

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday October 28, to Saturday November 1, 1777.

Whitehall, November 1.

THE following Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain was received the 28th of last Month, by the Swallow Packet from Maryland.

Camp at the Head of Elk, August 30, 1777.

MY LORD,
THE Duplicates of your Lordship's Dispatches, N° 10, 11, and 12, with an Original, N° 13, I had the Honor to receive on the 16th Instant, by the Eagle Packet.

My last Dispatches advised your Lordship of the Embarkation of the Army at Staten Island, from whence the Fleet sailed on the 23d of July, and arrived off the Capes of Delaware on the 30th following; when, from Information, I judged it most advisable to proceed to Chesapeake Bay: But, meeting with constant unfavourable Winds, we did not enter the Bay until the 16th Instant; from which Time the Winds proving fair, the Fleet arrived at the Mouth of Elk River on the 22d, through a very difficult Navigation; and the Army landed on the 25th at Elk Ferry, the Enemy's Army being then in the Neighbourhood of Philadelphia.

On the 28th a Corps of the Army marched from the Ferry to this Place, by the West Side of the River, leaving Lieutenant-General Knyphausen with Three Brigades in that Camp, and One Brigade on the Communication.

The Corps commanded by General Knyphausen will cross the Ferry to Cecil Court House To-morrow, and is to form a Junction with This on the 3d next ensuing, about Eight Miles on this Side of Christien Bridge.

The Enemy's Army is at this Time encamped behind Brandy-wine Creek, with an advanced Corps on White-clay Creek: Their Force consists of about Fifteen Thousand Men, including Militia; nevertheless I am of Opinion it will be a difficult Matter to bring them to a general Action, even though it should be in the Defence of Philadelphia.

The inclosed Declaration I have published, to endeavour to quiet the Minds of the People at large in Pennsylvania, and the Counties to which it has Relation, led astray by the Leaders in Rebellion.

By his Excellency Sir William Howe, K. B. General and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

D E C L A R A T I O N.

SIR William Howe, regretting the Calamities to which many of His Majesty's faithful Subjects are still exposed by the Continuance of the Rebellion, and no less desirous of protecting the Innocent, than determined to pursue with the Rigors of War all those whom His Majesty's Forces, in the Course of their Progress, may find in Arms against the King, doth hereby assure the peaceable Inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware, and the Counties of Maryland on the Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay, That, in order to remove any groundless Apprehensions which may have been raised of their suffering by Depredations of the Army under his Command, he hath issued the strictest Orders to the Troops for the Preservation of Regularity and good Discipline, and has signified, that the most exemplary Punishment shall be inflicted upon those who shall dare to plunder the Property, or molest the Persons, of any of His Majesty's well-disposed Subjects.

Security and Protection are likewise extended to all Persons, Inhabitants of the Province and Counties aforesaid, who, not guilty of having assumed Legislative or Judicial Authority, may have acted illegally in subordinate Stations, and, conscious of their Misconduct, been induced to leave their Dwellings; provided such Persons do forthwith

return, and remain peaceably at their usual Places of Abode.

Considering moreover, that many Officers and Private Men, now actually in Arms against His Majesty, may be willing to relinquish the Part they have taken in this Rebellion, and return to their due Allegiance; Sir William Howe doth therefore promise a free and general Pardon to all such Officers and Private Men, as shall voluntarily come and surrender themselves to any Detachment of His Majesty's Forces, before the Day on which it shall be notified that the said Indulgence is to be discontinued.

Given under my Hand, at Head Quarters of the Army, the 27th Day of August, 1777.
By his Excellency's
Command,

Robert Mackenzie, Secretary.

Admiralty Office, November 1, 1777.

THE following is an Extract of a Letter from Lord Viscount Howe, Commander in Chief His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in North America, to Mr. Stephens, received the 28th of last Month, by the Swallow Packet from Maryland.

Eagle, Elk River, August 28, 1777.

SI R,
I informed you in my last Letter, of the 9th of July, that the Part of the Army intended by the General for a particular Service was embarked.

I put to Sea from Sandy Hook with the Fleet, consisting in the Whole of 267 Sail, the 23d of the same Month, being the earliest Opportunity the Weather would admit; but having frequent Calms, and otherwise constant South-West and Southerly Winds in the mean Time, the Progress of the Armament was so much retarded, that we were not advanced along the Coast so far as the Delaware before the 29th, nor off the Capes of Virginia, the Destination of the Fleet, until the 14th Instant.

The Wind then changing to the Eastward, the Fleet proceeded on, and anchored next Day within the Entrance of Chesapeake Bay. By the Attention of Captain Griffith, commanding in the Rear, and the general good Disposition of the Masters of the Transports, the Passage was effected without Separation.

Captain Hamond, who had acquired a very correct Knowledge of the Navigation, was withdrawn from the Delaware, the Roebuck being replaced by the Liverpool, and charged with the Care of stationing proper Pilot-Vessels to mark out the Channel up the Chesapeake Bay. The Fleet, with that, and the further Assistance of good Pilots, being safely conducted up to the Head of the Bay, anchored between the Sassafras and Elk Rivers the 22d.

Having attended the General to reconnoitre the adjacent Shores next Day, the Descent was fixed to be made on the 25th in the Elk.

The Debarkation of the Army was to be made on this Occasion in Five Divisions, correspondent to the Number of Men which could be regularly landed from the Flat-Boats at the same Time.

The covering Ships, consisting of the Roebuck, with the Apollo, Sphynx, Vigilant, Senegal, and Swift, moving up the River in the Morning of the 25th, the Flat-Boats under the Chief Command of Captain Duncan, with the Infantry of the First Division, advanced, and were followed in Succession by the Transports of the Second and Third Divisions.

No Preparation being made to oppose the Descent, the Transports of the other Divisions were also ordered forward; and the whole Army, with the necessary Proportion of Artillery and Stores, were landed the same Day on the Northern Shore opposite to Cecil Court House, about six Miles from Turkey Point.