

GENERAL WARD, TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Boston, May 19, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 13th instant is just come to hand, enclosing Colonel *Varnum's* petition, by which I perceive he makes a charge against me, because I did not redeliver, as he is pleased to call it, some men upon request of one Captain *Lane*.

The case was this, if I remember aright: *Lane* came to me and said he had supplied a man with money to enlist men for Colonel *Varnum's* Regiment, and that he had enlisted fifteen or sixteen men, and had received his orders to join said regiment at *Prospect-Hill*; but before the men arrived, the regiment had marched for *New-York*, and the men had enlisted into Colonel *Phinney's* Regiment. He desired that I would order them to join Colonel *Varnum's* Regiment. I asked him for the enlistment, that I might know who the men were, and have the proper proof of their having enlisted into Colonel *Varnum's* Regiment. He replied, he had not got any; they were destroyed; but did not say who destroyed them. I then asked him if he was like to lose the money. He said somebody (but who I don't remember) would give him the money again, but he would not take it. I then told him he had better take it, and look out better next time. I think there would have been no propriety in my ordering that or any other number to join Colonel *Varnum's* Regiment, without first having proper evidence of their first enlisting into the same.

It is somewhat surprising the gentleman should take it upon him to make a charge against me for not doing that which, by his own charge, it appears I had no right to do, by law or reason. As to Lieutenant *Merrel's* conduct in the matter, I shall make inquiry into it as soon as may be. If I find him faulty, as alleged in the petition, I shall give information thereof to your Excellency.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

To General *Washington*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER DATED HALIFAX, NOVA-SCOTIA, MAY 19, 1776.

On *Thursday* last arrived here the *Greyhound* man-of-war, Captain *Dickson*, in six weeks from *Cork*, with nine victuallers under convoy; and the same day sailed the *Rose*, Captain *Wallace*.

On *Friday* arrived the *Savage* sloop-of-war, Captain *Bromedge*, from *New-York*, with despatches for Admiral *Shulldham* and General *Howe*.

Sunday last arrived the *Argo* transport, with Colonel *Enoch Markham* and three companies of the Forty-Sixth Regiment.

Captain *Nordberg*, of the Sixtieth Regiment, who commanded at *Fort George*, is arrived there, having escaped from the Provincials.

A ship freighted with sundry articles, being a donation from *London* for the Army, is safely arrived here.

A regiment is raising here, to be called the Loyal *Nova-Scotia* Volunteers; and General *Howe* has issued a proclamation, offering a free pardon to all deserters who will surrender before the 24th of *June*, and enter into the said corps.

A special Court of Sessions was held here the 10th instant, to settle the price of provisions, as on account of the arrival of the troops every advantage had been taken of the fullness of the town, and the great demand for every article thereof. The order of Sessions runs thus: That all butchers and others selling dead meat shall expose the same publickly for sale, and shall not ask or demand for the best prime pieces of beef, pork, mutton, lamb, and veal, more than a shilling currency the pound, avoirdupois, and the coarser parts in proportion; fowls, dead or alive, not exceeding two shillings each, and chickens in proportion; hares or rabbits, one shilling six pence each; tame ducks, two shillings each; wild ducks, one shilling six pence each; partridges one shilling three pence each. The above prices are in currency only.

We have now two ships of one hundred and forty tons each, with their cargoes, consisting of *Russia* bar-iron, ditto hemp, ditto sail-cloth, and ditto linen, on sale, which were taken from the *Americans*, and were condemned in our Admiralty Court. Everything is very quiet here; they are throwing up new works, and making the place more tenable

than it was; and an expedition is concerting, but I believe they wait the succours from *England* before they mean to put it in execution.

Provisions, as you see by the above, are very dear; twenty years ago we bought here all the same articles for one-fourth of the present prices; even the common sort of soap is sold at one shilling a pound.

SOUTH-CAROLINA—CHERAWS DISTRICT.

At a Court of General Sessions of the Peace, Oyer and Terminer, Assize and General Jail Delivery, begun to be holden in and for the said District, at *Long-Bluff*, in the Colony aforesaid, on *Monday*, the 20th day of *May*, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six: The Presentments of the Grand Jury of and for the said District:

I. When a people, born and bred in a land of freedom and virtue, uncorrupted by those refinements which effeminate and debase the mind, manly and generous in their sentiments, bold and hardy in their nature, and actuated by every principle of liberality, from too sad experience are convinced of the wicked schemes of their treacherous rulers to fetter them with the chains of servitude, and rob them of every noble and desirable privilege which distinguishes them as freemen,—justice, humanity, and the immutable laws of *God*, justify and support them in revoking those sacred trusts which are so impiously violated, and placing them in such hands as are most likely to execute them in the manner and for the important ends for which they were first given.

II. The good people of this Colony, with the rest of her sister Colonies, confiding in the justice and merited protection of the King and Parliament of *Great Britain*, ever signalized themselves by every mark of duty and affection towards them, and esteemed such a bond of union and harmony as the greatest happiness. But when that protection was wantonly withdrawn, and every mark of cruelty and oppression substituted; when tyranny, violence, and injustice, took the place of equity, mildness, and affection; and bloodshed, murder, robbery, conflagration, and the most deadly persecution, stamped the malignity of her intentions; self-preservation, and a regard to our own welfare and security, became a consideration both important and necessary. The Parliament and Ministry of *Great Britain*, by their wanton and undeserved persecutions, have reduced this Colony to a state of separation from her, unsought for and undesired by them: a separation which now proves its own utility, as the only lasting means of future happiness and safety. What every one once dreaded as the greatest misery, they now unexpectedly find their greatest advantage. Amidst all her sufferings, and manifold injuries which have been done her, this Colony was ever ready, with her sister Colonies, to ask for that reconciliation which showed every mark of forgiveness and promise of future harmony. But how were they treated? Each token of submission was aggravated into usurpation; humble petitions styled insults; and every dutiful desire of accommodation treated with the most implacable contempt. Cast off, persecuted, defamed, given up as a prey to every violence and injury, a righteous and much injured people have at length appealed to *God*! and, trusting to his divine justice and their own virtuous perseverance, taken the only and last means of securing their own honour, safety, and happiness.

III. We now feel every joyful and comfortable hope that a people could desire in the present Constitution and form of Government established in this Colony; a Constitution founded on the strictest principles of justice and humanity, where the rights and happiness of the whole, the poor and the rich, are equally secured; and to secure and defend which, it is the particular interest of every individual who regards his own safety and advantage.

IV. When we consider the publick officers of our present form of Government now appointed, as well as the method and duration of their appointment, we cannot but declare our entire satisfaction and comfort; as well in the characters of such men, who are justly esteemed for every virtue, as their well-known abilities to execute the important trusts which they now hold.

V. Under these convictions, and filled with these hopes, we cannot but most earnestly recommend it to every man, as essential to his own liberty and happiness, as well as that

of his posterity, to secure and defend with his life and fortune a form of Government so just, so equitable, and promising; to inculcate its principles to their children, and hand it down to them unviolated, that the latest posterity may enjoy the virtuous fruits of that work, which the integrity and fortitude of the present age had, at the expense of their blood and treasure, at length happily effected.

VI. We cannot but declare how great the pleasure, the harmony, and political union which now exists in this District, affords; and having no grievances to complain of, only beg leave to recommend that a new Jury list be made for this District, the present being insufficient.

And lastly, we beg leave to return our most sincere thanks to Mr. Justice *Matthews*, for his spirited and patriotic charge; at the same time requesting that these our presentments be printed in the publick papers.

PHILIP PLEDGER, *Foreman*.

ABEL EDWARDS,	BENJAMIN JAMES,
JOHN HEUSTES,	MAGNUS CORGELL,
CHARLES MACCALL,	THOMAS BINGHAM,
JOHN WILD,	PETER KOLB,
THOMAS LIDE,	BENJAMIN ROGERS,
MARTIN DEWITT,	THOMAS ELLEBREE,
JOHN MIKELL,	MOSES SPRIGHT.

To the Honourable the Convention of the Province of MARYLAND, now sitting:

The Memorial of HENRY RIDGELY, of ELKRIDGE, in ANNE ARUNDEL County, most humbly sheweth:

That your memorialist did early in life quit a domestick happiness to commence soldier, and had the honour of commanding a company of Rangers on the western frontiers of this Province, soon after the defeat of General *Braddock*, in the year 1775, at which time the cruel savages were laying waste the country and murdering the inhabitants; and that your memorialist's conduct and behaviour in that service was approved of by Colonel *Sharpe*, then Governour of *Maryland*; and on your memorialist quitting the ranging service, was promoted to the command of the *Elkridge* troop of Horse, which station he filled many years, to the entire satisfaction of his Field Officers; whereupon the late Governour *Sharpe* promoted him to be a Major of the County aforesaid, in the year 1761, and he was continued as such until the year 1773, when the present Governour *Eden* raised your memorialist to the office of Lieutenant-Colonel in said County.

Your memorialist further begs leave to inform your Honours, that after perusing the proceedings of the Convention held in the latter part of the year 1774, he was one of the first men in the *Elkridge* District that requested a meeting of the people, to form themselves into a company of Militia, which was accordingly done, and Mr. *John Burgess* chosen Captain, your memorialist having declined that honour, although unanimously offered to him, knowing he could be of more service to the cause in assisting in the formation of other companies; and accordingly, in the month of *June* last, your memorialist went into the neighbourhood of Mr. *Thomas Dorsey*, who had been six months unsuccessfully striving to raise a company, and after advertising a meeting of the inhabitants, a number of them met, and would have chosen your memorialist Captain, but were prevailed upon by him to choose Mr. *Thomas Dorsey* their Captain, who appeared exceedingly desirous of the command. Your memorialist conceives that, agreeable to the resolves of the late Convention, he is exempt from serving in the Militia as a private, or in any other station lower than he hath heretofore filled. Nevertheless, as the honourable Convention did not distinguish between the officers commissioned under the legal, or old form of Government, and those under the authority of the Convention, your memorialist did enroll himself as a private in Captain *Tootle's* company, although at the distance of twenty miles from his habitation, rather than be harassed by the Committee of Observation, composed entirely of Militia officers except one man, and to avoid the indignity of being commanded by the first officer of the *Elkridge* battalion, who most shamefully and cowardly quitted his post when under your memorialist's command twenty-one years ago.

Your memorialist hath nothing more to ask of your Honours than a candid consideration of this memorial, and pass

a resolve for his exemption from further duty as a militiaman; at the same time he most solemnly assures your Honours that he doth not desire or intend to withdraw himself from the service of his native country, but, on the contrary, will stand forth, as far as in his power lies, (as a volunteer or independent,) with the stoutest champion for *American* liberty. In full expectation of a favourable issue, the above is most cheerfully submitted to the consideration of your honourable House, by your memorialist,

H. RIDGELY.

Elkridge, May 20, 1776.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO MARYLAND CONVENTION.

In Committee, Baltimore, May 20, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We are favoured with your letter of the 15th, enclosing a copy of a certain *Purnall Johnson's* petition to your honourable House, and your resolve thereon; in answer to which we beg leave to inform you, that we are possessed of no facts relative to any disputes on Mr. *Johnson's* account; and so far from having questioned the justice thereof, we have never yet seen, nor has he ever yet laid it before us.

This Committee sometime ago sent down to the Council of Safety a state of a certain *Alexander McGee's* case, and wished to know their further directions on it. We understand the affair has been laid before your honourable House; if so, be pleased to inform us of your determination thereon, as the man is still under guard, in care of the commanding officer of the regular troops here, who is anxious to have him discharged, or to receive your particular instructions concerning him.

We are, gentlemen, your obedient, humble servants,

JOHN SMITH, *Chairman pro tem*.

JOHN CRADOCK, THOMAS SOLLERS,

THOMAS HARRISON, THOMAS GIST,

JOHN E. HOWARD, WILLIAM WILKINSON,

JOHN BOYD, T. GRIEST.

JAMES CALHOUN,

To *Charles Carroll*, Esquire, Barrister.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON.

[No. 158.]

Annapolis, May 20, 1776.

SIR: We have received information that there are no vessels of war below except the *Otter* and *Eilbeck*, and that most of the tenders are gone to the *Carolina* coast, to protect the transports on their arrival there; in consequence of which we have ordered down the brigs *Fortune* and *Rogers*, and the schooner *Ninety-Two*, with valuable cargoes of bread, flour, &c., and require you will give them what assistance you can in getting out, if you see a probability of their running through; but if, from any certain intelligence which you may receive, you should think it most likely they may fall into the hands of the enemy if they proceed, we would have you immediately order them to return to *Baltimore*. It is a matter of great consequence to the Province to have these vessels get safe out, if possible; and we would have them conveyed down as low as you think you can venture with safety to yourself.

We are, &c.

To Captain *James Nicholson*.

P. S. Order the boat which will deliver you this to speak the vessels on their way down the bay, and let them know where to join you.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL LEE.

Philadelphia, May 20, 1776.

SIR: By the enclosed resolves of Congress, which I have the honour of transmitting, you will perceive that your several letters have been received, and that the Congress have fully expressed their sense with regard to the subject of them.

The Congress highly approve of your vigilance and attention to the important duties of your Department. You may rest assured they will always co-operate with you in all your laudable schemes to establish the liberties of the United Colonies; an event which, I trust, by the blessing of *God*, we shall be able finally to accomplish, in spite of