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THE WHOLE FORMING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;

OF THE

CAUSES AND ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;

AND OF

THE CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES,

TO

THE FINAL RATIFICATION THEREOF.

IN SIX SERIES.

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From the Discovery and Settlement of the North American Colonies, to the Revolution in England, in 1688.

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From the Revolution in England, in 1688, to the Cession of Canada to Great Britain, by the Treaty at Paris, in 1763.

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From the Treaty of Peace, in 1783, to the final ratification of the Constitution of Government for the United States, proposed by the Convention, held at Philadelphia, in 1787.

BY PETER FORCE.

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1843,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

AMERICAN ARCHIVES:

Fourth Series.

CONTAINING

A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

OF

THE ENGLISH COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA,

FROM

THE KING'S MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT, OF MARCH 7, 1774,

TO

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

BY

THE UNITED STATES.

BY PETER FORCE.

VOLUME VI.

PUBLISHED BY M. ST. CLAIR CLARKE AND PETER FORCE,

UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833,
AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

WASHINGTON, MARCH, 1846

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1846,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

appears by their confessions. Hope your Honours will excuse me for desiring the original of each to be sent back, as their names were subscribed by their own hands, and may be useful on their trials, which will come on in a few days. I was present with the Committee at each examination; and, with advice and assistance of them, have been able to forward the plan of sending a vessel on a cruise to the Island. She set out this morning with a fair wind, and I am in hopes she will soon return with her desired cargo.

I have, with advice of the Committee, sent fresh orders to *Newtown*, from whence I am in expectation of receiving some persons of no small consequence.

Nothing further has transpired concerning an eminent character in this Colony, who was mentioned in my last. I have communicated the affair to nobody but Mr. *Stoddard*, who has been helpful to me as scribe in my very great hurry. As he is a young gentleman with whom I have had an intimate acquaintance since here, I doubt not but I may rely upon him, as I believe him a man of integrity and honour, for which I refer you to Mr. *Burr*, and also to Captain *Smedley*, of the *Defence*. Am hopeful your Honour will be tender in exposing that certain great character, as I have found nothing as yet so conclusive against him, as I am under strong apprehensions I shall in a few days. *Hawley's* confession was perfectly voluntary, (as indeed were the rest,) being frequently cautioned by Mr. *Sturges* and myself not to say anything but that to which he could make oath, and especially avoid traducing the reputation of any innocent man. I am fully convinced a little perseverance will develop a scheme of the blackest dye, and make notorious a catalogue which once would have exceeded all credibility.

The brig *Defence* is so well known in this part of the Sound, that I apprehend it would have been in vain to have sent her out on the present affairs. Accordingly, with the advice of the Committee, took the sloop *Discovery* into service, gave the command of her to Captain *Smedley*, subalterns were appointed from among respectable gentlemen of this town, and manned her with forty of my own people. Hope your Honour will excuse the liberty on this pressing emergency. Should imagine it would be of consequence, by some small cruisers, to cut off entirely the communication between the main and the island, unless sufficient certificates for a passport were first obtained from Magistrates or the Committee; however, submit the whole to your Honour's judgment. In the mean time, as your Honour in Council was pleased to vote that I should have orders to cruise on the high-seas for a while, hope I may not be disappointed. I await your Honour's further commands, and shall cheerfully fulfil them with my best abilities. As my own desire was, I joined Commodore *Hopkins* at *New-London*, after the enemy had left the coast. I obtained leave to pursue your Honour's first orders; have touched at several places, and have now near a hundred men; should have been now ready to proceed on a cruise to sea had not these new affairs turned up. Notwithstanding I mentioned my desires of going to sea, am, however, all submission to future orders.

The enclosed letter to Colonel *Cook* has been opened by some of our friends, that by means of this carriage it might come to your Honour's knowledge. Colonel *Cook* will know the well-intended design, as it was done by advice of his good friends. Am desired to forward it, which I accordingly do. When I arrived at this place, found the Committee industriously employed in examining Tories. As I imagined matters were not fully ripe, I desired them to suspend their examination till next *Tuesday*, at which time hope to have something particular from your Honour. Shall communicate everything of consequence, as occasion may require.

In the mean time have the honour to be, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient and humble servant,

SETH HARDING.

To the Hon. Jonathan Trumbull, Esq.

By the Honourable JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Governour of the
ENGLISH Colony of CONNECTICUT, in NEW-ENGLAND, in
AMERICA.

A PROCLAMATION FOR AN EMBARGO.

Whereas the General Assembly, at their session in *May* instant, passed an Act that no Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Salt, or other *West-India* goods, shall be exported out of this Colony,

by land or water, on or before the first day of *November* next, under the same penalties and forfeitures as are already expressed in and by one statute of this Colony, entitled "An Act to enable the Governour to lay an embargo, and for rendering the same, when laid, effectual," or shall be otherwise punished by forfeiting the value of such goods so put on board, shipped, or exported; and that all offenders shall be proceeded against in like manner and form as in and by said statute is provided; and that his Honour the Governour be desired forthwith to issue his Proclamation prohibiting such exportation accordingly: *Provided, nevertheless*, That any *West-India* goods necessary for the use of the Continental Army, upon application made to his Honour the Governour, by the Continental Congress, or his Excellency General *Washington*, may be permitted to be exported by the license of his Honour, anything in said act notwithstanding.

I therefore do hereby strictly enjoin and require all persons within this Colony that they carefully, circumspectly, and strictly observe, obey, and conform themselves to the act aforesaid, in every particular, upon the pains and penalties thereof.

Given under my hand, in the Council Chamber, in *Hartford*, the 16th day of *May*, Anno Domini 1776.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

REV. JAMES LYON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Boston, May 16, 1776.

SIR: Notwithstanding the favourable reception of a former letter, and the obliging answer it procured, which I gratefully acknowledge, I feel unwilling a second time to trouble your Excellency, or interrupt the interesting business which continually engages your attention, though only for a moment. But my zeal for the safety and honour of my country, and an opinion that every individual of this new and rising state ought to exert himself to the utmost during our present struggle, must be my sole apology for seeming once more to step aside from the peaceful and salutary paths in which my profession naturally leads me.

To be as little tedious as possible, I shall venture to give your Excellency my sentiments of the necessity and importance of an immediate expedition against *Nova-Scotia*, in as few words as I can.

If our late intelligence from *Great Britain* can be relied on, I apprehend none of our troops in *Canada* can be spared, whether *Quebeck* is or is not in our hands. *Nova-Scotia* has heard of our intention to reduce that Province as soon as we can call *Quebeck* our own, and that the troops now in *Canada* are to be sent against them; consequently they are now in profound peace. No ships of war are now in the bay of *Fundy*, except the *Martin*, stationed at *Annapolis*, nor have the King's troops taken much pains to fortify *Halifax* as yet. But as soon as they hear of the reduction of *Quebeck*, they will immediately make themselves as strong as possible. *Nova-Scotia* will not readily be given up, and if *Annapolis* and *St. Johns* river are strongly fortified, the eastern part of this Colony, as far as *Penobscot*, will be ruined; it is almost ruined already, and should *Machias* break up, which lies about ten leagues from the boundary line of *Nova-Scotia*, an infant and once flourishing country, of upwards of one hundred miles in extent, will probably be deserted, and become again a wilderness or a prey to enemies.

Now the whole Province may possibly be taken by surprise, if proper secrecy can be observed. Nine-tenths of the inhabitants, who amount to twelve or fourteen thousand souls, wish for nothing more, and would join us instantly. A few pieces of cannon, which might easily be conveyed across the country, either by land or water, properly planted on a hill nearly opposite the town of *Halifax*, would soon demolish the town and navy-yard, and destroy or drive the shipping away. Some variation from the plan already laid before your Excellency would doubtless be necessary. Five thousand men would not be too many to ensure success.

If this is the proper time to strike a decisive blow in that quarter, the importance of an immediate expedition is self-evident, and victory will add to the other Colonies a territory of great extent and immense value.

I have meddled thus far. I have, I trust, done my duty. I now, with the greatest deference and pleasure, submit the

matter to your Excellency and the honourable Congress, to whom I glory in being subject.

I am, very respectfully, your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,

JAMES LYON.

To His Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., &c.

P. S. Would not a rising sun with this inscription, *Jussu Dei surgo*, appear well on the standard of some Colony?

NORTHAMPTON (MASSACHUSETTS) COMMITTEE TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Northampton, May 16, 1776.

HONoured SIR: In compliance with a resolve of Congress, of *February* 28th, we take the liberty to mention the circumstances of the prisoners sent hither for confinement, and our conduct towards them.

Twenty officers in the *British* Navy, the greater part Midshipmen, were confined to this town on their parole not to go beyond the bounds of it. The complaints of the inhabitants, that they went abroad unseasonably in the night, to the disturbance of the people, induced us to resolve that they should not be from their lodgings after nine o'clock in the evening, though several of them have since declared they were not properly notified of it. About the 20th of *March*, from an apprehension that some of them might be inclined to make their escape, a mutual parole, drawn up by one of their own number, and at that time known only to themselves, was proposed to each of them to sign, in which the subscribers, after reciting the above apprehensions, reciprocally engaged to each other that they would not leave the place of their confinement without the knowledge and consent of the majority. All of them signed the above-mentioned paper except Messieurs *Stanhope*, *Gregory*, *Webb*, *Robinson*, *Curtis*, and *Atkinson*. Soon after, the Committee was informed by some of the people with whom they lived that a design of escape was certainly in contemplation among the prisoners; but as they were closely connected among themselves, it was impossible to learn who in particular entertained the design; and being often out on horseback late in the evening, and sometimes absent through the night, the Committee thought it necessary, about the middle of *April*, to direct them for the present not to be from their lodgings after sunset. In the evening of the 27th of *April*, Mr. *Stanhope* and Mr. *Gregory* absconded. They were pursued and retaken at *Middletown*, in *Connecticut*, and brought back to this place on the first of this month, and committed to jail. When they were examined the next day before the Committee, Mr. *Stanhope* declared that any restrictions laid on him by the Committee would discharge him from every obligation to observe his parole; and that the order not to be out after sunset, or even after nine o'clock, would justify his going away. Mr. *Gregory* excused himself on similar principles. They were recommitted, and are now in close confinement. In the night of the 30th of *April*, Mr. *Robinson* also absconded, and has not yet been retaken. On the 1st of this month Mr. *Webb* (of whom there had been strong suspicion) was desired to attend upon the Committee. One of his fellow-officers declared he had heard him say that he did not think his parole binding. Another testified that Mr. *Webb* had told him he would make his escape if he had an opportunity. The Committee also confined him in jail. As the other gentlemen did not appear to be privy to their companions' going off, and had only heard them express themselves in general terms, our conduct towards them is not altered.

We should be happy to know the sentiments of Congress touching the matters above-mentioned; and it would be perfectly agreeable to us if any other place should be chosen where those in jail could be confined in a manner less disagreeable to them. However, we shall, with the greatest punctuality, observe any instructions we may receive.

A number of the prisoners confined to this town were taken by the Continental forces, and were sent to our care by General *Washington*. The people with whom they are lodged, and who have furnished them with clothing, are impatient to know where they must apply for a reward. We should be particularly obliged to the Congress if they would give us the information.

We have enclosed an account of the expense occasioned by the above-mentioned prisoners who broke their parole,

(all of whom were ordered to this place by General *Washington*;) the charges we think as low as the services mentioned could be hired for.

I am, sir, in the name and behalf of the Committee of Inspection for the town of *Northampton*, your most obedient, and most humble servant,

JOSEPH HAWLEY, *Chairman*.

To the Honourable the President of the *American* Congress, in *Philadelphia*.

Northampton, April 29, 1776.

The following prisoners, lately officers in the *British* Navy, who had given their parole of honour not to depart from the bounds of the town of *Northampton* without leave from the Commander-in-Chief, did, in the evening of the 27th instant, abscond and runaway, viz: *Henry Edwin Stanhope*, twenty-four years of age, has lightish eyes, hair, and complexion, pitted with the small-pox, has a large nose, and is about five feet six inches in height. Also, *George Gregory*, twenty-four years old, with light-coloured short hair, light complexion and thin favoured, about five feet eight inches high. They took away a young stone horse, almost black, with a white face and hog mane, and an old roan gelding, both good horses. It is hoped the greatest vigilance will be exerted to apprehend the said prisoners, who, in return for the indulgence shown them, have basely violated their word of honour. Five dollars, and all necessary charges, will be paid for apprehending and securing either of them.

Per order of the Committee of *Northampton*:

ROBERT BRECK, *Chairman*.

N. B. The Printers in this and the neighbouring Colonies are desired to insert the above in the several papers.

H. E. STANHOPE TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read June 11, 1776. Referred to the Committee on Prisoners.]

Northampton Jail, May 11, 1776.

SIR: I am very sorry my situation is such as to oblige me to apply to you as a prisoner. I can remember a time when I could have esteemed you a friend and acquaintance; you no doubt will recollect it, in 1769, when I frequently had the pleasure of paying my respects to you in *Boston*; however, not to trespass too much on your time, I must beg to inform you that the purport of this letter is to seek a redress of grievances from you and the gentlemen of Congress, (though you in particular,) from whose kind desire of having lenity shown prisoners I have every reason to expect it.

My parole to Governour *Cooke*, of *Rhode-Island*, in whose Government I was taken, restricted me to the township of *Northampton*, without any clause whatever as to the time of my going out or coming in. My situation seemed by no means agreeable to the inhabitants, who, as I am induced to suppose, though have no positive proof, encouraged our common sailors to attack us; by which means I nearly lost my life, having been assaulted three times by people whom I had never before seen; and upon application to Major *Hawley* for redress by civil law, was informed that we were not entitled to the benefit of it, as prisoners. However, some time after the Committee published an advertisement,* signifying, to the best of my understanding, that we had been fighting among each other, (making no distinction between officers and privates;) whereas you will observe it was an attack upon us, and, I wish I need not (as before) add, was encouraged; for who can suppose that men whom I had never before seen or heard of, should attack me, merely for the sake of beating me. But these are points which cannot be better determined than by a man of Mr. *Hancock's* understanding and abilities; and for the future the aggressor should be punished. Likewise, if we insulted anybody in town, let them bring their evidence; they should have ample satisfaction. After this, the Committee resolved that we should be at our apartments by nine o'clock. This was never made known to me. Being at the house of one of the Committee some minutes after that time, to visit some of my fellow-sufferers, he brought a stick with him, and threatened, if I did not instantly depart, he would kick me out, which he put in execution; upon which the Committee made another resolve, confining us to our apartments at sundown, and one of their body said he hoped somebody

* A copy of which I should have enclosed but cannot procure it.