

# The Gentleman's Magazine;

ST. JOHN'S GATE.

London Gazette  
 Daily Advertiser  
 Public Advertiser  
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 Gazetteer  
 St. James's Chron.  
 London Chron.  
 General Evening  
 Whitehall Even.  
 London Evening  
 Lloyd's Evening.  
*Monday, Wednesday, Friday.*  
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 Reading  
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For DECEMBER, 1778.

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By SYLVANUS URBAN, Gent.

LONDON, Printed for D. HENRY, at ST. JOHN'S GATE.

*Continuation of American Affairs from p. 546.*

**I**N the London Gazette of Dec. 1, General Clinton's Letter to the American Congress, with the Answer, inclosed in his Excellency's dispatches to Lord Geo. Germain, is laid before the public, and are as follow:  
To HENRY LAURENS, *Elq; President, &c.*  
*New-York, Sept. 19, 1778.*

"Sir, Nothing but his Majesty's positive instructions, of which I send you an extract, could have induced me to trouble you or the American Congress again on the subject of the troops detained in New England, in direct contravention of the treaty entered into at Saratoga. The neglect of the requisitions already made on this subject is altogether unprecedented among parties at war. I now, however, repeat the demand, that the convention of Saratoga be fulfilled, and offer, by express and recent authority from the King, received since the date of the late requisition made by his Majesty's Commissioners, to renew, in his Majesty's name, all the conditions stipulated by Lieutenant General Burgoyne, in respect to the troops serving under his command.

"In this I mean to discharge my duty not only to the King, whose orders I obey, but to the unhappy people likewise, whose affairs are committed to you, and who I hope will have the candour to acquit me of the consequences that must follow from the new system of war you are pleased to introduce.

I have the honour to be, &c. H. CLINTON."

*Answer.*

*Philadelphia, Sept. 28.*

"Sir, Your Letter of the 19th was laid before Congress, and I am directed to inform you that the Congress of the United States of America make no answer to insolent letters.

I am, &c. C. THOMSON, Sec."

Gen. Clinton then, in a Letter dated *New-York, Oct. 8*, proceeds to acquaint Lord Geo. Germain with the employment of the troops after their return from the expedition to Bedford (see p. 541.), when he proposed taking a forward position, as well to procure a supply of provisions, as to observe the motions of the Rebel army, and to favour an expedition to Egg Harbour, at which place the enemy had a number of privateers, and considerable salt-works.

Accordingly, on the 22d of September, he requested Lord Cornwallis to take post between Newbridge on the Hackinsack River in Jersey and Hudson's River, and Lieut. Gen. Knyphausen between Wepperham on the fall of these rivers and the Bronx.

In this situation, with the assistance of the flat-boats, the army could be assembled on either side of the North River in 24 hours, but Washington's not in ten days. To have done it in Jersey, he must have quitted his mountains, and risked a general action in a country little favourable to him.

As by this movement the provinces of Jersey and New-York were opened, a consider-

able supply of provisions was obtained, and many families came in.

Gen. Washington did not seem to shew the least disposition to assemble his army, and the militia kept at a distance; however, by a well-projected plan of Lord Cornwallis, an almost entire regiment of the enemy's light dragoons were surprized and carried; for the particulars his Excellency refers to the report of Lord Cornwallis.

Accordingly his Lordship writes, that having received intelligence that a considerable body of militia and a regiment of light dragoons were assembled in the neighbourhood of Taapan. in order to interrupt his foraging, he determined to attempt to surprize them. Three deserters from the right column alarmed the militia, who were posted near New Taapan, of his design, who fled; but the left column, commanded by Major Gen. Grey, were so fortunate as not to be discovered; and by the major's prudent management he surrounded the village of Old Taapan, where the regiment of dragoons lay, and entirely surprized them, so that very few escaped being either killed or taken. He likewise fell in with a small party of militia, a few of whom were killed, and some taken prisoners. Thus ended this expedition.

Lord Cornwallis, in another Letter to Lord Geo. Germain, dated *New-York, Oct. 25*, refers his lordship to two reports made by Capt. Ferguson of the 70th regiment, for an account of the success of the expedition to Egg Harbour, which his excellency had mentioned in his Letter of the 8th.

The first Report is dated *Little Egg Harbour, Oct. 10th*, in which Capt. Ferguson acquaints the general with the difficulties that had attended the expedition, chiefly owing to bad weather, and the shallowness of the water, which prevented the ships from passing the bar till the enemy were apprized of their design; but that the galleys and small craft had made their way as far as Chesunt Neck, 20 miles inland, where there were several vessels and about a dozen houses for the reception of prize goods, and the accommodation of their privateers' men. Here the enemy had erected a work with embrasures for six guns on a level with the water, to rake the channel, but none were mounted; and the skulking banditti, who had got together for its defence, were soon dispersed and driven into the woods.

The seamen were employed all the evening (Oct. 5.) and the next day till noon in destroying ten capital vessels; and the soldiers in demolishing the village, which was the principal resort of this nest of pirates. Had we, says he, arrived by surprize, we meant to have pushed forwards with celerity to the Forks, within 35 miles of Philadelphia. But as the alarm had been spread, and the militia reinforced, it was judged impracticable; and therefore it was determined to return without loss of time, and endeavour

to

to employ the troops with effect elsewhere; but some of our vessels having run aground, an opportunity offered without interrupting our progress to make two descents, to penetrate some miles into the country, destroy three salt works, and raze to the ground the stores and settlements of a chairman of their committees, a captain of militia, and one or two other violent rebels, who had shares in the prizes brought in here, and who had all been active in fomenting the rebellion, oppressing the people, and forcing them against their inclination to assist in their crimes. But no injury was offered to the peaceable inhabitants. We neither lost a man by the enemy nor by desertion, and one only was wounded in the leg. This first report of Capt. Ferguson is dated Oct. 10. The other is dated *Little Egg Harbour, Oct. 15*, and is a farther proof of the alacrity with which this gallant officer engaged in the service he was sent upon: for, notwithstanding that he had received letters both from his General and from Admiral Gambier, ordering the immediate return of the detachment under his command, the wind being contrary, and having an idle day, he determined to employ it in an attempt that was to be made with safety, and with a probability of success. Accordingly, having received information by a captain and six soldiers, deserters from Polaski's legion, that Polaski's whole corps were cantoned within a mile of a bridge which it appeared easy to seize, at about eleven at night (Oct. 14.) 250 men were embarked, and, after rowing ten miles, landed at four in the morning within a mile of the defile, which was happily secured, and 50 men left for its defence. The remainder of the detachment then pushed forwards upon the infantry of this legion, cantoned in three different houses, who were almost all cut to pieces: they numbered about 50 among the dead, of whom one was a lieutenant, one a captain, and one an adjutant. It being a night attack, little quarter could of course be given, so that there were only five prisoners. As a rebel, Col. Proctor, was within two miles with a corps of artillery, and the militia of the country, it was thought hazardous to attempt any thing farther, particularly after the letters of recall. Capt. Ferguson owns, that the rebels attempted to harass them in their retreat, but with great modesty; so that they returned at leisure, and embarked in safety. The captain who came over to them was a Frenchman, named Bromville. He and the deserters informed, that Polaski had, in public orders, lately directed no quarter to be given; it was therefore, says Capt. Ferguson, *with particular satisfaction*, that the detachment marched against a man capable of issuing an order so unworthy a gentleman and a soldier. The captain in a postscript adds, that they had an opportunity of destroying a part of the baggage and equipage of Polaski's legion, by

burning their quarters; but as the houses belonged to some inoffensive Quakers, who suffered sufficiently in the confusion of the night's scramble, he believed his general, to whom his letter was addressed, would think with them *that the injury to be thereby done to the enemy would not have compensated for the sufferings of those innocent people.*

Rear Admiral Gambier's Letters to the Admiralty give an account from the report of Capt. Collins, who commanded the squadron on this expedition, of all the particulars above related, with some explanations, particularly, that the delay occasioned by bad weather gave the enemy an opportunity to get four of their privateers out to sea; that the ten vessels found in harbour were mostly British, among them the *Venus of London*, and others of considerable size, all of them scuttled and dismantled, and some sunk; that the *Granby* and *Greenwich* armed sloops grounded in their passage; that the *Greenwich* was obliged to be left behind, covered by the *Dependence* galley for her protection; that Capt. Ferguson's detachment, by a quick motion, got into the enemy's quarters almost undiscovered; that the attack was made with the bayonet, and that the number killed was as above related.

Capt. Collins adds besides, that they had found at *Chestnut Neck* a brig laden with lumber, the cargo of which he had put on board the transports, and set fire to the vessel along with the others. Such are the facts relative to this expedition faithfully extracted from the reports of the officers who commanded it, whose relations, differing only in manner and not in substance, would be tedious in the repetition.

In this Gazette is likewise an Extract from Lieut. Gov. Stuart's Letter to Lord George Germain, dated *Dominica, Sept. 29*, giving an account of the surrender of that island to the French on terms of the most honourable capitulation. The force the French brought against it consisted of 4 frigates, 10 other armed sloops and schooners, with 20 transports, having on board at least 2000 men. The troops on the island to oppose this force (as appears by an article in the capitulation) consisted of six officers, and ninety-four men, being non-commissioned officers, artillery, and privates, besides the militia, all of whom were allowed to march out with the honours of war, and, except the privates, were allowed to continue in the island upon their parole, or remove with their effects to any of the neighbouring islands. The privates were to be carried to England by the shortest passage in a good vessel, with provisions for the voyage. In all other respects things are to remain just as they were found till the peace. Only the sovereignty of the French King is to be acknowledged instead of that of his Britannic Majesty.

By the accuracy with which the articles of capitulation (in number 27.) appears to have been