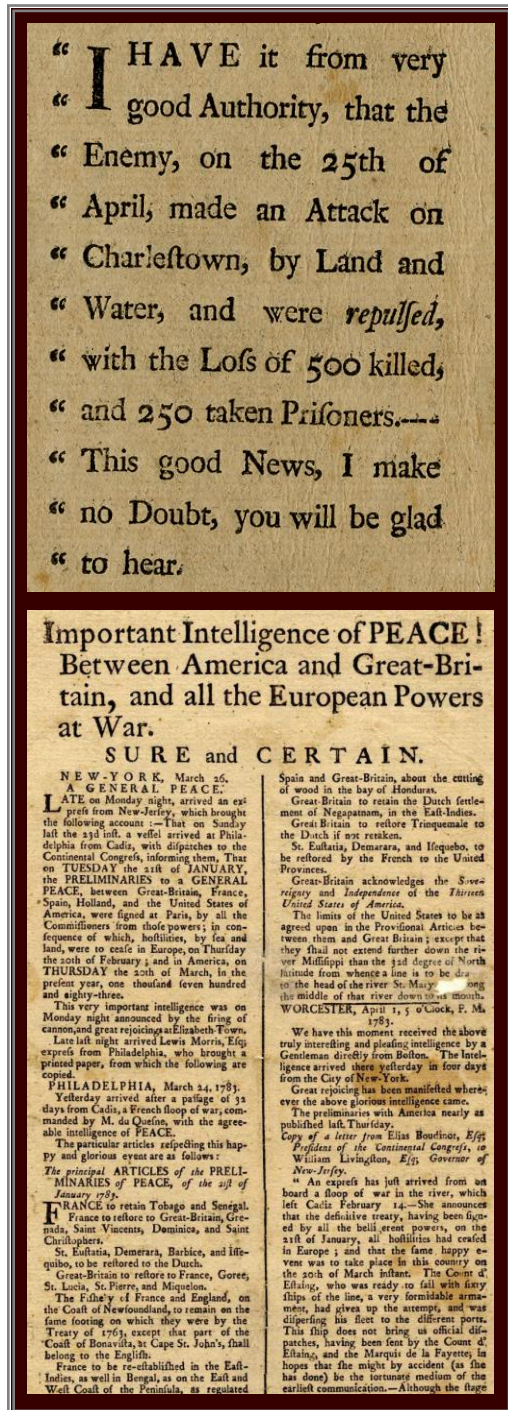


BROADSIDE NEWS

of the American Revolution

Wartime news based on "fresh intelligence" was spread through one-page broadsides printed quickly and posted throughout a town.



- 1776. News: British evacuation of Boston, March 17.**
Content: Letter dated March 21 from Boston resident to a resident of (probably) New York City.
As reported from: Boston, Massachusetts.
As reported (printed) in: New York City, New York (?).
- 1777. News: Repulsion of British at Saratoga, Oct. 6.**
Content: Letter dated Oct. 9 from Gen. John Glover, near Stillwater, New York, to Gen. William Heath, Boston.
As reported from: Boston, October 13.
As reported (printed) in: Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- 1777. News: Repulsion of British attacks on New Jersey forts near Philadelphia, Oct. 23.**
Content: Three letters dated Oct. 23 from officers in Red Bank, New Jersey, to Gen. Washington.
As reported from: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by order of the Continental Congress (printed in Lancaster, Penn.)
- 1779. News: Battle of Stono Ferry, S.C., June 20.**
Content: News from a man "this moment arrived" in Providence (perhaps June 21), as heard in Philadelphia from a man newly arrived from South Carolina; confirmed by Boston men who heard news from another S.C. man.
As reported from: Providence, Rhode Island, June 21 (?), 4pm.
As reported (printed) in: Worcester, Massachusetts, June 21.
- 1780. News: American repulsion of British attack during siege of Charleston, S.C., April 25.**
Content: Letter (excerpt) dated May 10 from Edenton, N.C., postmaster reporting news "from very good Authority."
As reported from: Edenton, North Carolina, May 10.
As reported (printed) in: Baltimore, Maryland, May 20.
- 1781. News: British retreat after defeat in Battle of Guilford Courthouse, N.C., March 15.**
Content: Letter (excerpt), dated March 23, from Major Gen. Nathanael Greene, Buffalo Creek, N.C.
As reported from: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 7.
As reported (printed) in: Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1783. News: Preliminary peace treaty signed in Paris, January 21.**
Content: Report from French warship that arrived in Philadelphia Feb. 23 from Cadiz, Spain, after "a passage of 32 days."
As reported from:—New York City, March 26, via "an express from New Jersey"
—Philadelphia, March 24, via a news broadside brought to New York by Lewis Morris
—Worcester, Mass., April 1, 5pm, via a man delivering New York broadside of letter from president of the Continental Congress (n.d.)
As reported (printed) in: Worcester, Massachusetts.

Fresh News from BOSTON.

COPY of a Letter from a Person of Distinction at Cambridge, to a Gentleman in this City, dated Cambridge, March 21, 1776.

SIR,

I SHALL now my dear Sir, acquaint you with some further particulars than what I have before transmitted. The storm that was sent on Tuesday the 5th instant at night, prevented in all probability a deal of bloodshed, and the destruction of Boston. Gen. Howe had formed a desperate plan; Lord Percy was to have attacked on the Wednesday morning our fort on Dorchester Hill with about two thousand men. A feint was to have been made towards Letchmore's-Point, and Gen. Howe was to have rushed on our lines at Roxbury with bayonets fixed without firing a gun. Had he been repulled, and our Provincials followed him, a large number of field pieces were to have been fired upon them, and then spiked up. The Ministerialists were to have embarked as soon as possible, while a bomb ketch that was to be in readiness, was to fire carcasses upon the town, with a view of setting it in flames, and thereby I suppose, covering the embarkation, and diverting our people from the pursuit. Many of them acknowledged after the storm, that the heavens were against them. After the disappointment, Howe was for getting off as fast as possible; he would have been on board on Friday, but the wind chopt about. The British troops are completely disgraced. They went off in an amazing hurry, and evidently under a panic. They have left behind them a large quantity of coals, near 200 cord of wood, a considerable number of pack saddles, which the subtle Gage got made before the battle of Lexington, that his troops might convey by means of them upon single horses, all they might want to carry with them through the woods where carriages could not go, and which may be of great service to the Provincials in some of the colonies. What with these articles, wheat, porter, oats, &c, they have left to the amount of some thousands sterling I imagine. All the inhabitants I have conversed with, inform me that they have been most cruelly treated; but by none more than by the refugees and Tories. On Friday the crier was sent about to order all the inhabitants not to stir out of their houses till evening; while they

were thus confined, the soldiers, sailors, and refugees, took the opportunity of breaking into houses and stores, and plundering. As they could not carry on board for want of stowage room, chairs, tables, and the like, they destroyed and burnt them. A prodigious quantity of mahogany furniture has been in this way demolished. When they were gone off, upon search being made, fires were discovered in several houses, so circumstanced as to evidence a design of setting the houses on fire, but that was happily frustrated.

General Robinson under an official cover seems to have been as great a plunderer as any, and to have connived at the rascally conduct of smaller villains. He might possibly answer to himself for the part he was acting, by viewing what he secured as an equivalent, for the many thousands he has out at interest, and in property in your colony, and elsewhere, should the same be seized. The pre's will be employed shortly in communicating to the public, the sufferings of the Bostonians, drawn up by one who has been there the whole time, and well credent; and if that does not determine the colonies never more to admit King's troops into the continent, I shall think it strange. Since the ministerialists have left their works, every one that surveys them is convinced what a most hazardous attempt it would have been to have endeavoured to force them, and are better satisfied with that seeming inactivity, but really Fabian delay, that was wisely adopted by our patriotic sensible commanders. Strain every nerve, hazard life rather than admit of the regulars possessing themselves of your city: but it is likely they are going to Halifax: or if not, that you will be strongly reinforced ere they can reach you. Many of the ships are failed. A number of good large iron cannon have been left, which when we have unspiked (several are already) will serve to fortify the town. Two good mortars fell into the water at the wharf, as they were attempting to put them on board, and another was left upon the Common spiked up.

It is reported that Manly has taken a ship laden with Scotch Tories, and their property.

Light text, above: On Friday the [town] crier was sent about to order all the inhabitants not to stir out of their houses till evening, while they

It is reported that Manly has taken a ship laden with Scotch Tories [Loyalists], and their property.

Good News from the Northern Army.

BOSTON, October 13, 1777.
This Morning at three o'Clock, an Express arrived at General Heath's, the following Letter, viz.

Camp, three Miles above Still Water, Octo. 9.
DEAR GENERAL,

THIS will acknowledge the Receipt of yours of the 29th ult. and will inform you, that on Tuesday last the Enemy advanced from the Right, with a Design to take Post on our Left, our Scouts were drove in—they continued advancing.

Three Regiments were ordered out, who met them a Mile from our Lines, a small Eminence being between them, each pushed hard for it.—Our Troops gain'd it.—The Attack began at four o'Clock, P. M. continued till dark, without any Intermision; during which we drove them two Miles, & at last entered their Works Sword in Hand. In the Action and in their Works, were taken two brass twelve Pounders, and six six Pounders, three Ammunition Waggon, about 300 Tents, a great Quantity of Baggage, with upwards of thirty Horses, Waggon, &c. &c.

It now became very dark, could not pursue them any further, nor was it safe or practicable, the Woods being very thick.

We halted half a Mile in the Rear of them, there remained a whole Night, with our Arms in our Hands, not a Man slept.—About Four in the Morning they began to move. We pushed on till they were drove into their Strong Works, on the River Road.

Skirmishing Parties were sent out the whole Day;—some Prisoners taken, some killed, and wounded on our side.

Among the Wounded is the good General LINCOLN, shot through the Leg, with he may save it, but is much doubted.—The brave General ARNOLD was wounded in the Action the Day before.

As we have not been able to get in Re-

turns, cannot give you a particular Account of our Loss; however, it is very inconsiderable—I believe I may venture to say, not more than thirty killed, not more than one hundred wounded.

The Enemy's Loss on Tuesday must be great!—General FRAIZER wounded, (since dead.) Taken three Field Officers, six Captains, ten Subalterns, one Quarter Master General, one hundred and ninety Privates—taken in the Hospital on Wednesday about three hundred Sick and wounded, with some Medicines, two hundred Barrels of Flour, with many other Articles;—Besides these, upwards of one hundred now lays dead on the Ground, which we have not been able to bury.

Much Honor is due to our Officers and men, who fought like Heroes.

The Enemy began their Retreat at 11 o'Clock at night, breaking up all the Bridges, and otherwise spoiling the Roads, in their Rear.

Thursday morning 100 men, served with three Days Provisions, began their march to hang on their Left Flank (the River being on the Right) and two Brigades on the River Road, on their Rear, but could not proceed, as it set in full of Rain, and so continues.

Shall push on immediately, on its clearing up, when I hope to give you a further account of them. Till then, I am your Honor's

Most obedient Servant,

John Glover, Major General

October 10. 9 o'Clock, three thousand have already marched on their Left Flank; and our whole Body is paraded, and will march immediately.

J. G.

P. S. 11. A. M. This Morning Simpton much in Favour of Gen. Lincoln, I am in Hopes he will save his Leg.—The Express heard a very heavy Cannonade all the next Day while on his Way-hither.

PORTSMOUTH, Printed.

Intelligence from Red-Bank.

Red-Bank, October 23d 1777.

May it please your Excellency,

THIS will acquaint your Excellency, that early this morning, we carried all our galleys to action, and after a long and heavy firing we drove the enemy's ships down the river, except a 64 gun ship, and a small frigate, which we obliged them to quit, as they got on shore, and by accident the 64 gun ship blew up, and the frigate they set on fire themselves, took the people all out and quitted them. Our action lasted till twelve o' clock, and our fleet has received but very little damage.—You will be informed of the glorious event of last night by Col. Green. We in our galleys were of great use in flanking round the fort.—As I am very much fatigued, I hope your Excellency will be satisfied with this short account of our affairs of the river and fleet.

Being in haste, I hope soon shall have it in my power to give you a better account of this action; besides the sixty-four and frigate being burnt, the Roebuck, who lay to cover them, we damaged much, and drove off, and had the lain fast, we should have had her in the same situation.

Am your Excellency's most obedient,
and very humble servant,

JOHN HAZELWOOD.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Red-Bank, 23d October, 1777.

S I R,
BY the desire of Col. Green, I congratulate your Excellency, on the success of the troops under his command, yesterday. On the 21st instant, four battalions of Germans, amounting to 1200 men, commanded by the Baron Donop, Col. Commandant, landed at Cooper's ferry, and marched the same evening to Haddonfield. At 3 o'clock yesterday morning, they marched for this place; when the guard at Timber-Creek Bridge were informed of their approach, they took up that bridge, and the enemy filed off to the left, and crossed at a bridge, four miles above. Their advanced parties were discovered within a quarter of a mile of the fort, at 12 o'clock, at half after four o'clock P. M. they sent a flag to summon the fort, who was told, that it should never be surrendered. At three quarters after four they began a brisk canonade, and soon after advanced in two columns, to the attack. They passed the abattis, gained the ditch, and some few got over the picquets, but the fire was so heavy that they were soon drove out again, with considerable loss, and retreated precipitately, towards Haddonfield.

The enemy's loss amounts to 1 Lieutenant Col. 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, and near 70 killed, and the Baron Donop, his Brigade Major, a Captain,

Lieutenant, and upwards of 70 non-commissioned officers and privates, wounded and taken prisoners. We are also informed that several waggons are taken. He also enjoins me to tell your Excellency, that both officers and private men behaved with the greatest bravery.—The action lasted 40 minutes, Col. Green's regiment has two serjeants, 1 file, and 4 privates killed, 1 serjeant, and 3 privates wounded, and one Captain, (who was reconnoitring) taken prisoner. Col. Angel has one Captain killed, 3 serjeants, 3 rank and file, and 1 Ensign, 1 serjeant, and 15 rank and file wounded, 2 of Capt. Dupleffis company were slightly wounded; too many handsome things cannot be said of the Chevalier, who as well as his officers shewed a truly heroic bravery.—There has been already brought into the fort near 300 muskets, a considerable number of swords, cartridge boxes, &c.—There has been a smart firing between ours and the enemy's fleet this morning; several fire-ships have been sent down the river.

I am with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient
humble servant,

SAM. WARD.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

at 9 o' Clock, Red-Bank, Oct. 23, 1777

S I R,
I AM just arrived at this place, on command, from Fort-Mifflin, and finding that Col. Green, and the Commodore were sending by express to your Excellency, the glorious event of last evening, and this morning, think proper to give you the particulars from our garrison. This morning at half after six o'clock, the enemy, from Province Island, began a very heavy fire from their bomb-batteries, and in about half an hour after was joined by their fleet, which kept up on us incessantly, till after 12 o'clock. Our battery, in concert with the Commodore's fleet, playing on them the whole time, in short we ply'd them with 18 and 32 pound shot so closely, that they, I believe, began to give ground, however they ran a sixty-four gun ship and a twenty gun frigate a-ground, and after fruitless attempts to get them off, they set fire to them both. We sustained no damage, except a Captain and a private slightly wounded.—Our garrison shewed a firmness and resolution becoming brave men, and I don't doubt will acquit themselves with honour. The fleet are making down again fast, as low as Billingsport.

I have the honour to be, &c.

ROBERT BALLARD.

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Published by order of Congress,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

LANCASTER, Printed by FRANCIS BAILEY.

Officers' letters from Red Bank, New Jersey, to General Washington. Four battalions of Germans: Hessian troops hired to fight for Britain.

Repulsion of British attacks on New Jersey near Philadelphia. October 23, 1777. Broadside printed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by order of the Continental Congress.



Important Intelligence.

PROVIDENCE, 4 o'clock, Afternoon.

A GENTLEMAN this moment arrived, in eight days from Philadelphia, brings the following most agreeable and important news, viz.

---THAT Mr. George Bryan, immediately from South Carolina, had arrived in Philadelphia, who brought advice, That General Prevost advanced with 7000 men, and attacked Charlestown, which was defended by a body of the town and neighbouring militia--- That after repeated repulses they renewed their attempt with the bayonet only; and that at the crisis of the conflict, when success was dubious, General Lincoln fell upon their rear, and gained a victory as honourable as it will be happy in its consequences to that suffering country. Seventeen hundred of the enemy were left upon the field, and all their artillery and baggage. The residue fled in small, detached parties, in every direction; many, if not all, of whom must inevitably fall into our hands. Mr Bryan, who brings this intelligence, may be relied on, as he is well known in Philadelphia as a man of honour and veracity.

WORCESTER, June 21.

We are informed by several Gentlemen from Boston, that the above intelligence is confirmed by a person who arrived there on Saturday last from New York, having made his escape from that city. The news arrived there by a vessel from the southward.



WORCESTER: Printed by I. THOMAS.

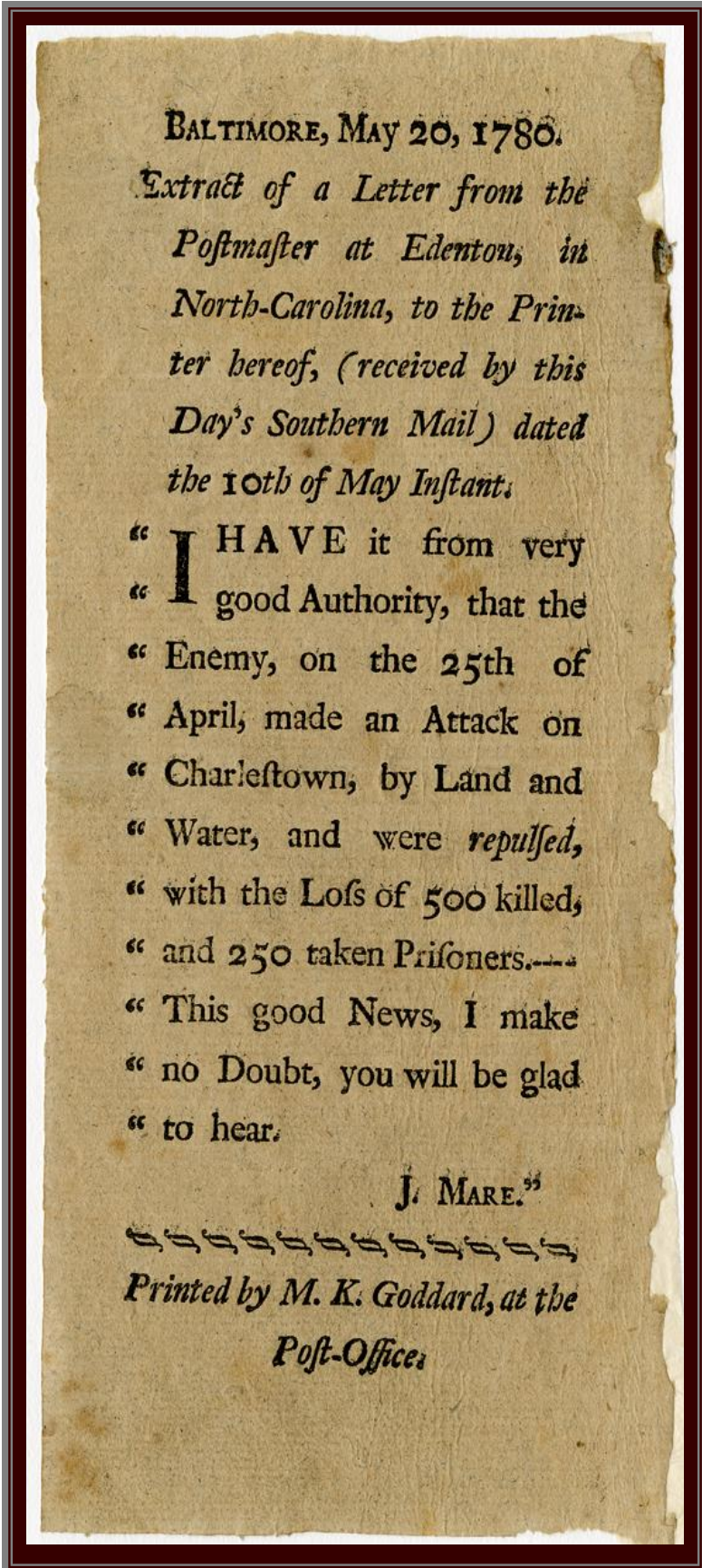
Providence, Rhode Island. Viz.: namely. George Bryan: lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania.

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Battle of Stono Ferry, South Carolina, June 20, 1779. Broadside printed in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The battle ended with no clear victory for either side, although the British succeeded in resisting the American attack, which had to be called off due to low ammunition. Of about 1200 American troops, about 30 were killed, 115 wounded, and 155 were reported missing. Of 900 British troops, about 30 were killed, 100 wounded, and an unknown number missing. (Statistics vary.)

Instant of this month. On May 8, shortly after the failed British assault on Fort Moultrie in Charleston harbor, the British captured the fort. On May 12, Charleston fell to the British.



Reproduced by permission of the Maryland Historical Society.

American repulsion of British attack during siege of Charleston, S. C., April 25, 1780. Broadside printed in Baltimore, Maryland.

Cornwallis Retreating!

PHILADELPHIA, April 7, 1781.

Extract of a Letter from Major-General Greene, dated
CAMP, at *Buffelo Creek*, March 23, 1781.

“ON the 16th Instant I wrote your Excellency, giving an Account of an Action which happened at Guilford Court-House the Day before. I was then persuaded that notwithstanding we were obliged to give up the Ground, we had reaped the Advantage of the Action. Circumstances since confirm me in Opinion that the Enemy were too much gauled to improve their Success. We lay at the Iron-Works three Days, preparing ourselves for another Action, and expecting the Enemy to advance: But of a sudden they took their Departure, leaving behind them evident Marks of Distress. All our wounded at Guilford, which had fallen into their Hands, and 70 of their own, too bad to move, were left at New-Garden. Most of their Officers suffered-- Lord Cornwallis had his Horse shot under him-- Col. Steward, of the Guards was killed, General O'Hara and Cols. Tarlton and Webster, wounded. Only three Field-Officers escaped, if Reports, which seem to be authentic, can be relied on.

Our Army are in good Spirits, notwithstanding our Sufferings, and are advancing towards the Enemy; they are retreating to Cross-Creek.

In South-Carolina, Generals Sumpter and Marion have gained several little Advantages. In one the Enemy lost 60 Men, who had under their Care a large Quantity of Stores, which were taken, but by an unfortunate Mistake were afterwards re taken.

Published by Order,
CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Printed at N. Wilson's Office.

Buffalo Creek, N.C. Instant of this month. Gauled, rubbed sore, damaged. Stores: provisions. Published by order of the Continental Congress.

Courtesy of the New York Public Library.

British retreat after defeat in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, N.C., March 15, 1781. Broadside printed in Boston, Massachusetts.

Important Intelligence of PEACE! Between America and Great-Britain, and all the European Powers at War.

SURE and CERTAIN.

NEW-YORK, March 26.
A GENERAL PEACE.

LATE on Monday night, arrived an express from New-Jersey, which brought the following account:—That on Sunday last the 23d inst. a vessel arrived at Philadelphia from Cadiz, with dispatches to the Continental Congress, informing them, That on TUESDAY the 21st of JANUARY, the PRELIMINARIES to a GENERAL PEACE, between Great-Britain, France, Spain, Holland, and the United States of America, were signed at Paris, by all the Commissioners from those powers; in consequence of which, hostilities, by sea and land, were to cease in Europe, on Thursday the 20th of February; and in America, on THURSDAY the 20th of March, in the present year, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

This very important intelligence was on Monday night announced by the firing of cannon, and great rejoicings at Elizabeth-Town.

Late last night arrived Lewis Morris, Esq; express from Philadelphia, who brought a printed paper, from which the following are copied.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24, 1783.

Yesterday arrived after a passage of 32 days from Cadiz, a French sloop of war, commanded by M. du Quesne, with the agreeable intelligence of PEACE.

The particular articles respecting this happy and glorious event are as follows:

The principal ARTICLES of the PRELIMINARIES of PEACE, of the 21st of January 1783.

FRANCE to retain Tobago and Senegal. France to restore to Great-Britain, Grenada, Saint Vincents, Dominica, and Saint Christophers.

St. Eustatia, Demerara, Barbice, and Iſe-quoibo, to be restored to the Dutch.

Great-Britain to restore to France, Goree, St. Lucia, St. Pierre, and Miquelon.

The Fishery of France and England, on the Coast of Newfoundland, to remain on the same footing on which they were by the Treaty of 1763, except that part of the Coast of Bonavista, at Cape St. John's, shall belong to the English.

France to be re-established in the East-Indies, as well in Bengal, as on the East and West Coast of the Peninsula, as regulated by the Treaty of 1763.

The Articles of the preceding Treaties, concerning the demolition of Dunkirk, to be suppressed.

Spain to retain Minorea and West-Florida. Great-Britain cedes East-Florida to Spain.

An agreement to be entered into between

Spain and Great-Britain, about the cutting of wood in the bay of Honduras.

Great-Britain to retain the Dutch settlement of Negapatnam, in the East-Indies.

Great Britain to restore Trinquebale to the Dutch if not retaken.

St. Eustatia, Demarara, and Iſequebo, to be restored by the French to the United Provinces.

Great-Britain acknowledges the Sovereignty and Independence of the Thirteen United States of America.

The limits of the United States to be as agreed upon in the Provisional Articles between them and Great Britain; except that they shall not extend further down the river Mississippi than the 32d degree of North latitude from whence a line is to be drawn to the head of the river St. Mary, along the middle of that river down to its mouth.

WORCESTER, April 1, 5 o'Clock, P. M. 1783.

We have this moment received the above truly interesting and pleasing intelligence by a Gentleman directly from Boston. The Intelligence arrived there yesterday in four days from the City of New-York.

Great rejoicing has been manifested where ever the above glorious intelligence came.

The preliminaries with America nearly as published last Thursday.

Copy of a letter from Elias Boudinot, Esq; President of the Continental Congress, to William Livingston, Esq; Governor of New-Jersey.

"An express has just arrived from on board a sloop of war in the river, which left Cadiz February 14.—She announces that the definitive treaty, having been signed by all the belligerent powers, on the 21st of January, all hostilities had ceased in Europe; and that the same happy event was to take place in this country on the 20th of March instant. The Count d'Estaing, who was ready to sail with sixty ships of the line, a very formidable armament, had given up the attempt, and was dispersing his fleet to the different ports. This ship does not bring us official dispatches, having been sent by the Count d'Estaing, and the Marquis de la Fayette; in hopes that she might by accident (as she has done) be the fortunate medium of the earliest communication.—Although the stage goes to-morrow morning, I could not with satisfaction to my own mind, suffer your Excellency and my friends in Trenton, to be deprived of the knowledge of so happy an event, one moment longer than absolute necessity required.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

LAUS DEO.

Express: mail delivery, usually by stagecoach. Cadiz, Spain. Lewis Morris: delegate to the Continental Congress from New York. Printed paper: broadside. Instants of this month. Count d'Estaing and Marquis de la Fayette: French officers leading American troops. Stage: stagecoach. Laus Deo: Praise be to God [Latin].

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Preliminary peace treaty signed in Paris, January 21, 1783. Broadside printed in Worcester, Massachusetts.