., of Eastchester, and Nathaniel Underhill, Esq., of Westchester, were sent under a guard of about 20 armed men, to Horse Neck, in this State; and on the following Monday, was taken to New Haven, where he

was carried in triumph about the city, escorted by a large number of men on horses and in carriages, most of them armed, and arranged themselves in front of the house of Capt. Sears; there fired two cannon, and huzzaed for Seabury; he was then put under a guard of five men, and sent to, and kept under said guard at the house of Mrs. Lyman, where he was kept, and refused any intercourse with his friends, even in company with his guard; prohibited reading prayers in church, or performing divine service, though often invited by the Rev. Mr. Hubbard, of New Haven; interdicted the use of pen, ink, and paper, except to write to his family, and his letters in such case examined and licensed; though he was permitted by Capt. Sears to write his own petition to the General Assembly. He had received but one letter from his family, and that had been opened, though sent by the post.

He farther stated, that he had been informed that on the 22d of said November, one of his daughters, when said armed men were at his house, had been abused and insulted, by having a bayonet thrust through her cap on her head; also by thrusting a bayonet through her handkerchief on her neck, before and behind, and cut in pieces a quilt around which his daughters were at work, with their bayonets, and destroyed it. That said soldiers ordered his wife to open his paper and money desk, and examined his papers, and took from the desk several dollars in money, and left but a single English shilling and three or four coppers. They also took a new beaver hat, a silver mounted horse whip, and two silver spoons. He had been informed by Mr. Meloy, of New Haven, that a bayonet had been pointed at the breast of one of his daughters, while he was absent at his school; that his daughter met him when he was brought from his school house, and stated that one of the men had pushed his bayonet against her breast, and otherwise insulted her; and when she met her father, she had no cap on, and her handkerchief was hanging over her shoulders.

After Mr. Seabury had been eight or ten days at New Haven, Jonathan Mix, in whose care he was placed, took him to the inn of Mr. Beers, in said town, where he found Capt. Sears, Capt. Lathrop, Mr. Brown, and others, when and where they questioned him; he explicitly answered them until he discovered some insidious designs were had against him, when he refused to answer them further. Capt. Sears informed him they should not release him, or make a compromise as had been made with Judge Fowler and Mr. Underhill, but should keep him a prisoner until the dispute between Great Britain and America should be closed.

Mr. Seabury asked of them an explicit declaration of the charges against him; and was told that he had entered into a combination with six or seven others to seize Capt. Sears, as he was passing through Westchester, and convey him on board a man-of-war. That he had signed a protest, at White Plains, against the proceedings of the Continental Congress. That he had neglected to open his church on the day of the continental fast. And that he had written pamphlets and newspapers against the liberties of America.

To the first and last charges, Mr. Seabury pleaded not guilty, and informed them he should be ready to prove his innocence when he should be restored to his liberty in the province of New York, where alone he conceived himself amenable.

He considered his arrest as a high infringement of that liberty, for which the sons of America were then so nobly struggling; to be carried by force from one

colony into another for imprisonment, or trial; to be judged by the laws of Connecticut, for acts done in the colony of New York, where he had resided nearly 20 years; to be dragged under guard from the committee of his own county, and from the Congress of his own province; cut off from all intercourse with his friends; deprived of his evidence of innocence; and judged by strangers, ignorant of his character and general conduct in life.

One great grievance justly complained of by the American people, and for which they were then struggling against, was the act of Parliament, which directed persons to be carried from America to England, for trial; and he believed the Legislature of Connecticut would not suffer him to be treated in a manner so destructive of that liberty, they were then contending for. He claimed, if he was to be judged by the regulations of Congress, that the county committee, or the provincial Congress of New York, were to be his judges. He claimed that no law authorized so urgent, cruel, arbitrary, and tyrannical treatment.

Mr. Seabury answered the charge of signing a protest against the proceedings of Congress, by stating that the General Assembly of New York, at their session previous, had determined to send a petition to the King, a memorial to the House of Lords, and a remonstrance to the House of Commons, on the subject of American grievances; and the members of said Assembly, as he had been informed, recommended it to their constituents to keep quiet until the issue of the applications should be known.

In April, 1775, the people met at White Plains, to elect delegates to the provincial Congress; many there opposed the measure, and signed a protest; said Seabury, with two members of said Assembly and more than 300 others, signed the protest, though he did not think he acted against the liberties of America, or that it was a crime to sign what two representatives of the people had approved and signed, to support measures, he then hoped it would have had a good effect by inducing a change of conduct towards America. He stated, that over eight months had expired since he signed the protest—and asked, if his crime was so atrocious, why he had been suffered so long to go unpunished? And why *he* had been singled out of more than 300 signers, to endure the unexampled punishment of captivity and unlimited confinement.

To the other crime charged, of not opening his church on the day of the continental fast, he answered—that he had no notice of the appointment, except by report. That he had been tried on this charge, with a full hearing, on a complaint by Capt. Sears, to the provincial Congress of New York, and acquitted. That he considered it cruel, arbitrary, and highly unjust, after his supposed offence had been examined, to be twice tried for the same offence; to be dragged like a felon, 70 miles from home, and again tried. He also stated, that he had a wife and six children, to whom he owed his protection, support, and instruction; that his family in a great measure depended upon his daily care for their bread; that he was bred a physician, and that several families at Westchester, depended upon his medical advice; that as a clergyman, he had in charge the towns of Eastchester and Westchester, and that there was then no other clergyman of any denomination nearer than 9 miles from his residence, and but one within that distance; so that in his absence there was none to officiate in any religious service, to visit the sick, or bury the dead; that to discharge his debts, he had opened a grammar school, and had made £100, York money, the previous

year, and was in a fair way of discharging his debts; that he had five young men from the island of Jamaica, one from Montreal, four children of a gentleman then in England, with others in his care from New York, and the country; that it might be impossible to recover his school, in which case, he should be entirely at the mercy of his creditors.

Mr. Seabury had applied to the judges of the superior court, while holding a court at New Haven for relief; but they deemed it improper to interfere. He therefore applied to the Assembly to be released; and asked for their protection, to pass peaceably out of the colony.

He had been accused of violating the rules of the Continental Congress; but he thought he could satisfy reasonable men on that point, that he violated no regulation of Congress, in so gross a manner, as those had violated the law, who, in an arbitrary manner, had forced him from his house, and kept him (then) four weeks a prisoner, without any means or prospect of relief. He wished, if any further enquiry should be made, that he might be permitted to appear at the Bar of the House, and answer for himself, or by counsel, or as they should direct.

The petition, in the Assembly, was referred to a joint committee of the two Houses, with William Samuel Johnson, Esq., as chairman, who reported, that a letter had been received from the President of the New York Congress on the subject; and that to enable the Assembly to answer said letter, a public hearing should be had before both Houses of said Assembly.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FORTIFICATIONS AT NEW LONDON,
NOVEMBER, 1775.

To the Hon. Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut:

Whereas your Honor and Council of Safety, on the 2d day of November inst. appointed me, with Maj. Dawes, (now residing in Norwich,) with such engineer as your Honor should procure from his Excellency Gen. Washington, to repair to, and view the circumstances of the harbor and port at New London, and neighboring places, and consider of the most proper places, and manner of fortifying the same against our enemies, &c., according to act of Assembly, &c.; after which it so happened that no engineer could be procured.

That on the 8th of said November, your Honor directed me to wait on said Maj. Dawes, and with him to attend on and perform said service in the best manner we could. That on the 9th day of said November, I, at Norwich, waited on said Maj. Dawes, informed him of his being appointed in manner aforesaid, and requested him, with me, to attend said service, (which service the said Maj. Dawes declined for reasons which he judged sufficient to excuse him;) on which, by the advice of some of your Honor's Council of Safety, I went forward to New London and Groton to execute said trust, and do the service, in the best manner I could, by the assistance, information, and help of the principal gentlemen of said towns. On my arrival I sent to a considerable part, and gave notice to almost all the gentlemen living on the banks and near the harbor in New London, among whom were many who, by travelling and other ways, had gained considerable knowledge in fortification, batteries, and securing harbors, &c. I then informed them of your Honor's orders, and that I would with them view the several places mentioned by the Assembly's committee, and any other

they would propose as suitable to build works on, for the security of the harbor ; on which it was the voice of all, that the places mentioned in the committee's report were far the best on the harbor, and were so formed and situated, that with much the least expense and danger might be improved for security of that port.

We then went on and viewed the island or point called Mamacock, with the make, rise, and fall of the ground to and from the point, or place where the battery must stand—found the distance from thence to the old fort, to the harbor's mouth, and directly across the river ; which, on viewing, all were of opinion that the places were good for the purpose. The top of the east part is near 20 feet above the water ; on the top principally flat rocks ; near by plenty of turf suitable for constructing and making of a rampart or bank. Suppose a bank of 30 feet, fronting near east the same length, south the same, north, not on right angles, with five embrasures in each rampart or bank, without bastions or trenches without the works, and five cannon, 18 or 24 pounders, well mounted, which might with ease be removed from place to place as the service might require. This battery, if built, would be 132 rods from the old fort, a little over two miles from the harbor's mouth, and the waters of the river or harbor, near east, opposite, 192 rods, would command the harbor in every place north-east and south, within reach of their shot.

We then viewed the place called Winthrop's Point, and find the south bluff part of that point is twenty feet above the water, very steep, mostly hard gravel, pointing down the harbor to the harbor's mouth ; a fine level on the top, (near the water,) to build a battery or breast work for the improving of cannon to secure the port of New London. The land leading to the point so rises, and has sundry hills and vales that any number of men may pass and repass entirely safe from ships in any part of the harbor. Materials, viz. : turf and gravel plenty and handy. Suppose ten guns, 18 or 24 pounders, would be well to be planted at this place.

Then viewed sundry places at Groton, and were attended by, and had the advice of many of the gentlemen of that town, who all manifested their desire that the port of New London might be fortified, which they, as well as the people at New London, supposed might be done at as little expense as any harbor or port, (equally valuable,) on the continent.

On examination, viewing, &c., find that there is in Groton, nearly opposite the old fort at New London, a hill or an eminence, the summit or top of which is about 120 feet above the surface of the water, and within 50 rods of the water's edge, at which place the ship channel is not more than 160 rods in width ; on the summit of this hill, the harbor, from the entrance to the north part thereof, (and some way up the river,) is open and in view. On this hill it seems nature had prepared a place to plant cannon for the protection of that port or harbor ; the top running near the same point of the harbor, north and south, for some distance, is considerable level, sufficient to improve such number of cannon as would be necessary ; and east and west sufficient for breast work and platform for the cannon. Then the declivity of the hill is such east, that any number of men, by stepping a few steps back of said works would be out of danger. The form of the land is such that all passing to and from a battery there, could be secure from the enemy. It is thought no large man-of-war can so elevate her cannon in her lower tier as to annoy a battery at this place ; if she could reach thence,

they would be random shot. I suppose no works would be necessary here for the improvement of cannon, only a breast work or bank of turf and gravel, not more than 10 feet thick, of suitable height for the cannon to play over without embrasures, bastions, or trenches. Turf and gravel plenty. Ten 24 pounders would answer, but some larger would be better. I need not observe the great advantage the defenders would have at this place, over their enemy; the elevation is such that they may plunge into their ships, if within reach of their guns.

Also viewed the new works at the old battery, executed by Col. Saltonstall, which are well done, and nearly finished; the cannon well mounted; the situation good, if other batteries, at some or all the other places are built, and cannon planted so that the enemy's fire be drawn to different places, and not centre there; but if batteries were built at all the other proposed places, and with a suitable number, and proper weight of cannon, the situation and different angles that those places bear one to the other, would expose any ship that should come within reach of their shot, within the harbor, to be distressed, annoyed, and raked fore and aft.

As to the expense of the works at those places, I endeavored, by the help of some best acquainted, to make some estimate; but found on trial, that it was not possible to be done with any degree of certainty. The people of Groton, at their own expense, have, at sundry places near the water's edge, made breast works and entrenchments to protect them in the use of their fire arms, on the landing of troops on or near their wharves, and other places, which they are determined to oppose to the last. These works are very well done, and at considerable expense, in which the people appear free and spirited.

As to floating batteries to defend the port and harbor against the enemy's ships, when they come with defiance and a determination to possess themselves of that part of our country, they cannot be sufficient, without fixed batteries at some or all the places proposed, to secure and defend the port from invasion and falling into the possession of the enemy. I own, I never till lately gave much attention to the business or art of fortifying harbors, or building forts, batteries, &c.; but the alarming situation and distress in which our country is in, and ministerial designs and vengeance, aimed at our sea coast, has called my attention to look into matters of that kind; and so far as I can judge, it is of the utmost importance to secure the port and harbor of New London from falling into the hands of our enemies, which will be an asylum for ships, vessels of force, floating batteries, &c., that be by the continent or any particular government built for the protection of our sea coast, trade, or country, which shall come that way; but on the contrary, if left destitute of protection, and fall into the hands of our enemies, it would let them into the bowels of our country, and give them great advantage against us, that the best and only sure and eligible manner of fortifying and securing said port and harbor, is in erecting batteries at the several places, and in some manner as before mentioned.

All which is submitted to your Honor's wisdom,

and I am your Honor's

most obedient humble servant,

JEDEDIAH ELDERKIN.

Windham, November 15, 1775.

FROM THE SAME TO GOV. TRUMBULL.

MARCH 1st, 1776.

HON'D. SIR,—The crisis of public affairs, big with the fate of America, approach with uncommon rapidity, which engross the thoughts, and fills the breast of every friend to his country with anxiety. How amazing is it that the *sons* of America should seek her ruin! I am led to these reflections from the conduct of New York; the defection there appears more apparent than ever. I am told not a barrel of salt provisions is to be had there, for the army, thousands of which have been shipped within these three months, no doubt a great part to the ministerial traitors, at Boston. Tryon that avowed enemy to our liberties they care; the language in their streets has been the men of war are their protection, and wished the ministerial troops in their streets as thick as they could stand; that they feared nothing but the locusts from New England. Their Congress refused Col. Waterbury admittance into their barracks; but he entered them without their consent. They have taken every measure possible to prevent the assembling an army there; a countermand to Col. Dickerson with his regiment on their march from Pennsylvania was forged, and he stopped thereby. It is more than probable, many of them were privy to that, (blacker than powder) plot of Tryon's to introduce Clinton, with his ministerial butchers there. Yet notwithstanding all this, by their address and intrigue, Col. McDougale, who never was in actual service, is Gen. Lee's second, and will take the command there until Gen. Schuyler arrives. Lord Sterling is next to McDougale, who likewise was never in the service. Col. Waterbury is reduced from his rank, and for no other pretence, but that he had not a continental commission. Thus that army is deprived of the most experienced and bravest officers in the continent. Such measures give great uneasiness. I cannot but think some better regulations, and more effectual measures must be taken for the security of that place. I fear the committee from the British Parliament will tend to divide us. I now see no other way left, but we must declare and avow the principles of common sense, which are the prevailing sentiments here. We are declared rebels; and they are pursuing measures as far as they are able accordingly, to butcher us, as they did the poor innocent Carebbes. Can we expect any foreign assistance, while we acknowledge dependence on and subjection to the British Crown?

GOV. TRUMBULL'S LETTER TO THE DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

MARCH, 1776.

In a letter from Gov. Trumbull, dated Lebanon, 9th of March, 1776, to the Honorable R. Sherman, O. Wolcott, and Samuel Huntington, delegates to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia,—He acknowledges the receipt of his letter of the 19th of February; also 17 pay rolls by Mr. Hooper, and 15 pay rolls by the last post, with Gen. Washington's certificate; also informing them that the furnace at Salisbury was preparing, the hearth laying, ore, coal, and every necessary for casting, to have it in blast, and to cast cannon as large as 24 pounders, by the close of next month, or early in May. A new construction of cannon had been received, the weight of one to carry a 36 pound ball, not more than one of the old 24 pounders—four pounds of powder a charge to do good execution, a great saving in the scarcity of powder—to be found in a treatise, by John Muller, professor of artillery and fortifications, and requested them to send him one, as it might be of great service to him.

He then says, "an extract from a letter of the 29th of February, is enclosed

Cannonading and bombarding began on Saturday night, four of the iron mortars are burst, and the brass Congress cracked and unfit for service, until new founded; two provincials killed. On Monday night a party of 3,000 took possession of Dorchester Hill, and are likely to establish themselves there without much opposition—may the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, give them success, dispossess our enemies of the strong hold where they have trampled on the properties of the poor distressed Bostonians and profaned the places dedicated to sacred use."

He stated, that the ordering Gen. Lee to Canada, was not pleasing to many; that the dangers at New York appeared more threatening than at Quebec; stated that the Macaroni brought us only four tons of gun powder; that he had supplied Gen. Washington largely from Connecticut. He hoped four tons would be replaced; one ton to be lodged at Fairfield, one at New Haven, and two tons at Middletown, as soon as he could write for it from Philadelphia; 728 pounds of powder was sent in casks to Canada. He stated that salt petre was making in considerable quantities; each town obliged by law to erect works to manufacture it; also, that powder mills at Windham and Hartford were erecting, and would be ready for use; spoke of the scarcity of sulphur; that there was a plenty of it at Montserat; that search was making to find it in Connecticut; that there was an appearance of it in plenty at Gay Head, on Martha's Vineyard; that he would soon inform them of the smelting of lead at Middletown.

CAMBRIDGE, 6th of March, 1776.

HON'D. SIR,—On Saturday evening last, at 11 o'clock, I went on Letchmere's Point, to see and hear the serenade of the night; as had been before ordered, a musket was fired at that place as a signal for the firing a 24 pounder at Cobble Hill, after which a 13 inch shell was thrown from Letchmere's Point, and immediately after a 13 inch shell from Lamb's Dam; they were all aimed at the town of Boston, and pursued their direction extremely well. I stayed there until near 2 o'clock, during which time a number of shots and shells were hove into that poor devoted town, and ten for one returned from them to us. This serenade was kept up until day light, and then ceased. Just as I came off from the fort, and had advanced 50 or 60 yards towards the bridge, came over the fort from town, four shells and six shot, which burst and fell around us like a shower of hail; it was in vain to attempt to dodge the shot; the shells we could see and evade, but they came so fast, that while we were dodging from one, we ran in the way of another, but happily we got safe off, and unhurt any of the party. The day before we had placed a 13 inch and a 10 inch mortar in Letchmere's Point; a 13 inch and a 10 inch mortar in Lamb's Dam, and the 13 inch brass mortar was also intended for Cobble Hill that night, but the excessive hardness of the frost rendered it impossible for the men to prepare her bed. Before the morning the 13 inch and 10 inch mortars on Letchmere's Point, and the 10 inch in Lamb's Dam all burst, but hurt no one but Col. Mason of the train, who had his leg bruised by the bursting of the 10 inch mortar at Lamb's Dam, where he was chief engineer for the night. The intent of this night's cannonade and bombardment, was to keep up the enemy, fatigue and harass them. On Sunday the 13 inch brass mortar was got to her place in Cobble Hill, and at 9 o'clock the cannonade and bombardment was resumed on our part, and returned as vigor-

ously by the enemy ; but unfortunately at 12 o'clock, with the third charge, this mortar also burst. The two first shells from her, fell short of the town ; the engineer, Col. Berbank, at the third discharge, increased the charge of powder, and the shell went full into the town, but the britch of the mortar gave way. Col. Gridley said when he first saw her, and ever repeated it, even when she was going from the artillery park, that she was too slim in that part and would burst ; it proved so,—but she has gone to Abington to be re-cast. I rather fancy that had she been bedded in sand, we should not have lost her, but our engineers are book men, and they don't speak sand. The cannonade and bombardment were continued all night till morning, as the night before.

On Monday the proper dispositions were all made for taking post on the heights of Dorchester Point ; going upon Noddle's Island was before overruled in council, as not best. Three hundred teams, consisting of those belonging to the camp and the neighboring towns, were collected, and loaded with the necessary articles for the business, and about 2,500 men paraded, and the whole marched on upon the Neck, at dark, under the command of Gen. Thomas, who has conducted the matters with great wisdom and discretion. All concerned have acquitted themselves with great alacrity and honor. Every thing went on well, and they got themselves well covered before morning ; indeed I believe there never was so much work done in so short a time, and so well as that night. As soon as the party moved forward, a signal was given, and a very cannonade and bombardment began on the town, and was returned as warmly from the town, which continued the whole night incessantly. Near 300 shot and shells were thrown into the town, and they returned four or five for one. We by this means drew off their attention from Dorchester, and they vented their whole spleen by endeavoring to throw shells into Cambridge ; but they could not reach the colleges by near a mile ; this served our purpose, and the morning being a little hazy, we imagine they never discovered our post on Dorchester till near 8 o'clock in the morning. We fired the last gun in the morning, and there was a profound silence with the enemy, until about 11 o'clock in the morning ; the haze going off, they discovered our people heaving up a strong redoubt at the foot of the great hill, on a little eminence at the end of the causeway ; upon which they began to cannonade them from their battery of 32 pounders on the Neck, but did not molest or disturb them at all—they kept on their works. At 1 o'clock I was at Roxbury ; it seemed as if it had been raining men for some time. The general had ordered over two regiments from Cambridge, and had called in five regiments of minute men, and as many more almost, had come in volunteers, well armed and ready to take part in the conflict. To the honor of the militia in the neighborhood, it was said, they have behaved nobly on the occasion ; and I can't but say here also, that when those who had teams in the neighborhood were called on for their assistance, not the least excuse was made, but one and all with one voice, said, *yes ! I am ready—I will go with my team ;* and many more came to assist than were called on, or than could be made use of. The tide served, at 12 o'clock, for the enemy to have sallied, which was fully expected, but we were wholly disappointed ; had they made a determined and vigorous attack on Dorchester Point, our floating battery, and boats of all kinds sufficient to carry 4,500 men, were all ready, field artillery, &c. &c., prepared ; and Gen. Putnam, with two brigadiers, and the number of men above mentioned, were to have gone into Boston from this place, and landed on the common, back of the

town; but their sitting still, and looking on our people at work on Dorchester, and not attempting to go out of their den, has defeated this part of our plan at present. In the afternoon, the enemy have been busied in getting their effects, &c., on ship board; and it yet remains with us uncertain, whether they will run away and leave us setting fire to Boston to light them; or whether they will first come out, and attempt to flog us before they go; and if they fail in their attempt, then go on board ship and go off; or whether they will push off their most valuable effects, women, children, &c. &c., and keep the den as long as they can, in hope of reinforcement.

Monday night we had a mulatto man, of Col. Sargeant's regiment, killed at Letchmere's Point, by the bursting of a shell which fell into the fort; and at Roxbury, a Lieut. Major of the militia of that town, at 4 o'clock in the morning, parading his men to go to Dorchester Point, had his thigh shot away near his body, of which wound he died before sun rise. These are all the men we have had killed; and Col. Mason, and two or three more, are slightly wounded, no one badly; nor have they hurt any of our works, &c. Many of our shots and shells went fully into the town, and made a most horrid crashing, but what damage has been done we know not. We are in hourly expectation of some deserter, or some of the town's people making their escape to give us intelligence; but hitherto we know nothing. Last night we had no cannonade or bombardment; our design was answered in getting post on Dorchester, and they never began or continued, after we desisted; but in the night, came on a most violent storm of wind at the south, which has blown down some, and unroofed other houses, and we conceive must have done great injury to the enemy's ships and boats. Last evening a ship and two brigs put off from Boston, full of troops, we supposed, to be landed on the back of Dorchester, but they are said this morning to be on shore, on Governor's Island, opposite the castle. The signal for an alarm is out at Roxbury, and I must stop. Thursday evening the alarm proved nothing; every thing remains quiet, and our works go on well; by Saturday night we shall take possession of Nook Point, next Boston, from thence our small mortars, howitzers, and cohorts will reach the town and the ships, which will try their metal and determine their intentions, which I begin to suspect is to remain as quiet as possible, till their reinforcements arrive. We have no intelligence from town yet.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL.

To Gov. Trumbull.

MARCH 10th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,—I received the foregoing per post, last evening, near 9 o'clock; have hurried over a copy for your information.

Yours, &c.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

Sherman, Wolcott, and Huntington, Esq'rs.

GOVERNOR BROWN TAKEN PRISONER.

APRIL, 1776.

Montfort Brown, Esq., Governor of New Providence, was taken a prisoner, and sent to this State, to the Governor and Council of Safety, by Admiral Hopkins. He came in charge of Collector Stewart, on the 17th day of April, 1776.

The Governor of Connecticut enquired of Mr. Stewart, whether Gov. Brown was considered a prisoner; if so, what was his crime? Admiral Hopkins' letter was shewn him, and Mr. Stewart informed him that it was his duty to hold Gov. Brown in the same character the commander-in-chief of the continental fleet delivered him, and could not recede from it. And desired Gov. Brown to sign a parole prepared for him, with an assurance of kind treatment according to his rank. He declined signing it, as he considered it dishonorable; but gave his honor as a Governor and a gentleman, to abide at Windham, and abide directions, until orders should be received from Congress. Gov. Brown mentioned his bodily indisposition; his baggage being at New London, he returned there, and agreed on his parole to return to Windham, on Wednesday or Thursday of the next week.

MAY 26, 1776.

The selectmen of Ridgefield, in their petition, dated May 26, A. D. 1776, to the General Assembly, stated that the British in their incursion, and on their retreat from Danbury, passed through Ridgefield, and in so passing burned the grist mill and saw mill of Isaac Keeler; also burned six dwelling houses and two barns, and killed and carried off a number of horses, sheep, and cattle. That the enemy took up their quarters there over night, when they plundered the inhabitants of nearly all their provisions, and a large share of their clothing, by which many were reduced to poverty, and the town unable to relieve all the sufferers; therefore prayed the Assembly to grant them relief. Upon which a committee was appointed; and an order given the pay table on the Treasurer in favor of the selectmen, for the sum of £250, to be used for the immediate relief of such persons as could not subsist without such relief.

JUNE, 1776.

In June, 1776, ninety-eight persons of the town of Goshen, signed a memorial to the General Assembly of this colony; in which they stated that many of their inhabitants had enlisted in the continental army at the north; that many of them had the small pox, and were in necessitous circumstances for clothing, &c., and had applied to their friends and parents for aid, but as the inhabitants of Goshen had not had the disorder, they feared to go to their relief; and a number of men were then called for, to be raised for defence, the enlisting of which was impeded by the fear of taking said disease. That the people of Goshen were much exposed by the return of soldiers from the north; that it was then spreading on the road from Canada to Goshen. Also stated that a place in said Goshen had been selected, one mile from any road, convenient for a pest house; and asked liberty of said Assembly, for the privilege of inoculating, without regard to the laws on said subject, under such rules as said Assembly should prescribe. Which petition was negated by both Houses.

On the 19th of June, 1776, a company of householders were formed, in the town of Sharon, and furnished themselves with warlike accoutrements, chose their officers, viz.: Caleb Tait, captain; Robert Stedman, lieutenant, and Joseph Lord, ensign, and reported themselves according to the law of the colony.

July 4th, 1776. A similar company was formed in the town of Waterbury, and Jotham Curtis was chosen captain; Timothy Pond, lieutenant, and Samuel Scovil, ensign.

RESOLUTIONS INSTRUCTING THE DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

JUNE, 1776.

In June, 1776, the General Assembly of this colony, passed resolutions to instruct the delegates of this colony, in Congress, to propose to Congress to declare the United Colonies free and independent States, absolved from all allegiance to the King of Great Britain; and to give the assent of this colony to such declaration, when they should think expedient; and to what measures they should think proper and necessary by Congress for forming foreign alliances, or plan of operation for mutual defence. To move and promote as speedy as convenient, a regular and permanent plan of union and confederation of the colonies for the security and preservation of their just rights and liberties, and for mutual defence and security. Saving that the administration of Government, and the power of forming Governments for, and the regulation of the internal concerns and police of each colony, ought to be left and remain to the Colonial Legislatures; and that such plan of confederation should be laid before such respective Legislatures for their previous consideration and assent.

JULY, 1776.

Jedediah Elderkin, as chairman of a committee, reported to the General Assembly, that the inhabitants of the town of Saybrook, should be permitted to build a small battery for six carriage guns, at some convenient place in said town. That 20 men should be taken from the regiments then ordered raised for the defence of New London, &c., to join said inhabitants in erecting said battery, and defending the same, for such time as the commanding officer of said regiment should direct; and that three guns then there should be mounted on carriages, and three more provided; and a sufficient quantity of powder and balls be provided for said guns, at the expense of the public.

LETTER FROM GOV. TRUMBULL TO WILLIAM WILLIAMS, ESQ.,
GIVING A STATEMENT OF THE ARMY IN CANADA.

LEBANON, July 26, 1776.

DEAR SIR,—I intend to give you the state of our army from Canada. Enclosed is a copy of Maj. Ely's report, on the subject of the small pox, with which he was charged. From others, with some things I learn from him, I think it apparent that our troops went most imprudently into inoculation near Quebec; and when the enemy came out upon them, our army fled when there was little force to pursue; that discontent, disorder, and confusion had taken place—clamor for want of supplies of clothing, provisions, and wages—and by degrees discipline and subordination failed; every thing was neglected that tended to a reform. When Gen. Burgoyne, with the troops under him arrived, a general dispiritedness appeared; the force at the Cedars was very inconsiderable, not more than 37 regulars, with 200 or 300 Indians; that the latter were loath to go, and mostly tarried at Oswagatchi. Had our men behaved well, that defeat would not have happened; this was occasioned by the same causes that are just before mentioned. Why they were in such manner neglected, and left without supplies and without their wages, is matter of wonder and astonishment; and last spring there were ten battalions, amounting to about 6,400 men sent from New York to join this army. There were at the same time, in Canada, two battalions of Pennsylvanians, three from New England, one or two from

Jersey; all of them strong, amounting at least to 4,000 men more, which, joined with the others, made the army upwards of 10,000 strong. There are now 3,000 sick, and about 3,000 well; this leaves near 5,000 to be accounted for; of them, the enemy have cast perhaps 1,000—sickness another 1,000—which leaves near 3,000; in what manner they are disposed of, is unknown. Among those who remain, there is neither order, subordination, or harmony; the officers as well as men, of one colony, insulting and quarrelling with those of another.

This wretched situation of our troops, induced the general officers in a council of war, to determine on a retreat to Ticonderoga, and conclude on occupying a post on the east side of the lakes, very advantageous; it is a height opposite the old works, which commands the entrance of the lakes Champlain and George; it is almost inaccessible, except in two places, where they propose roads; the rest is surrounded by rocks and precipices. Supplies may be easily had from Skeensborough, at the head of lake Champlain; from hence they expect easily to retire into the country—this, without a naval superiority on the lakes, they will be obliged to do, notwithstanding the strength of their camp, unless very soon joined by 6,000 or 8,000 men. How they will maintain their naval superiority, I must confess myself much at a loss. They build a gondola, perhaps one in a week; but where are they to find rigging for them—where the guns? To be sure they have a great train of artillery, but very few of them mounted on carriages; at present their materials and conveniencies for making them are very slender. They have neither places fit for them to work in, nor materials in that plenty, they ought to have. To oppose the enemy on the lake, they have a schooner of 12 carriage guns, a sloop of 8 guns, two small schooners to carry 4 or 6 each, and three gondolas, and the large schooner is now in good sailing order, and about to take a trip down the lake, to make discovery. The sloop is a most unmanageable thing; it is impossible to beat up against a head wind in her. The two small schooners are not armed—the gondolas are not armed—and even the carriages of their guns are yet to be made. The enemy are at St. John's, repairing the works at that place, and building three schooners and two sloops; they have no doubt every thing ready to their hands, the rigging made, the guns mounted, and only the wooden work to perform, in which I fear they will have the advantage.

Gen. Sullivan set off to New York and Philadelphia, in disgust at being superseded by Gen. Gates; the latter was ordered to command in Canada; the army from thence being retreated within the limits of New York, the command devolves on Gen. Schuyler. It is justly to be expected that Gen. Gates is discontented with his situation; finding himself limited, and removed from the command, to be a wretched spectator of the ruin of the army, without power of attempting to save them. A truly melancholy scene. Gen. Schuyler has gone to German Flats; writes me July 17th, "I arrived here yesterday, and found very few Indians. This day 150 Indians have come in, and we expect a numerous body of them in a few days. Mr. Rychman, a trader from Albany, who has been detained at Niagara, by the British officer commanding there since last year, because he was a friend to our cause, and had influence among the savages, has found means, by the help of the Indians, to make his escape. I arrived here last night, accompanied by 21 warriors, of the Seneca Nation. The account he brings of the temper of the Senecas, (the nation who could distress

us most,) is very favorable; and he assures me, that he has reason to believe the Indians will not attack our frontiers."

You are sensible the extreme busy season retards the filling our regiment going to New York; and to this is added the dread of the small pox to those enlisting to go into service in the northern army. Now as business will soon admit men to leave it, without so much loss, and the fear of that infection prevailing in the northern army is relieved in so great a measure, I hope the battalions from this State will all be filled, and march to their several destinations. Nothing in our power will be omitted to promote it. My fears for the northern army and frontiers are great, besides what is mentioned above, and Maj. Ely's report. A reform is absolutely necessary; the soldiers are ragged, dirty, and many lousy; clothing greatly wanted—some destitute of sufficiency to make themselves comfortable and decent to appear; to remedy this, shall send from hence, shirts, trowsers, breeches, shoes, stockings, and some woolen cloths, as soon as possible. Subordination and harmony is next to be restored; to do this, the officer that effects it, will meet with great trouble; and when done, will expect to reap the honors of it. To prevent uneasiness and jealousies between the generals who were to have had the command in Canada, and in New York, why is it not best, and even just, each command the same body of men as expected, without respect to the plan; where Gen. Schuyler will have full employment at Albany, and below on the river, and at Tryon county, &c., while Gen. Gates commands the same army at Ticoderoga, &c., [which it was expected he would have had in Canada. The good of the general service is the great object. Doth not a regard to what will keep up harmony, and prevent jealousies, come within it?

Capt. Winslow, and his party of ship carpenters are arrived, and gone to work. Capt. Lester's going by water, did not get to New York until the river was invested with the ships, and they were obliged to take to the land. The 1,000 felling axes, requested by Gen. Schuyler, are provided, and will be sent forward on Monday. Your kinsman is come to preach to us. Your family is well. Mr. Gerry keeps Sabbath here. Mr. Jay came here Friday for the loan of cannon to use on the North river. The twenty 9 pound cannon for the ships are ready for use, boared and drilled; and we have lent him ten 12 and ten 6 pounders. Mssrs. Hobart and John Broom were here yesterday, a committee from the New York Convention, to ask our assistance. They found we had made provisions, that six western regiments, next towards New York, might be called on by Gen. Washington, if needed; this was one chief thing they had to ask. It is time to break off. This letter may be communicated, as you think fit—with my compliments to the other delegates, &c.

With esteem and regard, dear Sir,

Your affectionate

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

P. S. By Friday's post, received Lord How's letter of the 20th of June, ult. and his declaration of pardons to all those who, in the tumult and disorder of the times, may have deviated from their just allegiance, and who are willing, by speedy return to their duty, to reap the benefits of the royal favor; that pardons shall be granted, dutiful representation received, and every suitable encouragement given for promoting such measures, as shall be conducive as to the establishing legal government and peace, in pursuance of His Majesty's most gracious purposes. In his letter he says, "I have judged it expedient to issue the enclosed

declaration, in order that all persons may have immediate information of His Majesty's gracious intentions." He desires me to promulgate it, assured of being favored with my assistance in every measure to restore the public tranquillity; and requests such information as will facilitate the attainment of that important object. I shall by next post forward copies of both to Congress; to them I shall refer him. Who began the war? Who withdrew his protection? Who refused to hearken to most dutiful and humble petitions? Who invaded our rights? Is not the appeal made to the Supreme Director of all events? Will not the Judge of all the earth do right? Doth not pardon pre-suppose guilt? Are we guilty of want of duty and allegiance? Could any thing but tyranny, oppression, injustice, cruel war and desolation, have driven us to cast off our mother country?

William Williams, Esq.

AUGUST, 1776.

By a petition of Ebenezer Rogers, Judah Howd, Stephen Todd, Isaac Ingram, Jr., Samuel Monson, Jr., Simeon Johnson, Joseph Rogers, Robert Pierpont, John Fowler, Jr., and Joseph Brockway, Jr., of Branford, it appears that on the 12th day of August, 1776, they marched for New York in Capt. Baldwin's company, under Col. Fitch, and there discharged their duty until the forepart of September, when they were taken sick with the dysentery and fevers, and were unable to do duty; yet remained in New York until the 14th of September, when general orders were given for all the sick to be removed off the island of New York; and at their own expense, carriages were provided, and carried them as far as Rye, where they remained several days, without a supply of necessaries, and nearly without shelter, and in a feeble state of health. They hoped that some place would be provided for them; unable to travel far, their money nearly expended, when they supposed they must perish without relief; though providentially an opportunity offered for them to go to Branford by water, and they embarked on the 22d day of said September, only three days before their regiment was discharged; by which misfortunes, they were returned as deserters, and therefore received no pay or wages, &c.; and prayed the Assembly to pay their wages while absent, and the expense of their sickness. (Which petition was negatived.)

AUGUST 1776.

The following men were returned as dead and deserted soldiers, on board the brig Defence, under Capt. Harding, in 1776, viz.: James Young, George Gee, John Howard, Richard Fry, Jared Ervin, Peter Thorp, Edward Ingraham, John Brown, Solomon Brown, Joseph Thomas, John Basson, James Maden, and William Harrison. £72:9:7 was paid to deserters and deceased.

AUGUST, 1776.

Gov. Trumbull, on the 12th day of August, 1776, issued an order to John McCall, of Norwich, captain of the company of Veteran Guards in the 20th regiment of militia, in this State, in which he stated that he had received a pressing requisition from Gen. Washington, for a reinforcement of the army under his command in New York, to be taken from the militia as soon as possible; and directed him forthwith, to convene his company, and as many others as would enlist, to the number of 93 with the officers; and march them immediately, in the most convenient way, by land or water, to the city of New York, and there join the 19th regiment of Connecticut militia, under the command of Gen. Washington.

SEPTEMBER, 1776.

By a letter from Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., to Gov. Trumbull, dated September 7, 1776, it appears that after the Council had left New London, the committee had sent a number of vessels to Long Island, and had brought away as many people as wished to come, and all the stock that was offered them to transport to Connecticut; and that on the 8th of September, several more vessels would return to the island for the same purpose. But Mr. Shaw doubted whether any more stock would be sent, as the people there appeared to be determined to remain, and submit on as good terms as they could get.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1776.

By a letter dated Lebanon, September 1, 1776, from the Governor, to Mr. N. Shaw, Jr., the following orders were given,—as necessity required the sending of a number of troops from New London to the east end of Long Island, the Governor directed Mr. Shaw to procure necessary transports to carry over to the island, Col. E. Wolcott's regiment of men, with their baggage, six field pieces from New London, with a sufficient quantity of powder and balls. Capt. Deshon was directed to forward a sufficient quantity of provisions for said forces; and to so co-operate with him as to have the provisions sent with the troops. Informing Mr. Shaw that Mr. Andrew Huntington, of Norwich, had engaged of Capt. J. Perkins, one suitable vessel for said service, as a transport, or to convey stores; and that other vessels could be obtained at Norwich, if needed, as he thought it quite likely a further number would soon be wanted.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1776.

Mr. Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., by letter, dated September 12, 1776 to the Governor, informed him that his bomb brig was cleaned, rigged, and ready to receive guns on board, and capable of carrying twelve 4 pounders, with a good suit of sails; which he offered for the use of the State, if the Governor wished to purchase it. Mr. Shaw offered to receive the old brig in part payment.

SEPTEMBER, 20, 1776.

Gov. Trumbull, in a letter, dated September 20, 1776, to Mr. N. Shaw, Jr., directed Mr. Shaw, as Col. Lippett's regiment of continental troops, raised by Rhode Island, was at New London, on their march to join the army, and in want of provisions, that he was of the opinion that Mr. Shaw might supply them out of the continental stores in his custody, with such quantity as should be necessary, and give seasonable notice of it to the commissary general. Also, that he expected Col. Richmond would march soon, and that Mr. Shaw would be expected to provide for his regiment.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1776.

Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., informed the Governor, by a letter, dated New London, September 27, 1776, that the island of New Providence was so situated for trade, that Capt. Walker was quite certain it would be of great advantage to the United States to have supplies from that quarter, though the person who then acted as principal in the custom house, made all the difficulty in his power, in clearing out the vessels for Halifax. But he was only acting deputy to Mr. Babbage, who was a prisoner at Middletown, and who was brought into this

State by Commodore Hopkins. Capt. Walker was of opinion that if Mr. Babbage could be suffered to return on his parole, he would be of infinite service to the trade of that island, in pursuing the trade with the State. Commodore Hopkins had uniformly given Mr. Babbage a good character.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1776.

William Livingston, Esq., Governor of New Jersey, informed the Governor of Connecticut, by letter, dated September 19, 1776, that Mr. Franklin, (then late Governor of New Jersey,) had possessed himself of a chest, which contained minutes of the Council of said State, examinations in the Council, and other papers of consequence to that State, as was supposed, a few days previous to his apprehension, for the purpose of secreting them, which they had not been able, by the most diligent search to recover. The Governor of New Jersey, therefore, (as Gov. Franklin was a prisoner in Connecticut,) wished the State authorities of Connecticut to interpose, and cause the said Franklin, and his servant Thomas, who was suspected of being privy to said concealment, to be examined on oath, relative to said matter; the said Thomas to be first examined, and before he should have an opportunity to consult with his master. The General Assembly appointed Matthew Talcott, Esq., to examine said Thomas under oath; also to examine Gov. Franklin on oath, as to the concealment, removal, and detention of said papers.

NORWALK MEMORIAL.

OCTOBER 25, 1776.

The committee of inspection, the selectmen, and justices of the peace, of the town of Norwalk, presented their memorial to the General Assembly, in which they stated, that on the 24th of said October, they had taken into their custody a number of their inhabitants, as Tories, and were apprehending others constantly; and prayed they should be tried, and have a day in court to defend; though the populace entirely disapproved of such a procedure, because the law would only disarm them, which would not prevent plotting and planning, in a secret manner, their ruin, and by being permitted then to go at large, would have the better opportunity to plot their destruction. The memorialists were convinced, from the danger apprehended, they would not suffer the Tories to go at large, but would hold them in custody, and not suffer them to be tried by the authority, &c.; therefore that the town stood in the greatest need of the speedy interposition of the General Assembly that justice should be done; and prayed for a disinterested committee to be immediately sent to Norwalk, at the expense of those they should judge just and right, with full powers in the premises.

The same memorialists were informed that the major of the 9th regiment had received orders to march the military companies and effective men of Norwalk to Horse Neck, and there to rendezvous until farther orders; and that the inhabitants unanimously deemed themselves in a very dangerous situation, and expected momentarily to be attacked by the enemy and plundered; that if said order should be effected, they considered themselves stripped of all defence, without a single person left to watch and ward, or make any opposition in case of an attack, while their interest and families would be left to the merciless ravages of a blood-thirsty, cruel, and barbarous enemy, and a large number of Tories; that their inhabitants were much alarmed and very unwilling to leave

their homes ; and prayed that their militia might be stationed at Norwalk, which would satisfy their inhabitants far better than to be sent to Horse Neck ; and that it would be quite impossible, if any other regiments should be ordered to Norwalk, to billet them in the town, as all the previous vacant houses were occupied by 400 or 500 sick soldiers, and if their own militia remained in the town it would save the expense of camp utensils and quartering, and prayed for relief.

A PETITION FROM NEW HAVEN TO THE GOVERNOR, &c.

OCTOBER, 1776.

It stated, That the memorialists, from their maritime situation, are more exposed to the destructive measures of our internal enemies, than their brethren who live more remote from the sea coast ; as the conveyance of intelligence to the British army, who are now in possession of the whole of Long Island, is liable to less interruption, than if there was a tract of inhabited country to travel through, before the camps of our enemies could be entered. These circumstances, added to a full persuasion and belief that there are persons, now residents in this town, who at least would rejoice at the loss of our liberties, and we fear, contribute their mite to the obtaining that end, induce us to approach your Honors on the present occasion. We should esteem ourselves very unfortunate, should we, in our zeal for the preservation of our liberties, entertain jealousies of any that are really friends to our country ; but if an early disapprobation of Congressional measures ; frequent assertions that we should certainly be overcome ; that it was in vain to enter the lists against so potent a power as Great Britain, invariably treating, with singular marks of approbation the professed enemies of American liberty ; in short, if an uniformity of conduct, the completion of which bears striking marks of their suspected character, will justify suspicion, we flatter ourselves we shall stand acquitted by your Honors of the imputation of feigning our fears.

Your Honors will permit us to point out the persons we have particularly in view : Abiather Camp, James Curgenvin, William Glen, Edward Carrington, Ambrose Ward, and Ralph Isaacs are the men we have in our eye ; besides particular acts and expressions of these men, which will admit of no construction but what pronounces them unfriendly to the general cause ; they have by the whole tenor of their conduct, evinced to us most clearly the same point.— We therefore consider their residence among us to be dangerous to our safety. We are every night exposed to be destroyed by our open enemies ; we live on their borders, separated only by a few miles of water, the absolute command of which is in their hands ; our internal enemies intimately acquainted with our harbors, and our defenceless situation can introduce them into our houses ; can involve us, our property, our wives, and our little ones in ruin, before we apprehend their approach. The great law of self-preservation, therefore, calls upon us to leave no avenue unguarded—no measure that will procure our safety unessayed. As the laws of this State have not provided a remedy adequate to the evil, we are under the necessity of applying to your Honors, for your interposition in our behalf ; praying that your Honors would order and decree, that the aforementioned persons be removed to some interior part of the country ; or that your Honors would in some other way make provisions for our security. This mode

of procedure, we conceive, is not unprecedented among civilized nations; and, if we are rightly informed, was very recently adopted by a neighboring State, with regard to persons whose conduct had not afforded more grounds for jealousy than the conduct of those persons we have pointed out to your Honors. And your memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

New Haven, September 17, 1776.

(Signed)

Lamberton Smith, James Gilbert, Thomas Wilmott, Allen Mather, Jonathan Osborne, John Scott, Josiah Burr, Ather Jervis, Abel Burritt, Michael Todd, Nathaniel Fitch, Samuel Munson, Edward Meloy, David Gilbert, Silas Merri- man, Jonathan Edwards, Amos Gilbert, Samuel Horton, Zephaniah Hatch, Ezekiel Hotchkiss, William Scott, John Alling, David Osborne, John Mire, Jeremiah Parmalee, Jr., Ebenezer Lines, Caleb Hotchkiss, Hezekiah Parmalee, Stephen Bradley, Pierpont Edwards, John Wise, Samuel Wilmott, Eliphalet Brush, William Doak, Samuel Huggins, David Dongal, Joseph Peck, Fitch Allin, Joel Gilbert, Joseph Hull, Timothy Bradley, Henry Daggett, Samuel Clark, Hezekiah Sabin, Jr., Elias Beers, Caleb Ford, Robert Townsend, Isaac Doolittle, Silas Kimberly, Ebenezer Townsend, Jacob Daggett, Benjamin Dorchester, Benjamin Brown, John Sherman, Jr., Isaac Bishop, Stephen Her- rick, Jacob Pinto, Abraham Pinto, Jonathan Austin, Isnac Jones, Major Lines, I. Cosens Ogden, John Lathrop, Stephen Hotchkiss, John Benham, Asa Hotchkiss, John Pierpont, Philip Binford, Phineas Bradley, Paul Noyce, Ste- phen Peck, Jonathan Bridgen, Nathan Beers, Giles Mansfield, John Storrs, Jr., James Prescott, Samuel Thacher, Israel Munson, William Punderson, Gold Sherman, Samuel Squire, Isaac Gorham, Benjamin Woodin, Isaac Sears, Sam- uel Green, Tuley Blakslee, Ezekiel Eays, David Beecher, Job Potter, Samuel Clark, Jonathan Brown, Joseph Mix, Stephen Sanford, Jr., Jonathan Mire, Stephen Pardee, Samuel Griswold, Enoch Moulthrop, Aaron Gilbert, John Hotchkiss, Nathan Dummer, John Denison, Joseph Smith.

A true copy, as on file,

Attest,

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, Clerk.

At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety, September 27, 1776.— Upon the memorial of Isaac Doolittle and others, inhabitants of the town of New Haven, setting forth the fears and apprehensions they are under on account of sundry persons suspected of being inimical to the liberties of America; pray- ing this Board to take the matter up, and order and decree such suspected per- sons to be removed, &c., as per memorial, dated September 17, 1776:

Voted, That the consideration of said memorial, and the matters therein con- tained, be referred to the Hon. General Assembly, to be holden at New Haven, on the second Thursday of October next; and that in the mean time a citation go forth thereon, to cite said suspected persons therein complained of, to appear before said Assembly, to make answer thereto; and that the civil authority, selectmen, and committee of inspection for said town, be directed to make en- quiry, and collect the evidence relating thereto, and lay the same before said Assembly, that justice may be done thereon.

A true copy of record,

Attest,

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, Clerk.

On the final trial Ralph Isaacs and Abiather Camp were found guilty.

STONINGTON MEMORIAL.

OCTOBER 11, 1776.

To the Honorable the General Assembly, now sitting at New Haven :

The memorial of the committee of correspondence and inspection of the town of Stonington, and sundry of the inhabitants of said town, most humbly sheweth—That whereas your Honors thought fit in your last session, in May, to grant for the defence and protection of this place, a captain and 90 men; since which one-half have been ordered to New London. Your Honors may remember, that this town is the only one in this State, that has received any damage from those sons of tyranny and despotism, sent by that more than savage tyrant, George the Third, to deprive us of those unalienable rights that the Supreme Governor of Heaven and Earth has invested us with.

Your memorialists therefore pray that the number of men ordered and destined as above, may still be continued; and that the two 18 pounders and four 12 pounders, and shot, &c., that were ordered in your former session for this place, may be delivered as soon as possible; as the harbor is perhaps more used by coasters, and vessels bound to sea, than any harbor in this State; and is a place of great consequence, not only to this, but other States. We therefore beg leave to inform your Honors, that several vessels have lately been chased into this harbor by the King's ships, and have here been protected.

Your memorialists further pray, that the three large cannon, (now at New London) belonging to this town, be likewise ordered to this place; and the two field pieces that were lent by this town to the town of New London, be ordered back to the town of Stonington. We therefore flatter ourselves that this our most reasonable request will be granted. And your memorialists, as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Stonington, October 11th, 1776.

(Signed)

Nathaniel Minor, Paul Wheeler, John Brow, Jr., John Denison, Henry Babcock, Simon Rhodes, Committee.

Joseph Denison, Alexander Bradford, Robert Stanton, Nathan Palmer, Nathaniel Palmer, Nathan Palmer, Jr., John Daviss, Andrew Palmer, Michael Ash, Lemuel Dewey, John Rathbun, John Rathbun, Jr., Peleg Brown, Elisha Denison, Asa Palmer, Edward Hancox, Jr., Oliver Hilliard, John Dodge, Peter Crary, Clement Moor, Naboth Chesebrough, John Minor, 2d, John Newmon, Andrew Brown, Elkanah Cobb, Samuel Salterlee, Sands Niles, Thomas Robinson, John Denison, 5th, Elijah Utley, James Tripp, Edward Ells, Zebulon Chesebrough, John Hancox, Samuel Chesebrough, Moses Brumley, Jonathan Gray, William Stak, Henry Burtich, William Chesebrough, James Palmer, Nathaniel Crandall, Jared Crandall, Rufus Palmer, Elijah Palmer, Thomas Stanton, 4th, Asa Lewis, Nathan Hinckley, Elijah Hinckley, John Rock, James Noyes, Jr., Edward Crosby, Wiatt Hinckley, Elihu Babcock, George Batolph, Abel Hinckley, James Noyes, Peleg Noyes, John Randall, Eliphalet Budington, James Cornish, John Breed, Jr., Isaac Brown, Fish Brown, Hempsted Minor, Thomas Randall, John Denison, Joseph Champlin, Walter Palmer, Jedediah Thompson, Thomas Palmer, David Thompson, Charles Thompson, William Thompson, Joseph Vincent, Nathaniel Fanning, Thomas Leeds, Phineas Stanton, Jr., Stephen Babcock, Joseph Page, Gilbert Fanning, Daniel Hobart, John Cotton Rossiter, Eliphalet Hobart, James Hancox, John Hailey, Peleg Chese-

brough, Nathaniel Fellows, Nathaniel Fellows, Jr., Simeon Hiscox, Thomas Hiscox, Israel Lewis, Sylvester Pondleton, Akors Sheffield, William Palmer, Eliphalet Budington, Jr., Charles Welch, Job Taylor, William Scovill.

Rejected in both Houses.

Attest,
Test,

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, Clerk.
GEORGE WYLLYS, Secretary.

GROTON MEMORIAL.

OCTOBER, 1776.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be held at New Haven, on the second Thursday of October, A. D. 1776.

We, your Honors' petitioners, being often alarmed by the appearance of more or less of the King of Great Britain's ships coming near the harbor of New London, and do not know how soon they will come into our harbor, or land a number of troops, and ravage the country near it. And as your Honors are fully acquainted with the sea coast near this harbor, being very much stripped of men, both for the army and navy. For which reasons we, your Honors' petitioners, beg leave to entreat of your Honors to give the necessary orders for the 1st company of militia belonging to this town, to return home; that both their and our wives and children may be partly relieved from the very great anxiety they are now in; and your humble petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

Groton, October 11th, 1776.

(Signed)

John Williams, Ezekiel Bailey, Luke Perkins, Vine Starr, Richard Starr, Nathan Forsith, James Starr, Jasper Latham, Walter Budington, Ebenezer Ledyard, Edward Jeffrey, James Street, William Ledyard, Ebenezer Avery, 3d, Elnathan Perkins, Joseph Latham, Jonathan Latham, Christopher Latham, Ebenezer Avery, Elisha Brown, Thomas Lester, Benjamin Bill, Samuel Lester, Nicholas Starr, William Wood, Daniel Latham, Thomas Chester, David Avery, James Avery.

PETITION OF JAMES WILSON.

NEW HAVEN, October 16, 1776.

James Wilson, a native of Boston, in Massachusetts, represented by his memorial to the General Assembly of this State, that he was boatswain on board the brig Betsey, Robert Knowel, master, commissioned by Congress to cruise against the enemies of the United States, and sailed in said brig from Newburyport, on the 26th of September, 1775, and took two vessels owned by the subjects of the King of Great Britain, and arrived in the French West Indies, and there loaded said brig with ammunition for the United States; but on their return they fell in with the Kingfisher man-of-war, a ship of force acting against the United States, when an obstinate engagement of 22 hours ensued, in which said Wilson was shot through each leg with musket balls, and wounded by small shot in one of his arms, which disabled him; and being at mast-head when shot in his legs, he fell from the same and broke all his ribs on the left side of his body. They soon after submitted to the Kingfisher's superior force, and were carried into Hampton Road, near Norfolk, in Virginia, and there landed, by the cruel order of Lord Dunmore, put on shore with the other wounded men,

without any of the necessaries of life, and in his disabled situation had arrived at New Haven on his way home; that he had lived on charity by begging, and prayed the Assembly to grant him a small sum of money to enable him to return home. The Legislature granted him £3 lawful money.

OCTOBER, 1776.

The committee appointed to consider the subject matter of a letter from Gen. Schuyler, of the 16th of October, 1776, reported, to request the Governor to issue a proclamation, to order and exhort the militia, and all other effective men in the State, to immediately equip and be in readiness to march upon the shortest notice.

On the subject of a letter of the 15th of October, 1776, they reported, that the 5th regiment of light horse, with the two northern companies in the 1st regiment, under Maj. Sheldon, should forthwith be ordered to march into the province of New York, at or near Fishkill, to be employed at such places as Gen. Washington should direct. The Governor to issue his proclamation accordingly.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST TORIES.

OCTOBER, 1776.

It was represented to the General Assembly, that there were a great number of persons in the western towns of Connecticut, who were inimical to the liberties of this and the other States, who were forming dangerous insurrections, and using every method in their power to give intelligence to the enemy, to comfort and assist them, and to distress the inhabitants of their towns, and produce anarchy and confusion among the people. Thomas Fitch, Andrew Adams, and Isaac Lee, Jr., Esq's., were appointed a committee to examine the facts, and report to the Assembly.

A similar complaint was made by the inhabitants of New Haven, of several tories in said town. Capt. Camp was proved to have been in company with Gov. Franklin, Gov. Brown, Babbage, Irwin, &c., who were tories. Mr. Isaacs had been frequently at Gov. Brown's quarters, and walked in the street with him, and seemed to be pleased to be in the company of tories. He declared that in the battle on Long Island, the King's troops suffered or sustained a small loss, and the continental troops a very great loss; and that the continental troops would not stand fire, but would give back, and the people would come in as they had done on Long Island. He requested Joseph King to carry some fine black fish to Gov. Brown, at Middletown; all which was proved on the trial of said Camp and Isaacs. The Assembly ordered them to be removed to the society of Eastbury, in Glastenbury, to remain within its limits, under the direction of the civil authority and selectmen, at their own cost, until further orders; to receive no letters, nor send any to any person, until examined by the civil authority or selectmen, &c. &c.

OCTOBER 17, 1776.

Caleb Baldwin, of Newtown, in Fairfield county, informed the General Assembly, that on or about the 23d day of November, 1775, there were a number of tories in said town, inimical to the United States; and that about 200 men, the friends of liberty, under the command of Lieut. Col. Ichabod Lewis, proceeded to Newtown, and remained there two days, in reducing and disarming said tories; all of whom, with their horses, were kept at the sole expense of said Baldwin, amounting to about £40 lawful money; and requested remuneration from the State.

COL. ETHAN ALLEN.

OCTOBER, 1776.

Letters had been sent from Col. Ethan Allen, while he was a prisoner in Halifax, to the General Assembly, in behalf of himself and his fellow prisoners, from this State, which represented their distressed situation, and asked for relief.

The Assembly appointed a committee to examine the subject matter of the letters, &c., who reported, that Col. Allen, with about 13 others, natives or inhabitants of this State, had been captured in the service of the United States, near Montreal, in the province of Quebec, on the 25th day of September, 1775, by a party of armed men of the King of Great Britain, and appeared to have suffered great hardships during their captivity; and were then confined, in a suffering condition, in the common gaol in Halifax.

They also reported that Levi Allen, of Salisbury, a brother of Col. Allen, was about attempting to visit his brother, in Halifax, and advised the Assembly to send by said Levi Allen, £60 lawful money to the prisoners, as part payment of their wages due from the State, for their relief. Also to request the Governor to write to Gen. Washington, or the Continental Congress, (or both,) and strongly recommend, and earnestly request such seasonable and friendly interposition as would be most likely to procure a speedy exchange of the prisoners.

The following persons were taken prisoners with Col. Allen, and were with him in Halifax gaol, viz. : Roger Moore, of Salisbury; Peter Noble, (made his escape to Cape Fear, in Carolina;) Levi Barnum, of Norfolk; Barnabas Cane, Preston Denton, John Gray, of Sharon; Zachariah Brinsmade, of Woodbury; William Drinkwater, of New Milford; Jonathan Mahee, of Goshen; Levi Munson, of Wallingford; Samuel Lewis, William Gray, David Goss, of Sharon; Amos Green, Jonathan James Burque, Ithureil Flowers, of Hartford; Charles Stewart, of Stamford; Ebenezer Mack, of Norfolk; and Adonijah Maxum, of Sharon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRISONERS OF WAR, &c.

OCTOBER, 1776.

At the October session of the General Assembly of this State, in the year 1776, a committee was appointed, of which Matthew Griswold, Esq. was chairman, to devise the best method to dispose of prisoners of war, and persons suspected of being Tories.

The committee reported, that all prisoners of war, who had been or should be sent to this State, should be kept together, at some suitable place or places within the State, so that the officers should not hold or have any intercourse or access with the non-commissioned officers or soldiers, or the inhabitants of the State; and be subject to the orders and regulations of the Governor and Council. That all such persons as were adjudged dangerous and removable, or were already removed as Tories, should be all sent to some suitable place within the State, and there kept at their own expense, under proper guards, and to converse with no person except in the presence of the officer or officers of the guard. That the Governor of this State should notify the General Assemblies or Conventions of the neighboring States, that they should engage for the support of all Tories they should send to this State to be secured, who were not able to support themselves. That the civil authority, selectmen, and committees of safety in the several towns in this State, should have power to confine within certain limits, or to remove all Tories within their respective towns, as they should, upon enquiry and examination, judge to be inimical to the States, at the expense of such

persons. And that the Governor and Council should determine the place of confinement of all tories as should be so removed, and give orders for their government and support, guard, &c., necessary for their proper security and good behavior.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BY LORD HOWE.

EAGLE, (off New York,) November 15, 1776.

Lieut. Barker is to repair in the pilot tender, with a flag of truce, to the port of New London, in Connecticut, having charge to negotiate on the part of Lord Howe, with the principle inhabitants, or persons of the greatest authority in that colony, an exchange of prisoners; officers for officers in each class, and sailors for sailors, according to the enclosed list of American prisoners now on board the fleet. Mr. William Howland is permitted to attend Lieut. Barker, in view to forward the proposed exchange by such means as his knowledge of the country, and principal inhabitants, shall suggest. Mr. Howland is permitted to land from the tender, being by his parole engaged to return with Lieut. Barker, to receive the benefit of the general exchange, if it take place; or otherwise to remain under the circumstances of restraint, from which he is temporarily released for the purpose before mentioned.

HOWE.

Lieut. Barker.

NOVEMBER 15, 1776.

We, your Honors' committee, appointed to consider of the application made by Lord Howe, for exchange of prisoners in the marine or naval department, now report it as our opinion, that such an application to this State, is altogether improper and inconsistent; and that the same ought to have been made to His Excellency General Washington in the first instance, with whom a negotiation of this sort, between him and Lord Howe, has already been proposed; and that his Honor the Governor, be desired to advise Gen. Washington of this singular application, and of the opinion of this Assembly thereon; and that he also signify to Lord Howe, or the commander of the flag, through whom the application was made, as he shall judge proper, the impropriety of said application to this State, assigning the pendency of the negotiation aforesaid.

Signed per order,

J. HUNTINGTON.

Lower House.

The above report is accepted and approved.

Attest,

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, Clerk.

NOVEMBER 22, 1776.

It appears by a letter, dated New London, November 22d, 1776, from Jedediah Elderkin and Nathaniel Wales, Jr., to Gov. Trumbull, that upon the 22d day aforesaid, about 1 o'clock, a small schooner with a flag appeared in New London harbor, which greatly surprised the citizens. She came within about one mile of fort Trumbull, lay too, and lowered sails, with her flag up. A whale boat was sent to her, with armed men, to go on board of her, and soon returned with Capt. Howland. Several gentlemen from Groton and New London, with Messrs. Elderkin and Wales, examined Capt. Howland; he informed them that on the 1st day of November, 1776, he sailed from Bedford, in Massa-

chusetts, for Surinam, loaded with horses, candles, &c., and was taken soon after he sailed and carried to New York, where himself and his men were put on board of a ship which had 140 prisoners on board; in one berth, between decks, on two-thirds allowance, where the prisoners were very sickly, and many of them died. And that he used his influence to procure the flag of truce to go to Connecticut, to endeavor to effect an exchange of prisoners; that he left New York the Monday previous, and that the news of taking fort Washington arrived in New York on the day before; and he saw the prisoners come in, about 3,700 men, and stated that the garrison surrendered at the moment the enemy were about to take it by storm. Capt. Howland had with him a copy of his parole.

Another boat went to the flag from the fort, and brought a letter for the Governor of Connecticut. Several gentlemen were sent on board directed to request Lieut. Barker for a copy of his instructions from Lord Howe, which he readily gave, and politely remarked that he was distressed that he was distressed for the prisoners, that they were in want of clothing and much interested for an exchange. Lieut. Barker had a list of all the prisoners, and offered to give a copy, but stated that he came for the prisoners in the naval department alone. They queried the lieutenant why application had not been made to Gen. Washington for the exchange. He replied, that they did not know where to find Gen. Washington, as he changed his location so often.

Messrs. Elderkin and Wales stated, that they had been informed in New London, that a number of sea captains and other officers, who had been taken on board merchantmen and private ships of war, who were brought into Providence and places adjacent, by armed vessels, about sixty in number, had purchased a vessel at Providence, for the purpose of returning to Europe, some of whom were from New London, and were soon to sail. On the arrival of the flag at New London, Mr. Elderkin, &c., immediately informed Gov. Cook, of Rhode Island, of the condition of our prisoners, and sent to him, copies of Lieut. Barker's orders, Howland's parole, &c., and intimated to him the propriety of stopping the officers (who had been taken prisoners,) from sailing; that Capt. Howland was at New London, who was not permitted to view the forts, &c., or going to Hartford, as he was a stranger. The flag, with Lieut. Barker, and the men, &c., were kept under guard, to wait and learn the pleasure of Gov. Trumbull upon the subject.

The General Assembly appointed Col. Erastus Wolcott and Capt. John Deshon, to advise and determine on the expediency of entering into any negotiation with Lieut. Barker on the exchange of prisoners in the marine department; with power if they should judge best, to enquire after and obtain such marine prisoners as they should be enabled; and to agree on time, place, and manner of exchange, and to treat with said Barker as they should think prudent and best.

Lieut. Barker at the time he first sent Capt. Howland on his parole, on shore, sent by him a letter, (dated Pilot Tender, New London, November 22d, 1776,) directed to the Governor or principal inhabitants of New London; in which he stated, that he was empowered by Lord Howe to negotiate respecting the exchange of prisoners on board the fleet at New York, and requested an interview; and stated that he sent him on his parole for three days to accelerate the exchange. By Capt. Howland's parole, it appeared he was authorized to nego-

tiate for exchanges of prisoners either in Connecticut or Rhode Island, or board the fleet, for an equal number of British prisoners, officers for officers in each class, and sailors for sailors.

NOVEMBER, 1776.

On the 19th day of November, 1776, Abiathar Camp, of New Haven, who had been ordered to Eastbury, by the General Assembly, for confinement as a tory—applied to the Assembly by petition, in which he stated, that he was a professor and member of the church of England; and asked to be indulged in a free exercise of his religion in attending religious worship at Middletown, on Sabbath days, &c., which was the nearest church of England to said Eastbury. Which petition was negatived.

NOVEMBER 28, 1776.

Thaddeus Betts, Esq., of Norwalk, as agent for the town, petitioned the General Assembly, in which he stated, that Norwalk was located in this State, on Long Island sound, nearly opposite to the town of Huntington, on said island, where the British had usually stationed one or more of their ships of war and tenders, and a garrison of soldiers on the shore; that the ships and tenders often cruised off Norwalk harbor, and had landed and plundered in the vicinity; that the town was thickly settled, which was the most exposed to the attacks of privateers of a moderate size; that provisions and implements of war were deposited to a large amount, owned by the United States, and the town destitute of cannon or fortifications to defend them, and therefore in imminent danger, and exposed to the depredations of the enemy; and prayed the General Assembly to loan to said town six cannon, or 6 pound field pieces, with a sufficient quantity of powder and balls for their defence. Which petition was granted.

NOVEMBER, 1776.

The Hon. Jabez Hamlin, as chairman of a committee, reported, that in order to prevent an actual scarcity of the necessaries of life for the army and inhabitants of the State, that a further embargo should be forthwith laid, in addition to the one then in force. Which report was accepted and approved by the General Assembly.

NEW MILFORD COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION.

NOVEMBER 27, 1775.

At a meeting of the committee of inspection, of New Milford, November 27, 1775, twenty-five persons of the town came before the committee; expressed their regret at the unhappy divisions in this country; acknowledged they had said and done many things to strengthen the division on the part of those who opposed the liberties and rights of a free people, and made a full and frank acknowledgment to the committee; disapproved of several acts of Parliament, and confessed they had changed their opinions, and approved of the Congressional measures, as adopted by the Assembly of Connecticut; and were sensible their opposition to American freedom, arose too much from local circumstances, without being influenced by the principles upon which the controversy between the two countries depended: Therefore retracted all words and actions complained of; confessed their sorrow and regret, and prayed that they should be overlooked; and declared their bosoms warm with friendly sentiments to the rights

and privileges of the Americans; declared their disbelief in the declaratory act of Parliament, that Britain had a right to bind the colonies in all cases; that there could not be a legal taxation, without representation, or a constitutional trial for life without a jury of the vicinage, according to Magna Charta; shewed their willingness to oppose all such demands, and prayed they should no longer be considered enemies of their country, &c. &c.

The committee accepted of their confessions, and restored the twenty-five persons to the usual favors of their fellow men. Which facts were signed by each; examined by Daniel Everett, clerk of the committee, and published in the Connecticut Courant.

[NOTE.—It was a common occurrence for many of those who were suspected of being tories, to appear before the committee of inspection in their towns, to exonerate their characters from the imputation; and when satisfaction was not made to the committee, the offender was often published in the Connecticut Courant, and disarmed, if not committed to prison.]

COL. ALLEN'S RECEPTION IN IRELAND.

JANUARY, 1776.

I here insert the following extract of a letter from the city of Cork, in Ireland, when Col. Allen was on his way to England, a prisoner of war from Quebec.

“The following occurrence must give satisfaction to the friends of suffering America: When Col. Ethan Allen, with about 90 other prisoners, arrived at Cork, in the *Solebay*, two gentlemen went on board to enquire into their situation, and to assure them of the disposition of several gentlemen in the city, (Cork) to alleviate their distress. Col. Allen was so affected with this instance of unexpected generosity, that the expression of his gratitude could hardly find utterance. His treatment on board the *Solebay*, was far different from the barbarous and cruel usage he experienced in his passage from Quebec, being then handcuffed and ironed in the most dreary part of the vessel, and basely insulted with cruel and unmanly reflections, by some of the officers of the ship, whom he challenged in Cornwall, without obtaining satisfaction.

“A subscription was begun among some friends of the cause of liberty, and in a single day, near 50 guineas were collected to purchase clothes for his men, and necessaries for himself; and if liberty can be got of Capt. Williams, to put live stock on board, I can assure you, Col. Allen will be exceedingly well provided. We this day sent a hamper of wine, sugar, fruit, chocolate, &c., on board, for his immediate use; and to-morrow intend to prepare the sundry articles, of which he sent a list.

“I inclose you a rough copy of his answer to our letter to him. Should he have permission to come on shore, he will be entertained by some of the first gentlemen of this city. I have not been refused by a single person on the subscription.”

[Copy of Col. Allen's note in answer.]

“Gentlemen, I received your generous present this day with a joyful heart. Thanks to God, there are still the feelings of humanity in the worthy citizens of Cork, towards those of your bone and flesh, who, through misfortune from the present broils in the Empire, are needy prisoners.”

Dated Cove, January 24, 1776.

NOVEMBER, 1776.

On the 5th day of November, 1776, R. Fairchild, J. Brooks, and D. Judson, of Stratford, stated to the General Assembly, by their memorial, That the town of Stratford was greatly exposed in its location, to the British troops; that Long Island, then in the possession of the enemy, was at a distance of about 20 miles, separated from the main land by the sound; that a long point of land extended from the meeting-house into the sound about 4 miles, which afforded a safe and convenient landing place for the enemy from Long Island, as well as a safe place for tories to escape daily, undiscovered, and inform the British on the island, of the situation of the town and State. Also, that they had great fear at that time, particularly on account of a late expedition from the main to the island, as Stratford was opposite to Brookhaven or Sautucket, where the Rhode Island regiment landed and brought away some tories; and feared their enemies from said island would soon attempt to land in said town, and make depredations, unless a guard should be posted at said point of land; and stated that their troop of horse had gone into the service, and they were deprived, by death and sickness, of the aid of one-half of the militia, who had marched to New York in August previous; and prayed for a guard of 20 men, under a proper officer, to be stationed at Stratford.

JANUARY 11, 1777.

Governor Trumbull, in a letter to the commissioned officers on board the brig Defence, dated Middletown, January 11th, 1777, remarked, that the Governor and Council had been informed that the enemy were cutting and loading wood on Shelter Island, and that armed vessels might act in concert safely against them and annoy the plunderers. The Governor directed them to consult the officers of the armed vessels in New London, and if they should judge it prudent, and could attack them with success, to act with them, if they thought fit, or give their attention immediately to promote the cruise.

MEMORIAL OF THE INHABITANTS OF NEWFIELD,
(NOW BRIDGEPORT.)

JANUARY 14, 1777.

The memorial of the people living near Newfield harbor, in the township of Stratford, in Fairfield county, humbly sheweth: That Newfield harbor is distant from Stratford between three and four miles, and there are a few inhabitants settled near the water; and this harbor is convenient for, and almost the whole of the navigation of the town is carried on from this harbor, and though there has been occasion enough given by our tory enemies, yet no effectual measures have been taken to secure this harbor, although there has within a few months past been taken and carried away out of this harbor; in the night season, nine vessels and boats by our tory enemies from among ourselves, who have from time to time gone off to the enemy; the last was a sloop of about 20 tons, taken off and carried away in the night to the enemy, about eight days ago, by 44 tories; and there is great reason to believe that Mr. Matthews, mayor of New York, and several other prisoners, have made their escape from this harbor, in some of the boats and vessels that have been taken away, together with our tory enemies; and there are so many persons, living but a little way from this harbor, that are unfriendly to their country; that these enemies of their country, can

always be secreted until a favorable night arrives for them to steal a vessel and go off; and there is no possible way to prevent further mischief of this kind, but by a constant guard being kept at the harbor; for unless this is done, we have reason to believe, that what has been done by the tories, is but the beginning of the mischiefs that are to be apprehended from these deserters of their country's cause. The friends of the deserters will sometimes threaten, that those that have gone off in this way, will soon return in circumstances to make themselves respected and feared, and that it will not be long before new laws will be established here, that will prevent people being oppressed, &c.

This harbor has always been the place for Newtown, so famous for tories, to resort to, in all their trade and traffic, and it is now the capital place of resort for all our tory enemies to go out; and we have great reason to believe, that great numbers more are now watching another convenient opportunity to get out, and go off with Maj. French, who is lurking about, not far off, we have reason to believe; and there are ships every day hovering about, and at night, oftentimes come to within a few miles of this harbor; and we have reason to believe, that as soon as the weather moderates, those tories, with the aid of our other enemies, will return again into this harbor, and destroy the lives and properties of the friends of our own government; and we are humbly of opinion, that the safety of the people requires that there should be a guard of 25 men constantly stationed at this harbor, with two small cannon mounted on travelling carriages, to protect the people and harbor; and earnestly entreat your Honor and Council, (or Assembly if sitting) will be pleased to give orders for it.

For the particular state of facts, we beg leave to refer your Honor to the bearers, Messrs. David and Aaron Hawley, Abraham Hubbell, and William Worden, who live at and near the harbor. We humbly pray your Honor's attention to these matters, for they are important; and we as in duty bound shall ever pray. Dated in Stratford, this 14th day of January, A. D. 1777.

(Signed)

Ezra Hawley, Richard Hubbell, Jr., Ephraim Hawley, Jr., William Hawley, Timothy Wheeler, Zachariah Sanford, Jabez Beach, Gilbert McKinsy, David Waklee, Elnathan Edwards, Ephraim Hawley, Joseph Strong, James Knap, Hezekiah Hubbell, (one of the committee of inspection,) Benjamin Lacy, John Nichols, Gideon Hubbell, Josiah Treadwell, John Hubbell, Benjamin Hubbell, Benjamin Wheeler, Samuel Waklee, Stephen Starlin, Jabez Sommers, Elnathan Sommers, Abel Lewis, Samuel Cable, Elnathan Sherman, Ebenezer Sherman, Squire Beardslee, Nathan Seeley, John Hall, Walter Hubbell, Samuel Odell, Abel Waklee, Lewis Sturges, Waliret Hawley, Elijah Hawley, Samuel Hawley, William Hubbell, Abijah Sherman, Thaddeus Bennett, Jr., David Sherman, Lemuel Treadwell, Jr., Ebenezer Gregory, Andrew Beardslee, Josiah Lacy, N. Peet Jackson, John Odell, Ezra Winton, Samuel Wordin, William Wordin, Zachariah Treadwell, David Treadwell, Joseph Knap, Thomas Hawley, Jedediah Wells.—The prayer of the foregoing memorial was granted.

On the 19th of May, Gov. Skeen, a prisoner of war, taken at Ticonderoga, and who had been for some time in Hartford, was committed to gaol by the committee of prisoners, for refusing to sign a parole.

By a pay roll of officers and men who belonged to the Oliver Cromwell, made by Capt. Harding, it appears, he paid his men £2,317 : 14 : 0 $\frac{1}{4}$.

FEBRUARY, 1777.

By a return of officers, seamen, and marines belonging on board the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, February 24th, 1777, it appears there were of officers and seamen present, 81; in gaol, 1; deserted, 39; discharged, 16; absent without leave, 13; murdered, 1; sick, 1—total, 152. Officers and marines present, 21; deserted, 7; discharged, 14; absent without leave, 5; on furlough, 20; drowned, 1; sick, 1—total, 69. Boys present, 7; deserted, 2; on furlough, 3—total, 12.

CAPT. COIT'S LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

MARCH 17, 1777.

RESPECTED SIR,—By Capt. Roberts I am informed that Lieut. Melally is discharged from the *Oliver Cromwell*; and he desired me as from your Honors to nominate some one in his place. Your Honor and your Honorable Council, will be pleased to hear me represent some matters which, perhaps, may elucidate the situation of the ship; with all the earnestness that I was capable of, engaged a sufficient number of good men, and was told that every other matter should be ready to my hand. Since, many months ago, every means that human mind can invent, has been used to persuade my crew to leave the ship, and so far have succeeded against me, as to carry away at least, 100 good seamen. By the dismissal of Melally, it makes a vast confusion on board. Party will be party; men who are fond of excusing themselves, just on the point of doing their duty, require great exertions. It is unknown to me what may be called on hereafter.

Sir,—It would please me to know what men are discharged, and for what reasons. Many discharge themselves, to the loss of the State, by taking their own discharge, when they get the least advantage with respect to pay, which at times it is not possible to avoid. My best compliments wait on your Honor and Council, and if it may be suffered that we may go to sea, do not doubt but we shall do well. It is my opinion that it will not be for the best at present to appoint any other officers, we can go to the best advantage without.

Dear Sir,—Suffer not the vile representations of those who do not wish well to our sincere cause, to prejudice your mind against my behavior; for I am vexed, if I know my own heart—I think it an honest one—and while life remains, and these times last, it is at my country's service.

But please your Honor,—Let me say that there is one matter which gives me great concern, and I beg your Honor to consider the vast expense the continent is at for their frigates; recollect the great expense of the forces stationed at New London; see what good they have done, and in comparison, take a serious view of my command, and I am sure there will be a striking contrast to the advantage of this ship. I want but bread, wood, and rum, to complete me for a voyage; but there is a variety of changes in my men, they will run away, and I have no law to regulate my conduct by, the only means is my own discretion, and that, by some, is thought imprudent; but I will do for the best. Again, among the variety of requests, your Honor and Council will note that all men in service, whose only means are their hands, for the support of themselves and families, and being, generally speaking, in real necessity for their support; their importunity is so great to me, that my humanity, what little I have, is affected; I therefore must desire your Honor and Council, to give me an order on the Treasury to receive £1,000, to be received by Lieut. Smith, on account

of the ship ; there is more due, but that will, I believe, fully answer, and it is impossible to do without, as my men must have it ; and I hope that if I do not account for it properly, my estate will pay it. I do assure your Honor, it is not for my own occasions, but for the good of the country.

Several ships are in the offing ; one is in as a flag. I do not imagine any danger to the town at present. I could wish that your Honor would give me some particular directions about the roads to smack craft, that pass in and out of this port.

I am, with respect,

your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM COIT.

New London, March 17th, 1777.

N. B. Pray let me know at what per month I must settle with Lieut. Melally.

MARCH 19, 1777.

Capt. William Coit, by a letter dated March 19th, 1777, at New London, informed Gov. Trumbull, that he should have presented his account for adjustment, had not the most eminent, urgent occasion prevented ; that great threatening had been sent to him by the last flag ; that five frigates had been in absolute order to blockade New London harbor, on account of the Oliver Cromwell, and talked hard, for being so long on that duty, and declare they will cut her out, and even more. He also stated, that there was then in the offing, by the best intelligence, thirty-six ships, within four leagues of his ship, and had sent repeated threats, and that his ship was considered as the greatest defence there was on that shore, as few of the militia were there, and that New London was never in greater danger. He assured the Governor that all his prudence would be used to keep his corps together ; that \$40 had been bid for any of his smallest men to quit the service of the ship and country. He stated, that his heart, his life, his every faculty of mind, was devoted to the honest service of his country.

MARCH 26, 1777.

By a letter, dated on board the Oliver Cromwell, March 26, 1777, at New London, from Capt. Coit, to Gov. Trumbull, it appears Capt. Coit had been on business to see the Governor, and on his return, he found that on the day of the marriage of Capt. Hinman, the officers, to celebrate the wedding, concluded to salute the bride and groom from the ship ; when the gun was loaded, a mischievous boy, by the advice of his comrades, (unknown to the officers,) put a ball into the gun ; and the ship lay broadside to New London, and the gun pointed to the lower part of the town. Instead of a ball, the lad put in a hand granado, by mistake, which when discharged, whistled, by the account, "the like was never known," and though no damage was done, it passed near several houses and persons. When Capt. Coit returned, he found the two offenders in irons ; and wished the Governor to give his directions in the affair ; also wished to know whether the continental laws should be his guide.

APRIL, 1777.

By a letter dated New London, April 10th, 1777, from Capt. Coit to Gov. Trumbull, it appears that he had much confusion with his men of the Cromwell, by attempts made upon them by recruiters, by all methods to seduce his

men away, as their time was nearly expired, and the demand for seamen so great, that all methods were resorted to, to decoy them, with a variety of reports propagated as to the ship; that he had his hands full, to keep the peace, and order on board. From the great demand there was for men, he wished for liberty to ship men for any service the ship was intended for, and to inform them of the wages, &c., to be allowed, alleging that men could not be procured for less than the continental conditions, and was anxious to get his men; and stated that he had many good men, *though disappointed*, and a fine corps of under officers, many of whom did not wish to leave the ship, and with good encouragement, he thought he could soon get as good a crew, as had been seduced from the ship, by means he considered truly devilish; that a better crew never belonged to any ship than the Cromwell; requested an officer appointed in Melally's place, until the next week, unless he should receive orders to sail; in such case, he remarked, he then had 70 good seamen waiting for the ship at Wood's Hole. He stated as news, that there were eight ships in Gardner's Bay, beside the five frigates then off, which were supposed to be after wood and provisions.

APRIL, 1777.

A letter from Gov. Trumbull to Capt. Coit, dated Lebanon, April 11th, 1777, which directed Capt. Coit to make up his account and observe the time of dismissal, desertion, and death of such as had left the ship in either way. The Governor and Council regretted that it had been out of their power to crowd the ship on a cruise, though it had been embarrassed by many insurmountable causes; and that therefore they had appointed Seth Harding to be captain in the place of Capt. Coit, with a proper choir of officers, for a term to come, and dismissed Capt. Coit and his officers and men after the 14th day of April, 1777, and directed Capt. Coit not to fail to make up his account for a full settlement, for all time passed, to the time of dismission, by the 1st of May, 1777.

APRIL, 1777.

In a letter from Gen. Washington to Gov. Trumbull, dated Morristown, April 7th, 1777, he stated, that the pay abstract of the 10th regiment of Connecticut militia, from October to Jan. 1776—7, had been presented for payment to him. The unreasonable *disproportion of officers* induced him to decline giving orders for the payment; and requested Gov. Trumbull to adopt some mode by which the public treasury might be eased of such extraordinary demands; and stated that such impositions would in future be provided for by Congress, but doubted how he could remedy such cases as had happened; but remarked that nothing should pass his hands that could be construed into the slightest approbation of such impositions; and stated that if Col. Sheldon should want a further supply of money to finish equipping his regiment, he desired the Governor to advance it.

SCHOONER ANNA.

APRIL, 1777.

A letter from Mr. Elliott to Gov. Trumbull, dated Boston, April 14th, 1777, informed him of the arrival of the schooner Anna, on Saturday preceding, captured by Capt. Smedley, on the 16th of March, in latitude 16, longitude 48, bound from Bristol, in England, to Dominico. (Mr. Lewis, the prize master, was the bearer of the letter and invoice of the cargo to the Governor.) The

cargo consisted of articles of an advanced price in Boston, particularly flour and painters' colors, and the other articles much needed. Also gave the information that he should libel said schooner in behalf of those concerned, the State as owner, the captain, officers, &c., on board. Capt. Smedley four days before taking this prize, fell in with and captured a large barque, from Liverpool, in England, bound to Pensacola, the particulars of which, and his engagement with two large ships, Mr. Lewis was requested to give to the Governor in person. As the Anna made no opposition, according to custom, the men were entitled to their wages. The barque had arrived at Dartmouth, and he informed the Governor, that as soon as he had finished libelling the Anna, he would take proper measures as to the barque, and have her cargo taken out and secured in some of the back towns, as the people of Boston considered Dartmouth as more exposed than any place in the State.

APRIL, 1777.

Gov. Trumbull's answer, dated Lebanon, April 17, 1777, in which he approved of the procedure of Mr. Elliot as to the prizes; and sent him a schedule of such articles as he wished reserved for particular use, and directed him to dispose of the remainder of the cargo to the best advantage; to pay wages to such prisoners as had conducted well; directed him to proceed to Dartmouth and secure the cargo of the barque. Also stated that Capt. Harding had no concern in the brig Defence, the (then) present cruise; that she was under the command of Capt. Smedley, and that Capt. Harding was appointed to the command of the ship Oliver Cromwell, in the harbor of New London, preparing for sea.

APRIL, 1777.

A letter from Samuel Elliot, Jr., to Gov. Trumbull, dated April 25, 1777, informed of the arrival of the Snow Swift in Boston harbor, which was the last capture of four, made by the Defence, (Capt. Smedley); another prize had been taken by Capt. Smedley, and sent into Plymouth, which Mr. Elliot intended should have been sent into Boston, as there was no danger at the time from the British, but she had run on shore so high up, that she could not be got off, only by unloading, and in this way, they got her off the bar, and the sloop proceeded to Boston. The invoices of the Snow Swift and the brig, were forwarded, with a part of the cargo of the Grog. The cargo of the Snow Swift was much the same as that of the brigs. Capt. Smedley wrote from Dartmouth, he had requested leave to come into Boston and refit the Defence; and Mr. Elliot, at the date above, sent him an express, to inform him of two frigates then being in Boston Bay.

APRIL, 1777.

By a letter, dated Lebanon, April 29, 1777, from Gov. Trumbull to Mr. Elliot, at Boston, he acknowledged his letter of the 25th, which informed him of the arrival of Capt. Smedley's last prizes. He also informed him, that he had no desire to supersede his agency; and wished him to give Capt. Smedley all the assistance in his power, as the Defence would have to be refitted and sent to sea with all expedition. He remarked that the enemy had made a direct attack on Connecticut; and that it was reported, that the enemy intended ravaging our

coast, and in some measure, make this State the theatre of war. He therefore thought it a prudent step, to reserve all provisions of every kind, taken in the four prizes, for the use of this State; as it was highly probable it might be wanted, not only for our militia on sudden marches, but to minister to the relief of our inhabitants, who should be forced from home; and therefore directed Mr. Elliot to secure the whole of the provisions brought in all the prizes, until further orders, excepting so much as should be needed to fit the brig for a new cruise, and an order to deliver Mr. Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., provisions for his privateer, at Dartmouth; and directed him to consider this letter as countermanding all former orders respecting provisions in said prizes, except such as are above mentioned. The Governor also directed Mr. Elliot to take care of the provisions, and place them in such a situation as they should be secure against any sudden invasion of the enemy, at his discretion. The Governor returned the invoices to Mr. Elliot.

APRIL, 1777.

A letter from Capt. Samuel Smedley to Gov. Trumbull, dated April 19, 1777, at Bedford, in Dartmouth, informed the Governor of the arrival of the brig Defence at said Bedford, on the 18th day of said April, though the brig was in a very bad state when he sailed, with regard to men, yet he had taken four prizes and manned them, viz.: a barque from Liverpool and Waterford, bound to Jamaica, laden with provisions, iron work, nails, &c.; a brig from Bristol, England, bound to Jamaica, laden with flour, bread, paints and oil, bottle beer, cider, &c., which had arrived, the latter at Boston—the barque mounted ten iron guns; another brig from Glasgow, bound to Antigua, laden with beef, butter, &c.; the Snow Swift from Dublin, with beef, butter, &c.; and required of the Governor directions how to dispose of the brig, as he had been informed that the harbor at New London was as well lined with the ships of the enemy, as it was when he sailed out, and found so much difficulty in sailing by them, in consequence of which, Mr. Shaw had hauled up his privateer into the port at Bedford. Capt. Smedley advised the Governor to lengthen, and put a quarter deck on the brig, and put her in a condition to fight, which she then was not, and was considered by Capt. Smedley, the most uncomfortable vessel he ever sailed; he stated she might be repaired at Boston, in safety, very soon; he stated the time of enlistment of the men was out the March previous, which had made some difficulty, and many ran away before he sailed, and he expected the remainder would do the same, as their time would expire within 12 days; the men expected to go into the Vineyard, and had planned to go home; so that Capt. Smedley saw he could not make a cruise, unless he put to sea with what men he had, which he did, and far exceeded his expectations.

APRIL 20, 1777.

By a letter from Capt. Smedley to Governor Trumbull, dated ship Defence, at sea, April 20, 1777: It appears, that on Capt. Smedley's weighing anchor in Boston, he discovered a man on board his ship who was infected with the small pox, and to prevent its spreading, he sent him on shore in the pilot boat; but to his sorrow and surprise, on the 13th day's sail from Boston, six of his men broke out with the disorder, and the chief carpenter, and a petty officer, who belonged at Cape Cod, died. After he held a council with his officers, and found

about 50 of his men were exposed, he ordered them inoculated, which was done. Though they were taken down at a time when they were the most needed, for on the 13th of March, at night, he brought too a ship from France, bound to the Cape, who gave an account to Capt. Smedley of their parting that day with two large ships bound from Bristol to Jamaica, which mounted 20 and 18 guns. He immediately pursued them, and the next morning discovered them, and went along side of them and had a warm contest, which lasted three glasses, when they struck their colors. Capt. Parker engaged the most warlike ship, and to his honor be it spoken, behaved in such a manner as would have done credit to the greatest admiral in Europe. He also informed the Governor, that since their acquaintance, and in the distressed situation of Capt. Smedley, they had rendered him much assistance. The warm reception gave Capt. Smedley, he escaped with less damage than he expected, though the hull and rigging of the Defence were much damaged, but two men were wounded, who were doing well; and he hoped both prizes would arrive safe. He stated that his ship had had been leaky the whole voyage, and that he should be obliged to go into some port soon, to repair. The ships taken were the Admiral Keppel, of eighteen 6 pound guns, with 47 men; and the Cyrus, of sixteen guns, both letters-of-marque.

APRIL 20, 1777.

A letter from Capt. Parker to Governor Trumbull, (dated Oliver Cromwell, April 20, 1777, latitude 20, longitude 50.) stated, that Lieut. Pease, of the ship Defence, was sent in the ship Cyrus, as prize master, and would give the account of the taking of the Keppel and Cyrus, and of the contents of their cargoes. He stated he had wrote more fully by Lieut. Tillinghast, commander of the Keppel, of the loss sustained in men. Capt. Parker also stated his ship had received some damage in her hull and rigging, and had received four shots between wind and water through the side, several shrouds shot in twain, together with braces, bowling, and other smaller ropes and sails a little tattered. The Governor gave an order to Capt. Smedley to take the command of the brig Defence, and proceed on a cruise of three months, as Capt. Harding's ill-health prevented his going to sea. Capt Smedley informed the Governor that the brig Defence was ready for sea; that she only wanted more men, as she then had but 40 who belonged to the brig, and few of them seamen, and as the prospect of getting men in New London was poor, and as he could obtain a complement of them at the Vineyard soon, he should sail without any detention on that account. Capt. Smedley requested the Governor to appoint another commissioned officer on board, as there were but two, and had formerly been four, and recommended Capt. Angel, of New London, as he was a sober, steady, worthy man, and had been master of vessels out of New London twelve years, and a first-rate seaman; and in case a prize should be taken, Capt. Angel being acquainted with all the coasts, would be able to take such prize into port. Capt. Smedley wished the Governor to inform him whether Capt. Harding, on shore, was to draw a share of prizes taken by him, &c., as appears by a letter from Capt. Smedley to the Governor, dated New London, February, 1777.

APRIL 23, 1777.

Gen. Washington, by letter, dated April 23d, 1777, in answer to a letter from Gen. Parsons, stated, that the prisoners from New York, and the case of the

representatives of those who died during their captivity, deserved attention, though it would be difficult to adopt a line of conduct in that instance, by which equal justice could be done them and the public; and sincerely desired they could be paid, and thought the better method was for the State to take up the matter, and appoint one or two members of the Legislature to receive and pay their claims; and in all cases where the original claimant was alive, to admit none but such as had an affidavit annexed, with the time when and where captured, and when released; to what company and regiment they belonged, and that they had received no pay or satisfaction from the United States, while in captivity. And in like manner, if claims made by representatives of soldiers who died in captivity, that they should make oath when and where their said soldiers were taken; the company and regiment to which they belonged; the time of their death, and had received no pay that became due between their capture and death; and no claims for rations to be admitted. The General Assembly appointed Gen. Wadsworth, Mr. Wales, Maj. Phelps, Maj. Hillhouse, and Col. Lee, to take said facts into consideration; and also Col. Hart's memorial, and the case of the prisoners returned from New York, and those in captivity, with their losses, sufferings, and what should be done for them, and report make to said Assembly.

APRIL, 1777.

A letter was received, dated Long Island, April 30, 1777, signed by Ethan Allen, Esq., and directed to the General Assembly or Committee of War, of this State; in which he stated, that he did not distrust the wisdom of the country, that an exchange of prisoners had not taken place, and that those who had the management of the affair, undoubtedly had their political reasons for the delay; that the mode of existence as a prisoner, though it was irksome, was not deplorable, by reason of hope; and the officers on parole, seemed to him, as mere ciphers, exempted from danger and honor; and though man was never easy, that it was painful to a generous and enterprising mind, to be debarred in sharing the glories that would be revealed during the campaign. He stated, that Gen. Washington had written to Gen. Howe upon the subject of his exchange, and had styled him colonel, instead of lieutenant colonel; he also acknowledged the receipt of £35, which he received by his brother Levi Allen; in which letter he urges his exchange as a prisoner of war.

LETTER TO THE AUTHOR.

The following letter is from Joseph Hill, Esq., to the author of this work.

In answer to your enquiries, according to the best information I have been able to obtain, the enemy, during the revolutionary war, did not land in Saybrook to do much damage; they drove several small vessels ashore, and some were set on fire. They landed on Duck Island, which is opposite Westbrook, and burnt the buildings; I believe it was in 1781. A guard, consisting of about 20, commanded by a lieutenant, was kept in Saybrook fort; at night one of the whale boats was sent out of the mouth of the river to reconnoitre, and did not return until they could see day light, that the coast was clear. The first company, which was enlisted in the spring of 1775, and soon after marched to near Boston, was commanded by John Ely, captain; Abraham Waterhouse, 1st lieutenant; Elisha Lee, of Lyme, 2d lieutenant; Dan Platts, ensign; some of said company belonged

to Lyme. The uniform of said company was, hats bound with yellow, many of them used white tow cloth, colored with peach-tree bark. In the fore part of the summer, another company was raised in Saybrook, and marched for the camp near Boston. I believe said company was commanded by Capt. Martin Kirtland. During the whole of the war, (a large number from said town were in the service;) the uniform of the company was a red knott on one shoulder.

The following persons were taken in the armed ship Blaze Castle, and carried to Halifax: Aaron Platts, William Carter, Abisha Chapman, Abner Stannard, Jr., Josiah Wolcott, Jeremiah Lay, Daniel Jones, and John Stannard, Jr.,—all died but D. Jones and J. Stanard, Jr., and all were from Saybrook.

Those killed at Groton fort, belonging to Saybrook, were—John Whittlesey, Stephen Whittlesey, William Comstock, Daniel Williams, Jonathan Butler, and several wounded.

It is well known that the American Turtle was invented and built in Saybrook, by David Bushnell, Esq. He died, at an advanced age, in the State of Georgia, a few years since, after acquiring a handsome property, which was brought on by his friend and delivered to the children of his deceased brother Ezra, together with some curious machinery, partly built, which had been viewed by several gentlemen, none of whom, I believe, have been able to determine what it would have been, if it had been completed.

I find almost all the aged people are gone, and those living cannot recollect dates, &c.

I am, dear Sir,

yours respectfully,

JOSEPH HILL.

Essex, June 29, 1841.

Mr. Eliphalet Dyer, chairman of a committee of the General Assembly, reported, that the sending deserters to us, in flags of truce, as stated in Gen. Silliman's letter, ought to be considered as an insult to this State, if they had received Gen. Silliman's warning, sent by their flag. Said committee also reported against suffering the families of deserted Tories, within this State, to go to said deserters, within the enemy's lines, except where our inhabitants had been taken, not under arms, by the enemy, and carried off, and even in that case, to take no property, except necessary clothing; and no person able to bear arms, should be permitted to go.

SMALL POX IN STRATFIELD.

MAY 19, 1777.

Timothy Wheeler and 12 other persons of Stratfield society, informed the Legislature, that notwithstanding all the measures of Gen. Silliman and the petitioners, to prevent the spread of the small pox, that it had already affected every part of the parish; that many had inoculated, and remained in their own houses, situated on the public highways, which exposed the whole community; that numbers of persons daily went into the hospital, opposite the guard at Newfield harbor, only about 80 rods distant from the guard; that two of the guard had taken the disease, and the guard would not remain, thus exposed, as it was then considered almost dangerous for the inhabitants to go out of their houses; that they had repeatedly applied to the authority and selectmen of Stratford, to act on the subject; but that they had used no effectual measures to

prevent the spreading of the distemper, but had permitted persons from other towns to inoculate and have the disease in said Stratford; so that the people in Stratfield were exposed, not only to the small pox, but to the depredations of the enemy; and prayed for relief in some way.

Robert Ross and 21 other persons, again in said May, from Stratfield, applied to the Assembly, to direct that all such as had inoculated for the small pox, in the town of Stratford, in violation of law, should be prosecuted, and the law itself revised, or to repeal the act, and form a new one, allowing a pest house in each county or town, with a house to clean up in, and remain in a few days after cleansing to prevent exposing the people and their families; and order the selectmen to place a sufficient guard of sober, faithful men, to carry every regulation strictly into effect, in every place where inoculation should be permitted, &c. They stated, that great quarrels had arisen on this subject, and affairs grew worse and worse, and the infection daily increased, and nothing had been done for months, to prevent it; and the people were enraged and declared they would burn the houses infected, and shoot all the infected persons they should meet, to prevent which an effectual and immediate remedy was required; and prayed the Assembly to publish the act in every part of the State, that it should be perfectly known and understood by all the people.

MAY, 1776.

Wolcott Hawley, a constable of Stratford, informed the General Assembly, (for their direction,) that the frequent breaches of the statute, governing the people in inoculating for the small pox, had become alarming; that it had been spread in Stratford, in defiance of law, and men in authority, especially by the tories; the grand jurors and constables had met frequently, though with difficulty; two of the justices of the peace of said town had been inoculated, who could not be tried for the offence, as the justices in the adjoining towns refused to act in the matter out of their own towns, and those justices who had not had the small pox, feared to try them, though one of them had agreed to prosecute; the sheriff of the county had been inoculated, and two constables of Stratford, had been inoculators, and the other constables of the town feared to serve the writs on such offenders. He stated that soon after the enactment of the law, he complained of a certain doctor, for inoculating, and the court put him under a bond of £500, to offend no more; though he was not formally tried, and that he still transgressed the law; and that the timid and disaffected in the town, as appeared, intended to give it an universal spread; and those appointed to execute the law, prove to be its violators, as two of the judges of the county of Fairfield had been inoculated, beside the chief judge; and under these circumstances, he being under oath to enquire and present all breaches of the law, therefore prayed the Assembly for advice and direction on the subject.

LETTER FROM GEN. SILLIMAN TO GOV. TRUMBULL.

MAY 20, 1777.

Gen. Silliman wrote a letter to Gov. Trumbull, dated Fairfield, May 20, 1777, and informed him that a flag of truce had arrived at Norwalk, from Long Island, for the purpose of conveying to said island several tory families, the heads of which had deserted and joined the enemy; that the tories had grown bold; that the week before this date, a flag was at Stamford, on board of which was a deserter to the British; that Gen. Silliman in giving a permit to said flag to sail, inserted a warning against sending again in a flag any deserters, on

penalty of their being detained and tried for their lives as deserters; that the British had again sent a flag with two American deserters on board, and wished for directions whether to detain them and have them tried; that Squire Hawley informed Gen. Silliman, that he had seen the Governor at Hartford, and asked of him permission to carry in his flag some women and children of some of the Connecticut Tories that were with the enemy, which the Governor declined, as the matter was before the Assembly. He stated, that only 18 privates had arrived in Fairfield, of all that had been detached from two regiments, and ordered to Fairfield, on the 6th of May. The general expressed his fear, that many would not come, as he had been informed that great numbers had paid their fines, which fine was so trifling, it did not answer the design of the General Assembly; and some had refused either to pay their fines or march. The general also remarked, that if the want of soldiers did not oblige him to abandon the coast of the enemy, he much feared the small pox, which was then raging there would, as it was on every side of his troops, and he knew not what to do; and stated that 44 persons were inoculated, and that in Stratford and Stratfield, great numbers were daily inoculating for the small pox, and going into houses near the sea shore—a measure, that the enemy themselves could not have better planned to strip the sea coast of its guards; and desired that something effectual should be done, or that the coast would be forsaken by all persons who were not sick with, or inoculated for the small pox; and prayed that the Assembly should be put on some measures to prevent the evil.

MAY 2, 1777.

By a letter, sent by Col. Hart, dated New York, May 2, 1777, directed to Squire Sanford, and signed by James Rogers, it appears that the following persons, who were taken prisoners in the expedition at Danbury, and carried to New York, were Daniel Chapman, Jabez Frost, Daniel Sanford, Timothy Parsons, David Fairchild, Daniel Meeker, Russel Bartlet, James Rogers, Oliver Sanford, Nathaniel Squire, Ezekiel Fairchild, Stephen Betts, Jonas Platt, and Thomas Couch, of Redding; John Bartram, Matthew Benedict, Benjamin Sperry, John Porter, Jonathan Starr, William Roberts, Jacob Gray, Aaron Gray Knap, of Danbury; Benjamin Meeker, John Olmsted, John Dimon, Benjamin Banks, David Burr, Peter Blackman, Ephraim Burr, Nathan Beers, Caleb Disbrow, Levi Disbrow, and Peter Williams, of the town of Fairfield; Israel Chapman, of Salem; James Crawford and Newton Crawford, of Pound Ridge; Simeon Minor, of Woodbury; Benjamin Keeler, of Wilton; John Wright, of Norwich; Job Slocum, of Oblong; James and Benjamin Northrop and John Smith, of Ridgefield; in whose behalf Mr. Rogers wrote the letter, in which they requested their friends in Connecticut, to send to them by Col. Hart, all the hard money they could collect, who had agreed to advertise when he should return to New York, and where the money should be left for said prisoners; each man's money to be put up by itself with his name on it.

MAY, 1777.

Ruth Peck, the widow of Jesse Peck, (then) late of Danbury, stated to the General Assembly, that her husband, with three sons, in the spring of 1776, enlisted in the service of the State, and all went through the fatigue of the campaign; two of the sons were taken prisoners at fort Washington, and suffered the hardships of captivity in New York; one son had the small pox in

the worst manner possible, in the most scarce time of gold the (then) last winter at New York, who started for home, and froze his feet, so that he became a cripple; another son was sent home by the British about the 1st of January, 1777, infected with the small pox, of which he soon died, after his arrival; the husband who had arrived home a short time previous to his son, took the disease, and also died after a long confinement; one other son also took said disease, who by the goodness of God, recovered; whereby said Ruth was grievously afflicted, and the town of Danbury expended the sum of £26:2:6 in their sickness, and held a claim upon the small estate her husband had left for the payment of it, and if paid by her, would leave her with a family of small children, and needy indeed; and prayed the Assembly to pay the sum aforesaid.

The following marines who belonged to the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, were returned as deserters, viz.: Gurdon Burnham, William Allen, William Powell, John Brownly, John Wilson, John Hale, Thomas Doherty, Job Bunke, John Smith, John Woolf, Johebert Sheffield, Robert Alsop James, Thomas Blin Harris, Thomas Etherly, Stephen Blossom, Stephen Brooks, Joseph King, Josiah Sare, Silas Daggett, John Collings, John Linston, Samuel Isdick, Thomas Van Dusen, Joseph Balies, John Williams, Solomon Capee, Joseph Pennett, David Freeman, John Williams, Thomas Nichols, Samuel Junker, Joseph Hewett, Samuel Geer, John Short, Samuel Paston, John Lahergo, John Adams, Hezekiah Baker, Jotham Gardner, Elijah Loveland, William Palmer, Stephen Ward, Jonathan Miner, Timothy Murphey, Henry Hunt, Daniel Carr, John Hill, John Deming, and Joseph Merrills; William Carriock, murdered; returned by Capt. William Coit, captain of said ship.

BRIGANTINE HONOR.

The following was addressed to Mr. Elliot, the Connecticut agent at Boston, from the captain of the *Oliver Cromwell*.

SHIP OLIVER CROMWELL, July 8, 1777 }
Latitude 45:12, Longitude 34. }

SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that we this day made prize of the brigantine Honor, from Cork, bound to Newfoundland, which I hope will arrive in some safe port. The master of the brig informs me, that he sailed in company with about 20 sail, bound for America, which he parted with about four days ago; so that I hope to give you an account of others of them in a short time.

I am, Sir, &c.

A VOTE TO EXPEL TORIES FROM NEW HAVEN, &c.

Richard Woodhull, Oliver Burr, Daniel Humphreys, Theophilus Chamberlain, and Thomas Gould, in answer to a vote passed in New Haven, viz.: "That every person who looked upon himself bound, either from conscience or choice, to give intelligence to our enemies of our situation, or otherwise take an active part, or yield obedience to any commands of King George III., so far as to take up arms against this town or the United Colonies, every such person be desired peaceably to depart this town." They stated they did not feel bound from conscience or choice to give intelligence to His Majesty's officers or troops, or to take an active part, or take up arms against New Haven or the United Colonies; but that they felt bound in conscience to submit themselves to every ordinance of war for the

Lord's sake, whether to the King as supreme or to governors, as unto them who are sent of Him for the punishment of evil-doers, and the praise of those who do well; and in conscience to seek the peace of the town, and pray unto the Lord for it, and live peaceably with all men.

Messrs. Daniel Lyman, Timothy Jones, Jr., John Lathrop, Henry Daggett, Lamberton Smith, Jr., and others, were appointed a committee by the town of New Haven, on the 6th day of November, 1775, to call together suspected persons, by virtue of said vote, before them, to be examined, to whom said Woodhull, &c. addressed a line, in which they acknowledged, that their answer aforesaid, should have been plain and simple, and they should have made answer, that "we hold ourselves bound in conscience to yield obedience to the commands of His Majesty King George III. so far as to take up arms against New Haven or the United Colonies;" and avoiding to give a plain answer to so plain a question, at a time when the town and country were disavowing their allegiance to the King, and were going into open rebellion against God and the King, was evidence to them, that they were influenced in the first answer by fear of man, and not of God, and was influenced by that strong bias, that is in man at all times, to shun the cross of Christ, and pass smooth and easy through the world; and stated that it became them to fear and tremble before God, who could not be deceived or mocked, for their great wickedness and guilt therein, and to say with the publican, "God be merciful to us sinners."

BILLS ISSUED BY CONNECTICUT, IN AUGUST, 1777.

In August, 1777, the State of Connecticut had emitted in bills, £309,000; had taken up and burnt, £11,000; had then outstanding, £298,000; small bills deducted, £29,322:10; which left £268,677:10 in bills outstanding, not less than \$1; to redeem which, a tax of two-thirds was proposed, amounting to £273,000, amounting to £7,000 to each penny tax; £60,000 issued in notes of £10 each, payable at 4 per cent. in three years; £72,000 borrowed and payable at 6 per cent. in one year.

A LETTER FROM STEPHEN HOPKINS TO HON. JOHN HANCOCK.

SPRINGFIELD, August 6, 1777.

The committees from the several States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, in pursuance of the proposal of the State of Massachusetts Bay, have met and conferred upon several subjects therein recommended, and have passed a number of resolutions, a copy of which, I am directed to lay before the Honorable Congress for their consideration. The first four of those States, the last winter, passed acts to prevent monopoly and oppression, in order to support the credit of their paper currency; but the other United States, not judging it expedient to enact similar laws, hath in a great measure, prevented their answering the good purposes for which they were intended, and has rendered it very difficult, if not impracticable fully to execute the same. Other measures, therefore, have now been agreed upon for the same purposes, the success of which, we apprehend, will greatly depend upon the concurrence of the United States; in the same we are so fully impressed with the importance of drawing in and sinking the bills of credit emitted by the several States; and of the necessity of large and frequent taxations, to supply the continental treasury, and to defray the charges of Government, that we

have earnestly recommended it to the several States we respectively represent; and we apprehend it will be absolutely necessary for similar measures to be adopted by the other United States, in order to support the credit of the paper currency, and to prevent any further emissions for the purposes of defraying the charges of the war, and the support of internal government. We submit the whole to the Honorable Congress, that such measures may be taken for that end as they in their great wisdom shall think proper.

I am in behalf of the committee, Sir,

your most obedient, and very humble servant,

STEPHEN HOPKINS.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY WHO TOOK THE OATH OF FIDELITY, IN AUGUST, 1777.

This may certify that the following gentlemen, members of the Lower House of Assembly of the State of Connecticut, were present attending in August 22, 1777, and had the oath of fidelity to this State, as provided by law, administered to them, viz.: Col. John Pitkin, Mr. Benjamin Payne, Col. Elisha Williams, Col. Isaac Lee, Mr. John Treadwell, Capt. Joseph Brooks, Mr. Ezra Brainard, Capt. Timothy Pearl, Col. Jabez Chapman, Mr. Samuel Huntington, Maj. Abiel Pease, Capt. Benjamin Talcott, Mr. Seth King, Maj. Elias Worthington, Mr. Peter Reynold, Capt. Jonathan Wells, Mr. Ebenezer Plummer, Mr. Titus Homer, Col. Comfort Sage, Mr. Ebenezer White, Capt. Henry Allen, Capt. James Hooker, Mr. Nezhiah Bliss, Mr. John Phelps, Col. Samuel Chapman, Col. Solomon Wills, Mr. Samuel Bishop, Jr., Mr. Pierpont Edwards, Mr. Joseph Hopkins, Capt. Ezra Bronson, Mr. Eliphalet Hotchkiss, James Beard, Samuel Beach, Col. Street Hall, Gideon Buckingham, Lewis Mallet, Jr., Nathaniel Stone, Nathaniel Ruggles, Gen. James Wadsworth, Elnathan Camp, Maj. William Hillhouse, Benjamin Huntington, Rufus Lathrop, Maj. Charles Phelps, Nathaniel Miner, Capt. John Shipman, Col. William Worthington, Hezekiah Lane, Thomas Mumford, Col. Benadam Gallup, Col. Samuel Mott, Maj. Samuel Tyler, Maj. Elijah Abel, Capt. Abraham Brinsmade, Capt. Daniel Judson, John McKay, John Hoit, Jr., Daniel Betts, Jr., Moses Comstock, Maj. Eli Mygatt, Capt. Jabez Huntington, Nathaniel Wales, Jr., Joshua West, Capt. Nehemiah Lyon, David Payne, Constant Southworth, Edmund Freeman, Capt. Samuel Craft, Maj. Thomas Brown, Capt. Simon Learnard, John Canfield, Daniel Sherman, Capt. Simeon Smith, Samuel Comstock, Oliver Warner, Capt. Aaron Austin, Col. Seth Smith, Ephraim Hubbell, Jr., Capt. Justus Sackett, Col. Epaphras Sheldon, Nehemiah Andrews, John Pierce, Capt. Josiah Phelps, Col. Joshua Porter, and Capt. Abiel Camp.

Certified.

BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, Clerk.

The gentlemen members of this Assembly, whose names follow, took the oath of fidelity prescribed by the law of this State, viz.: the Governor, Deputy Governor, Jabez Hamlin, Elisha Sheldon, Jabez Huntington, William Pitkin, Roger Sherman, Abraham Davenport, Oliver Wolcott, Samuel Huntington, Secretary, and Sheriff Williams.

SEPTEMBER, 1777.

The cargo of the brig Honor, was made sale of in September, 1777, together with the brig, and amounted as per account of sales, to £10,204 : 18 : 3½.

POLITICAL CREED, &c. OF THE SANDEMANIANS.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1777.

To Messrs. Samuel Bishop, David Austin, and Timothy Jones, Jr. :

Gentlemen,—Your desire having been signified to us by Mr. Chamberlain, that we would make a declaration of what we profess touching that subjection which we are bound by the word of God to yield to the higher powers, do say ; we are bound to hearken to that word : “ Be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do, but I will forewarn you whom you shall fear ; fear Him, whom after he hath killed, hath power to cast into hell ; yea, I say unto you, fear Him : ” His word and authority obliges us to be subject to the higher powers : the powers that be, which are ordained of God ; to be subject to the King as supreme, and to governors as those who are sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers, and the praise of them who do well ; to fear the Lord and the King, and not meddle with them who are given to change ; these and such like words, by which we must be judged at the last day, bind our consciences to be faithful and loyal subjects to our sovereign King George the Third, whom God preserve, to whose government we are heartily attached, to give no countenance, aid, or assistance to any design formed against this government, but to conduct as loyal subjects ; to obey his laws, his commands, and those of subordinate rulers in all things, wherein they do not interfere with the commands of our Maker, in which case we ought to obey God rather than man. That, as according to the Scriptures, the kingdoms of this world are to be defended by the sword ; a command from the sovereign to his faithful subjects, to assist in the defence of his government at the peril of their lives, when they are in a situation that admits of it, is a lawful command ; and even in the situation in which we now are, we are bound to a dutiful, loyal, obedient conduct, such as our situation will admit of ; and although we earnestly wish to live in peace, and have no inclination to bear arms or become soldiers in a lawful war ; yet the exhortation of John the Baptist, and the case of Cornelius, oblige us to conclude that the soldier’s calling is a lawful one for Christians, as well as other men.

This faith respecting the commands of the Lord touching subjecting, we have heretofore possessed, when it appeared to us that we were, in the course of Providence, called to speak of it, and for this we have suffered ; neither can we conceal or dissemble or soften the commands before mentioned, without being ashamed of Christ and his words before men, and incurring that much to be dreaded consequence the Son of *Man’s being ashamed of us before his Father and before his angels*. We hold ourselves equally obliged, if it be possible, as much as in us lieth, to live peaceably with all men ; to do good to all men as we have opportunity ; to be inoffensive among our neighbors ; to love and pray for our enemies ; never to avenge ourselves, nor to bear ill will to any man ; to be no busy bodies in other men’s matters, but with quietness to work and eat our own bread. How far our conduct has corresponded to this we must appeal to our neighbors. Suffering for these sentiments, it must appear to our consciences that we suffer for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ ; this we ought to esteem a great honor, of which we were never worthy. Our consciences do not condemn us as suffering for evil doing, or as having done any thing against men that will acquit them in the righteous judgment of God, for bringing such sufferings upon us.

If we are to be deprived of that liberty which we have in no wise forfeited,

happy shall we be if it be given to us from above to suffer with patience. We are able to get a subsistence in this place in our lawful callings without being a burden to our neighbors; if we are removed or confined, this is taken from us; we would be glad therefore to be permitted to continue here if we may live in quiet and unmolested. We wish not to be sent into the country, or to be separated to prevent our assembling on the first day of the week, to continue steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and the breaking of bread, and the prayers. But if we are not to be permitted the free exercise of the Christian profession in this place, as Christians may lawfully wish to enjoy the protection and blessings of government, that merciful ordinance of God; and as the Lord has, in his tender mercy, permitted his disciples to flee from persecutions, saying, "If they persecute you in one city, flee ye to another;" our wish is, that we may be suffered peaceably to retire, with our families, to some convenient place more immediately under the King's protection, that we may seek some place where we may sojourn in peace, and worship God according to his word; and that this may be allowed in such a way that we may not be molested by the people in departing. And we wish that our dear brother, Oliver Burr, suffering in prison for hearkening to that command of the Lord, which requires us to do good to all men as we have opportunity, may be suffered to go with us, with his family.

We are, Gentlemen, your well wishes.

New Haven, September 14, 1777.

(Signed)

Joseph Pynchon, Theophilus Chamberlain, Benjamin Smith, William Richmond, Daniel Humphreys, Titus Smith, Richard Woodhull, Thomas Gold

COMMITTEE'S REPORT FOR REGULATING THE NAVY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

We, your Honors' committee, appointed to take into consideration what measures ought to be come into, for the better regulation and government of the navy or vessels of force fitted out by this State, and the officers, marines, and mariners employed on board of said vessels; take leave to report, that in the opinion of this committee, the following Bill be passed into an act of this Assembly, viz.:

An act for the better regulation of the navy, being vessels of war belonging to this State.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the commanders of all ships and vessels of war belonging to this State, are strictly required to shew in themselves, a good example of honor and virtue to their under officers and men, and to be very vigilant in inspecting the behavior of all such as are under them, and to discountenance and suppress all dissolute, immoral, and disorderly practices, and all such as are contrary to the rules of discipline and obedience, and to correct those who are guilty of the same, according to the rule and usages in such cases.

The commanders of ships, when there is a chaplain, are to take care that divine service be daily performed, morning and evening, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accident prevent.

If any person shall be heard to swear, curse, or blaspheme the name of God,

the commander is strictly enjoined to punish them for every offence, by causing them to wear a woollen collar, or some other shameful badge of *distinction* for so long time as he should judge proper.

He who is guilty of drunkenness, if a seaman, shall be put in irons until he is sober; but if an officer, he shall forfeit two days pay.

No commander of any ship or vessel, shall inflict any punishment upon a seaman, beyond twelve lashes upon his naked back, with a suitable whip, without the sentence of a court martial; but if the offence require it, he may apply for a court martial, and in the mean time confine the offender.

The commander of any ship or vessel, is never by his own authority, to discharge a commissioned or warrant officer, nor to punish or strike him, but he may suspend or confine them for offences until a court martial can be holden for the trial of their offence.

The officer who commands, by accident of the captain or commander's absence, (unless he be absent for a time, by leave,) shall not order any correction, but confinement; and upon the captain's return on board, he shall then give an account of his reasons for so doing.

The captain is to cause the articles of war to be hung up in some public place of the ship, and read to the ship's company once a month.

The seamen shall, at their request, be furnished with slops that are necessary, by the captain or purser, who shall keep an account of the same.

The captain, before he sails on a cruise, shall make return, and leave with the Governor or commander-in-chief of this State, or such other persons as shall be appointed for that purpose, a complete list of all the officers and men, with the time and terms of their enlistment and entering; and during his cruise, shall keep a true account of the desertion or death of any of them, and of the entering of others; and after his cruise, and before any of them are paid off, he shall make return of a complete list of the same, including those who shall remain on board his ship, together with an account of the slops and necessary articles delivered out to each man, which ought to be deducted out of their pay.

The captain is to take care when any inferior officers or volunteer seamen are turned over into the ship under his command, from any other ship, not to rate them on the ship's books, in a worse quality, or a lower degree or station, than they served in the ships they were removed from; and for his guidance, he is to demand from the commander of the ship from which they were turned over, a list, under his hand, of their names and qualities.

Any officer, seaman, or others, entitled to wages or prize money, may have the same paid to his assigns or agent, provided the assignment or power of agency be attested by the captain or commander, the master or purser of the ship, or any assistant or justice of the peace.

The captain is to discourage the seamen of his ship from selling any part of their wages and shares, and never to attest a letter of attorney of any seaman, until he is fully satisfied that the same is not granted in consideration of money given for the purchase of his share or wages.

When any inferior officer or seaman dies, the captain is forthwith to make out a ticket for the time of his service, and return the same to the Governor or commander-in-chief of this State, or other persons, for that purpose appointed, in order that the wages may be paid to the executor or administrators of the deceased.

A convenient place shall be set apart for sick or hurt men, to which they are to be removed with their hammocks and bedding, when the surgeon shall advise the same to be necessary, and some of the crew shall be appointed to attend and serve them, and keep the place clean.

It is left to the discretion of the commanders to shorten the allowance of provisions, when absolute necessity shall require it, taking care that the men be punctually paid for the same.

The captain shall frequently order the proper officer to inspect the condition of the provisions, of all kinds on board, and take all due and necessary care to preserve the same good, wholesome, and fit for use.

The captain or purser, shall secure the clothing, bedding, and all other articles and things, of such persons as shall die or be killed, with a true inventory thereof, to be delivered to their executors or administrators.

All papers, charter parties, bills of lading, passports, and other writings whatsoever, found on board any ship or ships, which shall be taken, shall be carefully preserved, and the originals sent to the courts of justice for maritime affairs; and if any person or persons, shall wittingly or negligently destroy, or suffer to be destroyed, or wittingly conceal from the proper officer, any such paper or papers, he or they so offending shall forfeit their share of such prize or prizes, and suffer such other punishments as the offence shall deserve, by the judgment of a court martial.

When in sight of the ship or ships of the enemy, and at such other times as may make it appear necessary to prepare for an action or engagement, the captain shall order all things in his ship in proper posture for fight; and shall in his own person, and according to his duty, heart on and encourage the inferior officers and men to fight courageously, and not to behave themselves faintly, or cry for quarters, on pain of such punishment as the offence shall appear to deserve for his neglect.

Any captain or other officer, mariner, or others, who shall basely desert their duty or station in the ships, or run away while the enemy is in sight, or in time of action, or shall entice others so to do, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court martial shall inflict.

Any officer, seaman, or mariner, who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in any meeting or sedition in the ship to which he belongs, on any pretence whatever, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court martial shall direct.

Any person in or belonging to the ship, who shall utter any words of sedition or mutiny, or endeavor to make any mutinous assembly on any pretence whatever, shall suffer such punishment as a court martial shall inflict.

None shall presume to quarrel with, or strike his superior, on pain of such punishment as a court martial shall order to be inflicted.

If any person shall apprehend he has just cause of complaint, he shall quietly and directly make the same known to his superior officer, or to the captain, as the case may require, who shall take care that justice be done him.

There shall be no quarrelling or fighting between shipmates on board any ship, nor shall there be used any reproachful or provoking speeches, tending to make quarrels and disturbance, on pain of imprisonment, and such other punishment as a court martial shall think proper to inflict.

If any person shall sleep upon his watch, or negligently perform his duty which shall be enjoined him to do, or forsake his station, he shall suffer such

punishment as a court martial shall judge proper to inflict, according to the nature of his offence.

All murder shall be punished with death.

All robbery and theft shall be punished at the discretion of a court martial.

Any master at arms who shall refuse to receive such prisoner or prisoners, as shall be committed to his charge, or having received them, shall suffer him or them to escape, or dismiss them without orders for so doing, shall suffer in his or their stead, as a court martial shall order and direct.

The captain, officers, and others, shall use their utmost endeavors to detect, apprehend, and bring to punishment, all offenders; and shall at all times readily assist the officers appointed for that purpose, in discharge of their duty, on pain of being proceeded against and punished at discretion.

All other faults, disorders, and misdemeanors which shall be committed on board any ship, which are not herein mentioned, shall be punished according to the laws, usages, and customs in such cases at sea.

That His Excellency the Governor, or commander-in-chief of this State for the time being, be, and he is hereby fully empowered to appoint a court martial for the trial of all capital crimes committed at sea on board any of the vessels of war belonging to this State; which court martial shall consist of nine members at least, and as many of them as may be obtained without delay, shall consist of officers belonging to the navy of this State.

That in cases not capital, the commander or captain of any ship or vessel may appoint a court martial, which shall consist of at least one captain, one lieutenant of marines, if there shall be such officer of the marines then present; and the eldest captain shall preside where more are appointed.

All sea officers of the same denomination shall take rank of the officers of marines.

That in all cases where the nature of the case shall require, His Excellency the Governor, or commander-in-chief of this State, is empowered to appoint a court martial for the trial of offences not capital, committed at sea, on board any vessel of war belonging to this State.

Every member of a court martial shall take the following oath, viz.: "You swear that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine the cause of the prisoner now to be tried, according to the rules and regulations of the navy of the State of Connecticut, so help you God." Which oath shall be administered by the president to the other members, and the president shall himself be sworn by the officer in such court, next in rank.

All witnesses, before they may be admitted to give evidence, shall take the following oath, viz.: "You swear the evidence you shall give in the cause now in hearing, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God."

And it shall be the duty of the president of every court martial to transmit to the Governor, or commander-in-chief of this State, every sentence which shall be given, with a summary of the evidence and proceedings thereon, by the first opportunity; and the sentence of a court martial, for any capital offence, shall not be put in execution until it be laid before the Governor, or commander-in-chief of this State; who shall have power to confirm such sentence, or respite and relieve the offender, under such sentence, until the next session of the General Assembly.

The captain or commander of any ship or vessel, shall receive and obey all such orders and instructions, as shall be given him from time to time by His Excellency the Governor, and his Committee of Safety, or such other persons as shall be appointed for that purpose.

There shall be allowed to each man serving on board the vessels of force belonging to this State, a daily proportion of provisions, according as is expressed in the following table, viz.: Sunday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips. Monday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. peas or beans, and 4 oz. cheese. Tuesday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips, and pudding. Wednesday, 1 lb. bread, 2 oz. butter, 4 oz. cheese, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. rice or samp. Thursday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, and $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. peas or beans. Friday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips, and pudding. Saturday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, $\frac{1}{2}$ pt. peas or beans, and 4 oz. cheese. Half pint of rum per man per day when at sea, and half that quantity when in port; one pint of vinegar for six men per week.

The pay of the officers and men shall be as follows, per calendar month, viz.: captain or commander, \$32; lieutenant, \$20; master, \$20; mates, \$15; boatswain, \$15; boatswain's first mate, \$9 34; boatswain's second mate, \$8; gunner, \$15; gunner's mate, \$10 67; surgeon, \$21 34; surgeon's mate, \$10 67; carpenter, \$15; carpenter's mate, \$10 67; cooper, \$15; midshipman, \$12; armorer, \$15; sail maker, \$12; yeoman, \$9; quarter master, \$9; quarter gunner, \$8; cook, \$12; coxswain, \$9; captain's clerk, \$15; steward, \$13 34; chaplain, \$20; able seamen, \$8; captain of marines, \$26 67; lieutenant of marines, \$18; sargeants, \$8; corporals, \$7 34; fifer, \$7 34; drummer, \$7 34; privates or marines, \$6 67.

If any person duly enlisted or engaged on board of any vessel, shall desert the same, he shall forfeit all his wages due, and share of prizes, and shall suffer such other punishment as a court martial shall judge; that in case of recapture, the recaptors shall have and retain, in lieu of salvage, one-eighth part of the true value of the vessel and cargo, or either, if the same hath been in possession of the enemy not more than twenty-four hours; if more than twenty-four hours, and less than forty-eight hours, one-fifth part; if more than forty-eight and less than ninety-six hours, one-third part; if more than ninety-six, the one-half, unless the vessel hath been legally condemned as a prize, in some court of admiralty, in which case the recaptors to have the whole.

That all captures, prizes, and shares, in lieu of salvage on the recaptures made by any ship or vessels belonging to this State, shall be and belong one-half thereof to the use of this State, and the other half to the use of the captors; the necessary charges of condemnation being first deducted.

That the captain of a single ship or armed vessel, have two-twentieth parts for his share of the prize allotted to the captors.

That the lieutenants of the ship, and of the marines, surgeons, chaplains, pursers, boatswains, gunners, carpenters, masters, mates, have three-twentieth parts, equally divided among them, share and share alike.

That the midshipmen, clerk, surgeon's mate, steward, sail-maker, cooper, armorer, boatswain's mate, cook, coxswain, and sargeants of marines, have three-twentieth parts equally divided among them, share and share alike.

That the remaining twelve-twentieth parts be divided among the rest of the ship's company, share and share alike.

Provided, that where more than one ship or vessel are in company and con-

cerned in the capture of any prize, the part of such prize which shall be adjudged to accrue to each ship or vessel, shall be shared and divided among the officers and crew of such ship or vessel, in the same proportion as above expressed in this act.

That no officer or man have any share but such as are actually on board their several vessels at the time any prize is taken, excepting such only as may have been ordered on board any other prizes before taken, or sent away by his or their commanding officers.

He who first discovers a ship or vessel which shall be made a prize, shall be entitled to a double share of such prize.

He who shall first board any ship or other vessel making resistance, which shall become a prize, shall be entitled to a triple share of such prize.

Provided, that this act shall continue and be in force until the rising of the General Assembly in May next, and no longer. All which is submitted by your Honors' most obedient humble servants.

Signed, per order,

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON.

Continued over till the next session of Assembly.

Test,

BENJAMIN PAYNE, Clerk.

Test,

GEORGE WYLLYS, Secretary.

MEMORIAL OF NORWALK.

OCTOBER 14, 1777.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, now sitting at Hartford:

The memorial of us, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Norwalk, in said State, humbly sheweth: That the principal place of rendezvous for the enemy's shipping that cruise in the sound, is in Huntington Bay, on Long Island shore, where they have ever since the enemy took possession of New York and Long Island, been almost constantly stationed for the purpose of cruising in the sound, and for annoying, distressing, and plundering the inhabitants that live near the shores in the western towns in this State; that the shores easterly and westerly in said Norwalk, are so extensive, and there are so many points and necks of land that put out into the sound, that it is impossible for this town to furnish a sufficient number of men to guard every part thereof from the ravages of the enemy; that Huntington Bay is not more than eight or nine miles southerly from the island's points and shores in said Norwalk, and that the enemy frequently, just at night, cross the sound, and come upon us and take away our stock, and plunder us, notwithstanding the utmost care to prevent it; and that the enemy have in some instances taken off part of our guards, and they very often of late, come hovering about our shores, and anchor about our islands with small armed sloops, and boats come within our harbor, and in two instances, have come in the night up our harbors and fired upon our houses, which causes frequent alarms, and creates great uneasiness among the women and children, who expect to be taken prisoners, or be robbed, plundered, and deprived of their whole subsistence and comforts of life; and that as we have no armed force on the water, we have it not in our power to prevent the enemy's small sloops and boats coming into our harbors and distressing us. But your Honors' memorialists humbly conceive it would be otherwise, in case there would

be an armed sloop, of about six or eight guns, to cruise in the sound along the western shores in this State, from the experience that the inhabitants had of Capt. Hawley's cruising in the sound the last summer—as a vessel of such force would be sufficient to encounter and repel the enemy's small craft, and prevent them from coming within our harbors, and landing on our points, necks of land, and shores, and thereby relieve us in a great measure, from alarms, distresses, and danger. Whereupon your Honors' memorialists humbly pray your Honors to take their matter into consideration, and order that a well fitted vessel, of about six or eight guns be purchased, to cruise in the sound, at the public expense, for the protection of the western shores in this State, and the relief of the inhabitants thereof from the distress and danger they are in from the enemy; or in such other way grant relief in the premises, as your Honors in your great wisdom shall judge best, and your Honors' memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Dated at Norwalk, the 14th day of October, A. D. 1777.

(Signed)

John Rich, Nathan St. John, Jabez Gregory, Daniel Beth, Jr., John Abbot, Jr., Seth Abbot, Daniel Richards, John Hawley, Alvon Hyatt, Myer Myers, Abraham Benedict, Samuel Marvin, Isaiah Marvin, Hezekiah Hanford, Jesse Benedict, Nathaniel Raymond, Timothy Whitney, Ebenezer Lockwood, William Taylor, Jonathan Brown, Isaac Warren, Ichabod Marvin, Peter St. John, Aaron Adams, Uriah Smith, Daniel Finch, Eliphalet Lockwood, A. C. Jacobs, Abraham Gregory, Eleazer Hanford, Nathan Adams, Nehemiah Benedict, Asahel Raymond, Abraham Scribner, Nehemiah Grumman, Solomon Simson, Benjamin Jacobs, Matthew Marvin, Thomas Fitch, Stephen St. John, 2d., Nathaniel Benedict, Thaddeus Betts, David Comstock, Samuel Grumman, Ozias Marvin, Daniel Benedict, Stephen Keeler, Jr., John Hanford, Matthew Mallory, Thomas Comstock, Theophilus Fitch, Josiah Taylor, Jr., Azor Belden, Charles Pope, Robert Waters, Haynes Fitch, Daniel Fitch, William St. John, John Eversly, Daniel Eversly, Gershom Hyatt, Eli Reed, Jesse Raymond, Clap Raymond, Benjamin Wynkoop, Isaac Lewis, John Hyatt, Fountain Smith, David Whitney, Ebenezer Whitney, Phineas Hanford.

DECEMBER 19, 1777.

In a letter from Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., to Gov. Trumbull, dated December 19, 1777, at New London, he stated that a number of seamen were brought from Long Island to New London, who belonged on board the British ship *Swan*, taken by Gen. Parsons, in his expedition to Long Island, and sent over to Maj. Buell, with orders to send them to Hartford. Mr. Shaw advised to send them immediately to New York, and redeem the Americans who had been taken in armed vessels. If the Governor approved of sending them to New York, he wished him to send an order to receive the prisoners from Maj. Buell or Gen. Parsons, and Mr. Shaw would send them to New York.

John Bradford's account against Connecticut, for sales of four-sixteenths of the proceeds of property sold by him, of prizes taken by the Defence—of the ship *Lord Howe*, £181 : 3 : 4½; of the ship *George*, five-sixteenths of do., £900 : 18 : 7; of the brigantine *Annabella*, £123 : 2 : 10½. By proportion of sundries sold by William Greenleaf, paid to said Bradford, £82 : 1 : 4. £1,287 : 6 : 1½.

JANUARY, 1778.

On the 8th day of January, 1778, Samuel Shipman, of Saybrook, agent for said town, stated to the General Assembly, that since the commencement of the war with England to the 31st day of December, 1777, they had kept, by orders of the town authority, at the harbor, and on the sea coast, in said town, a guard for their protection, at the cost, (computing 6 shillings per day for each man, including provisions and ammunition, &c.,) of £246:11:10 lawful money, which sum was allowed and voted by said town to be paid; and stated that said guards were kept for the security of the State at large, as well as the town, and that said expense should be paid by the State, and prayed the Assembly to allow and pay the same; which petition was negatived.

PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF HARTFORD TO REMOVE PRISONERS OF WAR.

JANUARY, 1778.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, holden at said Hartford, by adjournment, on the 23d day of December, A. D. 1777.

Voted, That the selectmen of this town, be, and they are hereby empowered and appointed to make application to the next General Assembly, for the removal of all prisoners of war that are, or shall be sent into this town, and for such other relief as the particular circumstances of said town doth, or may require.

A true copy of record, examined by

GEORGE WYLLYS, Register.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, convened at Hartford, by adjournment, on the 8th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1778.

The memorial of the selectmen of the town of Hartford, for the time being, humbly sheweth: That the said town of Hartford, at their lawful meeting, on the 23d day of December last, passed the following vote, to wit: "Voted, That the selectmen of this town, be, and they are hereby empowered and appointed to make application to the next General Assembly, for the removal of all prisoners of war that are, or shall be sent into this town, and for such other relief as the particular circumstances of said town doth, or may require." Whereupon, the memorialists in pursuance of said trust, beg leave to observe to your Honors, that the placing, and continuing of prisoners of war in this town, has been found to be attended with innumerable ill consequences, not only to the inhabitants in general, but to the public welfare; that the public stores and magazines are hereby greatly exposed, and in some instances, have been stolen and lost; that as this town from its situation, and constant resort to it is almost the centre of the earliest public intelligence, so of course every material occurrence is the more liable to be communicated to the enemies of our country. It is also to be remarked that the price of the necessaries of life, such as wood, meat, bread, and clothing, is much increased by the British officers and their servants while in town, who do not stick at any sum to obtain the same, on purpose to distress the inhabitants, as well as to undervalue the currency of the country; that besides all this, they take every opportunity to debauch and alienate the

minds of such of the people, with whom they can possibly, by their address, have communication, they corrupt and vitiate their morals, and often induce the unwary to join in the commission of the grossest evils; and it is also apprehended that they are forming combinations with the blacks, so that the lives and property of many, are not without danger.

Wherefore, for these and many more reasons easy to suggest, the inhabitants of said town of Hartford, consider themselves greatly burthened and exposed, and cannot longer endure it, especially as these prisoners are now only under the direction of a commissary, who seldom doth, or can attend to their particular conduct or behavior. The memorialists, therefore, humbly pray your Honors' attention and consideration of the premises, and that such rule and order may be made thereon, as shall be thought reasonable and proper, and they as in duty bound shall pray.

Hartford, January 8, 1778.

(Signed)

Joseph Church, Joseph Sheldon, Joseph Talcott, Jr., Ashbel Pitkin, John Whitman, Jr., Jonathan Bull, Jonathan Wells, Selectmen.

NATHAN DENISON'S MEMORIAL.

JANUARY, 1778.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, now sitting at Hartford :

The memorial of Nathan Denison, of Westmoreland,* in the county of Westmoreland, humbly sheweth—That he being colonel of the 24th regiment of militia belonging to this State; and on the 20th day of December last, being informed that a band of tories were forming on the westward of said town of Westmoreland, in order to stir up the Indians of Tioga to join said tories, and kill and destroy the inhabitants of this State; upon which information your memorialist ordered part of his regiment to be immediately equipt, and march to suppress the conspirators; and also sent an express to the tribe of Indians at Tioga. The express being seven days in service, which service and expenses amounted to £5:9:6; and the officers and men who marched, were as follows, viz.: 1 lieutenant colonel, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 7 sargeants, 5 corporals, and 93 rank and file, who were nine days in service; and also 1 subaltern and 11 who were four days in service, and were supplied with 100 pounds of powder, and about 300 pounds of ball, which was delivered out of the town stock, and expended in said expedition; which service and expenses being all for the defence of this and the rest of the United States. The memorialist therefore humbly prays your Honors to grant the wages and expenses of the officers and men, who marched about 80 miles up the river and took sundry tories, and happily contented the Tioga Indians, and entirely disbanded the conspirators; and also allow the town of Westmoreland the ammunition expended as aforesaid, and order the expenses of said tories, confined in gaol, paid out of the treasury of this State; or in any other way grant to your memorialist and men such a reasonable reward as your Honors, in your great wisdom shall think just.

Dated at Hartford, the 26th day of January, A. D. 1778.

NATHAN DENISON.

The prayer of the memorialist was granted.

[NOTE.—Col. Nathan Denison went up the Susquehannah river 80 miles after tories, the 20th day of December, 1777.]

DANBURY RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1778.

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be holden at Hartford, by adjournment, on the 8th day of January inst. We your Honors' committee, appointed at your session in October last, to repair to Danbury, and there by every lawful means to enquire into and ascertain the right of every person that might be rendered precarious by the loss of the public records of said town, lately destroyed by the enemy, and to report, &c. : Beg liberty to report, That on the 11th day of November last, we repaired to said Danbury, (having previously notified the inhabitants,) and advised them to call a town meeting, and choose a committee in the various parts of the town, to collect from the inhabitants all the evidence of their title to their real estates, from deeds, surveys, and adjoining proprietors, &c., and to report to us, whereupon we adjourned to and met on the 29th day of December then next; and after a more thorough enquiry into the circumstances of said town, we find that some lands in said town are owned by persons not residing therein, and by minors, and persons inimical to the United States, that refuse to take any pains to ascertain their title, and others who have gone off and joined the enemy. Considering the various difficulties attending said town, beg leave to give it as our opinion, that an act be passed, directing that a committee be appointed by said town of Danbury to make proper surveys of all the highways and lands in said town, to the several persons now in possession, where there is no dispute but that he is the proper owner of such lands in possession, and to take all proper methods the circumstances will admit of to come at the knowledge of the right each person hath to his lands, and in such surveys to bound out the land mentioned, the metes and boundaries thereof, and on whom it adjoins, and what quantity it contains, and when said surveys are made and signed by the committee, and recorded in the town records of said town, to make a full and complete title of such land to the owner or owners, and that attested copies thereof may be given in evidence in any court of record. All which is submitted by your Honors' most obedient humble servants.

Danbury, December 31, 1777.

(Signed)

Daniel Sherman, Increase Moseley, Nehemiah Beardsley, Lemuel Sanford, Samuel Canfield, Caleb Baldwin, Jr., Committee.

The report of the committee is accepted.

BRITISH DEPREDATIONS IN DANBURY.

JANUARY, 1778.

Ebenezer White, of Danbury, of lawful age, testifies and says, that on or about the 26th day of April, 1777, at evening, there being a number of gentlemen at his house belonging to the British army, amongst which was one whom he understood was the Earl of Falkland's son, who told him (the deponent) that he was the first that entered Maj. Starr's house, and found a number of men in the house, among whom were two negroes, all of whom they instantly killed, and set fire to the house; and gave this for a reason why they did so, that it was their constant practice, where they found people shut up in a house and firing upon them, to kill them, and to burn the house; and further the deponent saith, that the said young gentleman told him that one of the negroes, after he had

run him through, rose up and attempted to shoot him, and that he the said Earl of Falkland's son cut his head off himself; which negro, the deponent understood since was the property of Mr. Samuel Smith, of Redding; and further the deponent saith not.

Danbury, January 26, 1778.

The Rev. Mr. Ebenezer White, the above deponent, personally appearing, made oath to the truth of the above written deposition.

Sworn to before me, Thaddeus Benedict, Justice of the Peace.

Ebenezer Weed, of Danbury, of lawful age, testifies and says, that on or about the 26th day of April, 1777, he being at home across the road opposite to Maj. Daniel Starr's house, he saw a negro at the house, which he knew to be the property of Mr. Samuel Smith, of Redding, about a half hour, as near as he can judge, before the British troops came to said house; and further the deponent saith, that in the evening of said day, he heard a man belonging to the British army, say that they had killed one dam'd black with the whites, in said Starr's house; and further the deponent saith not.

Danbury, January 26, 1778.

Sworn before Thaddeus Benedict, Justice of the Peace.

Anna Weed, of Danbury, of lawful age, testifies and says, that on or about the 26th day of April, 1777, she being at home across the road opposite to Maj. Starr's house, she saw a negro at said house, which she understood was the property of Mr. Samuel Smith, of Redding, but a short time before the British troops came up to the house; and further the deponent saith she heard one of the British soldiers say here is a dam'd black in the house, what shall we do with him? another answered, damn him, kill him, and immediately the house was in flames; and further the deponent saith not.

Danbury, January 26, 1778.

Sworn to before Thaddeus Benedict, Justice of the Peace.

BRITISH DEPREDACTIONS IN GUILFORD.

JANUARY, 1778.

To the Honorable General Assembly, holden at Hartford, on the 8th day of January:

The memorial of Noah Fowler, David Bishop, Nathan Chittenden, and William Starr, selectmen of the town of Guilford, humbly sheweth—That pursuant to a resolve of the General Assembly, in October, 1776, recommending to the civil authority and selectmen of the several towns on the sea coast and sound, immediately to set up a sufficient military watch and ward, and to order sufficient sentries to be set in all proper places contiguous to the sea or elsewhere. The authority and selectmen of Guilford proceeded to set up a watch consisting of 24 men, each night, divided into six sentries, which performed constant duty from the 20th of October to the 20th of December, 1776, and then ceased till the 12th of March, 1777, when they set the same number each night, till May 13th, when they were relieved by Capt. Sage, with a company of militia, who continued with them till the 8th of June following; soon after which, viz. : on the 17th of June, a party of the enemy landed at Sacher's Head in said town, burnt a dwelling house, barn, &c., and took off a number of cattle, sheep, &c.; whereupon it was thought necessary to keep a strong guard both day and night, as a large number of cattle were kept near the sea shore; accordingly the watch was enlarged to

60 men, which number went on duty day and night forty days, after which they hired a company of 30 men, which did duty fourteen days and nights, till the 5th of August, when they again ordered 40 men, which number did duty day and night till the 10th of November last; the whole expense of which guards have been borne by the said town, which allowing 4 shillings per man per day and night, and 2 shillings and 6 pence per man for night only, and deductions being made for those who were delinquent in doing duty, amounts to £1,025:13:4, which your memorialists humbly apprehend to be a very unequal burden on the said town; therefore humbly pray your Honors to take said matter into your wise consideration, and grant such relief as your Honors, in their wisdom shall think just and equal; and your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Guilford, January 3, 1778.

(Signed)

Noah Fowler, David Bishop, Nathan Chittenden, William Starr, Selectmen.

STAMFORD MEMORIAL.

FEBRUARY, 1778.

The selectmen of Stamford, in February, 1778, stated to the Assembly, that said town had been over charged in the number of soldiers assigned as their quota for filling up the continental army, by at least ten men, upon a computation of the whites, as returned in 1774; that since that time more than 100 men had joined the enemy from Stamford, and many others killed in battle, and others died in captivity, and many brought sick into the town from the army, to be taken care of, which diminished their numbers, and rendered it difficult, if not impracticable, to supply their quota as allotted, without greatly distressing the inhabitants; and more so by being a frontier town, being obliged themselves to perform more than their quota of service, to defend themselves and their neighbors. And therefore prayed the Legislature to grant them relief in the premises, under their distressed circumstances.

Stamford, February 16, 1778.

(Signed)

Abraham Davenport, Isaac Lockwood, Sylvanus Knapp, Selectmen.

PETITION OF THE TOWN OF REDDING.

FEBRUARY, 1778.

To the Honorable General Assembly, sitting in February, 1778, by adjournment, at Hartford:

The petition of the civil authority and selectmen of the town of Redding, in Fairfield county, humbly sheweth—That the town of Redding is laboring at present, under so many misfortunes and inabilities, peculiar to ourselves, that are not common to the other towns of this State, makes it almost, if not altogether impossible for us to raise the proportion of men for the continental army as set to us by your Honors; we hope that we are and have always been willing to do our equal part in maintaining the common cause of America, and have exerted ourselves therein, always to the utmost of our abilities; yet we, your petitioners, think it our indispensable duty, which we owe to ourselves and our brethren of this town, to inform your Honors, that since the commencement of the present war, that no less than 49 able bodied, effective men, all inhabitants of this town, have been so inhumanly wicked and infatuated as to leave their friends, and most of them their families, and join the ministerial army, enemies

of this and the other United States of America, where they still remain ; and also out of those who were made prisoners by said enemy in their expedition to Danbury, six persons, inhabitants as aforesaid, died ; and we your petitioners, would farther inform your Honors, that we have now enlisted and engaged in the service during the present war, nine men more as artificers, which has greatly thinned the inhabitants of this, so small a town ; all which inconveniencies and misfortunes we labor under, over and above what we share in common with the other towns of this State ; wherefore we flatter ourselves that had your Honors been duly notified of our peculiar circumstances, your Honors would not (considering the smallness of our town, and the many families we have to support, whose estates are confiscated,) have set our proportion of men to be raised so high, as at present it is set. We, your Honors' petitioners, therefore, pray your Honors to take our case and particular circumstances into your wise consideration, and in your great goodness, grant us relief in the premises, and set our proportion of men to be raised, according to the number of our present able bodied, effective men ; and your petitioners as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

49 gone to the enemy, 6 dead prisoners, 9 artificers—total, 64.

Redding, February 13, 1778.

(Signed)

Lemuel Sanford, William Hawley, Justices of the Peace.

Hezekiah Sanford, William Heron, John Gray, Thaddeus Benedict, Selectmen.

These certify that there are but 112 able bodied, effective men, in both our train bands or companies, liable to do duty out of the State ; and that there has enlisted into the continental army out of Redding, 28 men.

Redding, February 13, 1778.

Certified per

JOHN GRAY, captain of the alarm list, and train band.

APRIL 20, 1778.

Capt. Parker, in a letter, dated Oliver Cromwell, April 20, 1778, latitude 20, longitude 50, to Governor Trumbull, stated that if the Admiral Keppel should arrive safe in port, that John Tillinghast, his 3d lieutenant, who had the command of her, would give a particular account of the value of both ships and their cargoes. He stated that on Wednesday, the 13th of April, 1778, at about 10 o'clock, A. M., he fell in with the ships Admiral Keppel and Cyrus, from Bristol for Jamaica, both of them letters-of-marque, mounting eighteen excellent 6 pounders each ; that the Keppel had a very warlike appearance and was the best manned. He ran close along side of her, in the Cromwell, and received her first fire at some distance, but did not return it until he came close on board ; she gave the Cromwell a warm reception for about three glasses, when she struck. Capt. Parker had one man killed ; James Day, captain of marines, mortally wounded, soon died ; and two others had their thighs broken, of doubtful recovery ; three others wounded, one through the arm, one through the leg, the other in the shoulder, not dangerous. He stated that the courage and bravery of his raw, undisciplined men, could not fail of doing honor to their country ; and the merit of his officers, conspicuous to all, in keeping such inexperienced young boys, (as many of them were) to their quarters, without the show of fear or noise or confusion, through the whole short and warm action.

Lieut. Pease, of the Defence, brought in the Cyrus. Capt. Smedley was

unfortunate in having a leaky ship, by which his ship was weakened; he also had the small pox on board. As Capt's. Parker and Smedley were intimate friends, Capt. Parker rendered him all assistance, and they had been mutually serviceable to each other. The invoices of the Keppel were inclosed to Capt. Jabez Perkins. He also sent the Governor a packet of late newspapers with a printed bill, with its amendments, to enable His Majesty to send commissions to America. He stated that he should cruise in the latitude where he then was, and then follow his orders, &c.

MAY 20, 1778.

By a letter, dated Boston, May 20, 1778, from S. Elliot, Jr., to Gov. Trumbull, congratulating him on the arrival of the *Cyrus*, of 16 carriage guns, which with the Admiral Keppel, of 18 guns, taken by the ships *Oliver Cromwell* and *Defence*, after a smart engagement of three glasses. The gallant Capt. Day, with one man, was killed, and some wounded. The particulars of the engagement to be given by Mr. Cohoun, an officer of the *Cromwell*, (the bearer) to the Governor. The prize arrived safe at Cape Ann on the 19th day of May. The Admiral Keppel had not yet arrived.

MAY 24, 1778.

By a letter from Samuel Elliot, Jr., at Boston, to Gov. Trumbull, dated May 24, 1778, it appears that the ship Admiral Keppel, which had been captured by the *Cromwell* and *Defence*, and arrived in Boston on Thursday previous to the aforesaid date, had on board a very valuable cargo, and the Hon. Henry Shirly and family, as passengers. Capt. Parker and Mr. Elliot gave Mr. Shirly a letter to Gov. Trumbull, to obtain liberty to return to his own country, or what would be more gratifying to him, to proceed to Jamaica. This prize was stated by Mr. Elliott, to be by far the most valuable prize that had been taken by the State's vessels, and that he would take charge of that moiety of the cargo which belonged to Connecticut. Capt. Parker stated in a letter to Gov. Trumbull, that Capt. Brown commanded the Admiral Keppel, bound from Bristol to Jamaica, transporting said Shirly and his lady and family to that island, to settle the affairs of his estate there. Mr. Shirly was a gentleman of estimable character, and had been ambassador from the court of Great Britain to that of Russia.

JUNE 2, 1778.

Gov. Trumbull, in a letter to Samuel Elliot, Jr., dated Hartford, June 2, 1778, permitted Mr. Shirly to visit Connecticut by the middle road from Boston, with permission for Mr. Phipps and his surgeon and servants to accompany him, if he wished them, when the Governor would conclude on his claims, with directions to Mr. Elliot to assist him on his journey, and to make Mrs. Shirly and her daughter, as easy as their unfortunate situation would admit in his absence; with directions that the prisoners who were seamen, should be kept on board the prize ship.

MAY 24, 1778.

A letter, dated Boston, May 24, 1778, from Col. J. Trumbull to Gov. Trumbull, regarding Mr. Shirly; in which he remarked, that Mr. Shirly was a gentleman of great fortune, of powerful connexions, and of course enabled to

become a mighty engine for or against this country; that at that time he was favorably inclined towards us, and had taken no active part against the States; and was of the opinion that good policy, not to say justice, would induce him to grant Mr. Shirly a flag, to transport him and his family to his estate in Jamaica, as he was the gentleman who formerly presented the Jamaica petition to the King of Great Britain in our favor. Also that he used his influence in the prize ship, over the prisoners on board to keep them quiet, without which it would have been impossible to have brought said prize into port, as the Oliver Cromwell had few seamen, and most of them sick with the small pox. Col. Trumbull also wished that the men, who so honestly brought in said ship, might be rewarded by a permission to return as hands on board the flag that should be granted to Mr. Shirly. Mr. Trumbull stated that it had been suggested to take from Mr. Shirly his personal furniture, such as bedding, clothing, &c.; which act he conceived would be most infamous, and contrary to all practice. A difficulty had again arisen as to the prisoners, as the Council had demanded them of Mr. Elliott, to be confined on board the guard ships until exchanged; but Mr. Elliot had refused to comply with the demand, until he should receive orders from the Governor of Connecticut. Col. Trumbull wished the dispute settled, by defining how far the authority of one State, might with propriety, interfere with that of another. The seamen of the Keppel disliked to be exchanged as prisoners of war, as they feared the consequence would be, their being impressed for the navy, a service which they detested.

MAY, 1778.

Samuel Elliott, Jr., Esq., agent for Connecticut in Massachusetts, petitioned the Council of Massachusetts; in which memorial he stated, that a number of passengers were on board the prize Keppel, viz.: Henry Shirly, Esq., his lady and daughter, a hand maid of Mrs. Shirly, and three servants of his; also Mr. Phipps, of Jamaica, and Mr. Jepson, for whom he asked liberty to accommodate in Boston in a manner suited to their rank and character. Also that there were on board said prize ships, taken by the ships of war then in the Boston harbor, a number of sailors who enlisted to bring the vessels into port, which was necessary, as 60 of the men on board the Defence were inoculated for the small pox; and that the Oliver Cromwell had been obliged to sail with a number of men far short of her complement; and that the enlisted men had conducted well, of which he had informed Gov. Trumbull, and had engaged they should be kept on board said prize ships, and abide the directions of the Governor of Connecticut.

MAY 30, 1778.

A letter from Gov. Trumbull to Mr. Elliott, dated at Hartford, on the 30th of May, 1778, was received, congratulating him on the news of the arrival of the prize Admiral Keppel and cargo, with the prisoners, Mr. Shirly, &c., with directions to pay proper attention to Mr. Shirly, and allow him all the indulgence consistent with his duty and the safety of the State.

MAY 30, 1778.

By a letter from Gov. Trumbull to S. Elliott, Jr., dated Hartford, May 30, 1778, directing him to dispose of the provisions of the Cyrus and the other cargo, such as butter, cheese, hams, tripe, and sour crout, &c., owned by this

State, and to suspend the sale of other articles, until further orders, when a particular invoice of the cargoes should be received. Also gave directions that the seamen and marines taken on board said prize ships, should be humanely treated, and not confined in gaols or prison ships, with permission given them to enlist into the sea service, and such of them as should not so enlist, to be kept and exchanged for American seamen in the hands of the enemy.

The prize ship Admiral Keppel, captured by Capt. Parkar, of the *Cromwell*, and Capt. Smedley, of the *Defence*—the ship and cargo sold at auction, Boston, July 8, 1778, for the sum of £22,320 : 18 : 9 ; net proceeds £22,013 : 18 : 9, by William Greenleaf.

Dated at Boston, September 23, 1778.

NAMES OF SHIPS OF WAR.

The vessels of war in service, in this State, in the American revolution, were the brig *Minerva*, schooner *Spy*, *Defence*, ship *Oliver Cromwell*, row galley *Shark*, row galley *Whiting*, brig *America*, sloop *Dolphin*, sloop *Mifflin*, *Resistance*, sloop *Schuyler*, brig *Silliman*, frigate *Trumbull*, Bourbon frigate, row galley *Crane*, *The Guilford*, *New Defence*, *Putnam*, *Revenge*, sloop *Stark*, *Young Cromwell*, *Confederacy*, *Count De Grasse*, sloop *Tiger*, *Alliance*, and sloop *Phoenix*. [*Connecticut Courant*.]

ATTACK OF THE BRITISH UPON NEW HAVEN.

JULY, 1779.

The following account was published in the *Connecticut Gazette*, a paper then printed by Timothy Green, Esq., at New London.

On the evening of the 5th of July, two expresses arrived at New London with despatches for the commanding officer at that post, with the information that 70 sail of British shipping from New York were in the sound, and supposed to be bound for New London. The second express stated, that they had landed at West Haven, at 6 o'clock, on Monday morning, and were advancing towards New Haven. Expresses were immediately sent into the towns back of New London, to notify the militia; and the militia of New London and Groton were forthwith ordered under arms. By news from East Haven, Monday night, at 12 o'clock, it appeared the enemy on Monday morning, landed 700 men at East Haven Point, and took possession of a small fort, which mounted four guns; that a brisk fire was heard at New Haven, at 11 o'clock, on Monday; that the British came round the west part of the town, burnt the powder mill and paper mill, and marched through the north part of the town to Gallow's Hill, (an eminence which commanded the Hartford road, where they were intrenching, and had the entire possession of the town; that the army consisted of about 2,600 men, a part of whom came from the North river to New Rochelle and embarked on board the ships. Heavy firing was heard at New Haven on Tuesday. The militia came in, in great numbers.

July 14, 1779. A farther account was given, that the troops were under Gen. Tryon, and landed in three divisions at 5 o'clock, on Monday morning, one at West Haven, another at East Haven, and a third at long wharf. The first division marched direct for the west bridge, where a few of the inhabitants were collected, and took up the bridge, by which they obliged the British to

march up the west side of the river, about two miles to Thompson's bridge, where the people had collected, and a smart skirmish ensued, and continued until the enemy entered the town, at 11 o'clock. The third division landed in town, (New Haven) about half after 11 o'clock; each party had killed about 23 persons, among whom were some officers. The British left New Haven about 7 o'clock, A. M., on Tuesday, after having set fire to the stores, houses, and shipping at long wharf, and landed in East Haven, where they burned several houses, and at 6 P. M. embarked, and sailed at 7 o'clock. The British fleet then sailed direct to Fairfield, where the troops landed and burnt all the compact part of the town, except a few houses (10); they then embarked and went to Huntington, (Long Island,) where they lay until Saturday, and on that evening, they landed at Norwalk, in two parties, one on the east and the other on the west side of the harbor, about 2,500 men; the next morning they marched to the town, and about 6 o'clock, set fire to the buildings, and consumed the whole town, except a few scattering houses. A few continental and militia troops, commanded by Gen's. Wolcott and Parsons, made considerable resistance, and a few were killed on both sides, and about 2 o'clock, the same day, the troops embarked on board their vessels.

The west bridge on Milford road was taken up, and several field pieces carried there, and some slight works thrown up for the defence of that pass. The division under Gen. Garth being landed, immediately began their march towards the town. The first opposition made to them was by about 25 of the citizens to an advanced party of the enemy of two companies of light infantry. These, though advancing on Milford Hill, were attacked with great spirit, by the mere handful of inhabitants, driven back nearly to West Haven, and one of them taken prisoner. The British then advanced in their main body, with strong flanking parties and two cannon; but finding a smart fire kept up from the field pieces at the bridge aforesaid, dare not force an entrance to the town by the bridge, the usual road, but to make a circuitous march of nine miles, in order to enter New Haven by the Derby road. In this march, the small party of citizens on the Milford Hill increased to about 150 men, promiscuously collected from several companies of the militia, and had a smart encounter with the enemy's left flank, near the Milford road, where their Adjutant Campbell was killed, whom they greatly lamented. Our people being greatly overpowered by numbers on the Hill, gave way, but kept up a continual fire on the enemy and galled them much, on their march to Thompson's bridge, on the Derby road (to New Haven.) Those who were posted at the west bridge perceived the movements of the enemy; and that another large body of them had landed at the south end, on the east side of the harbor, quit the west bridge and marched to Thompson's bridge, but by the time they reached the banks of the river, the enemy were in possession of the bridge, and the places at which the river was there fordable; yet having received some strength by the coming in of the militia, they gave the British a smart fire from two field pieces and the small arms, which continued with little abatement, until the enemy were in possession of New Haven. The New Haven troops and people were obliged to retreat, either to the fields north and west of the town, or through the town across the neck bridge. The enemy entered the town between 12 and 1 o'clock. In the mean time, the division of the enemy, before mentioned to have landed at the end, which was under the immediate command of Gen. Tryon, was bravely resisted by a small

party of men, with one field piece, who, besides other execution, killed an officer of the enemy in one of their boats at their landing. This division marched up by land and attacked the fort at Black Rock; at the same time, their shipping drew up and attacked it from the harbor. The fort had only 19 men and three pieces of artillery, yet was defended as long as reason or valor dictated, and then the men made their retreat. The town being now in the full possession of the enemy, it was, notwithstanding their proclamation, delivered up, except a few instances of protection, to promiscuous plunder; in which, besides robbing the inhabitants of their watches, money, plate, buckles, clothing, bedding, and provisions, &c.; they broke and destroyed household furniture and other property to a very great amount; some families lost all, and many were left without food or a change of clothing. A body of militia sufficient to penetrate the town could not be collected that evening; and the inhabitants were obliged to be satisfied with annoying the enemy, which was done with spirit most of the afternoon, about Ditch Corner.

Early on Tuesday morning, the enemy unexpectedly, and with perfect stillness and despatch, called in their guards and retreated to their boats, and carried with them several of the inhabitants as prisoners, most of whom were taken without arms, a part of whom went on board the British fleet, and others crossed over to Gen. Tryon, at East Haven. On Tuesday afternoon, the militia had collected in such numbers, and crowded so close upon Gen. Tryon, that he retreated on board his fleet, and set sail to the westward.

The loss of the enemy was not known, but was supposed to be considerable, including some officers, besides Adjutant Campbell. The Americans had, from the best information, 27 killed and 19 wounded. Several of our men appeared to have been wounded with shot, though not mortally, but were afterwards killed with bayonets. Gen. Garth declared to one of the militia who was wounded, that he was sorry his men had not killed him, instead of taking him, and that he would not have his men give quarters to one militia man taken under arms.

Although, in this expedition, it must be confessed, to the credit of the Britons, that they did not do all the injury in their power, yet the brutal ravishment of women, the wanton and malicious destruction of property, the burning the stores on the wharf, and eight houses in East Haven. The beating Stabing, and insulting the Rev. Dr. Daggett, after he was made a prisoner, the mortally wounding of Mr. Beers, Sen., in his own door, and otherwise abusing him; the murdering the worthy, aged, and helpless Mr. English, in his own house; the beating, cutting out the tongue, and killing a deranged man, are sufficient proofs of their being Britons.

The troops were conducted to New Haven by one William Chandler, son of Joshua Chandler, then late of New Haven, who with his family, left the place with the enemy in their retreat.

The British carried away between 30 and 40 of the inhabitants; among them John Whiting, Esq., judge of probate and clerk of the county court. They left New Haven Tuesday evening, and on the next day (7th) landed at Fairfield, and notwithstanding some force there collected, they entered it, and plundered all they could carry off, and burned the compact part of the town, being near 100 dwelling houses, besides the public buildings, and the meeting house, and 13 dwelling houses at Green's Farms, and 8 at Mill River, within Fairfield bounds.

On Saturday, of the same week, the enemy's fleet appeared off Norwalk, and

early next morning, landed the British troops at Norwalk, and laid the town in ashes, together with the church and meeting house, stores, barns, &c., and killed 5 or 6 men at Norwalk, and 3 or 4 at Fairfield.

[DEPOSITIONS.]

Sarah Townsend, of New Haven, testified, that when the British forces entered New Haven, about noon, on the 5th of July, 1779, a party of them soon came to her husband's house, and in a very furious manner, with horrid execrations, seized her husband, and stripped him instantly of his buckles and shoes, and took him away at the point of their bayonets, down to the wharf, on board a vessel, and left her with a number of small children and an aged aunt in the utmost distress. At other times, other British soldiers visited the house, who she tried to oblige and mollify as far as possible by provisions and drink, as they wished, yet they plundered, took away or spoiled the furniture of the house, and threatened her life, with the most shocking execrations, until through her fears and the cries of her children, she was ready to sink and give out. Late in the afternoon, she understood that Sir George Collier was in the next house; she resolved to apply to him for protection from such perpetual abuses, and trusted that an officer of such distinction, would at least act the gentleman, and take pity on her. She met him in the street, and applied to him in the most complacent manner, she was able, with a child hanging on each side of her, and a babe in her arms. He heard her story, but answered her roughly, and said he supposed her husband was a rebel, &c.; she replied, that her husband was quiet in his house, when taken, and had not been under arms that day, &c. Sir George looked at her babe, and said "You have got a pretty child there; is it yours?" she told him it was. He then said to her, "Are you willing that it should be cut up, and made a pie of? the Congress, they say, eat such pies, and they are very good." She made no direct reply, for she was so affected, she was unable to express herself; but continued to importune for relief and protection. He at last told her, "You may tell them Sir George Collier says, they must not hurt you," and went off; she complied with his direction, to very little effect. She said this is a very imperfect representation of the abuse and cruel treatment she received.

(Signed)

SARAH TOWNSEND.

Sworn before SAMUEL BISHOP, Jr., Justice of the Peace.

John Collins, formerly an officer in the continental navy, sick at the house of Capt. Thomas Wooster, in New Haven, testified, that on the 5th day of July, 1779, soon after the British army took possession of New Haven, a number of British soldiers entered Mrs. Wooster's house, (the widow of Gen. Wooster,) and demanded of her, her silver and silver plate; she told them she had none in the house. They then demanded her pockets, which she refused; one of the soldiers seized her by her shoulder, swore she had plate, and he would kill her unless she delivered it. She then took a watch from her pocket and gave it to them, and laid some other trifles on the table, and attempted to escape at the door. They cried, damn her, stop her, and laid violent hands upon her; and one leveled his gun at her breast, damned her, and swore if she moved a step, he would shoot her dead. They then demanded her ear rings, and her handkerchief from her neck. She asked them if they were not ashamed to treat a woman thus; one replied, damn you, do you think you must wear a silk

handkerchief when I have none? As they were about to use violence to obtain them, Mrs. Wooster delivered them up. They then turned their attention to Mr. Collins, and made him a prisoner, when Mrs. Wooster escaped; as they found Mr. Collins was unable to go with them, they took from him his hat, stock buckle, shoe and knee buckles, they then seized him by the shoulder, threw him upon the floor, presented a bayonet at his breast, then reeking with blood, as he supposed of the aged Capt. English, who had just been murdered, and swore they would kill him, if he did not immediately tell them where his money was. He told them he had none, and he was not the owner of the house. They damned him, and swore he lied, and they would run him through if he did not disclose where his money was; they searched his pockets and found a paper they swore was his commission, and swore he was a damned officer in the rebel service, and they would kill him instantly.

Sworn July 26, 1779, before SAMUEL BISHOP, Jr., Justice of the Peace.

[NOTE.—It appears by the testimony of Rose Luke and Mrs. Gatter, that several attempts, to violate chastity, by the soldiers, occurred in New Haven, on the 5th of July, 1779.]

Elias Beers, of lawful age, testifies and says, that he saw his father, Nathan Beers, late of New Haven, about three hours after he was wounded by the enemy, on the 5th of July, 1779, and received from his mouth the following account of the treatment he received from the enemy, viz.: that upon their entrance into town, an officer, mortally wounded, near his father's house, was brought in and dressed there, whom his father assisted with bandages, &c., for dressing his wound, besides treating them with kindness and hospitality, for which the (British) officer, on his departure, returned him thanks, and said he should not be hurt, but protected for his kindness. After the officer was carried away, a party of soldiers came upon him as he was peaceably standing at his front door, and charged him with firing out of his house, which he denied: he told them he had no arms in his house; he saw by their motions, they intended murdering him; he added, I am an old infirm man, I am not able to do you any hurt, and have done nothing to oppose you, all I have is in your hands, why should you take away my life. Unmoved by this remonstrance, they snapped three guns with fixed bayonets at his breast, one of the guns only went off, which he struck down from his breast, and the ball entered his right hip, and as he fell, they were about to end his life with their bayonets, but he begged to be spared, told them he was mortally wounded. The party then left him, and went to plundering the house. After the loss of much blood, he got to the bed, and in some measure stopped the blood; another party came in soon after, hauled him from the bed, demanded his money, kicked and otherwise abused and insulted him, and set his wound bleeding again; being deaf to all entreaties, several parties, one after another, plundering, and destroying furniture, &c., came at him with fixed bayonets, insulted, threatened, and abused him; of these wounds he died on the 10th of July, 1779, in the 61st year of his age.

ELIAS BEERS.

New Haven, July 26, 1779. Sworn before SAMUEL BISHOP, Jr., Just. Peace.

Isaac Beers agreed to the facts testified by his brother Elias, and testified, that he was himself taken a prisoner in his own house, and when a prisoner he heard Gen. Garth tell Mr. Isaac Woodin, who was a wounded prisoner, that

he was sorry his men had not killed him instead of making him a prisoner, and that he would not have his men give quarters to one militia man taken in arms.

July 26, 1779. Sworn before SAMUEL BISHOP, Jr., Justice of the Peace.

On the 24th of July, 1779, Lois Cook, of New Haven, testified, that on the 5th day of July, 1779, Elisha Tuttle, of New Haven, a distracted person, was laid at her door, wounded and in his gore, by the British troops soon after they entered the town. They asked her if she knew him? She washed off the blood, and told them his name and circumstances. One of the officers seemed affected, and permitted her to take charge of him. He had many wounds on his head and body, and one on his tongue; and a part of his tongue on the 3d day came off, and he soon after died. The wounds appeared to have been made by a bayonet.

Sworn before ENEAS MUNSON, Justice of the Peace.

Abigail English, of New Haven, testified, that on the 5th day of July, 1779, when the British troops were in New Haven, that Benjamin English, aged 74 years, was alone in his house, and she saw a number of British troops at his well, drinking water; and soon saw a soldier come out of his house, at the back door. Said English came to the back door, with his hand on his breast, and the blood running; and he cried out—he has stabbed me, he has stabbed me. And she asked why he stabbed him? he answered, he could not say, for he humored them as much as lay in his power. Said English walked about two rods, and fell, and instantly expired. He had three wounds in his breast, as if made by a bayonet. She went into the house, and found blood in the great chair where he usually sat, and where she supposed he received his mortal wound.

July 28, 1779. Sworn before ENEAS MUNSON, Justice of the Peace.

Charles Alling, of New Haven, testified, that he saw examined, and assisted in burying Capt. John Gilbert, Asa Todd, Joseph Dorman, Samuel Woodin, and Silas Woodin. That Capt. Gilbert was shot through the knee, and then appeared to have been killed with a club, as his head was badly bruised, and a bloody club lay upon him. That no wound appeared upon the person of Asa Todd, except he was pierced with a bayonet, once through the head, and twice through the body. That Joseph Dorman had his thigh broken just above his knee, but it appeared to have been done with a stone, which lay by him bloody; and yet he was pierced with bayonets, once through the head and once through the body, but no other wound. That Samuel Woodin appeared to be shot through the body with a grape shot, and no otherwise wounded; that he could say nothing in particular, as to Silas Woodin.

(Signed)

CHARLES ALLING.

Sworn at New Haven, July 26, 1779, before SAMUEL BISHOP, Jr., Just. Peace.

[NOTE.—The Deposition of the Rev. Naphthali Daggett, is omitted in this work, as it has been published in the Connecticut Historical Collections, by J. W. Barber.]

DAMAGE BY THE BRITISH TROOPS IN NEW HAVEN.

JULY 5, 1779.

A committee was appointed by the General Assembly of this State, in October, A. D. 1779, to enquire into and estimate the losses of the inhabitants of New Haven, by the hostile invasion of the British troops. The committee met

at New Haven, on the 14th day of December, 1779, and examined the losses of the sufferers, and computed each article at the price of the article in the year 1774, except West India rum, which was estimated at 6 shillings per gallon, molasses at 4 shillings per gallon, wine at 12 shillings per gallon, French brandy at 15 shillings per gallon, salt at 12 shillings per bushel, brown sugar at 1 shilling per pound, bohea tea at 6 shillings per pound, loaf sugar at 2 shillings per pound, and chocolate at 3 shillings per pound; and said committee reported to the General Assembly, in January, 1780, the name and loss of each sufferer, which report was accepted by said Assembly, and approved, and ordered to be lodged on file in the Secretary's office. The amount of the total loss so reported was £24,893 : 7 : 6, as cash in 1774, (and £1,892 continental money,) which was destroyed by the British; which report was made by Samuel Barker, Joseph Hopkins, and Gideon Buckingham, as committee, and by them signed.

JULY 5, 1779.

An account of the losses sustained by the inhabitants of New Haven, by the British troops, July 5, 1779, as estimated by the sufferers, is found in the Secretary of State's office, without any action of the Legislature endorsed upon it, which amounts to the sum of £23,703 : 10; which account is certified by Samuel Bishop, Jr., to be an account of the losses sustained when the enemy came into New Haven, which certificate is dated at Lebanon, August 3, 1779, from which facts, it is presumed, the account was lodged with Gov. Trumbull.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES UPON THE LOSSES IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY BY THE INVASION OF THE BRITISH.

GREENWICH.

In the month of October, 1779, the General Assembly of this State, appointed James Beard, Increase Mosely, and Elisha Mills, a committee to enquire into and estimate the losses of every individual in the town of Greenwich, occasioned by the hostile invasion of the British troops; and to abate State taxes, (in whole or part) of such of the sufferers, as in their opinion were proper subjects. The committee met at Greenwich, on the 30th day of November, 1779, and enquired into said losses, by receiving from each claimant, under oath or affirmation, a list of the several articles they had lost, with the prices affixed, at the rate they were usually sold in the year 1774; and the committee examined and adjusted said lists and prices as uniformly alike as possible, with each person's loss annexed to his name, which was so reported to the Assembly, holden in January, 1780, which amounted to the sum of £6,365 : 11 : 8; beside £369 : 17 : 7, which last was exhibited to the committee by persons who had not taken the oath of fidelity to this State, a part of whom, were of a suspicious character, and therefore were reported separate from the others. The committee then considered the circumstances of the inhabitants of said town, for the purpose of designating the greatest sufferers, in being robbed of their effects, drove from their farms, and otherwise harassed by the enemy, in order to determine who were proper persons to have their State taxes abated, which were then due, and would be due, by the 20th of the next January; whose names and sums annexed, were reported to the General Assembly, which amounted to the sum of £5,010 : 1 : 4, signed by said committee, and dated at Derby, December 24, 1779. The committee's wages, fourteen days, at £9 each per day, is £378; expenses of men and horses, £237 : 7 : 8; which report was accepted and ordered on file.

[GREENWICH PETITION.]

John Mead and Jabez Fitch, of Greenwich, in behalf of the sufferers of said Greenwich, whose property had been destroyed by the British, after March, A. D. 1779, brought their petition to the General Assembly, holden at New Haven, January, 1783, for reparation of damages. The Assembly appointed Philip B. Beardsley and Nehemiah Beardsley, a committee to examine into the losses of the inhabitants of said town. The committee notified the sufferers, and on the 17th day of December, 1782, repaired to Greenwich, consulted with the authority and selectmen of the town, upon the subject of their mission, and proceeded strictly to examine on oath, every sufferer by the British depredators, who exhibited an account, and other evidence. And at the May term of the Assembly, in 1787, reported, each sufferer in said Greenwich, with the sum they found he had been injured by the British, annexed to his or her name, which amounted in the whole, to the sum of £12,430 : 18 : 7; the consideration of said report in May, 1787, was referred by the Assembly to the Legislature, to be holden at New Haven, October, 1787.

DANBURY.

A committee which consisted of Daniel Sherman, Increase Moseley, Nehemiah Beardsley, and Lemuel Sanford, Esq's., appointed by the General Assembly in May, 1777, on a memorial of the selectmen of Danbury, to estimate the damages sustained by the inhabitants of said town, by the incursion of the British troops: In which they stated, that about twenty dwelling houses, with a number of barns, stores, and other buildings, were destroyed; and that the enemy on their retreat, collected and drove away all the cattle, horses, and sheep, &c., they could find. The committee were appointed to estimate the damage and loss of each sufferer in said town, occasioned by the British, and make their report of the same to the Assembly, that the actual losses should be distinctly known, and subject to the acts of some future Legislature. The committee repaired to Danbury on the 3d day of June, 1777, after having notified the inhabitants, and from day to day examined the losses of each sufferer on oath, and by other evidence, and allowed to each his damage at the time said property was destroyed; they found that by reason of the price of articles, the inhabitants had been obliged to pay large sums over and above the value, in procuring necessaries for their families; that many of them had their teams forced from them, to remove the public stores, &c. The committee reported to the Assembly the name of each sufferer with his loss allowed, annexed to his name, which amounted to the sum of £16,181 : 1 : 4—which report was accepted by the Assembly, and ordered to be lodged on file, to perpetuate the evidence of the loss of each person, that when Congress should order a compensation, to make out the claims of sufferers.

RIDGEFIELD.

In the year 1777, Increase Moseley, Nehemiah Beardsley, and Lemuel Sanford, Esq's., were appointed a committee to estimate the losses of the inhabitants of Ridgefield, by the incursion of the enemy on their return from Danbury, as they passed through said Ridgefield, where they burned several dwelling houses and other buildings, killed and took with them many of their cattle, plundered their provisions and clothing, &c. The committee repaired to Ridgefield on the 1st day of December, 1777, (after having notified said sufferers,) and held seven-

ral days' session, in examining the accounts of the sufferers on oath, and reported the names of the sufferers, and the amount of loss sustained by each; the full amount of which was £2,625 : 1 : 8—which report was accepted by the Assembly, and ordered lodged on file, for the purpose of perpetuating the evidence of each person's loss, the more easily to make out their claims, whenever Congress should order a compensation to said sufferers.

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FAIRFIELD.

At a session of the General Assembly, holden at Hartford, January 12, 1773, a committee, consisting of Thomas Fitch, Thaddeus Betts, and Lemuel Sanford, Esq's., were appointed to estimate the damages to each individual in Fairfield, by the hostile invasion of the British troops in their route to Danbury, in April, 1777, and report thereon. The committee notified all the sufferers to meet at the dwelling house of Benjamin Wynkoop, in Fairfield, on the 5th day of April, 1779, and then and there exhibit their accounts of losses sustained by the troops as aforesaid; and at said time and place the committee examined and estimated the losses of each sufferer in said town; and reported to the General Assembly, holden in May, 1779, the names of each of the sufferers, with the sums allowed, annexed to each name, which sums were estimated by the committee at the usual and customary prices of such articles in the year 1774; which amounted, for all sufferers, to the sum of £1,616 : 7 : 10—which report was dated at Fairfield, May 3, 1779. The committee examined B. Wynkoop's account of expenses of the committee, and his collecting the people at his house, and £29 : 18 : 9 was allowed to him by the General Assembly, May Session, 1779.

At the October session of the General Assembly, 1779, Mr. Chandler, Daniel Bennet, and William Hawley, Esq's., were appointed a committee, on the solicitation of the inhabitants of Fairfield, who had suffered by the conflagration and depredations of the enemy in said town, to appraise the losses of each individual. The committee reported, that at sundry times they repaired to Fairfield, and the sufferers, (by the incursion of the enemy under the command of Gen. Tryon, on the 7th and 8th days of July, 1779,) produced their accounts of losses, stated and attested, which the committee carefully examined and adjudged, which included both real and personal property, allowed at such prices as conformed to a rule or standard fixed on by the committee, and such property as did not come within their rule, they allowed them at the rate of prices of 1774. The damage to buildings was appraised by three carpenters, (employed by said committee,) which appraisement was examined and corrected by the committee, and allowed. The committee also abated to those sufferers, who had been burned out of their own or hired houses, all their State taxes that had been or should be laid on their list for 1778—which report contained the following names, as specified hereafter, with their accounts as allowed by said committee, and signed by said committee. Dated at Fairfield, April 27, 1780.

Fees—Mr. Chandler, 10 days at 10s. per day, and three journeys to Fairfield, £5 : 13; Daniel Bennett, 7 days at 10s. per day, three journeys at 6s. £4 : 8; William Hawley, 8 days at 10s. per day, three journeys at 6s. £4 : 13.

—
GREENWICH, DANBURY, &c.

Hon. Andrew Adams, and others, were appointed a committee to consider the memorial of the inhabitants of Greenwich, Danbury, and other places, who

had suffered in the war, distinguished losses and damages by the depredations and burnings by the British, and methodically state the facts, what had been, and what still further ought to be or could be done for the relief of said sufferers.

The chairman of said committee reported, that for want of exhibits and documents they were unable methodically and correctly to state the facts of losses and estimate of damages; and also for the want of proper certificates from the Treasurer and Secretary of State, to report what had already been done by the State for their relief. But were of opinion that the houses and buildings, and necessary household furniture in the frontier towns, (mentioned in the memorial,) burned and destroyed by the enemy during the war, ought to be paid for by this State, at their just value; and that the only manner in the power of the State, at that time, (viz. 1787,) was to pay the same in *Western Lands*—which report was, in October, 1787, accepted by the House, but rejected by the Upper House.

DAMAGE SUSTAINED IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD.

Account of the losses sustained in the town of Fairfield by the British, valued as in the year 1774.

AT GREEN'S FARMS—The meeting house and bell, £600; Rev. Mr. Ripley's house and barn, £300, also clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £114 : 2 : 6; Nathan Godfrey's house, barn, clothing, furniture, and provisions, £362 : 18; Grummond Morehouse's house, barn, provisions, &c., £80 : 4 : 5; Doct. Ebenezer Jessup's house, barn, corn house, furniture, provisions, &c., £421 : 2 : 6; Simon Conch's house, barn, provisions, furniture, &c., £224 : 12; Widow Eunice Morehouse's house, barn, clothing, furniture, &c., £103 : 6; Ebenezer Morehouse's house, barn, and provisions, &c., £122 : 7 : 2; George Batterson's house, furniture, &c., £53 : 11; John Davis' house, furniture, provisions, clothing, &c., £58 : 16; Abraham Andrews' house, barn, store, clothing, furniture, &c., £468 : 10 : 5; Widow Sarah Andrews' house, barn, clothing, provisions, &c., £156 : 14; Jessup Wakeman's house, barn, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c., £194 : 18; Gideon Morehouse's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £73 : 14; John Morehouse's barn, &c., £253 : 19; Moss Kent's house, clothing, provisions, and furniture, &c., £316 : 2.

AT THE OLD SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD—Stephen Thorp's house, barn, store-house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £746 : 17; Aaron Jennings' store-house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £91 : 19; Eliphalet Thorp's house, barn, store-house, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c., £639; Increase Bradley's house, store-house, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c., £150; Jonathan Darrows' house, barn, clothing, and provisions, &c., £306 : 9; Samuel Sturges' house, shop, provisions, furniture, &c., £280 : 3 : 3; James Bulkeley, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £18 : 4; Moss Bulkeley's house, £40; David Beers' house, shop, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £196 : 3; Joseph Beers' house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £132 : 12; Reuben Beers' house, shop, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £530 : 6; Nathaniel Piersons' house, clothing, &c., £90; Samuel Beers' house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £141 : 19 : 7; Solomon Sturges' house, barn, store, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £270; David Barlow's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £387 : 12 : 6; Jabez Thorp's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £181 : 13; Samuel Burr's house, barn, shop, furniture, provisions, &c.,

£761:7:5; Hezekiah Sturges' house, two barns, a shop, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £819:1:5; the heirs of Benjamin Osborn, a house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £186:13:6; Daniel Graham's barn, provisions, furniture, clothing, &c., £20; the heirs of Joseph Sturges, a house, two barns, store, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £400; the heirs of Peter Bulkeley, a house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c., £118:17; Ansel Trubee's house, furniture, clothing, and provisions, £111:6; Jonathan Sturges' house, barn, store-house, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £759:2:6; William Levejoy, house of Doct. Forque, £160; the widow and heirs of Seth Osborn, two houses, a store, provisions, clothing, and furniture, £553:7:6; Seth Sturges' house, barn, furniture, provisions, and clothing, £453; Samuel Smedley's two houses, barn, shop, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £795; Stephen Jennings' house, barn, provisions, furniture, and clothing, £279; David Jennings' house, shop provisions, furniture, and clothing, £310:10; Widow Elizabeth Sturges' house, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £100; the heirs of Andrew Jennings, house clothing, furniture, and provisions, £255:17:6; John Smedley's two houses, clothing, provisions, &c. £792:18; the widow and heirs of Gershom Burr, a house, furniture, clothing, provisions, &c., £556:9:6; Ebenezer Wakeman's house, furniture, provisions, and clothing, £141:17:11; the Episcopal society in Fairfield, a house and barn, £195; heirs of Col. David Burr, house, barn, &c., clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £427:11:6; Andrew Rowland's house, barn, store, clothing, furniture, and provisions, £475; Hezekiah Nichols' house, barn, shop, furniture, provisions, and clothing, £524:6; Joseph Squire's shop, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £424:4:7; Samuel Rowland's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £522:2:2; Widow Cutler's house, £30; Wakeman Burr's house, shop, furniture, clothing, and provisions, £456:12:11; William Dimon's house, shop, barn, clothing, furniture, and provisions, £754:18:11; Thomas Hills' house, barn, corn-house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £330; Doct. John Allen's house, two barns, store, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £830; Jonathan Lewis' house, four barns, store, corn-house, three out-houses, clothing, furniture, provisions, &c. £973:13:6; Thaddeus Burr's house, barn, store, out-houses, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £1,590:19:8; Widow Ann Dimon's house, barn, and two out houses, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £386:7:9; David Allen's two houses, barn, shop, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £551:18:2; Samuel Penfield's house, barn, shop, out-house, stable, provisions, furniture, clothing, &c. £1,120:10; Jonathan Maltbie's house damaged, £1:10, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £47:7; Doct. Nathaniel Lathrop, a house occupied by William Elliott, £180; Rev. Mr. Elliott, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £365:1:2; Capt. Job Bartram's house, shop, two barns, store, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £1,210:3:8; Thomas Hanford Wakeman's house, barn, furniture, clothing, provisions, &c. £197:8; Doct. Francis Forque, a barn and appendages, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £454; Widow Abigail Hubbell's house, provisions, furniture, clothing, &c. £214:16:6; Maj. Elijah Abel's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £691:2:10; Stephen Turney's house damaged, two barns, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c. £94:5:10; the heirs of Ebenezer Burr, a house damaged, £10; Abel Gold, a barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, and clothing, £124; John Parsott's house, provisions, clothes, furniture, &c. £136:6:6; Eleazer Osborn, Jr's. house,

clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £211 : 9 : 4 ; the widow of Col. Gold, house, provisions, furniture, clothing, &c. £232 : 15 ; Edward Budington, (property of Samuel Squire,) house, £80, clothing, provisions, &c. the property of said Budington, £57 : 8 : 10 ; John Wasson, a house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £220 ; Capt. Ebenezer Bartram's house, £200 ; Samuel Squire, Jr., clothing, provisions, &c. £80 : 18 : 6 ; Abraham Parrot, clothing, provisions, &c. £4 : 11 ; Daniel Osborn's house, clothing, furniture, and provisions, £246 : 15 : 6 ; George Allen's house, barn, shop, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £316 : 9 ; Thomas Staples' house, barn, clothing, provisions, and furniture, £294 : 2 : 2 ; Moses Jennings' house, barn, shop, clothing, provisions, &c. £697 : 13 : 6 ; Isaac Jennings' house, barn, shop, provisions, furniture, clothing, &c. £409 : 7 : 10 ; Peter Burr's house, barn, store, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £377 : 0 : 9 ; Anthony Anabel, a house and shop, £60 ; Widow Rebecca Jenning's house, £80, barn, £15, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £47 : 17 ; Peter Hendricks' house, clothing, furniture, provisions, &c. £392 ; Andrew Wakeman's house, clothing, &c. £252 : 18 ; Seth Smith's house, clothing, &c. £56 : 7 ; the Widow Smith's house, provisions, furniture, &c. £41 : 0 : 6 ; Joseph Smith, clothing, provisions, — ; Widow Hannah Taylor's house, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £45 : 4 ; Widow Mary Penfield's house, barn, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. £135 ; John Turney's two houses, barn, clothing, furniture, provisions, &c. £509 : 10 ; Capt. Samuel Squire's house, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c. £518 : 6 : 4 ; Jeremiah Jennings' house, provisions, clothing, furniture, &c. £220 : 8 ; the gaol and gaoler's houses, £500, clothing, provisions, furniture, &c. — ; the county house, £1,000 ; two school houses, £115 ; the meeting house, £1,200 ; the Episcopal church, £500 ; Nathan Thompson Nichols' house, £80, shop, £10, clothing, &c. £5 : 10.

Total—97 dwelling houses, 67 barns, 48 stores, 2 school houses, 1 county house, 2 meeting houses, and 1 Episcopal church. Damage was done to other individuals not mentioned aforesaid, to the amount of £1,855 : 3 : 2, by the destruction of personal property, a large share of which was owned by widows and other females.

[DEPOSITIONS.]

The testimony of Eunice Burr, wife of Thaddeus Burr, Esq., respecting the proceedings of the enemy at Fairfield, on the 7th and 8th days of July, 1779, is as follows:—On Wednesday morning, 7th of July, 1779, between 9 and 10 o'clock, some friends came in and told me that they believed that the enemy's shipping were standing in, and that it was their opinion that the enemy would land. Being formerly well acquainted with a number of the British officers, and ever finding them of a polite, humane disposition, and observing the good order they kept up among their soldiers, I was induced, once to act against all the entreaties of my friends, and risk my life, and all that was dear to me, in hopes to save an ancient, pleasant mansion house, with its valuable furniture and stores. This I was the more willing to undertake, as I had been told, "that if people would stay in their own houses (they) the enemy would not molest them, and their property would be safe." By the time the main body of the enemy had got up to the court house ; instead of the once humane and polite Britons, a pack of the most barbarous ruffians came rushing into the house, and repeatedly accosted me with, *You damn'd rebel, where is your husband, he is a select-man ; at the same time stripping me of my buckles, tearing down the curtains of*

my bed, breaking the frame of my dressing glass, pulling out the drawers of my table and desk ; and after taking what they could find, they then went up stairs, and proceeded much in the same manner. At this juncture, there came in an officer, who, I suppose was a captain, and demanded the arms ; those which I knew of, were produced, and he immediately ordered them out of the house ; upon my representation of the conduct of the ruffians towards me, he ordered them out of the house. No sooner were one set out, but another came in, calling for cider, breaking down the china, stone, and glass ware in the closets, and wherever they found it. In the midst of this confusion, Gen. Tryon came into the house ; he behaved with politeness ; he demanded the papers. I told him there were none but of very old dates, which related to the old estates. The general said, those are what we want, for we intend to have the estates. Upon which he ordered an officer to take them to the court house. Very soon after he had taken leave of me, there came in a set, more dreadful than the ruffians who first attacked me ; these being informed, or suspicious, that I was possessed of a watch, attempted to search me ; I drew back to the yard, the only shelter that I had, and there committed myself to God, whose protection and mercy is beyond the reach of such cruel monsters. They, however, were permitted to pursue me, throw me upon the ground, and search me, pulling and tearing my clothes from me in a most barbarous manner ; no entreaties or persuasions, prevailing upon them to desist. Heaven directed the steps of the before mentioned captain to the gate, who perceiving the horrid situation that I was in, ran to my relief, and drove the ruffians from the yard. Soon after this, Gen. Tryon, with Mr. Thomas Chapman, of Stratford, who is said to be a captain in the new levies, called in. Mr. Chapman made himself known to me ; upon which, I reminded him of his often waiting upon a more soft and delicate set of company to the house, than those I had been visited with in the course of the day. I asked him if he could have a heart to burn the house where he had spent so many agreeable hours. Upon which, he assured me, he would do every thing in his power to save the building. Gen. Tryon, upon hearing the said captain relate the situation he found me in, was kind enough to order two sentries at the house, which caused me a more quiet night than I feared ; though horror and distress were my constant companions, a great part of the town being then in flames. Just before the sun rose, Capt. Chapman came to me very politely, and told me that Gen. Tryon wanted to speak to me. I immediately waited on him ; he told me that through the entreaties of Mr. Sayer, and some other friends, and knowing my situation, he should spare my buildings, Mr. Elliot's, the church, and meeting house ; that he did not like destroying those buildings. I told him, I was obliged to him for the favor, and felt as happy to have those buildings saved, as my own, and that I thought he would do himself honor. He asked for pen, ink, and paper. I very readily procured them ; he then, unasked, and unsolicited by me, gave me a protection for my house and property, and the Rev. Mr. Elliot's, written with his own hand, and signed with his own name. Thus deluded with a false hope, after the fatigue of the day, night, and more dreadful morning, when every building around me, was on fire ; and some of my poor neighbors, whose habitations were in flames, had run into my house for shelter, instead of attempting to carry out and secure what was in the house ; our whole attention was taken up in supplying the house with water, and although they were almost buried in flames, neither the barn or house took fire. The pleasure and satisfaction I felt for a few minutes, in thinking that I had a shelter for myself and some of my distressed

friends, was great ; but alas ! how soon was it over. No sooner had the horn blew, I suppose for the whole to retreat, my sentries went off, and a band of those savage creatures were left as a rear guard to complete the destruction ; some of whom, unperceived by me, came into the house. I heard a most dreadful screeching in one of the rooms ; upon which I ran to it, and to my great surprise, found some of those monsters abusing an aged lady, one of my neighbors, by pulling off her cap and tearing her hair from her head. Her daughter, who had fled for protection, fared but little better. Seeing a number more of them come into the gate, I once more took courage, went out and entreated them to spare the house ; told them that I had Gen. Tryon's protection in writing ; upon which they damned the general and protection, and tore it from me, while a number went into the house to set fire to it ; two or three others come to search me ; they took my pocket book and buttons, which till then, I had preserved. Fearing that I should be insulted, as I had been before, I disengaged my pocket and fled into the meadow. The house, with every thing they had left, both furniture and stores, were consumed. Much more might be told both of officers and soldiers, which would bring disgrace upon the once humane, but now savage Britons ; but it would make this narrative too lengthy. One more instance of their cruelty, I must not fail to relate. On a base suspicion, that a gun was fired from a window, by an aged negro of my neighbor Lewis, they first shot him, then bayoneted him as my sentry, who was one of the number, told me, and left his body to be consumed by the flames, which were immediately kindled in the dwelling house.

Should this narration fall into the hands of any of those officers, who afforded me assistance, in those hours of horror and distress, they have my sincere thanks for it.

Sworn at Fairfield, August 2, 1779, before SAMUEL SQUIRE, Justice of Peace.

Testimony of Jane Bulkley, the wife of Andrew Bulkley, is as follows, viz. : That when the enemy entered the town of Fairfield, that part of the army under Gen. Garth, were stationed in the westerly part of the town, and a number of officers and men came to my house, and received such refreshments as they required ; and said that persons who stayed in their houses, should be safe in person and property ; and at their request, I went and milked my cow, and gave them the milk ; whereupon, the cow was led away by them, and killed. My house was fired five times, and I extinguished it. The men were at full liberty, and behaved with great licentiousness. I heard a number of under officers at my door, say, that before morning, every house would be laid in ashes ; that we should not fare so well as New Haven. They plundered my house, stripped my buckles out of my shoes, and abused me with insulting language. Their officers had not, or did not exercise command over them, so as in the least to restrain them ; they continued burning houses and bars the whole night. I had a protection from Garth, by word, and he ordered a guard for me ; but it served only to save my property until day light, and then my house was plundered, and attempted to be burned. The latter part of the night, the soldiers appeared in drink, they plundered a plenty of spiritous liquors.

JANE BULKLEY.

July 24, 1779. Sworn before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of Peace.

The testimony of Mary Beers, wife of Reuben Beers:—That about 1 o'clock, succeeding the 7th inst., a piquet of Hessians, in Gen. Garth's division, broke into our house, and thereupon I came out of the cellar, with two small children and a negro child; and on opening the cellar door, they cried out, kill her, kill her, and came at me with a number of fixed bayonets. I begged and entreated, implored and prayed to spare my life, and ran back down cellar, and opened the out cellar door, and went into the door-yard with the three children; and I found there a number of the enemy with an officer. I expostulated with them; I told the officer, that my husband was sick, and had not been out for two days; that he was a sick man and in bed when they came to the house; that he was not in arms, and begged for his life and property. Whereupon the captain said, he was not killed, but was a prisoner. Whereupon I applied to the general, as I supposed, who was a Hessian called; I asked protection for myself, children, and property, and release of my husband. The Hessian general and a colonel said, my husband should be well used; that my person, property, children and house should be safe; but said he, (the general laying his hand on the head of my little babe,) poor child, I pity you, I cannot spare your house, it must be burnt. Thereupon up came the officer of those who first broke into the house, and he said, "go, woman, in haste, you may perhaps put the fire out of your house;" and I went protected by a guard, who behaved decently; and I found my house effectually plundered of linen by them, and great destruction of moveables in the house, and I extinguished the fire. Whereupon I went to the house of David Beers, who to my knowledge was in peace at home with his wife and family, and they entered the said house with violence, and took Mr. Beers a prisoner, and plundered his house, and pretended that he had fired out of his house, but it was groundless; and in the morning, without distinction, they burnt his house and shop, and all moveables in them. Their behavior was like distracted or mad men, and pretended, many of them, not to speak English.

MARY BEERS.

The aforesaid deposition, confirmed by Reuben Beers, and both sworn at Fairfield, 24th July, 1779, before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of the Peace.

The testimony of Isabella Trubee, wife of Ansel Trubee, of Fairfield, is as follows, viz. :—That when the enemy, on the night of the 7th of July, 1779, came to the westerly end of the town, (of Fairfield) they appeared to be generally, Hessians; and I concealed myself with two children in the cellar, under the dwelling house of uncle David Beers, and there continued until the enemy set fire to the house. Mr. Beers, aforesaid, was at home, with his wife and daughter, and some grand children, in peace and about his lawful business; they seized him, and made him prisoner. My aunt, his wife, told them he was unarmed, and had not shot a gun, she supposed, within 30 years; and thereupon, they set fire to the house and burnt it down, and also his shop and all therein. About this time, my father, Mr. Joseph Beers, came a few rods out of his house, where he had been all the day, in peace with my mother, and he was taken by the Hessians, and remains in captivity, and his house and barn was burnt, and property destroyed. Mr. David Beers has since returned, and says, he was released at their embarkation.

ISABELLA ^{her} TRUBEE.
mark.


Sworn at Fairfield, July 23, 1779, before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of Peace.

The testimony of Ruana Roberson, of lawful age, and wife of John Roberson, of Fairfield, is as follows, viz. :—When the enemy, on the evening of the 7th inst., first came into the west end of this town, I soon left my house and went to a neighbor's, which I heard was guarded, and there I found the general and a great number of officers; and one Mrs. Beardsley, who belonged to the house was there, and pregnant, and appeared to be in travail. All the officers appeared disposed to treat her and her assistants with decency; and in the course of the night, I often heard the officers and general say, there should not be left a house or barn standing in the town, by, or in the morning. There were but few soldiers in the house, and they employed in waiting on tables; and they spared that dwelling house on account of Mrs. Beardsley, who was supposed to be in labor. They said the commissioners made offers of peace, and the Americans refused to accept them, and that their orders were to burn all, and I understood the orders were from England. They said they would burn the church, for that it was not the church of England, nor had it been since the war, for the professors did not comply with the articles of the church of England. The Hessians appeared active in plundering and burning, and seemed not to understand English. 'Twas at sundry houses where they came and plundered, and they gave to understand they pursued orders. And further saith not.

RUANA ROBERSON.

Fairfield, July 22, 1779. Sworn before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of Peace.

The testimony of Abigail Bulkley, wife of Josiah Bulkley, of lawful age, is as follows, viz. :—That the enemy, on their coming to the west end of the town, on the night of the 7th inst., they enquired after my husband. I told them he was out of the town, and was not under arms; however, they plundered my house of almost all the moveables in it. I went with Mrs. Beardsley, who was supposed 'to be in travail, and the officers then behaved decently to me, and by the aid and assistance of one of them, I saved my house, and some trifle of furniture from the flames. It appeared to me there were a number of Hessians at liberty to act without restraint. And further deponent saith not.

her
ABIGAIL  BULKLEY.
mark.

Fairfield, July 23, 1779. Sworn before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of Peace.

The testimony of Ann Nichols, of lawful age, and wife to Hezekiah Nichols, of Fairfield, is as follows, viz. :—That when the troops under the command of Gen. Tryon, came into Fairfield, I was peaceably at home; and thereupon, one of the soldiers came to me and with strong hand, robbed me of the buckles out of my shoes; and in the course of the night, I was often treated with extravagant, insulting, and abusive language, and threatening at my own house. I told them my husband was from home, but it availed nothing; and in the course of the night, the soldiers appeared to have full liberty, and many came in parties, at different hours, and destroyed almost every thing of furniture; and in the morning burnt down the house and barn. Whereupon I saw Gen. Tryon, who appeared to be exceeding angry at something, I know not what; and I heard him tell a person, that he would not spare one house more than another. One Thomas Chapman, formerly of Stratford, a tory, was called a captain, and appeared to be a principal hand in burning. I escaped from the conflagration of

the town, in the morning, and concealed myself in a wet ditch and miry swamp. The soldiers, generally, appeared to be in a great panic through the night, and exceedingly afraid that the rebels, as they called us, would be upon them in the morning early.

ANN NICHOLS.

Fairfield, July 21, 1779. Sworn before ANDREW ROWLAND, Justice of Peace.

COL. SAMUEL WHITING'S ANSWER TO THE BRITISH FLAG.

Connecticut having nobly dared to take up arms against the cruel despotism of Britain, and as the flames, have now preceded the answer to your flag, they will persist to oppose to their utmost, that power exerted against injured innocence.

SAMUEL WHITING, Colonel Commanding.

To Maj. Gen. Tryon.

Dated Fairfield, 7th July, 1779.

CHURCH RECORD OF FAIRFIELD.

The following is a copy of the Church Record in the town of Fairfield, made at the time Fairfield was burnt by the British, in 1779, by the Rev. Andrew Elliot, who was the Pastor of the Congregational Church at that time, and forwarded for publication by the Rev. Lyman H. Atwater, the present Pastor.

“1779, JULY 7.

“A part of the British enemy, consisting of Britons, Germans, and American refugees, under the command of Maj. Gen. Tryon and Brig. Gen. Garth, landed in this town from a fleet, commanded by Sir George Collier.

“In the evening and night of the same day, great part of the buildings in the town plot were consumed in the flames by said troops.

“July 8th. In the morning the Meeting House, together with the Church of England buildings, the Court House, Prison, and almost all the principal buildings in the Society, were laid in ashes.

“Our holy and our beautiful house

“Where our fathers praised thee, is

“Burnt up with fire: and all our

“Pleasant things are laid waste.

“The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken

“Away: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

“All things work together for good to them

“That love God—to them who are the

“Called according to his purpose.

“Alleluia.

“The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

—“Amen.”—

[NOTE.—The Rev. Andrew Elliot's Letter is published in the Massachusetts Historical Collections, and is therefore omitted in this work.]

A PETITION TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL FROM THE INHABITANTS OF NORWALK.

To His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of Connecticut; comes the civil authority and selectmen of the town of Norwalk, in behalf of themselves and the rest of the inhab.

itants of said Norwalk, and with submission beg leave to represent to your Excellency, that numbers of the soldiers in Col. Sheldon's regiment of light-horse belonging to the continental army, and others, frequently come into the parish of Canaan and other back parts in said Norwalk, and by force and violence enter the inhabitants' barns, and at will and pleasure, with the same force, take their oats and carry them off, and in some instances thresh oats and destroy and make much waste; and also take such kinds of grain and stover as they think proper, and carry it away without ever applying to any authority, or shewing any power or authority to do the same, and against the mind and will of the inhabitants and without their consent; and also in many instances strip the inhabitants to such a degree of their oats, that if it is not prevented there will not be a sufficiency of oats left in the town for seed next year; and the inhabitants are apprehensive that they will next attack their Indian corn, and then their wheat, as the light-horsemen in some instances in some of the back places have taken the peoples' wheat to feed their horses; and that if they should be suffered to conduct in that sort, the people are apprehensive they shall be put to great straits and difficulties for want of the necessary articles of bread-corn. And that these light-horsemen come armed and with such force, that the inhabitants cannot prevent them from taking their substance, without taking up arms, and in that way defend their property, which method they would by all means avoid, in hopes that their property may be secured to them without taking such desperate methods; and that as there does not seem to be any rule given by law upon an application for a press warrant in such cases, we would beg leave humbly to propose to your Excellency, whether it is not necessary at this time, and the property of the people more secure, to have some rules and laws made respecting these matters. And that there has been one instance this week wherein one of the inhabitants took out a writ against one or two of the light-horsemen for threatening his life, and of burning his dwelling house and barn, for refusing to let them take his oats; and that one of said light-horsemen was taken with said writ soon after, while Capt. Stoddard came into the town with a number of his men and rescued him out of the hands of the officer and carried him off, and the complainant and his son; which we imagine and are fearful will ever be the case, and the people distressed, if it is not prevented; all which is humbly submitted, by your Excellency's most obedient humble servants.

Norwalk, 1778.

(Signed)

Thaddeus Betts, Charles Raymond, Justices of the Peace; Jesse Raymond, Nehemiah Benedict, Nathaniel Benedict, David Comstock, Daniel Betts, Selectmen.

PETITION OF JOHN LOCKWOOD AND OTHERS OF NORWALK.

It appears by a petition of John Lockwood, and 37 others, of Norwalk, to the General Assembly, in December, 1780, that in July, 1779, all the subscribers were burned out of house and home, and stripped and plundered by the British, of nearly all their household furniture; their barns also destroyed by fire, with the greater part of their wheat harvest and English hay, to the very great distress and impoverishment of the inhabitants.

Representations had before been made to the Assembly of the distress and losses, to which the Legislature had listened in tenderness, and granted the relief

of the abatement of the State tax on list 1778, for which the sufferers in the conflagration, tendered them their unfeigned thanks.

Many of the suffering farmers had not sufficient wheat to support their families until the next harvest, though they would have had large quantities to have supplied others, had it not been destroyed. So many buildings were burnt, that it was impossible to rent houses, so as to be comfortably located to use their farms; and many of them were obliged to build small houses, and disposed of all they could spare, to re-settle upon their farms, and most of them left in debt, and obliged to live without barns to preserve their grain, because they were unable to build them; and many who had built their houses were unable to finish them, and lived in them through the following winter, cold and half finished, for want of money and materials for building, while labor was exceedingly high, and it appeared to many of them as if it was impossible ever to settle themselves again in any tolerable manner. In addition to the burden of building, they were destitute of the necessary utensils for keeping house; town, state, and society taxes to pay; taxes for re-building public buildings that were burnt; the provision tax then lately laid; the expense of raising soldiers from time to time to fill the continental army: In all which, with their misfortunes, they were obliged to suffer with their neighbors, which appeared insupportable to many of the sufferers, in their then distressed situation; and yet declared they would exert themselves in assisting to discharge all public demands, as far as possible, willingly and cheerfully, and only regretted that they were not of the same ability to do, as they had been before they had been burnt out.

The memorialists closed by asking the Assembly to abate their State taxes, laid on list 1779 and 1780.

[Col. Benjamin Hinman, Nehemiah Beardsley, and William Heron were appointed a committee to go to Norwalk, to examine and report to the Assembly.] Said committee reported in May, 1781, that the State tax of 123 persons in said Norwalk, on list of 1779; and that said tax, on list 1780, on 119 persons in said town, should be abated—which was accepted.

DEPOSITION OF CAPT. STEPHEN BETTS.

NORWALK, July 26, 1779.

Capt. Stephen Betts, of Col. Butler's regiment, in the continental service, personally appeared and made solemn oath—That on the 11th inst., while the enemy invaded Norwalk, he, with about 50 continental troops, and some militia, engaged a superior number of the enemy, which obliged them to give way to an unequal force. As they retreated, John Waters, a continental soldier fell into the enemy's hands, delivered up his arms, and begged for his life; but the enemy notwithstanding, assaulted him with their bayonets, with which they stabbed him in sundry places, and then one of them presented his peice, and aimed (as the captive supposed) at his body, but missing that, the ball shattered his arm; whereupon finding no quarters, he made a strong effort to escape, which he happily effected. Soon after the above accident, John Rich, another continental soldier, was shot so as to fall, and as the enemy were nigh, and crowded fast on over our people, he desired Capt. Betts to leave him, as they could not take him off without the greatest hazard. Capt. Betts saw Rich no more, but says Capt. Eells, of Col. Wyllys' regiment, told him, he saw Rich after the enemy had retreated

about two hours after Capt. Betts saw him; he was then dead, and the top of his skull torn off, supposed to be blown off by a musket to despatch him. And further saith not, before me.

THADDEUS BETTS, Justice of the Peace.

LETTER FROM SAMUEL C. SILLIMAN, ESQ., TO COL. ST. JOHN.

It appears by a letter from Samuel C. Silliman, Esq., of Norwalk, dated 1778, to Col. St. John, then a member of the General Assembly, that Col. St. John issued a writ in favor of a Mr. Comstock, against two of Sheldon's light horsemen, taken by constable Lockwood, for taking property not their own, who were taken before said Silliman for trial; but before the trial had began, the captain of the two light horsemen, (i. e. Capt. Stoddard of Col. Sheldon's regiment) came in, in great fury, with a party of his light horsemen, all armed, and their swords drawn, and pointed at the breasts of the court and by-standers, and wrested the offenders from them, and defied the authority; laid violent hands on Mr. Comstock the prosecutor, and dragged him from the house. The court, when attempting to quell the riot, was accosted by one of said light horsemen, with his sword pointed at the breast of the court, swore he would run him through, if he offered the least resistance. They then forced Mr. Comstock and one of his sons, on to horses and carried them off, and swore they would take them to their quarters and keep them under guard. They drove them two or three miles, constantly threatening them, in the most abusive language, and then dismissed them.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DAMAGES SUSTAINED IN WEST HAVEN BY THE INCURSION OF THE BRITISH.

It was represented to the Legislature, held at Hartford, January 10, 1782, that on the 30th day of August, 1781, a party of British troops and refugees, made an incursion into the parish of West Haven, in New Haven, and destroyed much of the property of the inhabitants. Whereupon, the Assembly appointed Gen. Andrew Ward, Col. Edward Russel, and Gideon Buckingham, a committee to estimate the losses of each individual, by the enemy, and abate such part of the State taxes of said sufferers as said committee should judge proper, and report thereon to the next session of said Assembly. The committee met at West Haven on the 13th day of March, 1782, and examined the sufferers on oath, and reported to the Assembly each sufferer in said parish, and the amount of loss found by them annexed to his name, together with a list of names of such as should be abated on said taxes, to the amount of £30:15:2, together with £365:18:6, allowed the sufferers in said parish; which report was accepted by the Assembly, and ordered to be lodged on file, with liberty of a bill to make said abatement.

MAY, 1787.

At the General Assembly holden in May, 1787, the sufferers in different parts of the State united in a petition to the Assembly, for remuneration; in which they stated, they had twice before petitioned the Assembly, and had received no answer; which petition was signed by Daniel Taylor for the sufferers in Danbury; Thomas Fitch for those in Norwalk; Jonathan Sturges for Fairfield; John Mead for Greenwich; Ebenezer Ledyard for Groton; John Deshon for New London; Charles Chauncey for New Haven; Philip B. Bradley for Ridgefield; and Andrew Ward and Daniel Leete for the sufferers of Guilford; which petition was continued to the next General Assembly.

LANDS GIVEN THE SUFFERERS FOR LOSSES SUSTAINED
DURING THE WAR.

Upon a memorial in 1791, of the inhabitants of the towns of Fairfield and Norwalk, in Fairfield county, the great losses occasioned by the devastations of the British during the war, were shewn to the General Assembly; on which they prayed for remuneration from the State. A committee was appointed by the Legislature, in May, 1791, to ascertain from documents in the public offices, the losses, not only of the memorialists, but of others who had been sufferers under similar circumstances, that had been estimated in conformity to previous acts of the Assembly, such as had been occasioned by incursions of the enemy during the war. The Assembly, therefore, in May, 1792, by a resolution, released and quit-claimed, to the sufferers, named on the State record, or to their legal representatives, if deceased, and to their heirs and assigns forever, 500,000 acres of land, owned by Connecticut, situated west of Pennsylvania, bounded north on lake Erie, beginning at the west line of said lands, and extending eastward to a line running northerly and southerly parallel to the east line of said tract of land owned by this State, and extending the whole width of said lands, and easterly so far as to comprise said quantity of 500,000 acres, (exclusive of former grants to sufferers, if any) to be divided among said sufferers and their legal representatives, in proportion to the several sums annexed to their names on record, (which land is located in Huron county, in the State of Ohio.)

The following sums were allowed to the sufferers in the several towns hereafter named, viz. :—Sufferers in Greenwich, £12,291 : 14 : 0½; sufferers in Norwalk, £26,066 : 0 : 1; sufferers in Fairfield, £23,893 : 12 : 8.

Additional losses sustained by several inhabitants of Fairfield, in the enemy's expedition to Danbury, viz. :—£1,436 : 10 : 11; in Danbury, £8,303 : 17 : 10½; in New Haven and East Haven; £16,912 : 16 : 6; in New London, £42,062 : 13 : 7; in Ridgefield, £1,730 : 1 : 10.

The sums advanced to Ridgefield by grants of the Assembly, were deducted, and the net balances allowed.

To sufferers in Groton, £7,719 : 12 : 2.

Whole amount of losses allowed to the sufferers by the grant of said lands, being £251,606 : 8 : 8½.

GALLANT CONDUCT OF CAPT. HILLYER.

In 1779, one Bearmore, a famous cow boy chief or tory, was eminently successful in plundering and committing depredations on his countrymen about the lines, and as a spy for the British troops in that vicinity.

Captain Andrew Hillyer, (late Col. Hillyer, of Granby, Conn.) was then stationed at Horse Neck, with his troop of light horse, and was ordered to "beat up" Bearmore's quarters, and if possible make him prisoner. Accordingly Capt. Hillyer mustered his troop in the evening, and marched in the night, with all caution to Bearmore's rendezvous; but he in some way was alarmed, and leaped from his bed, through a window, naked, escaped in the darkness of the night, leaving his clothes, sword, and some plunder, in the hands of the continentals. The troop then being in the vicinity of the enemy, it became necessary they should make a hasty march for their own quarters, which they did, keeping out scouts in all directions, to avoid surprise. About day break, the troop overtook

a company of infantry, numbering about 50 men, commanded by Capt. White, who had been out through the night on some special service. At this moment, two scouts that had covered the rear of the light horse, came dashing in among them, one of which, was covered with blood, his hand hanging by the skin, having been lopped off at the wrist by a British dragoon; and reported that a squadron of British cavalry were close upon them. Capt. White exclaimed, I am lost, my infantry cannot escape. Capt. Hillyer said no, that must not be; follow my directions, we will make a stand, and fare alike; divide your men and throw them over the stone wall on each side of the road, in a quartering direction, that the fire of one party may not injure the other; be deliberate, and when you have the word "charge," do what you can.

The light horse were formed across the road, out of the fire of the infantry, and displayed as large a front as their numbers would warrant. The arrangement was barely completed, when the British cavalry in large force, was discovered sweeping along with great speed, apparently intending to ride down the small troop of continentals, who, with swords loosened, and pistols cocked, were drawn up to receive them.

When the British had reached the mark, about four rods from the light horse, and against the spot where the infantry were posted, and who had not been discovered, Capt. Hillyer gave the signal "charge them, my lads." The troopers discharged their pistols, drew their swords, and spurred against the enemy; at the same time, the infantry rose from behind the wall and poured in such a deadly and well directed fire, that a considerable number of the enemy were killed, while the ranks of the light horse were much embarrassed by the rush of horses, without riders, among them. The British were completely surprised, and immediately faced about and retired beyond the reach of the infantry, when they again formed, and advanced to the attack, but before they were within reach of shot, the infantry could not be restrained, and commenced firing. The British then wheeled, and retreated in good order; the light horse highly excited, urged their commander to allow them to follow and cut the red coats in pieces.

The Americans kept their ground until the British had crossed Byram river. Capt. White then made for the woods. The light horse, after securing what was valuable on the field, and the horses that had lost their riders, with all speed made their own head quarters. The plunder taken from Bearmore and the British on that occasion, was sold for more than \$20,000 continental money. Capt. Hillyer was presented with a beautiful Yager's Rifle, as testimony of his gallant conduct.

Bearmore soon after received his deserts; while robbing a dwelling house, in Bloomsbury, New Jersey, he attempted to take a string of gold beads from the neck of a lady, (Mrs. Eunice Die,) who had at her side, a pair of long, sharp pointed scissors, which she plunged into his body, and killed him instantly.

THE END.