

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday February 22, to Tuesday February 25, 1777.

Whitehall, February 25, 1777.

HIS Majesty's Ship Bristol, which arrived at Portsmouth the 23d Instant, has brought from New York Dispatches from General Sir William Howe and Governor Tryon to Lord George Germain, of which the following are Extracts:

Extract of a Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, dated New York, December 20, 1776.

I HAVE the Honor to inclose an Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Clinton, containing Advice of his being in Possession of Rhode Island without any Loss to His Majesty's Troops. The Season may be found too far advanced for him to proceed to Providence, but, if practicable, I am confident the Attempt will be made; the Advantages to be derived from this Acquisition are nevertheless very important.

In Jersey, upon the Approach of the Van of Lord Cornwallis's Corps to Brunswick by a forced March, on the 1st Instant, the Enemy went off most precipitately to Prince Town; and had they not prevented the Passage of the Raritan, by breaking a Part of Brunswick Bridge, so great was the Confusion among them, that their Army must inevitably have been cut to Pieces.

My first Design extending no further than to get and keep Possession of East Jersey, Lord Cornwallis had Orders not to advance beyond Brunswick, which occasioned him to discontinue his Pursuit; but finding the Advantages that might be gained by pushing on to the Delaware, and the Possibility of getting to Philadelphia, the Communication leading to Brunswick was reinforced, and on the 6th I joined his Lordship with the 4th Brigade of British under the Command of Major-General Grant. On the 7th Lord Cornwallis's Corps, the Guards excepted, who were left at Brunswick, marched to Prince Town, which the Enemy had quitted on the same Day. This Corps marched in two Divisions on the 8th; the first advancing to Trenton reached the Dalaware soon after the Enemy's Rear Guard had crossed. Their main Army having passed the preceding Day and Night, took Post on the other Side of the River.

Lord Cornwallis with the Rear Division halted at Maidenhead, Six Miles from Trenton, and marched at One o'Clock next Morning to Corriels Ferry, 13 Miles higher up the Delaware, in some Expectation of finding Boats there, and in the Neighbourhood, sufficient to pass the River; but in this he was disappointed, the Enemy having taken the Precaution to destroy or to secure on the South Side all the Boats that could possibly be employed for this Purpose.

The Passage of the Delaware being thus rendered impracticable, his Lordship took Post at Pennington, in which Place and Trenton the two Divisions remained until the 14th, when the Weather having become too severe to keep the Field, and the Winter Cantonments being arranged, the Troops marched from both Place to their respective Stations. The Chain, I own, is rather too extensive, but I was induced to occupy Burlington, to cover the County of Monmouth, in which there are many loyal Inhabitants; and trusting to the almost general Submission of the Country to the Southward of this Chain, and to the Strength of the Corps placed in the advanced Posts, I conclude the Troops will be

in perfect Security. Lord Cornwallis having desired to return to Britain, the Command in Jersey is given to Major General Grant, in whose approved good Conduct I place the greatest Confidence.

I cannot too much commend Lord Cornwallis's good Services during this Campaign, and particularly the Ability and Conduct he displayed in the Pursuit of the Enemy from Fort Lee to Trenton, a Distance exceeding Eighty Miles, in which he was well supported by the Ardour of his Corps, who cheerfully quitted their Tents and heavy Baggage, as Impediments to their March.

By pressing the Rebels so close, they had not Time to destroy the Country, as they intended, or to remove their Stores; by which a large Quantity of Provisions, and Plenty of Forage, have been secured.

During Lord Cornwallis's Stay at Pennington, a Patrol of Thirty Dragoons from the 16th Regiment was sent out to gain Intelligence of a Corps under the Command of General Lee; reported to be in Morris County on their Way to cross the Delaware at Alexandria. Lieutenant Colonel Harcourt desired the Direction of this Detachment, and learning, as he proceeded, the Situation of this Corps, consisting of Two Thousand Men, and of General Lee's Head Quarters, he contrived by infinite Address and Gallantry, to get to his House undiscovered by the Guard, surrounded it, and, overcoming all their Resistance, made the General a Prisoner.

Being confident this gallant Action will not escape His Majesty's gracious Attention, it is needless for me to recommend Lieutenant-Colonel Harcourt to the King's Notice upon this Occasion.

I must also mention the signal Services of Sir William Erskine, in his Department of Quarter-Master General, whose indefatigable Zeal has eminently contributed to the Success of this Campaign; nor must I omit Major Maitland, of the Corps of Marines, who has the Command of the 2d Battalion of Light Infantry, in which he has distinguished himself much to his Honour.

The Time of Service, for which most of the Enemy's Troops were engaged, being expired, their present Strength, from a Review of the latest Intelligence received, is about 8,000 on the South Side of the Delaware, and in Philadelphia; 500 Militia embodied in Morris County, New Jersey, and about 3,000 at Pecks Kill, North Castle, and the smaller Posts in this Province. Major General Robertson, who served the Campaign by His Majesty's Permission, will return to Britain by the earliest Opportunity.

Extract of a Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, dated New York, December 29, 1776.

ON the 25th Instant, in the Evening; a Party of the Enemy attacked an Out-Guard from the Post of Trenton, where Colonel Rall commanded with three Battalions of Hessians, fifty Chasseurs, and twenty Light Dragoons, having with them six Field Pieces; which Party was beaten back. On the succeeding Morning at Six o'Clock the Rebels appeared in Force with Cannon, evidently intending to attack the Post. Colonel Rall, having received Intelligence of their Design, had the Troops under Arms, and detached his own Regiment to support an advanced Picket: This Picket being forced,