

The Captain who has come over to us is a Frenchman named Bromville. He and the Deserters inform us, that Mr. Polaski has, in Public Orders, lately directed no Quarter to be given; and it was therefore, with particular Satisfaction, that the Detachment marched against a Man capable of issuing an Order so unworthy of a Gentleman and a Soldier.

It is but Justice to inform you, Sir, that the Officers and Men, both British and Provincials, on this Occasion behaved in a Manner to do themselves Honor.

To the Conduct and Spirit of Captain Cox, Lieutenant Littleton, and Ensign Cotter, of the 5th Regiment, and of Captain Peter Campbell, of the 3d Jersey Volunteers, this little Enterprize owes much of its Success; as well as to the Arrangements of Captain Colins of the Navy, and Attention of Captain Chritian, who accompanied the Embarkation.

Being this Moment returned, and the Dispatch Vessel going off, I cannot give you a precise Return of our Loss, but I believe it does not exceed 2 Men killed and 2 wounded.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) Pat. Ferguson, Capt. 70th Reg.

P. S. The Dispatch Vessel not having got to Sea last Night, I am enabled to inform you, that our Yesterday's Loss consists of 2 Men of the 5th, and 1 of the Provincials missing, and 2 of the 5th slightly wounded; Ensign Camp, of the 3d Jersey Volunteers, has received a Stab through his Thigh.

We had an Opportunity of destroying Part of the Baggage and Equipage of Polaski's Legion, by burning their Quarters; but as the Houses belonged to some inoffensive Quakers, who I am afraid may have sufficiently suffered already in the Confusion of a Night's Scramble, I know, Sir, that you will think with us, that the Injury to be thereby done to the Enemy would not have compensated for the Sufferings of these innocent People.

*Extract of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Gambier to Mr. Stephens, dated on Board the Ardent off New York, October 20, 1778.*

YOU will please to acquaint their Lordships, that having, in Conjunction with the Commander in Chief of the Army, judged it expedient to annoy the Rebels at Egg Harbour, situated near the Mouth of this Port, from whence their little Privateers fall to intercept the Trade bound hither, I ordered Captain Colins, of the Zebra, with the Vigilant, Nautilus, some Galleys, and small Armed Vessels of little Draught of Water, on this Service, the Army furnishing Three Hundred Men under the Command of Captain Ferguson, on Board small Transports. The little Squadron failed on the 30th of September, but, by unfavourable Winds, could not get off the Bar until the 5th following. I have this Moment received the accompanying Letters from Captain Colins, which I enclose for the Information of their Lordship, of the Particulars of that spirited Service; which we have Reason to believe has sensibly annoyed the Rebels.

The Raleigh, a very fine Rebel Frigate, has been taken and brought in here by the Experiment and Unicorn.

*Zebra, in Little Egg Harbour, October 9, 1778.*

S I R,

THE King's Ships, Galleys and Armed Vessels appointed to act under my Orders, having all joined at Staten Island the Evening of the 30th of September, and the Troops being embarked on board the Transports, I got under Weigh and stood to Sea, with the Wind Northerly; but it shifting the Day following to the Southward, and blowing strong, together with some severe Weather which afterwards ensued, prevented our getting off this Place before the Afternoon of the 5th of this Month, when the Tide proving favorable, I ordered the Halifax Brig, together with the Dependence and Cornwallis Galleys, to proceed into the Harbour, and take a Position to prevent the Escape of any of the Enemy's Vessels. The Wind being at N. W. and continuing to blow fresh the next Day, made it impossible

to get the King's Ships or Transports over the Bar, I therefore ordered the Troops to be put on board the Armed Vessels, and it proving a little more moderate in the Evening, we had the good Fortune to get them all safe into the Harbour. As we found by some Information we received, that Intelligence of our Intentions had reached the Rebels several Days preceding our Arrival (which enabled them to get Four Privateers to Sea) no Time was to be lost in proceeding up the River: We therefore embarked as many of the Troops as was possible on board the Galleys and Armed Vessels (previously taking every Thing out of them which could be done, to lessen their Draught of Water) and the Rest I ordered into the Flat and Gun Boats, and proceeded with the Whole at Day-break the next Morning up the River: Our Progress was attended with great Difficulty, owing to the extreme Shoalness of the Water, and the Want of Pilots: The Granby and Greenwich Armed Sloops grounded off Mincock Island, and could not be advanced farther; we however got up with the Gallies, and Nautilus and Experiment's Tenders, about Four in the Afternoon, to Chestnut Neck, where the Rebels had several Vessels and Store-houses. They ranged themselves in Numbers, in a Breast-Work they had erected on an Eminence, and shewed themselves in a Battery (which, as we afterwards found, had no Guns) on the Beach, but were soon disordered by a well managed Fire from the Galleys, the Troops landing immediately under the Protection of the Gun Boats and Cannonade of the Galleys, soon drove them from their Works, and made them disperse in the Woods without any Loss. The Vessels at this Place, amounting to Ten in Number, we found were mostly British, which had been seized upon by the Rebel Cruizers; amongst them was the Venus, of London, and others of considerable Size, which they could not carry higher up: As all of them were scuttled and dismantled, and some sunk, it was impossible (notwithstanding my Solicitude and Wishes to recover the Property of the King's Subject) to get them down here; I therefore ordered them to be fired and destroyed. The Storehouses and Settlements here, which seemed so particularly adapted to the Convenience of this Nest of Freebooters, I was also of Opinion, with the Commanding Officer of the Troops, should be destroyed; which was accordingly done, also the Battery before-mentioned, and the Work on the Hill. About Noon this Day all the King's Ships and the Two Transports got safe over the Bar, and anchored in the Harbour.

Had the Weather admitted of our arriving more opportunely, we had it in View to attempt penetrating to the Forks, where the Rebels have some small Privateers and a few other inconsiderable Trading Vessels; but as the Country had been long alarmed, the natural Difficulties attending the bringing the Galleys and Armed Vessels, unprovided with Pilots, up so shoal and narrow a Channel, through a Commanding County, would have been so much increased by the Efforts of a prepared Enemy, that we could not entertain much Hopes of Success, particularly as we had Intelligence the Rebels had collected all their Strength to that Point, consisting of Procter's Artillery and some other regular Force from Philadelphia, in addition to a large Body of Militia provided properly with Cannon; we therefore thought it most prudent to abandon that Enterprize.

The 7th, at Noon, I got under Weigh with the Galleys, Armed Vessels, &c. and stood down the River; the Greenwich and Granby Armed Sloops being still aground, I brought to Anchor in the Evening, to assist in getting them off, which was effected by taking every Thing out of them the next Morning: During this Delay of the Vessels, the Troops under the Command of Captain Ferguson were employed, under Cover of the Gun-Boats, in an Excursion on the North Shore, to destroy some principal Salt-Works, also some Stores and Lodgments belonging to the People the most notorious for being concerned in the Privateers, and destroying and oppressing the