



THE MASSACHUSETTS SIBYL Or, American ORACLE of Liberty.

VOL. V.)

WORCESTER, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1775.

(NUMB. 226.)

LONDON, 1775.
THE CRISIS. NUMBER VI.

*Is there not some hidden Curse in the Stores of Heaven,
red with uncommon Wrath, to blast the Man who owes
his Greatness to his Country's Ruin.*

To the Right Honourable
LORD NORTH,
First Lord of the Treasury, Chancellor of the Exchequer,
and Ranger of Bushy-Park, &c.
My LORD,

WE know not which is most to be detected, your Lordship's pusillanimity or your villainy, such a miscreant never before disgraced the administration of any country, nor the confidence of any King: one day you are all fire and sword, Boston is to be laid in ashes, and the rivers of America are to run with the blood of her inhabitants; ships are prepared, troops embarked, and officers appointed for the threatened embark; you no sooner find the brave Americans are determined to resist your instruments of slaughter, and to oppose the cruel designs of a despotic tyrant, to rob them of their rights; than all the bravadoing and all the blustering of your Lordship, is immediately softened into a calm, and you relax; FEAR seizes your dastardly soul, and you sink beneath the weight of accumulated guilt.

One day we hear of nothing but accusations, proscriptions, impeachments, and bills of attainder against the patriots in America; and they are speedily to be apprehended, and to receive a punishment due to their crimes, due to rebels; three days do not elapse before this just and noble resolution of your Lordship to bring those traitors to a trial is dropped, and lenient, or, no steps are to be taken against them. Another day all the colonies are in a state of rebellion, and the last advice received from America, you tell the house of Commons, were of a very alarming nature, and such a daring spirit of defiance had manifested itself throughout the continent, that it was now high time parliament should adopt measures, for enforcing obedience to the late acts, a plan is no sooner proposed by you, but carried by a rotten majority, for reducing them to a state of subjection to you, and your royal master's will; and bloodshed and slaughter stare them in the face; they laugh at your impotent malice, and with a spirited firmness becoming of freemen, DARE you to the broke; When behold, your threats, and the resolutions of your venal troop, (I will not call it a British Senate) become like the threats and resolutions of a society of Coal-Porters, who declare vengeance against another body of men, who will not comply with their unlawful impositions, but FEAR the next day, without even the shadow of justice on their side to carry their desperate designs into execution. The motion you made, my Lord, in the House of Commons on Monday last, for a suspension of the several American acts, till it is known which of the provinces will raise a revenue, and contribute to the luxuries of the parent state, subject to the controul of the British parliament, is a subterfuge too low, and too thinly disguised to deceive the Americans, or to impose upon the understanding, of the meanest capacity; It is evident to the world this is only a villainous plan to divide them, who, while united together, may bid defiance to all your Lordship's cunning, fraud, force, and villainy. The Americans, my Lord, are too sensible, and too brave to be drawn into any trap, either of your, or your royal master's making, you may weave the web as artfully as you please, for their destruction, and they will be sure to break it; their cause is just, it is the cause of heaven, and built upon the solid foundation of truth and liberty, they will carefully watch over the sacred gifts of God, and never surrender them to you, nor any power upon earth, but with their lives. You have found, my Lord, that your hostile invasion, and all your force and violence would not terrify them into a compliance with your measures, nor answer the infamous design of making the King absolute in America; and now you are determined to try

whether by fraud and artifice you can effect your purpose.

You have my Lord, by the most cruel oppressions drove the Americans to a state of desperation, you have destroyed their charters, invaded their rights, imposed taxes contrary to every principle of justice, and to every idea of representation, and by blockading the port of Boston, reduced near thirty thousand people, in easy circumstances, to a state of dependence upon the charity and benevolence of their fellow subjects; and now rare condescension, suspension of the several American acts, or in other words: ministerial oppression and villainy is to be granted them, provided they will raise a revenue in America, still subject to the controul of the King and parliament in England: This suspension scheme, my Lord, will not do, the Americans will have a repeal of all the acts they complain of, and a full restoration of all their charters, rights, liberties, and privileges, before they grant you a single farthing, and then not subject to the controul of a banditti of rotten members in St. Stephen's Chapel, of your appointing, for where would be the difference, between their taxing themselves, subject to the controul and at the disposal of the King and parliament, here; or of the House of Commons in England taxing them in the first instance, there would be none, my Lord, and they would still be in the same situation they are now; still subject to the will of the King, and the corrupt influence of the crown: This scheme, my Lord, appears to me as ridiculous and absurd, as the negative still vested in the Court of Aldermen, of the city of London, which gives a power to a majority of twenty-six, to fetter the choice of seven thousand Livermen, in the election of their Mayor. Be assured, my Lord, this new plan must fall to the ground, with all your former ones in this business; the day of trial is at hand, the Americans will be firm, they will have a confirmation of all their rights they will have a redress of all their grievances; they will levy their own taxes, not subject to any controuling power; and they will fix the constitutional liberties of America upon a foundation not to be again shaken by you, nor any pusillanimous, weak, wicked, or cruel tyrant.

It is unnatural; but for a moment, my Lord, suppose the Americans should come into your proposals or agree with the terms of your motion, how, my Lord, can you make reparation for the injuries England and America have sustained, or will it in any degree lessen your villainy, or atone for your crimes, what compensation can you make for the loss of four trade, to the amount of near three millions? What compensation can you make for robbing the nation of near one million and a half of money, to carry on your execrable designs against your fellow subjects in America? You can make none. Your head indeed would be a pleasing spectacle upon Temple-Bar, but the loss of that, and your estates, would never atone for a ten thousandth part of your crimes and villainy, still it is to be hoped, the minority of the house of commons and the people will never leave you till they have both, till you are made a public example, and brought to condign punishment.

Every measure my Lord, of your administration at home, has been cruel, arbitrary, and unconstitutional; and every measure with respect to foreign affairs, has been weak, cowardly, absurd and ridiculous, unbecoming an English minister, and only calculated to destroy the honour and interest of the kingdom.

The glory and dignity of the British nation was never so infamously sacrificed both by you, and the King, as in the year 1770, by a scandalous secret convention with Spain, concerning Falkland Islands.

With respect to domestic affairs, you have endeavoured to erect the Sovereign into a despotic tyrant; you have made him destroy the rights and liberties of the people in every part of the British Empire. You have made it apparently his interest to promote divisions at home; you have obliged him to quit the glorious title of father of his people, and debate himself into the head of a party, whom he has invested with an absolute dominion over him, and whilst he monarch's it in his own closet,

becomes contemptible in the eyes of his subjects and the whole world; weak, timid, and irresolute; he deeply engages in all your Lordship's infamous measures, and the rest of his ministers; and it is for this reason we see every act of ministerial villainy and murder sanctified by royal authority.

A parody for your Lordship's perusal, on the third scene of the fifth act of Richard the third.
Enter NORTH from his Bed.

'Tis now the dead of night, and half the world is in a lovely solemn darkness; but yet I, (so cry a dame I sleep to me) with all this weary courtship of my care-tired thoughts, can't win her to my arms; tho' 'twere the stars do wink, as 'twere with over-watching—I'll to my bed, and once more try to sleep her into morning. [Lies down, a groan is heard.]

Ha! what means that dismal voice? Sure 'tis the echo of some yawning grave, that teems with an untimely ghost. 'Tis gone! 'Twas but my fancy, which over and anon, of late, conjures the people's murmurs to my ear—no matter what, I feel my eyes grow heavy.

(Sleeps.)

Enter the ghost of Britannia.

Brit. Oh thou whose unrelenting thoughts, nit all the hideous terrors of thy guilt can shake; whose conscience, with thy body ever sleeps, sleep on, while I by Heaven's high ordinance, in dreams of bygone wake thy frightened soul: Now give thy thoughts to me, let them behold those gaping wounds, which thy death-dealing hand from time to time, gave my agonized body; now shall thy own devouring conscience gnaw thy heart, and terribly revenge my murder.

Enter the ghosts of those barbarously murdered at Brentford, Boston and in St. George's Fields, in the merciful reign of the present King.

Ghosts. North dream on, and let the wand'ring spirits of thy fellow-subjects grate thine ear! could not the cause wherein we were embarked, the common open birthright of a Briton, persuade thy cruel heart to spare our lives? Oh! 'twas a cruel deed! therefore alone, unquitting, unpitied shall thou fall.

Enter the ghost of the late Lord Chancellor.

Lord Chancellor. Could not the various wrongs thou didst thy country's wail, in Camden, Granby, Wilkes, and many more, glut thy relentless soul? Has thou and Grafton wilt aim thy dagger at my life?—'Tis at my life unfeeling man! For couldst thou think, that after quitting every claim to honour, truth or right, I'd longer bear my hated load of infamy! Oh no! the grave could only save me from myself! Wake then in all the bells of guilt, and let that wild despair which now does prey upon thy mangled thoughts, be to the world a terrible example.

[Ghosts vanish.]

North. Spare me my life! I do repent,—Hah! I soft—'twas but a dream, but then so terrible, it shakes my soul! cold drops of sweat hang on my trembling flesh! My blood grows chilly, and I freeze with horror. Oh tyrant conscience! how dost thou afflict me? Fair would I resign my wail; was it not terrible retreating. Who's there?

Enter MUNGO, alias, Jeremiah Dyson.

Mungo. 'Tis I my Lord, the morn is far advanced, and all your friends are up, preparing for the day.

North. Oh! Mungo I have had such horrid dreams!

Mungo. Shadowy my Lord! Below the Statesman's bed!

North. Now by my every hope, shadows to night, have struck more terror to the soul of North, than could the wiles of ten ministers, armed, all in proof, and led by noble Chatham.

Mungo. Be more yourself, my Lord; consider were it not known, a dream had frightened you, how would your animators feel presuming on it.

North. 'Tis that thought! no never be it said, that fate itself could awe the soul of North.

Here babbling dreams, you threaten here in vain, Confidence account, North is himself again!

With this, and with my gracious sovereign's ear, I'll add determined—free from every fear.

Producing the key of the treasury.

[To be continued]

On Tuesday arrived the ship *Mary and Suzanne*, Capt. Thompson, in 9 weeks and 3 days from Cork in Ireland. Capt. Thompson reports that when he left Cork, the 5th of May, several transports were there, having on board three regiments of soldiers, the other regiment at the same place was preparing to embark, and that the four were immediately to sail for New-York, where they may be every day expected.

MADRID, [Capital of Spain] April 2.
ACCOUNTS are this day received, that the Emperor of Mexico has declared war against the King of Algeria, for not assisting him, (as the declaration is forthly) by attacking Oran according to promise.

DUBLIN, April 2. Capt. Johnson, of the 46th regiment, now on Dublin duty, is appointed Governor of one of his Majesty's forts in North-America.

Coxs, May 1. Last Friday morning sailed from Cove 24 transports with troops for Boston. They have had very fine weather, but mostly contrary winds since their departure.

May 4. Yesterday arrived eleven transports from Plymouth, with the 3d and 14th regiments on board, which are to remain in this kingdom.

May 5. We are informed that six regiments of foot more on this establishment, have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for embarkation.

LONDON.

April 13. This day his Majesty went to the House of Peers, and gave the royal assent to the following bills, viz. the bill to restrict the trade and commerce of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. The bill to punish mutiny and desertion in the American colonies.

May 1. In the course of the day Governor's before the holidays, he was finally determined to reinforce General Gage yet further: To order him to leave 6000 men in Boston, and march with 14,000 to Philadelphia; previously diffusing a proclamation declaring all persons who presume to meet in any extra Provincial Congress, rebels.

May 13. Another account we have received, makes the plan to be for the General entirely to evacuate Boston, leaving that town to the fleet.

May 19. It is said, that Lord North, before the rising of parliament, will bring a bill for solemnly declaring all extra provincial meetings among the colonies to be rebellious and punishable accordingly.

May 20. The Ensigns of the order of Knight of the Bath, which we hear is very soon bestowed on an American Governor, who will come over for that purpose as soon as the General Burying arrives at Boston.

Affiance to the Americans is rising from a new quarter, the following information may be depended upon; a ship sailed from Stettin last month, loaded with small fire-arms, gunpowder, ball, and accoutrements, thirty field pieces of a light construction, and eight general officers who have served long in Germany, three of them are, Messrs. Robeyvels, Laofschot, and Gurgenstein. The arms and ammunition are actually paid for by an American agent at Berlin, who went thither from Paris, but what the footing is upon which the officers go is only conjectured; they are Lutherans, and certainly do not go upon mere hopes of preferment. This must be a scheme of the Prussian Monarch's for disconcerting the court of London, with whom he is upon the worst terms.

There are now no less than 20 rendezvous houses opened in Wapping, the Borough, and Charing-Cross, to enter sailors for the Newfoundland fishery since the act passed.

It is asserted as a fact in the city, that letters from Spain give an account, it is no longer a secret, that the court of Madrid have ordered a very considerable fleet to the West-Indies, in order to attack some of the western islands as soon as our troops are engaged with the Bostonians; at which time, the letters say, there is no doubt but they will become masters of some of them.

So greatly have administration increased their power of late, by an enormous number of dependents, that about 700,000l. per annum goes to the several officers concerned in collecting the various taxes.

The hon. William Tryon, Esq; Governor of New-York, took leave of his Majesty, and on Monday will set out to embark for his government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. At three o'clock Lord North came down, and delivered by his Majesty's command, the following message to the house:

G. REX.

"His Majesty, desirous that a better and more suitable accommodation should be made for the residence of the Queen, in case she should survive him, being willing, that the palace in which his Majesty now resides, called the Queen's-house, may be settled for that purpose, recommends it to his faithful Commons, to take the same into consideration, and to make provision for setting the said palace upon her Majesty, and for appropriating Somerset-house to such uses as shall be found most beneficial to the public."

Resolved, nem. con. that his Majesty's said message be taken into consideration on this day forthnight.

WHITEHALL, April 28. The King has been pleased to appoint Robert Duff, Esq; Rear Admiral of the blue, to be Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's island of Newfoundland in America, and of the islands of Malaguine in the gulph of St. Lawrence.

Upon Motion, Resolved.

"THAT no Bill of Excenses, draughts, or order of any officer in the army, or navy, their agents or contractors, be received, or negotiated for any money supplied to them by any person in America. That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be furnished or supplied to, or for the use of the British army or navy in the colony of Massachusetts-Bay;—and that no vessel employed in transporting British troops to America, or from one part of North-America to another, or for provisions or necessaries of any kind, be freighted, or furnished with provisions or any necessaries—until further order from this Congress."

A true copy from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secy.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, June 12, 1775.
WHEREAS the enemies of America are multiplying their cruelties towards the inhabitants of the New-England colonies, by seizing provision vessels, either the property of, or intended to supply them; and also by plundering the stock of cattle, Sheep, &c. on their sea coasts.

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is recommended to the inhabitants of the towns and districts in this colony, that they forthwith exert themselves to prevent the exportation of fish, and all other kind of provision, excepting such only as shall be intended to supply the inhabitants of the colonies aforesaid: And as in the opinion of the fleet-men and committees of correspondence, and committees of safety of the towns where the same shall be stored, may with prudence be shipped for conveyance by water, for the purpose aforesaid: and it is strongly recommended to the fleet-men, committees of correspondence, and committees of safety, throughout the colony, that they cause this resolve to be strictly executed.

JOSEPH WARREN, President.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, Secy.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, June 15, 1775.
WHEREAS it is necessary that this colony be provided with a magazine of arms, which are good and sufficient:—Therefore.

RESOLVED, That any person or persons who may have such to sell, shall receive so much for them, as the selectmen of the town or district in which he or they may dwell, shall appraise said arms at: upon the delivery of the same to the committee of supply at Watertown, and exhibiting a certificate of said appraisal, attested by said selectmen, to the committee aforesaid, provided said delivery be made within one month from the date hereof.

A true copy from the minutes,

JOSEPH WARREN, President.

SAMUEL FREEMAN, Secy.

CAMBRIDGE, June 15.

Extract of a letter from Falmouth, Casto-Bay, dated June 4, 1775.

"Capt. — (who on his passage to New-York from 1775, place with a load of spars, was lately seized by Admiral Greaves and carried into Boston) returned here last Thursday Evening. He says he was at the wharf at Noddie's Island when the battle began, and has given us a particular account of the same. He says the ship near Winnimutt, that had the first buoy, cut or slipped her cables, and came and filled to his stern: He was shocked to see the blood running out of the scuppers: there was a number of dead and wounded lying on the decks, but the survivors did not care to tell how many. The British frigates near engaged, and the mother of her told Capt. — that guns never were better served than ours here; that a shot missed him. I have not time to write you all he says? One man was carried on board for dead, but next morning came two, and had not the least wound about him; others were brought to the shore, and told that there was no such dangerous difference in the looks and behaviour of the enemy after the battle from what there was before; before there was nothing but noise and confusion, afterwards all were still and quiet, inasmuch that you could hardly perceive that there was any fleet or army there. From the General's order to the common soldiers, they seemed to be in a great panic, and afraid to go to bed, for fear the yankees should kill them before morning."

"Last Tuesday a soldier belonging to the New-Hampshire troops, battal in Millick river, was unfortunately drowned."

The publick ladies of the town of Concord are desired to accept the assigned thanks of the public for their care and kindness in collecting and sending to the hospital a chest of old linen rags, &c. This instance of their humanity and public spirit does honour to the town, and will we hope induce others to imitate so good an example.

Extract of a letter from a member of the Continental Congress.

"The Congress are as firm as a rock; they are firmly united in all their resolutions."

The 2000 men, voted to be raised by the New-Hampshire Congress, are all enlisted, and many of them have already joined the American army. They are commanded by General Nathaniel Folsom.

Within 2 or 3 days past, we are informed, 20 or 30 transports have arrived at Boston from England, with troops, military stores, &c. as a reinforcement to Thomas Gage, in order to enable him to prosecute his rebellious defence of subverting the legal constitution of government.

WATERTOWN, June 19.

Wednesday last General Gage issued a proclamation, requiring all persons in the town of Boston who were possessed of spirituous liquors, or Molasses designed to be made into rum, to make return of the quantity of each, on or before Saturday last, on penalty of its being taken [seized] for his Majesty's service. *Editorial notice for plunder this.*

On Friday last, the 6th instant, a detachment of two Captains, eight Subalterns, and two hundred men of the corps of light infantry, under the command of Capt. Souther, of the Marines, landed at Noddie's Island near 6 o'clock. In the morning, for the purpose of bringing off hay, which was suffered without any loss. Advanced parties took possession of the heights, and were most scandalously abused by the people from the opposite shore. The troops noticed them not, though fired at if they showed their heads. The detachment did not fire. Editor's notice. It extruded from good Madam Drough's 10th Thursday's Gazette.

We hear that one Poster, an attorney of Salem, was lately detected at Cohasset, in conveying a letter from T. Gage to governor Charlton of Quebec requiring his very good friend the Catholics, who he forbade him to assist him in putting the throats of all Protestants. The letter was found between the files of his door. Poster in attempting to escape, was shot through the back, and expired instantly.

A Correspondent has favoured us with the following, account of the battle near Charlestown, viz. "The reinforcement both of boats and foot being arrived at Boston, and our army having good intelligence that General Gage, was about to take possession of the advantageous post near Charlestown, and Dorchester Point; the committee of safety advised, that our troops should prepossess them if possible; accordingly on Friday evening the 16th instant, this was effected, and before day-light on Saturday morning their first encircumvallation, on a small hill south of Bunker's hill in Charlestown, was in great forwardness. At this time the Liberty men's quar, began, to fire upon them. A number of our enemy's ships, tenders and scows, or floating batteries, soon came up, from which the firing was general by 12 o'clock. About two the enemy began to land at a point that leads out towards Noddie's Island, and immediately marched up to our entrenchments, from which they were twice repulsed with great loss, but the third time they forced them. Our forces, which were in the line, as well as those sent for their relief, were engaged on all sides by balls and bombs from Corbett's Hill, the ships, &c. At this time the buildings in Charlestown appeared to set in almost every quarter, supposed to be kindled by balls. Though this came out horrible, and altogether new to most of our men; yet many stood and received wounds, by sword and bayonet before they quitted their lines. The number of killed and wounded on our side is not yet known. Our men are in high spirits."

The number of regulars that were engaged is supposed to be between 2 and 3000.

The Provincial Congress at New-York continues to sit, and are projecting methods for the defence of the province.

A number of the inhabitants of Plymouth, we learn went a few days since to Nantucket in Whale-boats, and took from thence eight hundred barrels of flour the property of a merchant at Dartmouth, and which it is supposed, was intended to be smuggled into Boston, for supplying the ministerial army.

We hear that last week the company of the train of artillery, lately raised at Connecticut, all well accoutred, with four excellent field pieces, marched from thence, to join the American army near Boston; they made a very military appearance, and are, without exception, as complete a body of men as any in the King's dominions.

Springfield, June 12th, 1775.

WHEREAS the Committee of Correspondence for this town, have signified to me, that many suspicious have been conceived of me, in this and other parts of the country, respecting my disposition and conduct, in regard to our public affairs; and have therefore, agreeable to the order of the provincial congress the 8th of May last, thought proper to enquire into the same, and have called upon me for the assurance and satisfaction therein mentioned. In conformity to such request, I have assured said committee, and beg leave respectfully to assure the public, — That I have always conceived a most tender regard for the liberty and privileges of my country, and the greatest concern at every prospect of its injury or oppression. — That however I may, as very probably I have, committed many errors and mistakes in the little part I have had in the public affairs of the province, yet that I never entertained a sentiment, or did any thing knowingly, that was unfriendly to its interest; but always endeavoured, according to my ability, with good confidence, to promote it.

That wherein I have heretofore in any of those matters, unhappily thought differently from many of my brethren, I humbly apprehend I thought with modesty, and acted with integrity, moderation and decency; and in some good degree, as became one who realized the account he was to give of his conduct. — That as a private member of society, I have long since submitted myself to the public sense and opinion; — That I have always conformed myself to the regulations of the former Continental Congress; That I will by no means obstruct any measures that may be taken for the common defence; — That I am determined to conform myself to all such future regulations as may be dictated by the wisdom of the continent; — And to join my countrymen, on all occasions, according to my abilities in defence of the rights and liberties of America.

JOHN WORTHINGTON.

In Committee of Correspondence, Springfield, June 12.

This committee having examined John Worthington, Esq; with respect to his principles and conduct, agreeable to the order of the Provincial Congress of the 8th of May last, and having received full and ample assurance of his friendly disposition to his country, and of his readiness to join in defence of its rights and liberties; hereby declare their full satisfaction and confidence therein; and recommended him to the favourable opinion of the public, and to the treatment and respect due to a friend of his country.

N. B. This town in town-meeting having heard him on the same matters, voted themselves also satisfied therewith.

By order of the committee,
 NATHANIEL BREWER, Chairman.

