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Fitch, Jabez.

Diary of Captain Jabez Fitch.

New York, 1897. ?

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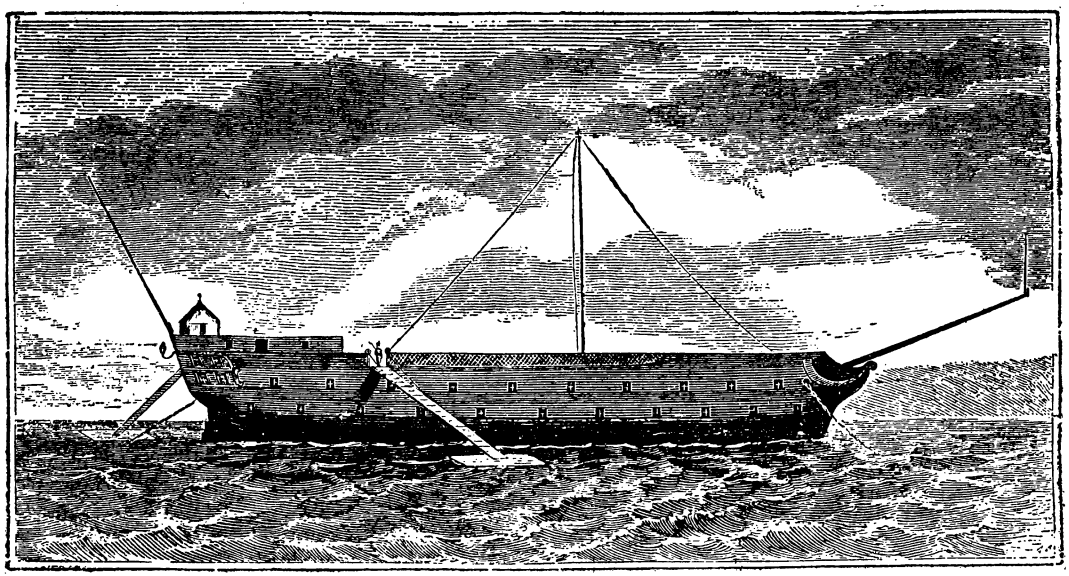

THE BRITISH PRISON-SHIP "JERSEY"

It is estimated that as many revolutionary heroes died from disease and starvation in the British Prison-Ships anchored in Wallabout Bay, adjoining the present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as were killed in battle during the entire war.

"But of all these terrible prison-ships, the 'OLD JERSEY', the '*Hell*', as she was called, was the most notorious. She was originally a sixty-four gun ship, which had become unfit for service."

Eleven thousand patriots died in the "Jersey" alone. After the war this old hulk was so eaten with the worms bred by pestilence that she sank where she was anchored, and the names of thousands of her victims sank with her, as it is said that nearly every prisoner found a space somewhere in her timbers in which to carve his name.

Dedicated to all Patriots

who are striving to make still more glorious
our country, in whose cause so many heroes
sacrificed their lives.

Eliza M. Chandler White,

Vice-President Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Association.

Home of Jabez Fitch, Hyde Park, Conn.

A Narative

of the treatment with which the American Prisoners were Used who were taken by the British & Hessian Troops on Long Island York Island &c 1776.

With some occasional Observations thereon

Dear Bro:

As one of ye most melancholy Ideas attending a State of Confinement in Gaols like ours, is y^t of being seperated from all Connection with those whom ye Laws of Nature hath made most Desireable & agreable to us: & for whose Welfare & happiness we are naturally fill'd with ye greatest Anxiety of mind, but yet are Deprived even of ye agreable priviledge of Intelligence from them; It may therefore be supposed that any one who hath fallen into so unfortunate a Situation, would gladly Embrace an opportunity of communicating any material Intelligence to a Friend Having according to my Usual Custom, kept a Diary during ye Course of my Captivity, making a brief memorandum of such Occurr-

=rances as happen'd within my Observati=
=on, by y^e help of which, together with
such particular Circumstances as were
yet Retain'd in my Memory &c. I have
form'd y^e following Narative & Obser=
=tions, with a Design of communicating
them to my Friends at home, if Divine
Providence should present a favorable
Opperturnity for y^t purpose; The many
Disadvantages attending y^e Circumstance
of my writing, may be a sufficient Ap=
=oligy for y^e Vulgar & Irregular manner
in which they appear; But as to y^e certain=
=ty of Facts therein contain'd, I have been
myself personally knowing to most of them,
& such as did not happen within my own per=
=sonal Observation, I have collected from
Authors

Authors whose truth & Veracity is not in
y^e least to be Doubted ——

If this should be so fortunate as to reach
you, I hope after reading it, you will com=
=municate it to my Family &c, but Desire
y^t it may not be lost or Destroyed, as it
~~it~~ may be Usefull to me hereafter in
Case I should be so happy as to Survive
this Captivity. Wishing all happiness
to my Friends in perticular, & my Coun=
=try in general I am Dear S^r

New Lots 2nd
of Apull 1777.

Your Affectionate Bro:
J^n Fitch

To Elisha Fitch Esqr

Shaving cup and strop made by Captain Bissell on board the prison ship Jersey and presented to Mr. Fitch.

A Narrative &c.

It appears by ye various Usage with which we have been treated during ye course of our tedious Imprisonment, that Divine Providence hath not been more particular, in forming ye different Features, & various Statures of Mankind, than it hath been in ye formation of ye various Dispositions & Capacitys of ye mind; Nor doth there appear to ocular view, a greater Distinction between ye well proportion'd Countenance or Citizen, in a Decent & Beautifull dress, & ye most deform'd Hessian Butcher, or American Savage, in their murdering or hunting Costumes, than an attentive Observer may Discover, betwixt ye Person whose mind is animated with Sentements of virtue

Virtue, Humanity and Friendship to Mankind in Genll., and ye Insolent Clown who knows no satisfaction, but in acts of Cruelty, Slaughter & Rapine. Each of ye foregoing Characters, have fre=quently fell within our observation during ye course of our confinement: The former treating us with Politeness humanity & acts of friendship, Endea=vouring to minister to our relief, and thereby alleviating (as much as possa=ble) our sufferings; While ye latter were ever treating us with ye most savage Insolence, Malace & Cruelty. Endeavouring to Augment (as much as possable) & make every part of our

sufferings, as great as their narrow Capa=
citys could Raise them ——

It also appears, that many with whom
we have been concern'd, who seem'd cloth
with ye greatest appearance of Gentelism,
& dispos'd to shew ye greatest Acts of Huma
=nity & Friendship; by a short times Expe
=rience, are found to have their Harts
& Tongues placed at as great a distance
from Eachother, as ye Citys of London
in Europe, & New York in America; in
consequence of which, it hath not been
uncommon for us to find, yt. on ye fairy
promises of Assistance & Relief, on any pe
=ticular Exigence, no more hath been seen
or hear'd of ye fair Promiser (perhaps) for
some Weeks or Months; & then if through
accident

accident or necessity, they happen to fall in our way, a very slighty or evasive appology, is sufficient to Justifie their neglect of poor Prisoners, who are altogather in their Power; they also seem'd to expect y^t we gratefully acknowledge to them, every favour y^t we receive, even from the Almighty himself ——————

It would be Impossable to rehearse ye many Instances of Insult, with which we have been treated, especially in ye former part of our Captivity, when those unthinking Mercenarys vainly supposed they had little more to do, than ravage a Rich & plentiful Country. Deserted

by its Inhabitants; & also to treat us (who were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands) with as much Insolence as their narrow, tho savage Capacitys were capable of: Yet it ought to be mention'd, to ye Honour of some ~~who~~ (both of ye Army & Inhabitants) who treated us with humanity, & Endeavoured to protect us from ye Insults of others; I myself was so happy, as to fall at first into ye hands of a party of this kind when taken prisoner; It was part of ye 57th Reg^t who used me with some degree of Civility, altho some particular Off^rs were very liberal of their favourite Term (Rebel) & now & then did not forget to Remind

me of a halter &c: they did not Strip Robb
me of any of my Cloathing, but only took my
Arms & Ammunition, & after keeping
me in y Field some time, in confine-
ment with several others, under a
strong Guard, was sent off to Genl
Grants Quarters at Gowaynes ——

In this March we pass'd through y
Front of several Brigades of Hessians.
who were paraded on several Eminences in Order of Battle: they
indeed made a very Warlike appea-
rance, & as no power appear'd at y:
time to oppose them, their whole
Attention seemed to be fixed on us, nor
were they by any means sparing of
their Insults; But their Offrs

Especially, Represented to ye life (as
far as their Capacitys would Admit)
ye conduct of Infernal Spirits, under
certain Restrictions; Having passed
through those Savage Insults, we at
length came onto a hill nigh to the
place where we at first Engaged the
Enemy in ye Morning; we were here
met by a number of Insolent Soldi-
ers, among whom was one Woman who
appeared remarkably Malicious and
attempted several times to throw
Stones at us, when one of our Guard
informed me y^t her Husband had been
Killed in this Day's Action; We were
then conducted down to a Barn near
y^e

e water side; where we were drove into a Yard among a great number of Offrs & men who had been taken before us; soon after we came here. Capt: Jewett with a number of others, were brought in, & confin'd with us; Capt: Jewett had here Two Wounds with a Bayonet after he was taken, & Strip'd of his Arms & part of his Cloths, one in ye Breast & ye other in ye Belly, of which he Languished with great pain untill ye Thirsday following when he Died; Serg^t^ Graves was also Stabb'd in ye Thigh with a Bayonet, after he was taken with Capt: Jewett. of which Wound he recovered, altho he afterward perish'd in Prison with many hundred others at N. York

"THE ELMS,"
HYDE PARK, VERMONT.

MY DEAR MADAM:

In answer to your kind request that I give you all facts in my knowledge which might serve to authenticate the "Narrative of the Prison Ships," which you propose publishing for the benefit of the "Martyrs' Monument Fund," I hasten to state the following points: Capt. Jabez Fitch, the writer of the "Narrative," was my great-grandfather. My father died when all his children were very small. As often happens in such cases, the heirlooms became distributed among other branches of the family, and so in this instance this manuscript passed into the hands of an older member of the family, Mr. Cordilla W. Fitch, who resides in Morrisville, Vt.

Jabez Fitch was born in Norwich, Conn., February 15th (O. S.), 1737. He entered military service when but a youth, was in two or three campaigns in the old French War, and held a commission in the two first campaigns of the Revolution. He was captured on Long Island on the memorable 27th of August, 1776, and endured an eighteen months' imprisonment on the British prison ships, where he contracted a scorbutic complaint which embittered and rendered almost insupportable more than thirty years of his life. Besides this "Narrative" he kept a diary of events for forty years. Part of this journal that was kept during his campaigns in the Revolutionary War was sent to Washington, D. C., during his lifetime, to help him procure his pension, and the family have not been able to recover it. His constant reference to persons and places gives the diary great interest to those who are curious about the history of Connecticut and the early settlement of Vermont. Pardon me for making an extract from journal, written while on his second journey from Norwich to Hyde Park. It shows that Capt. Bissell, too, survived the severities of the British imprisonment and lived in Windsor, Conn.: "Friday, May 23d, 1788.—At 9 o'clock came to Bissell's Ferry in Windsor, where we crossed the river and called on my old friend, Capt. Bissell. Could not stop, but proceeded on our way to Suffield."

The list of grantees of the town of Hyde Park was made up largely of men from Norwich, Conn., among whom was Jabez Fitch, who came here with his three sons in 1788, and made for themselves a home in the wilderness and endured all the peculiar trials and hardships of the first settlers. They first provided a temporary shelter, the next season had a comfortable log house erected. In 1808 the house, still standing, was built where Capt. Fitch died in 1812.

Trusting that what has been so briefly reviewed may be of service in establishing the genuineness of the "Narrative," and therefore helping along your praiseworthy cause, I am,

Very truly yours,

VERNON D. FITCH.

HYDE PARK, VERMONT,
September 23d, 1897.

To MRS. S. V. WHITE, OF BROOKLYN, N. Y.,
Chairman Monument Committee.

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While we were here confin'd, we were visitted by many Regular Offrs, by whom we were askd many Questions; some of them seemd Inclind to insult us, altho they might think it in a Polite manner; one of whom asserted to us with great Confidence, yt many of our principle Offrs had a permission from Government, to accept Commissions in ye Continental Service &c.

After being some time confin'd in this Yard, Capt: Jewett & some others who were wounded, were ordered to some other place in order to have their Wounds dress'd, & I see no more of them this Night

When it began to grow dark, ye Offrs who

Who were here confin'd ~~[illegible]~~, were Order'd to an Adjacent House, where we were kept confin'd in a very-durty Room ye two following Days & Nights; while we were here, we were Visited by a number of Regular Off^rs, some of whom treated us with proper Respect, and others with mean & Low lived Insolence. Despising & Ridiculing ye mean appearance of many of us who had been strip'd & abused by ye Savages under their com^d, nor did they forget to Remind us of ye British Laws against Rebellion, Treason &c, with many of their own learned Comments thereon, which seem'd to give them wonderfull Consolation ——

Early next morning, Capt: Jewett came to us in excessive pain with his wounds which had already been Dress'd, but yet notwithstanding ye applications of severall of ye Enemys Cirgions, Especially one Doct: Horn (a young Scotch Gent.n) who treated him with great Civility & tenderness he Languished while ye Thirdday following (viz) ye 29th of Aug.t at about 5 o'Clock in ye Morning, when he Expired, & was Buried in an Orchard nigh ye House at about 8 ye same morning, with as much Deacence as our present Situation would Admit; I myself was Indulg'd by Gen.l Grant at ye application of Maj.r Brown who Attended us in this place, to Attend ye

the Captain's Funeral; The aforesaid Majr. Brown, treated us with ye greatest Civility & Complesance, during our confinement in this place, & Endeavoured to make our accommodations, as agreable as possable; Genll. Grant also was so good as to send us with his Compliments two Quarters of Mutton well Cook'd, & several Loaves of Bread, which were very Acceptable to us, as most of us had eat nothing since ye Monday before.

On Thirsday ye 29th some time in afternoon, Majr. Brown Informd us yt we were soon to be sent on Board ye Fleet, & yt ye Pasific a large Transport Ship was prepared to receive us, About ye same time, a number

of Officers & men, belonging to ye Navy
came on shore in order to conduct us
on Board, & at about 4 o'Clock we
were ordered into ye Boats, being
oblig'd to wade about two hundred
Yard. on ye Flats before we came to
Water sufficient to flote ye Boats,
it also Rain'd very hard most of y^e
time while we were crossing ye Bay
for ye Passific lay over on ye other
side, close under Statten Island —
The Off^rs being about 24 or 25
in number, were carried chiefly in
one Boat, & y^e men being between
3 & 4 hundred in several other Boats
and had their hands tied behind them
for

In this Situation we were carried by several Ships where there appear'd great numbers of Women on Deck, who were very liberal of their Curs=ses & Execrations; they were also not a little noisey in their Insults, but Clap'd their hands & Use'd other peculiar ges=tures in so Extraordinary a manner y^t they were in some Danger of leap=ing overboard in this surprising Ecta=sy; But at Length we arrived at y^e Pacific, which was a very large Transport Ship; We clim up her side & soon after we came on Board, found y^t our accomodations were to be but very Coarse, for notwithstanding Maj^r Brown had Inform'd us while we were

at Gowoynes, yt ye Offrs were to have ye Liberty of ye Cabbin &c yet Mr Dun (ye Master of ye Ship) acquainted us yt we were all, both Offrs & men without Distinction to be shut down below Deck; Accordingly at about Sunset we were all drove down ye Hatches, with as many vile Curses & Execrations, as yt Son of perdition, with his Infernal Understrappers could Express; When we came down into this Dungeon, we found but very Indifferent Quarters, for both ye lower Decks were very full of Dirt, & ye Excessive Rains yt had fell of late, had drove in so plentifully as to Quite cover them, so that so great a number of men treading ye Dart & water togather, soon made ye Mortar or

or mud near half over our shoes; Beside all those inconviencies, there was no kind of flatforms, or places prepared for our Lodging, but what was so Cluttered with Artillery, Carriages, rough pieces of Timber Rigging &c, y^t there was not a sufficiency of Room for a Man to lay between them, nor was there a sufficiency of Room in ye whole assign'd us, for but little more than one half of our number, any how to lay down at one time. To add yet more (if possable) to our Calamity. some time in ye Evening a number of ye Infernal Savages came down with a Lanthorn, & loaded two small pieces of Cannon with grape shot, which were plac'd Aft of a Bulkhead & pointed thro' two Ports for that purpose

purpose, in such a manner as to take
ye Deck where our people lay: telling
us at ye same time with many Curses
y^t in case of any Disturbance on the
least noise in ye Night, they were to
be Imediately fired on ye Damned Rebbels

In this unhappy Situation, we passed
three tedious Nights, nor was ye Days
much more agreable, for although
were
some of us suffered to come upon Deck
part of ye Time, yet we were insulted
by those Blackgard Villians, in ye most
vulgar manner; Nor was our accomo-
dation on acc^t of Provision much unsi-
milar to our other Usage. Especially
in ye Necessary Article of Water, of which
we

we were not allowd any y^t was fit for a Vessel to Drink, altho they had plenty of good Water on board, which was used plentifully by ye Seamen &c ——

The next morning after we came on Board the Ship, we found there was one Lieu^t Dowdswell, with a party of Marines sent on board for our Guard; this Mr. Dowdswell treated us with considrable humanity, & appeard to be a Gentleman, nor were ye Marines as Gentlemen so Insolent as the Ships Crew ——

While I was here confin'd I requested one Spence (ye Mate of ye Ship) to do me ye favour of laying away a Regimental Coat & Hat (which belong'd to ye late Capt. Jewett) in some safe place,

so y^t I might have them again when
I should be removed to any other place;
on which he had y^e Impudence to
Insult me in y^e most Rude manner,
& Swore by his Maker y^t no Damn'd
Rebbels Clothes should ever be found
on his possession; but yet it seems
y^t notwithstanding this firm Reso=
=lution, his mind soon Alter'd; for
although I kept y^e most critical
watch over those Articles, together
with my own watch Coat, which I
could not conveniently wear in y^e Day
time, yet among those Artful Things,
they were stole from me on Deck, &
when Search was made for them, I by
the

the generous Assistance of Mr Dowdwell found them all in ye Gun Room, in ye Immediate care of this good Mr Spence who had been so peculiarly cautious in meddling with Rebbels Clothing —

On ye 31st Mr Loring ye Commasary of Prisoners came on Board, & took down ye names & Rank of ye Officers, & names of ye men; he treated us with Complasance & gave us Encouragement of further Indulgence; he also Informd us y^t Col Clark & many other of our Off^rs were taken & confin'd at Plattsburgh. & y^t a Ship would soon be provided for ye Reception of all ye Off^rs. So y^t they might be by themselves, &

not crouded with ye Privates without Distinction

Untill now we had been made to believe y^t we were to be sent home to Europe in Confinement, & that no Cartell for Exchange of Prisoners, would be Admitted, but we soon found the grose Representations of those Sons of Falsehood, to be so very Extraordinary, y^t no dependance might be had on any of their Assertions; For we were Informd by them y^t they had taken three thousand of ye American Prisoners, in ye Action of ye 27th, beside great numbers killed, which we knew to be a larger number than we had that Day Engag

ters

They also Informed us in a short time after we were taken, y.t they had either killed or taken, almost every Genll. Officer in our Army; And y.t they had taken New-York & Destroy'd a great part of y.e Continental Army ten times, before they had landed a man on y.e Island; And y.t Genll. Burgoyne, with a very numerous & powerfull Army, both of English & French, were within a Days March of Genll. Howe's Army; That y.e Indians were ravaging y.e Frontier Towns throughout y.e Country, Sacrificing Men, Women & Children without Destinction; And y.t y.e Continental Congress was break up with great Confusion, the

Members all running off to make their Es-
-cape from ye British Army; These and
many other such false, & Inconsistant
Representations, were constantly made
to us, nor were those Reports made by
ye vulgar Soldiers & Sailors only, but
frequently Asserted by Offrs & others who
pretended to be Gentn, with the greatest
Confidence ——————————

On Sunday ye 1st of Septr in ye Morning
we were Removed on board ye Ship Lord
Rochford, Commanded by one Lambert
(an Englishman) This man was indeed
very Severe & Tyrannical in most
of his conduct, as well as Vulgar & Vile
in

on his Conversation, but yet not so Egregiously Insolent & void of all humanity & Generosity as Mr: Dun, who commanded ye Pacific. But we soon found ourselves more crouded here, than we had been before, this Ship not being more than half so large as ye other, on which acc^t most of ye Offic^rs among ye Prisoners Lodg'd on ye Quarter Deck, & indeed we thought this priviledge a considerable piece of Indulgence, altho some nights we were considerably wet with the Rain &c

The same day y^t we were Remov'd on board ye Lord Rochford, they hove up & fell down through ye Narrows

after which she came too in ye Bay:
off against New Strict Meeting house,
where she lay a while after ye Kings
Troops took possession of N. York —

Septr. 3rd. many of us wrote to our
Friends in ye American Army, with
Expectation of sending our Letters by
a Flag of Truce, which we had ye pro=
=mise of being favour'd with: but our
Letters (most or all) of them) somehow
fail'd reaching our Camp; for though
ye Offrs. confin'd in other places, after=
=wards Rec'd their Baggage &c in con=
=sequence of this Flag yet we who
were confin'd on board this Ship, Rec'd
none of ours: But my own in particu
lar

particular was unfortunately lost in our Army's Retreat from New York, (as I was afterward Informed) ——————

This day our Offrs who had been confin'd at Flatbush, were brought on board the Snow Mentor, which lay nigh to us, and with which we were all too well acquainted afterward, for on the 5th we were remov'd on board this Snow, which was our Prison for a long time; Our accomodations here were but very Indifferent, altho much better than we had had, in either of the other Ships, for we were now but about Ninety in number, & the Field Offrs had Liberty of the Cabbin &c, altho the other Offrs had no other place for Lodging, than forward of the Stearage between

Decks, & there but very scant Room for all to lay down at ye same time ——

This Snow was commanded by one Davis, a very worthless lowlived fellow, yet happy for us. his Capacity was not sufficient to do any one much hurt yet we were now & then under an Necessity of holding a severe Wrangle with him on many occasions; We had also a Guard of Marines constantly on board. by whom we were some times highly Insulted ——

When we first met on board the Mentor, we spent considerable of our time in Relating to Each other ye particular Circumstances of our first being Taken, & also ye various Treatment, with which

which we met on y^t occasion, nor was this a disagreable Entertainment in our Melancholy Situation ——————

But it seems that most of ye Officers & men, who were first confin'd at Flatbush, fell into ye hands of ye Hessian Troops, & were generally treated in a more Savage manner (if possable) than we who were first confin'd at Gowoynis, & had been most of us taken by ye British Troops, & although many had been both Robb'd & Murder'd by them, in a most Scandalous manner, yet it is said y^t ye Hessians generally treated those who fell into their hands, with more Cruelty and Insolence than ye Britains; for it seems y^t ye Hessian Off^rs (though of never so

high Rank*) were not inactive in this Ridiculous practice of stripping, Robbing, Insulting & murdering ye unfortunate Americans who fell within ye limits of their power: The present appearance of our Offrs. and men, are an Incontestable proof of those Facts, for many of them yet remain almost Destitute of Cloths, several having neither Bretches Stockings or Shoes; many of them when first Taken were stripp'd Entirely naked altho

* Corpl. Raymond of ye 17th Regt. after being taken & stripp'd, was shamefully Insulted abused by Genl. Dehighster (in his own Person) who was so lowlived as to seize Raymond by ye Hair of his head, throw him on the Ground &c.

altho some other present, who had some small degree of humanity in their Composition, were so good as to favour them with some old dusty worn out Garments, just sufficient to cover their nakedness. In this Situation we were made Objects of Ridicule for ye Diversion of those Foreign Butchers

One Sam Salmon (an Indian fellow belonging to ye 17th Regt) after he was taken & stripped by ye Barbarians, was set up at a small Distance as a mark for them to shoot at for Diversion or practice, by which he had two severe wounds, one in ye Neck

& ye other in ye Arm, but altho it appear'd yt their Skill in ye Use of fire Arms was not sufficient to Dispatch him in yt way. yet it afterward Appear'd yt they were sufficiently Skill'd in ye Cruel Art of Starving with hunger Cold &c, to Destroy him with many hundred others who perish'd in N. York —

On ye 6th Genll Woodhull of ye Long-Island Malitia, was sent from ye Mentor to ye Hospital at Newtreet; he was an aged Gentleman, & was taken by party of ye Enemys Light Horse at Jamaca; & although he was not taken in Arms, yet those Bloodthirsty Savages cut & wounded him in ye head, & other parts

parts of ye Body, with their Swords in a most Inhuman manner, of which wounds he Died at ye Hospital; and altho ye Directors of those Affairs, took but little care to preserve his Life, yet they were so generous to his Lady, as to Indulge her with Liberty to carry home ye Generals Corpse, and bury it with Decency ———

Soon after this there was a new Disposition made of y^e^ Prisoners y^e^ Europeans being Assigned a Ship by themselves, most of whom were soon after compelled to Subject unto y^e^ King's Army; many of y^e^ Americans were also

afterwards

afterward compelled by hunger and other
cruel Usage from y^e hands of those Unrelent=
=ing Barbarians, to follow y^e Example of y^e
Europeans, & for want of present Sustenance
undertake in y^e Inhuman & Scandalous
Employment of Butchering their Countrymen
A memorable Specimen of this was Exhibi=
=ed not long before they were set on Shore
at N. York, when they were kept Several
Days without any Provison at all, and
for y^e full term of nine Days not suffered
y^e Privilege of any fire to Cook what lit=
=tle provison they had ——————

On y^e 12th inst of y^e Officers who were
Prisoners here a Considerable Quantity of
Baggage &c in Consequence of y^e late Flag
which

which had been sent to N. York at our
Request: but I myself, with ye other four
Offrs of our Regt, who had been first
sent on board ye Defence, did not receive
a single Article, by which we conclud-
ed yt our Letters had miscarried & of
Consequence our Friends had no knowledge
whether we had been killd or taken in
ye late Action ———

While we lay confind at this place
we frequently heard a heavy firing
of Cannon up toward ye City, but more
Especially on ye 15th of Septr when there
was a very Extraordinary Cannonade, &
we were soon after Informd yt ye Kings
Troops this day Landed on York Island ——

On Saturday ye 21st at about 10 Clock in the morning, we observ'd a very considera=
=ble Light to ye Northward, which we sup=
=pos'd to be ye burning of some Buildings & as it continued a while after Daylight, & was then Succeeded by a very great Smoak which lasted most of ye Day, we concluded yt ye fire must be in the City of N. York; This conclusion was soon after confirm'd by many Reports which we hear'd, with ye most grose & futile Representation of ye Circumstance of this Malancholy Catastrophy, when it was asserted to us with great confidence, yt ye Rebels (as they Insolently call'd them) had

had set fire to ye City. & y^t great numbers
of them were Detected in every Act, ma=
=ny of whom were Immediately Hang'd
on ye spott, & others committed to Prison
in order for Tryal, who would Undoubt=
=edly be put to Death with more formal=
=ity; These & many other such false &
Futile Representations, were made to us
on this Occasion; without considering y^t
ye Americans might have Destroyed ye
Town / if they had been so Inclin'd / without
ye least hazzard, but a few days sooner,
while it was yet in their own Possession;
nor was this futile Accusation propaga=
=ted by ye Vulgar & Ignorant only, but
Genl. Robertson himself was pleas'd to

Intimate something of it, in a Proclama=
=tion y^t he Issued some time after
although he might with Equal Truth
& propriety have accused y^e Americans,
with being y^e Occasion of y^e Eclipse of y^e
Sun, which happened 24th of Jany following ——

While we lay thus confin'd, we were
also favour'd with y^e perusal of Lord &
Genl Howe's famous Proclamation, pro=
=mising to all Americans (on certain con=
=ditions) y^e Indulgance of full Power
& Previledge of Plantance &c., But this
Proclamation it seems was for a limmited
time, yet his Majestys Commissioners,
on y^e Expiration thereof, were graciously
pleas'd

pleas'd to Renew it for the full term of Sixty Days longer ——

On Sunday y^e 22nd all y^e Ships which had Prisoners on board, togather with ye Lapernment & Resolution Men of War moved up through ye Narrows, & came too off between Redhook & Gibbet Island, in ye Centre of a great number of Men of War & Frigotts, among whom were ye Eagle, ye Rainbow &c., so y^t ~~[illegible]~~ it seems we were now sufficiently guarded against any kind of Casualty, Except Insult, hunger, Sickness or Death ——

We were now in plain Sight of y^e City, & had a particular prospect of y^t part where y^e late Fire had been,

although it made but a very Dissolate & Melancholy appearance ——

On Monday ye 23rd We observ'd the Enemy were very buzy in transport=ing Troops &c over into ye Jerseys: ye Americans having a considrable Camp at yt time at Bergen (a small Town up a little distance from ye Water) they had also some small Redouts or Batterys from which we frequently observ'd ye firing of Cannon &c but never learnt ye consequence: While we lay here we also observ'd ye Enemys De=stroying ye Works which we had E=rected at Redhook, they set fire to them

them about this time, which burnt for several days ——————

We were also about this time Informed y^t a number of Prisoners, who had been Sent from Quebec, were soon to be sent out on Exchange; This Intelligence gave us some gleam of hope, that in our turn we should be Indulged with the same favour, although we have since found (to our Sorrow) y^t those affairs have been Conducted with the greatest Partiality ——————

On tuesday Octr. 1st all the Ships y^t had Prisoners on board, with the Protection Man of War, moved up North River

as far as opposite to ye Colledge, where they came too, & lay awhile after the Prisoners were Landed at N. York ——

We this Evening Rec^d Orders to be in Readiness to Land next morning, although we were held in Suspence while ye Monday following / & ye next day Capt: Davis Ordered a large Cable coiled away in ye place where we had Lodg'd, so y^t a number of us, had noplace Lodging ye five following Nights, than on this Cable, which was much more uncomfortable than ye Deck itself; The Seamen also about this time began to overhaul ye Hold, & hoysted out great numbers of large water Butts, which had lain there many Years, & by striking out ye water & Mud, ye Decks were kept continually cover'd while we Remain'd on Board; The weather

weather at this time being Chilly & Cold, our circumstances were now rendered much more Disagreable than Usual ——

On Fryday ye 4th there was a number of Ships came up to Town, which we suppose had newly arriv'd; many of them had Troops on board, & we observ'd ye landing a number of Light Horse from them; we were also soon after Inform'd yt ye Kings Army about this time Rec'd a considrable Reinforcement: among whom (it was said) was a Regt of Waldeckers, several of Hanovarians & Brunswickers; we were also Inform'd yt Genll Kniphausen of ye Hessians, arriv'd about this Time ——

On Monday ye 7th at about 4 o Clock in ye Afternoon, we were Disembark'd & landed at ye Ferry stairs, near ye Bair Market, where we remain'd on ye Wharf watting

for Directions from ye Commasary, while near sunset, when Mr. Loung conducted us up to a very large house on ye west side of Broad way, & in ye corner south of Warrenstreet near Bridewell; where we were assign'd a small yard back of ye house, & a Stoop in ye Front, for our Walk; we were also Indulg'd with Liberty to pass & Repass to an Adjacent Pump in ye Street

We had sign'd a Parole before we left ye Ments but yet were not Indulg'd with Liberty to walk out, while after ye taking of Fort Washing=ton, so yt we were confin'd close in this place near six Weeks; & altho ye Provisions furnish'd us by ye Commasary, were insufficient to pre=serve ye Connection between Soul & Body, yet ye Charitable People of this City were so good as to afford

afford us very considrable Relief on this acct:
but it was y^e poor & those in low Circumstances only, who were thoughtfull of our Necessitys, & provisions were now grown scarce & Excessive dear, so y^t it was impossable for them to furnish a sufficiency for ye whole number of Prisoners, yett their unparalleld generosity, was undoubtedly ye happy means of preserving many Lives; notwithstanding such great numbers perished with Hunger.—

When we first came to this house, we found here a number of American Offrs: who had been made Prisoners since we were, among whom were Col: Selden, Col: Hart, Col: Moulton &c; they had been first confin'd for several days in ye City Hall, but some time since were Remov'd to

this place: Col: Selden had been some time
Sick of a Fever; of which he Died y^e Fryday
following, at about 3 o Clock in y^e Afternoon;
his Corpse was provided with a Coffin, and
Decacently Buried in y^e New Brick Church yard
y^e next Day most of y^e Off^rs who were Priso-
=ners. were Indulg'd with Liberty to attend
his Funeral; In y^e Latter part of his Sickness.
he was attended by one Doct^r Thatcher of y^e
British Army, whose humanity & Attention
to him; & several other Gent^n who were
Sick in this place, ought to be remembered
with gratitude ———————

Those Gent^n having been made Prisoners
near twenty days later than we were, were
able to give us very confidiable Intelligence from
our Army; they gave us a particular Acc^t of their
Retreat

Retreat from Long Island &c. which had been
performd with much less loss, than had been
Represented to us before, they also Informd us
of ye Death of Majr Chapman & some others
who were killd in ye Action of ye 15th of
Sept., when they were made Prisoners in our
Armys Retreat from N. York ——

When we were first confind at this house
great numbers of ye Inhabitants of the
City, were Imprisond, chiefly, in consequence
of false & Injurious Informations, by their
Malicious Neighbours, but time soon dis-
covered ye Fraud & Malignity, of those Jealous
Informers, who were afterward treated with
ye Neglect & Contempt, yt their Conduct
had Justly Merited, & their honest Neighbours
were set at Liberty from their unjust
Confinement; a Similar Plea of Policy after-
ward

ward appeard in ye Jerseys, while the
Kings Troops made such Rapid progress
in y^t State after ye taking of Fort Wash=
=ington &c, when ye pretended friends to
British government, in order to Recom=
=mend themselves to favour with y^t party,
in ye present Contest, Seized on their ho=
=nest Neighbours, brought numbers of
them Prisoners into N. York, pillaged their
houses, & Confiscated their Estates; Yet
Justice seems soon to pursue them in this
Zealous frenzie, when ye American Army
persuing y^t of ye Europeans, take posses=
=sion of ye Dwelling, of those Malignant
Torys, Devoting their Estates to ye pious Use
of Defending their Countrys Just Rights &
Liberty's; & altho many of their Persons were
to

so lucky as to escape ye Just rage of their
injured Countrymen, yet were oblig'd to Skulk
away into New York for ye protection of ye
Kings Troops; and are now Reduced from a State
of Affluence, to a very scanty subsistance
or want of ye necessary supports of Life;
And are also become Objects of Contempt
& Insult, to ye Britsh Army, while every
honest American views them with ye great-
est Abhorrance & Detestation ——

About ye time we were Landed in N. York.
Genl. Howe having made several unsucc-
full Attacks on Fort Washington & ye Adjacent
Lines of ye American Army, Removed ye main
Body of his Troops, up East River, Landing
them at or near West Chester, from whence
they proceeded to ye White Plains &c ——

During ye aforesd movements of ye Army we heard a great Variety of Reports, generally greatly to ye disadvantage of ye Provincials: But it seems there was no considerable number of Prisoners brot into ye City, while after ye taking of Fort Washington although there were great numbers of wounded both of Britons & Hessians who were generally conveyd to ye Hospitals in ye Night season: Yet notwithstanding all their Endeavours to secreet their bad success, it appeard by credible Information, yt soon after ye taking of Fort Washington, their numbers of wounded in ye Hospitals here & on Long Island, did not amount to less than twelve hund: & of consequence we concluded they must needs have had some killd, for yt the advantage

Advantages they had obtain'd, could not be without very considrable Loss ——

On Satard: Novr 16th Early in ye morning we hear'd a heavy Canonade up to ye Northward, which ~~[illegible]~~ continued a considerable time. soon after which we were Inform'd again, y^t Fort Washington with a great number of Prisoners was taken by ye Kings Troops; But as we had hear'd ye same Report many times before, we at first gave but little Credit to it, yet we soon after found it to be too true, & ye Monday following ye Prisoners were brought into ye City, where they were confin'd in Bridewell & several Churches; some of them were soon after sent on board a Ship for confinement: And on Tuesday ye 19th a number of ye Officers were sent to ye place of our confinement, among whom were Col: Rawlings Col: Hobby Maj^r Williams &c, Rawlings & Williams were

wounded; there was also some other wounded Officers brot here, among whom was one Lieut. Hanson (a young Gentn. from Virginia) who was Shot through ye Shoulder with a Musq.t Ball, of which wound he Died ye 2nd of Decr.

By those Gentn. Taken at Fort Washington we Recd some late Intelligence from our Army, & among other Important Events, they acquaint=ed us of ye Death of Col. Knowlton (a very Usefull Offr.) who was kill'd in an Action on York Island ye 16th of Sept.

During our confinment in this house, we were often Treated with ye greatest Insolence by ye Kings Troops; & many of ye Charitable Inhabitants, who attempted to afford us Assistance, were also Insulted, & frequently deny'd admittance when they came to visit us; we were also often Insulted in ye most lowlived manner, by those who pretended to be

be friends to Government, and by worthless Re-
-fugees of our own Countrymen, who exercis'd
their forked tongues, as a continual Scourge
for us after we were admitted to Parole —

Nov.r 20.th most of y.e Off.rs who were now
Prisoners were Indulg'd with Liberty to walk
y.e Streets &c within y.e Bounds of y.e City from
Sunrise to Sunset; which Indulgence was con-
-tinued as long as we Remain'd in y.e City;
Nor was this Enlargement at all Disagreable,
as we had suffered almost three months
in close Imprisonment, great part of
which time, we had been in y.e most dis-
-agreable Situation; But yett we frequent-
-ly met with Insults in y.e Streets, and
wherever we Visited those friendly People who
had used us with humanity, & Visited us
upon our close Confinement, they were often

Insulted on our Acc.t

Having obtain'd y.e afores.d Indulgence, y.e first Objects of our Attention, were y.e poor men who had been unhappily Captivated with us: they had been Landed about y.e same time y.t we were, & con=fin'd in several Churches & other large Buildings And altho we had often Rec.d Intelligence from them, with y.e most Deplorable Repre=sentation of their miserable Situation, yet when we came to Visit them, we found their sufferings vastly superior to what we had been able to Conceive, nor are words suffi=cient to convey an Adequate Idea of their Unparrallel'd Calamity; Well might the Prophet say, "They y.t be slain with y.e Sword, "are better than they y.t be slain with hun=ger: for these pine away &c." Their appea=rance in gen.ll Rather Resembled dead Corpses, than living men; Indeed great numbers had

Lament: 4th g.

already

already arrived at their long home, & ye
Remainder appeard far advanced on ye same
Journey; their accomodations were in all
Respect, vastly Inferior to what a New England
Farmer would have provided for his Cattle,
& altho ye Commasary pretended to furnish
them with two thirds of ye allowance of ye
Kings Troops, yet it was often observed, yt
they were cheated out of one half of that.
They were also many times Entirely neglect-
ed from Day to Day, & Rec'd no provision
atall; they were also fregruently Imposd
upon in Regard to ye Quality, as well as Quan-
tity of their provision, Especially in ye Necc-
sary article of Bread, of which they often
Rec'd such Rotten, & mouldy stuff, as was Entire-
ly unfit for use.

There was Indeed pretentions of accomodations
for ye Sick & a large number of ye most fee-
ble were Remov'd down to ye Quaker Meeting

house on Queen Street, where many hundred of them perished, in a much more miserable Situation than ye dumb Beasts, while those whose particular business it was to provide them Relief, paid very little or no attention to their unparrallel'd sufferings; This house I understand, was under ye Superintendance of one Doctr Debuke, who was an European born, but had dwelt many years in America, & had been (at least), once Convicted of Stealing, in consequence of which (not finding the Country very agreable for his profession) he with many others of like Character had fled here for protection; It was said yt this Fellow often made application of his Cane among ye Sick, instead of other medecines ——

Nor was there any more Solemnity or Ceremony bestowed on those miserable Sufferers, after

after they were dead, than while living, for their Bodys were thrown out on ye ground, where they lay almost naked, Expos'd to ye Weather (tho never so Stormy —) Indeed it was said yt some of them were Expos'd to ye unnatural Devouring of Swine & other greedy Annimals, in a most Inhuman & Ridiculous manner; however this might be, they were most of them Buried, altho it was in a manner very uncommon for ye Interment of human Bodys, many of them being thrown into ye ground in a heap, almost naked, where they were Slightly cover'd over with Earth. ——

Although this Beastly treatment of those Senseless Corpses, does not Affect their persons, yet when consider'd in connection with their Usage of ye Living, it shews ye unnatural, ye Savage & Inhuman Disposition of ye Enemy into whose hands we are fallen; & whose

Character / notwithstanding all their boasts of Lenity & humanity / will bear a just comparison to those whose tender mercies are Cruelty ——————

When we attempted to visit y^e Prisoners at y^e Churches, in their miserable Situa=tion, we were frequently Repulsed & denyd Admittance by y^e Guard, who often treat=ed us with y^e greatest Insolence, driving us back with their Bayonets Swords or Cutlasses; Indeed I have often been in danger of being Stabbd, for attempting to speak with a Prisoner in y^e Yard ——————

There was no considerable number of Priso=ners sent out while about y^e 24th of Dec^r, when a large number were Embark^d on board a Ship in order to be sent to New England: what Privates of y^e 17th Reg^t Remaind living, were Included in this

number, but about one half of them had already perrish'd in Prison; I was also af=
=terward Inform'd, y^t ye Winds proving un=
=favourable & their accomodations & provision on board ye Ship, being very Similar to what they had been provided with before, a large proportion of them yet perrished before they could reach New England: so y^t it is to be fear'd, but very few of them live'd to see their native homes —

Soon after ye afores^d Ship Sail'd for N England, there was large numbers of Priso=
=ners sent off by Land, both to ye Southward & Eastward, so y^t when ye Officers were Remov'd over onto Long Island in ye latter part of Jan^y, there Remain'd but very few of ye privates in ye City, Except those who had been Releas'd from their miserable confinement by Death, which num=
=ber

number was supposd to be about Eighteen hundred ——

It may be observd yt Genll Robertson (so famous for Politeness & humanity) was commanding Offr in New York, during ye aforesd treatment of ye Prisoners.

It was said yt Governor Scheene (who had been long confind Prisoner in Connecticut) was so humane as to Visit the Prisoners at ye Churches, & manifested great dissatisfaction at their Ill usage, & also y several other Gentn of ye British Army had signified ye same Disapprobation of their Ill treatment; yet I was never able to learn that ye poor Sufferers Recd any Advantage thereby ——

Novr 25th Mr Rapellye, a Rich Tory who had belongd to Brookline, on Long Island, & had been taken up, on acct

of

of being Inimical to his Country, & lately confin'd at Norwich in Connecticut, but had obtain'd liberty to Return to this City on Parole of honour, under pretence of furnishing a number of ye Prisoners here who belong'd to ye Neighbourhood, with Necessarys for their Support, I my=self being Included in ye aforesd number; Thus Mr Rapellye came to our Quarters & treated us with great Complasance making us many fair promises of af=fording us Assistance & Relief; but as he had but just arrivd, he must have no little time to make ye necessary prepe=ration for yt purpose, & would call on us again very soon ——————

Soon after this ye New England Officers, having Recd but very little Cash from their friends in ye Country, since they had been

Captivated, & most of them who had With-
=es & other valuable Articles which had
escaped y^e pillaging of y^e Troops, had been
obliged to dispose of them, to procure y^e
Necessary supports of Life, y^e poor men
confind in y^e Churches &c. being in a
perishing Condition for want of support;
The afores^d Officers therefore Requested li-
=berty for one of their number to go home
on Parole, to procure money &c for y^e
whole; & in Consequence of this Request,
May^r Wells was indulged with Liberty to
go to Connecticut for y^t purpose, & the
Officers wrote to their friends by him, for
such Assistance as they thought would be
needfull: but we who had rec^d such fair
promises from Mr Rapellye, wrote to our
friends y^t we had Dependance on him for
Assistance

assistance; but I have not yet been able to learn, y^t this fair promisor hath paid any other attention to his Engagement, than to renew y^d Rye as often as any applications hath been made to him by y^d Offic^rs, for Assistance; & although some of our Friends were so good as to send us some Relief by Maj^r Wells, notwithstanding our Dependance on Mr Rapelye, yet we might have all perished, for all any assistance from him; But yet it seems y^t his Conduct is all of a piece for I understand y^t he has paid no more regard to his honour, in Returning to Norwich according to his Parole, than he has to his many promises made to us, for I am Informed y^t he yet Remains in New-York or at Brookline.

I am also Informed y^t one Mr Jones of

New York who had likewise been confin'd
at Norwich with Mr Rapelye, & on ye
same acct., obtain'd Liberty to Return
to New York soon after him: & y.t on his
leaving Norwich, he generously offer'd
his Land Lord (Mr Witter) to afford Assis-
tance to such of ye Prisoners as he should
Recommend for y.t purpose, whereupon
Mr Witter Desired him to furnish Lieut.
Brewster & another Bro.r in Law of his,
(who were then Prisoners in New York)
with such Assistance as their circum-
stances should Require, which Mr Jones
Engaged punctually to perform, in Conse-
quence of which Engagement, Mr Witter neg-
lected to send a sum of money &c, which he
had then prepared for y.t purpose, by May.r
Wells, who was then at home, & soon to set
off

off for Newyork; But he (Mr. Witter) wrote to Lieut. Brewster by ye Major, y^t he might depend on being supplied by Mr. Jones according to ye aforesd. Engagement; Yet it seems y^t this good Mr. Jones (like his Bro. Rapelljee) when he became restored to his Butlership Remembered not Joseph; nor did he pay ye least Regard to his aforesd. Engagement, for after Lieut. Brewster had several times applyd for some Assistance, agreable thereto, he was at length informd y^t Mr. Jones had Removd with his Family, to ye Eastward part of Long-Island

The two foregoing Instances are sufficient, to give a just Idea of ye honour and Gratitude of ye New York Tories

Nov.r 28th Col: Allen came to our Quarters he had been Employd in ye Northern Army, the forepart of ye War, he was taken Prisoner in Jun

part of Canada about fourteen Months be-
fore; from whence he was Transported to
Europe & being kept in Irons, after which
he was brought to America while ye Bri-
-tish Fleet lay down at Sandy Hook last
Summer, from whence he was sent back
to Hallyfax, & now is again brot back
to this place, where he had lately arri-
& this Day came on Shore; he gave us
a particular, & very entertaining acc^t
of many of his Adventures; and hath
since been an agreable Companion to
us in our Tribulations. ——————

Decr 2nd Several Off^rs rec^d Letters from
their Friends in ye American Army, by
some of which we were Informed y^t some
hard money had been prepared to be sent
in here for ye Use of some of ye Prisoners,
but y^t ye Commanding Off^r had refused to
suffer it to be brought in: who this one
can't

cautious American Genl. was, we were not able to learn with certainty, but whoever he was, we are not greatly Obliged to him, for his peculiar ~~Frug~~ Frugality ——

ye 15th We were Informd yt. Genl. Lee was taken Prisoner, which Rept. we gave but little credit too for several Days, but finally found it too well Evidenced for Disbelief ——

On ye 16th Lt. Col: Clark of ye 17th Regt. Died at about one in ye Morning; & his Corpse was Deacently Intered ye Evening following, in ye new Buck Church Yard; A large number of ye Officers who were Prisoners, Attended his Funeral: He had been sick of a lingering Disorder most of ye Time since we were Landed from on board the Mentor ——

ye 17th Doctr. Kyes (a Prisoner from Connecticut) wo taken sick of ye Small Pox at our Quarters; he

was Removd a few days after, to an Hospital prepared for yt purpose where he Died on Sun=day ye 29th as I was afterward Inform'd ——

The Small pox now being considerably spread in ye City, several of us who had not had that Infectious Distemper, Removd our Quarters to several other places where we thought our selves less Exposd to ye Infection: & were admit=ed into ye Family of our Charitable Friends, where we were Entertain'd as long as we continu=ed in ye City, with ye greatest humanity & Tenderness; although many of us were at present able to make them but a very Indif=ferent Reward for their peculiar generosity.

Soon after this, many of our Offrs who had not had ye Small pox, took ye Infection by Inocula=tion, most of whom had ye Disease very favour=ably ——

Decr 23rd Mayr Wells Return'd from Connecti=
=cut, & brot considerable Sums of money, & some
Clothing for ye Use of ye Prisoners; We also Recd
(by him) a great number of Letters, as well as other agreable Intelligen
from our
Friends in ye Country.

After ye taking of Fort Washington, a conside=
rable part of ye Kings Army cross'd North River,
with an Intention of trying their fortune
in ye Jerseys; On which ye Americans Evacua=
=ted Fort Lee, & Retreated before them to ye
Interior parts of yt State; But whether this
Retreet was a movement of Necessity, or Policy,
we have not (as yet) been able to Learn; al=
=though ye former hath been assign'd with great
Assurance in all publications, as well as com=
=mon Report here, yet ye Consequences of this
movement carrying a very considerable appea=
=rance of ye latter, we yet Remain in Doubt; Nor
Indeed do we much care what ye Cause was; since

we have it from good Authority, that y^e^ conse=
=quences thereof; hath been favourable to the
Americans, for notwithstanding all our Suffer=
=ings of every kind, & y^e^ Tedious delay of our
Exchange &c. yet we esteem ourselves Embarkd
in y^e^ common cause, & Expect to stand or fall
with our Country

About y^e^ same time y^t^ y^e^ aforesd Diversion
of y^e^ King's Army marchd in to y^e^ Jerseys, ano=
=ther considerable Diversion thereof, were Embarkd
on Board a Fleet prepared for y^t^ purpose; &
soon after Saild from this Port; the place of their
Destination was for some time conceald from
us, but we afterward were Informd, y^t^ they took
possession of Rhode Island, which y^e^ Americans
had evacuated; But yet it seems, y^t^ Genl. Howe
found himself under an necessity of Recalling
y^e^ greater part of this Diversion of y^e^ Army, before
y^e^ Expiration of y^e^ Winter, in order to Reinforce y^e^
other

other Division in the Jerseys

During ye aforesd. movements, the wonted Insolence of ye Troops & Toys was by no means atall abated, while they with peculiar satis=faction were continually using ye word, Rebel, with ye same degre of pleasure & propriety, yt. ye Roman Clergy &c in Europe had done ye word, Heretic, in some of ye late Centurys; The newspapers, which seem to be ye only Cri=cle of those people, & from which they collect their Articles of Faith, will give a tolerable Idea of their manner of Address &c; for Indeed there appears to be a very considerable degree of Consistancy, between their Faith & Manners; I shall therefore Insert a short passage from their Prophet Hugh Gaine, which is containd in that part of his Prophesy Dated Decr. 9th 1776 & is as follows (viz) "It is said by some "persons who have lately seen ye Rebel Forces "yt. they are ye most pitiable collection of

"Ragged, Dispirited Mortals, y^t ever pretended to
"ye name of an Army, y^t not threethousand
"even of these are to be found" &c ——

But it is to be observed, y^t notwithstanding
this Despicable Representation of ye American
Army, from such undoubted Authority; yet
it was but a few days after, when we were
Credibly Informed, y^t a whole Brigade of
Hessians, with a considerable number of
British Troops, had been Entirely cut off at
Trentown, most of whom were taken prisoners
with a large Quantity of Artillery, Baggage
&c, by this small number of "despicable
"Ragged & Dispirited Mortals," & also y^t ano-
-ther Game of ye same kind had been play'd
at Princetown, & some other places in that
Neighbourhood, & y^t y^e whole had been Af-
-fected without any great Slaughter; those
Reports by various ways & means, soon became
so

so well confirm'd, y^t we could not doubt
y^e Truth of them; then was there some
little silent Rejoicing, among us poor Dis=
picable Mortals of y^e Captivity, scatter'd up
up & down in this Seashan ——

Soon after this (viz) on y^e 8th of Jany 1777.
I accidentally happen'd in at a house where
I had often been treated with great Civility,
& sitting with y^e good Woman of y^e house, &
some others who were also Disciples (though
privately, for fear &c) when there came in
an Elderly Gent^n, whom I soon discover'd
to be a Chaplain in y^e Kings Army, & it
seems by his discourse, y^t he had lately Re=
=turn'd from y^e Jerseys; Indeed it was some=
=what of an agreable Entertainment to me,
to sit & silently Observe y^e peculiar Mixture
of Fraud, Falacy Superstition & Enthusiasm,
of this Simple Clergyman's Composition, while

he with many Artificial Sighs, & heavy Groans Related his own personal adventures since he had left this City: he also gave some Gen.ll acc.t of several late actions had happen'd in y.t State, w.d truth & Vara=sity of which, I no more Doubted, than if I had Read them from w.d prophet St. Gaine. He Represented his own Fatigues during those late movements, to have been so great, y.t he had scarcely had oppertunity to undress him=self for Sleep w.d whole time, altho he had been out four or five Weeks; & y.t he had not undertaken to preach but once, du=ring w.d whole time, & was then fired on by w.d Rebels before w.d conclusion of Service. He also Inform'd us y.t a small party of Hess=ians at Trentown, whose commanding Officer could not be made to believe y.t they were in Danger, had suffered themselves to be Surprised, & y.t

that some of them had been taken Prisoners by y^e Rebels; & y^t y^e 17th Reg^t had been Attacked at Princetown by a very numerous Army of y^e Rebels: But yet notwithstanding ye vast superiority of ye latter in number, it could not be said y^t they had obtained a Victory: He then concluded his Narative in a very melancholy Tone, & with a Countenance full of Artificial Sanctity, observing that it was to be fear'd y^t this Inspiring Success of ye Rebels, had so Elated them, y^t it would have a tendency to protract ye War; & that he was very apprehensive y^t his Majesty's Commissioners most Gracious Proclamation, would be suffered by ye Rebels to Run out without their Attention, the Consequences of which would be very, &c, &c, &c ——

But I may here Observe, y^t I was so fortunate as to obtain Intelligence by this Gentlemans Servt

who had constantly attended him in his late
Adventures, & whose appearance in Regard to
Simplicity, Indeed much Resembled y^t^ of his
Master, altho he appeard to have ten times
as much Integrity; This Servt gave much
same acc^t^ of ye several late actions, y^t^ we
had already Rec^d^ by various ways; & altho
his Master had Represented ye 17th Reg^t^ to have
made such a Miraculous stand before ye Amer-
icans, yet this Servt Informd us y^t^ almost
ye whole Reg^t^ had been either killd or taken —

But since I have began to Introduce those wor-
thy Author's Relation of Facts, I will also proceed
to Insert another more lengthy Paragraph, —
from this Celebrated one among ye fourhundred
& fifty (viz) ye Prophet Mr. Gaine, which runs
thus, "The Continental Carrency is so Sunk in
"its Credit, y^t^ none of ye Farmers will take it in
"Connecticut, Necessarys are now only to be Obtaind
by

"by ye Barters of Commoditys Salt is not to be
"had in Connecticut under ye Rate of forty
"Shillings lawfull per Bushel, which however
"must be paid in Produce They have every
"Prospect of a Famine, as their last Crop of
"Wheat is more entirely blasted than has e=
"ver been known in ye Memory of Man.
"In short ye whole Course of things has been
"so much against ye Cause. yt to use the
"Impious Expression of one of their Preachers
"before his Audience, it seems as if God almigh=
"ty was really turned Tory."

I shall only Observe on ye foregoing Para=
=graph, yt although Maj:r Wells was in Connec=
=ticut at ye time of ye Date of this prophetic
Declaration, & on his way back to New York
pass'd through almost ye whole State, yet
on his Return, he acquainted us with none
of ye above Facts, but quite ye Reverse; and

alfs y^t^ we have Repeatedly Rec^d^ Intelligence
from undoubted Authors, from those parts,
which perfectly agree with y^e^ Majors Re=
=presentation; So y^t^ on y^e^ whole we are
somewhat apprehensive y^t^ y^e^ foregoing
acc^t^ may possibly be subject to Error, not=
=withstanding y^e^ great authority from whence
it comes; & y^t^ since they "from y^e^ Prophet
"even unto y^e^ Priest, every one dealeth falf=
"ly" perhaps it is a Lye. ———

But I shall yet proceed, & insert a 3rd Par=
=agraph from this Inexhaustable Fund of
Intelligence, which is as follows, "The ensu=
"=ing Disorder, which has lately very much In=
"=fested y^e^ Rebel Army, we hear has broak out
"in Rhode Island, & carried off many persons
"belonging to y^t^ Colony, It has one peculiarity
"like y^e^ Sweating Sickness in King Edward the
"Sixth's time; for as y^t^ affected English men alone

"alone in all parts of y^e World, this Disease
"Attacks only Rebels." ——————

As to ye Sweating Sickness above Referr'd
to, perhaps very few Armys (of any) y^t have
ever appear'd on Earth since War was first
Introduced, could be supposed to be less In-
fested with any thing of y^t kind, than y^e
British Troops with their Auxiliarys now
in America: But as to ye other (viz) the
running Disorder, perhaps this pious Infor-
mer had forgot, or never heard of the
peculiar Scene which appear'd at Concord
in April 1775, & also another more general
Attack made by this Disorder, on ye main
Body of ye British Army at Boston in March
1776: This Attack was so very general, y^t it
hath been said by some curious Observers,
y^t there was not a single Off^r or Soldier

Jan.y 20th. y Off.rs who were Prisoners on Parole in N. York, Rec.d Orders to Remove over to Kings County on Long Island; A number of the Southern Off.rs cross.d y Ferry y same day, & another Party y Day following; & on the 23rd. most of y New England Off.rs cross.d y Ferry, & were ordered to Newtown in y Town of Flatbush, where we were Billeted generally by two, or three in a house, among y Inhabitants. There being yet a large number of American Off.rs, they were Distributed in y Towns of Gravesend, Newtown, Flatlands & Flatbush, & were Indulg.d with Liberty of y Respective Towns, in which we were Billetted; But a number of y Officers had not yet Recover.d of y Smallpox, & some were sick of other Disorders, who were Indulg.d with

with Liberty to continue in ye City until they Recover'd, most of whom were afterward sent off to us us ye several Towns afores'd.

This new Disposition, was somewhat Disagreeable to many of us, as we had now contracted considerable Acquaintance in ye City, & were most of us in comfortable Quarters, with Family's who had treated us with great Civility, & shewn us many favours. We had also had our Expectations greatly raised with hope of a speedy Exchange which now seem'd to Vanish, or appear at a greater Distance. There was also various Conjectures in Regard to ye Reasons or Cause of this Removal, some supposing it to have Originated from ye Malignity of ye Torys & Refugees, of whom there was

now great plenty in y^e City, who were conti=
nually Discovering their Rage & Disapproba=
tion of every kind of Indulgence allowed y^e
Prisoners; Others were of opinion y^t it was
only design'd for our greater Enlargement,
& y^t we might be accomodated with more
agreable Quarters than we had yet been
provided with; Indeed it was said y^t Genl
Howe had lately Rec^d a very Spirited Let=
ter from Gen^ll Sullivan of y^e American
Army, shewing y^e highest Resentment at
y^e Illtreatment of y^e Prisoners, & also threat=
ening to have Recourse to y^e necessary Laws
of Retaliation in case such Usage should
be continued

But whatever might be y^e occasion of
the afores^d Disposition, y^e Consequences thereof
now

proved favourable to us for being Billitted among ye Inhabitants, as hath already been Observed, we generally found ourselves in much more agreable circumstances, than what we had as yet been Indulged with; The limits of our Confinements being much larger than what we had Enjoyd in N. York, we were under a greater Advantage for Exercise, and could also Visit Eachother at our pleasure, without Interuption or being Exposed to ye Savage Insults, with which we had been so often Treated: For altho in this place of our Confinement, we were no Strangers to this kind of Treatment, yet it generally proceeded from worthless Refugees and Vagrants, who are Despised even by ye Inhabi-
ts & by ye British Troops themselves: as

in y^t Part of ye Army y^t escaped ye Disease. Nor does it indeed appear y^t ye Britains & Hessians have been perfectly free from this Disorder, in ye Jersey, ye Winter past, altho it ought be with gratitude acknowledged, y^t ye very humane Applications of Genl. Washington, hath preserv'd many of them from that ridiculous Disease, by an Effectual medicine called by ye name of Captivity: This Medicine I know to be somewhat harsh & severe, having taken an excessive large Portion of it myself: But however hope y^t they may have a Suitable preperation of it, & y^t both they & ye Americans may receive benefit thereby.

But I shall further observe, y^t there is no one sort of people within ye Bounds of my Observation, y^t have been so much subject

subject to this running Disorder, as those called Tory, who have been frequently Observed to "Flee when none persue," and as there are none who may with so great propriety be call'd Rebels, as those who are Inimical to their Country, it is a Question worthy of Observation, whether these may not be within ye meaning of ye prophet in ye foregoing Paragraph; & as it is not uncommon to find certain Ambiguous & figurative Expressions in prophesys, & as I mean not to be Dogmatical, or over confident in Regard to their Explanation, I shall not therefore undertake to determine this Important Question, but would Rather Refer it to ye Venerable Priest, whom I have had occasion to mention in some of ye foregoing pages, whose wise & learned Comments on ye Mysterys contained in ye prophesies of ye Prophet Hugh Gaine, might Doubtless be very beneficable to ye Cause

well as by us: And altho' ye Inhabitants are chiefly Dutch, & those who have ye highest opinion of British Government and Administration, yet they are of a very Passive Disposition, & not much Inclined either to fighting, or to Insult those who Dissent from their Opinion in political matters.

Soon after we Removed over to Long Island, we heard of ye Death of Col: Piper, a very worthy Gent.n from Pensylvania, who had been made Prisoner in ye Action of ye 27th. of Aug.t, and had for some time been Sick of a Fever in New York. We also about ye same time heard of ye Death of Capt: Bellows of Walpole in Connecticut who had been made Prisoner in our Army, Retreat from N. York, under pretence y.t he had been somehow Suspected of having been concern'd in ye late fire, he was kept close Prisoner in the

the City Hall untill a few Days before we Removd over on to this Island; by means of which long and uncomfortable Confinement, he contracted such a complication of Disorders, as to End his Days soon after he came out of Prison —

There has also a number of other Offrs Died During the course of our confinement, which I have not yet taken notice of in this Narative, most of whom I have not been able to learn the particular time of their Death: among whom were Capt. Peopler from Pensylvania; Capt. Boyd & Lt Butler from Maryland; those three Gentn were wounded in the Action of the 27th of Augt & Died on Long Island; Lt Wakepeace of the 17th Regt was also wounded the same Day of which wound he Died at Flatbush the 6th of Octr; Lt Moore of Symsbury in Connecticut Died of Sickness in N. York the 3d of Novr; Lt Wheatley of Norwich, Lt Williams of Chatham, Lt Whiting of

Stratford, & Lt. Gaylord of some part of Connecticut
all Died in N. York.