

P A P E R S

RELATING CHIEFLY TO

THE MARYLAND LINE

DURING THE

R E V O L U T I O N .

EDITED BY THOMAS BALCH.

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DANIEL M<sup>c</sup>CURTIN.

JOURNAL

OF THE TIMES AT THE SIEGE OF BOSTON

SINCE OUR ARRIVAL

AT

CAMBRIDGE, NEAR BOSTON.

Boston, August 9, 1775.

## PRELIMINARY NOTE.

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No colony responded more promptly or with more hearty zeal than Maryland to the resolutions of Congress, passed 14th June, 1775, asking for soldiers to serve against the British army in Boston. The two companies, assigned as her quota, were raised with the utmost alacrity and spirit, and the following Journal kept by a private in one of them, gives some account of their services on that occasion.

The particular part of the State required to furnish these companies was Frederick County. As then constituted, it embraced besides the territory now known by that name, the present Washington, Montgomery, and Alleghany counties, and a part of Carroll, within its limits; and a word may not be out of place concerning the origin and character of its inhabitants, whose patriotism and martial spirit were quenchless and who sent forth "certainly as many, and perhaps more "regulars," in proportion to population than any corresponding district in the country.

Most of the humbler settlers in the upper district were of German birth or parentage; a few were of Scotch or Irish extraction. They were people of industrious and thrifty habits, themselves and families tilling their small farms, independent, hardy, and frugal; pious withal, carefully preserving the old, russetbound, Dutch Bibles, which contained the records of their honest though humble homesteads, and, as even at this day, religious services were mostly performed in that which was the language of their forefathers, and was still dearest to their simple-minded descendants.

The wealthier classes were composed chiefly of gentlemen from either side of the Chesapeake, who, tempted by the fertility of the soil, fixed their homes beneath the blue hills of the Catoctins or along the banks of the Monococy. These carried with them frequently the accomplishments of an European education, and always the graces and information of a society which in its aristocratic refinement was unsurpassed by any in the Colonies. The tolerant government of the Province had attracted to the shores of the Chesapeake English Cavaliers, Irish Catholics, Scotch Presbyterians, who had unsuccessfully resisted Cromwell at Dunbar, Highlanders, whom penal statutes had rendered nameless,\* in a word, many of all classes which felt oppressed by British rule or legislation upon their native soil. Seions of these various stocks settled in the County of which we are speaking.

Thus the sources of life which mingled in this romantic and fertile region were in their elemental character respectively of the best. A requisition upon such a people for men to fight the battles of liberty could meet with none other than an eager response. Accordingly in one short week after the resolutions of Congress were passed the following proceedings were had:—

“FREDERICK COUNTY, (*Maryland*) COMMITTEE.

“At a meeting of the Committee of Observation of *Frederick* County, at the Court-House, on the 21st day of June, 1775.

. JOHN HANSON, Esq., Chairman.

“A letter from the Delegates of *Maryland*, and a Resolve of the Congress enclosed therein, were read, requiring two companies of expert Riflemen to be furnished by this County, to join the army near *Boston*, to be there employed as Light-Infantry, under the com-

\* Col. Ninian Beall, for whose services against the Indians, “*an act of gratitude*” was passed (*Bacon’s Laws*) by the Legislature commanded, as is said, a Scotch regiment at Dunbar; and the Magruders, a family of distinction in the Province and State, were originally, I believe, Macgregors, who were by a Privy Council Act of 1603, “commanded, on pain of death, to adopt other Surnames.” *Burke’s Landed Gentry*, S. V. *MacGregor*.

mand of the Chief officer of that Army, and proposed that the pay of the Officers and Soldiers be as follows :

Captain, per month, . . .	\$20	Corporal, per month, . . .	\$7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lieutenant, " . . .	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	Drummer, " . . .	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sergeant, " . . .	8	Privates, " . . .	6 $\frac{2}{3}$

"That they find their own arms and clothes ; that each company consist of a Captain, three Lieutenants, four Sergeants, four Corporals, a Drummer, and Sixty-eight privates ; that the form of Enlistment be as follows ;

"I, A. B., have, this ——— day of ——— voluntarily enlisted myself as a Soldier in the *American* Continental Army, for one year, unless sooner discharged. I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations as are, or shall hercafter be, established for the government of the said Army."

"Resolved, That, agreeable to the requisition of the Congress, and on the terms by them proposed, two Companies of expert Riflemen be forthwith raised, and officered by the following gentlemen.

Of the first Company,—*Michael Cresap*, Captain: *Thomas Warren*, *Joseph Cresap*, Jun., *Richard Davis*, Jun., Lieutenants.

Of the second Company—*Thomas Price*, Captain: *Otho Holland Williams*, *John Ross Key*, Lieutenants—another Lieutenant to be chosen by Captain *Price*, and approved by the Committee."

The character and appearance of "the Riflemen," their skill as marksmen, and their discipline as soldiers, their costume, which excited so much remark among their New England comrades,\* and the conduct of one of their commanding officers, are described in the following "Extract of a letter to a gentleman in Philadelphia, dated Fredericktown, Md., August 1, 1775."

"Notwithstanding the urgency of my business, I have been detained three days in this place by an occurrence truly agreeable. I have had the happiness of seeing Captain *Michael Cresap* marching at the head of a formidable Company of upwards of 130 men, from the mountains and backwoods, painted like Indians, armed with

\* *Thatcher's Military Journal*, 37.

tomahawks and rifles and dressed in hunting shirts and moccasins, and though some of them had travelled near eight hundred miles from the banks of the *Ohio*, they seemed to walk light and easy, and not with less spirit than at the first hour of their march. Health and vigour, after what they had undergone, declared them to be intimate with hardships and familiar with danger. Joy and satisfaction, were visible in the crowd that met them. Had Lord *North* been present, and been assured that the brave leader could raise thousands of such to defend his country, what think you, would not the hatchet and the block have intruded upon his mind? I had an opportunity of attending the Captain during his stay in Town, and watched the behaviour of his men; and the manner in which he treated them; for it seems that all who go out to war under him do not only pay the most willing obedience to him as their commander, but in every instance of distress look up to him as their friend or father. A great part of his time was spent in listening to and relieving their wants, without any apparent sense of fatigue and trouble. When complaints were before him he determined with kindness and spirit, and on every occasion condescended to please without losing his dignity."

"Yesterday the Company were supplied with a small quantity of powder from the magazine, which wanted airing, and was not good for rifles; in the evening, however, they were drawn out to show the gentlemen of the town their dexterity at shooting. A clap board, with a mark the size of a dollar, was put up; they began to fire at it off hand, and the by-standers were surprised, few shots being made that were not close to or in the paper. When they had shot for a time in this way, some lay on their backs, some on their breast or side, others ran twenty or thirty steps, and firing, appeared to be equally certain of the mark. With this performance the company were more than satisfied, when a young man took up a board in his hand, not by the end, but by the side, and holding it up, his brother walked to the distance, and very coolly shot into the white; laying down his rifle, he took the board, and holding it as it was held before, the second brother shot as the former had done. By this exercise I was more astonished than pleased. But will you believe me, when I tell you, that one of the men took the board, and placing it between

his legs, stood with his back to the tree while another drove the centre. What would a regular army of considerable strength in the forests of *America* do with one thousand of these men, who want nothing to preserve their health and courage but water from the spring, with a little parched corn, with what they can easily procure in hunting; and who wrapped in their blankets, in the damp of night, would choose the shade of a tree for their covering, and the earth for their bed.”\*

Col. Thos. Cresap emigrated from Yorkshire, at the early age of fifteen years, and settled at first in Pennsylvania, but in consequence of the unpopularity which he incurred for the part that he took in the disputes between the Penns and Lord Baltimore, disputes as to the boundary line, he removed to that part of Frederick county, Maryland, now known as Alleghany. Here was born his youngest son Michael, June 29, 1742. It was this Capt. Cresap who obtained an unfortunate notoriety as the person upon whom Logan was said to have charged the murder, “in cold blood, of all his women and children.” From this aspersion, his good name has been defended by Mr. Mayer, in an address before the Maryland Historial Society. The address is in faet a memoir of Capt. Cresap as well as of Logan, and gives moreover a lively picture of the struggles and sufferings of the Maryland frontiersmen. “Capt. Cresap, although in bad health, proceeded with his Company of Riflemen to Boston, and joined the American army, under the command of General Washington. Admonished, however, by continued illness, and feeling perhaps some dread forebodings of his fate, he endeavored again to reach his home in the mountains, bût finding himself too sick to proceed, he stopped in New York, where he died of fever, on the 18th of October, 1775, at the early age of 33. On the following day his remains, attended by a vast concourse of people, were buried with military honors, in Trinity Churchyard. Let us deepen and not deface the meritorious inscription on his humble and forgotten grave!”†

\* *American Archives*, 4th Series, Vol. iii., page 2. 1775.

† Tah-Gah-Jute, or Logan, and Captain Michael Cresap. A discourse, by Brantz Mayer. Delivered in Baltimore, before the Maryland Historical Society, on its Sixth Anniversary, 9th May, 1851. Baltimore.



“Lieut. Otho Holland Williams was born in Princee George Co., Md., in 1748. He was an accomplished gentleman and distinguished soldier in the American Revolutionary Army. His parents, Joseph and Prudence Williams, were born and married in South Wales, and emigrated to America between the years 1740 and 1745, and settled soon afterwards at the mouth of the Conococheague, which empties into the Potomac river at the place where the town of Williamsport now stands, where the pioneers erected a Fort to protect them from the Indians. Of their two sons, the elder, Genl. Otho Holland Williams, was born in the year 1748. After receiving what was then considered a liberal education, he received an appointment in the Clerk’s Office of Baltimore County, of which he had the principal direction, in which he continued until just before the war of the Revolution. Anxious to draw his sword in defence of his oppressed country, he received the appointment of Lieut. in a Company of riflemen, commanded by Capt. Price, which marched, in 1775, and joined the American Camp before Boston. In 1776, a rifle regiment was formed, of which Stephenson was appointed Colonel, Rawlings Lieut. Col., and Williams, Major.”

“Stephenson soon dying, the command devolved upon Rawlings, and it formed part of the garrison of Fort Washington, in the State of New York, at the time it was assailed by Sir William Howe. In this attack the rifle regiment opposed the Hessian column, and behaved to admiration, holding for a long time, victory in suspense, and severely crippling its adversary. The Fort was, nevertheless, carried by capitulation, and its garrison became prisoners of war. After the surrender of Burgoyne’s army, Col. Wilkinson, Adjt.-Genl. to Genl. Gates, who was personally attached to Major Williams, procured his exchange for Major Aekland. While in captivity, Major Williams became entitled to the command of a regiment, and as soon as exchanged was placed at the head of the “6th Maryland.” The Maryland and Delaware lines having been detached to South Carolina, soon after the reduction of Charleston, Col. Williams accompanied Baron de Kalb, and after Genl. Gates took command of the army, he was called to the important post of Adjt.-Genl. to the same. Gen. Williams bore a distinguished part in the battle of the 16th August, displayed great military ability in command of the rear

guard at the battle of Guilford C. H.; and shared with the commanding Genl. in the bitter and trying adversity of that disastrous period."

"When Genl. Greene took command of the Southern army, Col. Williams was retained in the station he then occupied, which he held to the close of the war, enjoying the uninterrupted confidence of the commander and the esteem of his fellow soldiers. History shows the distinguished part borne by him in the battles of Guilford, of Hobkirk, and Eutaw, in particular. After the war he was appointed, as some reward for his distinguished services, to the collectorship of the port of Baltimore, which post he filled until his death. His health had for many years before been delicate, in consequence of the hardships of his military life, increased in his case by the severe treatment experienced while a prisoner in New York, which was peculiarly oppressive at that period, when Sir William Howe commanded the British forces in America. He fell a victim to pulmonary disease in 1794. He was buried at Williamsport, of which he was the founder, and where a monument is erected to his memory. He left four sons, who have all since died."

"Genl. Williams was nearly 6 feet high, elegant in form, and one of the handsomest men of that day. His countenance was expressive and the faithful index of his warm and honest heart."

"Pleasing in his address, he never failed to render himself acceptable in whatever circle he moved, notwithstanding a sternness of character, which was sometimes manifested with some asperity. As a soldier he was a rigid disciplinarian, possessing that range of mind which entitled him to the highest military station. There was a loftiness and liberality in his character, which forbade resort to intrigue and hypocrisy, in the accomplishment of his views, and he rejected the contemptible practice of disparaging others to exalt himself. During the Campaigns of Genl. Greene, he was uniformly one of his few advisers, and held his unchanged confidence."

"Previous to the disbandonment of the army, Congress manifested their sense of his merit and services, by promoting him to the rank of Brigadier General."

"Col. Eli Williams, only brother of Genl. Otho Williams, was born in 1750, and educated in Frederick County, Md., and was commis-

sioned in the staff, with the rank of Colonel. He was also attached to St. Clair's army, along with Genl. Harrison, between whom an intimacy subsisted during the remainder of their lives. He was afterwards appointed to the Clerkship of Washington (Md.) County Court, which he held until his resignation, in 1800. He was highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities, and died in Georgetown, in 1823, in the 73d year of his age."\*

Notices of some of the other officers of these companies will be found in the foot notes. The MS. of McCurtin's Journal is in the possession of Mr. L. Clark Davis of this City.

\* From the MS. of Col. J. S. Williams (son of Col. Eli Williams), of Washington, D. C. There is also a biographical notice of Genl. Williams in *Lee's Memoirs, Appendix, i. 410.*

## M<sup>c</sup>CURTIN'S JOURNAL.

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During our journey we met nothing to date that was worth notice. 4 of our men deserted on the way. 5 fell sick, of which one died, and one returned home. We had a \_\_\_\_\_ at Bethlehem. At some convenient time I shall insert it. The barrenness of New Jersey, the rocks at the beginning of New England, the populousness of New E., the unfair number of fine ladies,\* the stones and walls of stone; fruit ——— † The 18th day of July our Company set off from F. Town‡ and travelled a quick but long journey in the space of 22

\* Mr. Robert Hare, an Englishman by birth, but at this time and subsequently, a citizen of Philadelphia, made memoranda of a tour through a part of North America, in 1774, and under date of July 19th of that year, thus expresses himself:—

“I proceeded early, breakfasted at a beautiful village called Westfield, and thence to dinner at Springfield, a small town on the banks of Connecticut River, and afterwards to Kingstown, in all thirty-four miles. The whole of this day's ride was through one of the finest countries in New England. One observation struck me very forcibly already—namely, the extraordinary beauty of the women of this part of America, exceeding not only every part of the Continent I had seen, but even New England. At Springfield I had a very favorable opportunity of observing this, for I met the whole town in procession to a funeral. Never did I see in so small a collection of women so many beauties. I found myself strongly disposed to stay here a few days for the pleasure of conversing with them, and should certainly have done so, if my affairs had not made it necessary to proceed with all possible dispatch.”

† Here is a break in the MS.

‡ Now Frederick City, Maryland.

days, containing nearly 550 miles. We have had a pleasant march during our journey. On the 9th day of August we arrived at Cambridge lying on the N. West side of the City of Boston within 2 miles of the corporation, but nearer by crossing the ferry. This Cambridge is a beautiful town, it has a University in it of a very elegant building and several other buildings for the Collegians use which makes the town appear very beautiful to the eye and makes me to believe that it was a very flourishing town in the time of peace.

About one and a half miles from Cambridge lays Prospect Hill where there is a fine large Fort containing several pieces of fine cannon with fort spears and other implements fitting for war, upon another small hill, named Plowed Hill, distance nearly one mile, where we have erected another Fort and have placed a few pieces of fine cannon. This Hill is near to Bunkers Hill so that our men can play upon them with great ease and they cannot hurt our men. We were encamped in a church for three days, which church lays opposite to the College in Cambridge. All our men in health, only much fatigued with our journey here. Upon the 13th August we marched from Cambridge in company with Captain Morgan's\* Company to a small village named Roxbury about six miles from Cambridge, and about two miles from Boston, situated on the S. side of the city and fairly exposed to their fortifications. This village has been a pleasant place, but the Regulars have spoiled it much with their cannon balls, and it is now in a manner desolate, the people having left their houses and given them to the Soldiers for to make Barracks of them for to protect their rights and libertys. The 14th day, being Sunday we had to stand Centry at a place called Lambs Dam while party of our musket men were erecting a fort. 15th. We had a most amaz-

\* Afterwards Gen. Daniel Morgan: "He marched his men from Frederick County, in Virginia, a distance of six hundred miles, in three weeks."—*Sparks' Washington*, ii. 100, note.

ing shout of cannon thunders which at this time seemed strange and shocking to our young soldiers, during this our first alarm. We were fired at with balls, bombs and Granade shells.

16. During this day they gave us a shot every now and then, but we had the honor of firing the first and last. Three Companies of our riflemen were marched from Cambridge to Cape Ann to prevent the Regulars from landing there.

17. This day early in the morning, we were fired at from the Neck with balls and bombs, seven at a time.

18. This morning as I was at breakfast in the former dwelling house of Dr. Williams they fired four 32 pounders at the house, one of which rushed through the room and dashed one side out of the chimney, broke 2 partitions and filled our dishes with plastering, ceiling and bricks. Geo. Switcher, Sergeant Torrel and William Johnson were in the room when this happened. Any man may judge whether or no this did not surprise us four young heroes, however as I cannot say for the minds of them who were in company with me, but I know, to the best of my thinking, that I went down two pair of stairs of three strides without a fall and as soon as I was out of doors ran to the Brestwork in great haste, which is our place of safety, without the least concern about my breakfast, to James McCancie's amazement.

19. Being a Sunday, last night, we had all the Riflemen to stand picquet to keep the Regulars from building a fort. Early in the morning they fired from Castle William at us. William Johnson deserted, like another noted villian, into Boston. We stood picquet while our men continued building the fort aforesaid. The firing being too continual, and the work not sufficient to cover our fatigued men, they were obliged to run a trench in the night for the men to cover themselves in the day time from the cruelty of the cannon balls. From this morning unto Thursday they have wrought continually day and night though much exposed to the cannon balls, without the loss of one man or even one wounded. The same day being

the 25th, at 12 o'clock we had an alarm at a small distance from us, the place is called Dorchester, where (we suppose) they were going to make an attempt to come ashore in boats, expecting to drive us—upon hearing this we got all in readiness for battle and prepared to place in use the alarm port—this alarm port is a breastwork in which we can lie with all security and not be hurt by a cannon ball, then we marched from the alarm port to Dorchester Point, but the musketeers had drove them off from the shore so great a distance that our guns would not reach them. Our Captain seeing they were gone off wheeled about and marched us far into the country for to supple our joints and make us healthy. Just as we were returned home, they threw a bomb in Roxbury which accidentally fell upon the fuze in soft ground, and sunk in so far that the fuze could not get air, which made it die out, then our men went to the place and dug it out, which they weighed, and it was 190 pounds. It fell  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from where the Regulars threw it from. Nothing more but clear fair weather, cool nights, but very windy.

26. This day nothing very remarkable, only one cannon ball which they fired at us when we were paraded and exercising in an orchard, but the ball bounded before it came to where we stood and went through an apple tree and cut one of the large boughs through so far that it broke down to the ground, which caused the shaking of a great quantity of apples that was not ripe, and scared two of our men so that they ran for shelter. Fine clear weather. They have begun a firing from Bunker's hill at the men on Prospect hill, but did no damage to us. This night sixty of our Riflemen went down to Lamb's dam to lie, but in the night went down lower than the dam for to fire upon the Regulars' Sentries. The night being clear, and the Regulars seeing our men advancing up to them they then fired upon us, but did no damage to us. Our men then returned the compliment, and so retreated back again to said Lamb's dam in great haste (N. B. we went up within ten rods of

them), and there lay for the remaining part of the night. Our men supposed there was about 200 of the Regulars by the appearance of the different ways of shooting at us. Afterwards came Captain Cressep up accompanied with [great] Thunder and lightning, which than the firing we had before. No more alterations this night at Roxbury, but they have a great throwing of bombs from Bunker's hill at our men.

29. A heavy rainy day, all over here that made our men keep in their quarters. I took the opportunity of writing a letter to Mr. Keyser in Hagerstown. No firing on either side this day nor nothing remarkable, only a flag of truce coming near several times to our side.

30. Wet rainy weather, one of our men named Wm. Norris died with a long sickness, and was buried in as genteel a manner as we could get it done.

In the night two of the Regulars deserted from them and came over to us. After they came into our guard house the Regulars fired thirty cannon balls at us, and killed two of the Musketeers dead on the spot, and slightly wounded one of the Riflemen. The Soldiers say there was another one of the Musketeers killed, but I did not see him, therefore I cannot certify to the truth, but the other two I saw with my eyes. The firing caused a great alarm amongst the Soldiers. A very long rainy night from the time of the firing until near daylight, and then it cleared up.

*September.*

1. No alteration this day, being all quiet.

2. At nine o'clock in the morning our men fired six cannon at once at them and three field pieces, and upon our firing they returned 12 cannon balls and one bombshell, but we continued, they firing the whole day. Very cold nights, we find them to be here.

3, 4, 5, 6, 7. We had no great noise amongst us on any subject; fair weather, but still cold nights. But on the seventh



their flags came out to our side several times, but I heard no account or news from them.

8. This day in the afternoon they fired several bombs and balls at us, but our lot, blessed be the Lord, being so good and merciful that not one of our brave men was in the least hurted ever since our arrival till now.

9. This day on account of some of our riflemens' misbehaviour we were stopped by the Sentries, but had a free pass until now. Nothing else remarkable during this day, but Sam. Mance deserted. Finby and Smith were confined. Captain Morgan's Co. sot off for Quebec with several more.\*

10. This morning early the enemy fired three cannon at us. This being Sabbath day our Rifle Company were marched to Dorchester Meeting house, where we had a fine sermon, but the appearance of us as well as many other Companys seemed something strange to me, when I could see nothing else but men loaded with the ministers of death, going to hear God's word; every company had their whifers and drums, and marched into the House of God under arms. This and every day as they fired off their Sunsett guns, like other false tyrants, they fired another in among us, but did no damage. We also took six of their men prisoners. Very much camp news but nothing serious.

11, 12, and 13. Quiet times and fair weather. The 13, Jacob Smith was released, very fine weather day and night these three days.

14. Nothing happened this day worth inserting, one of their men came to us last night with his gun &c.

15. The above having left his Brother in Boston, and upon his finding that his brother left him, he also and 15 more found some means to come this night to Cambridge.

\* Arnold's Expedition. Mr. Graham, in his recently published life of Gen. Morgan (p. 61), says: "The troops left Cambridge on the 13th of September."

16. This morning early our men were ordered to work, nothing more new this day.

17. This morning early our men fired about 15 cannon, the fire killed 2—wounded five mortally, and broke down a large portion of their breastwork.

18. This morning being a dark foggy morning and our men taking their opportunity of the fog, worked very thick, but the fog clearing up we were directly spied upon which they fired 15 cannon at once at us and continued firing the whole day, but hurted none. Last night 5 of the Regulars deserted to us. This day we sent in our flag of Truce with some letters, but when the enemy met the flag they asked what they wanted, our men answered nothing, but had something for them, upon which they told our men to be gone for damned rebellious sons of Bitches. Some change suspected, our men are ordered to all duties.

19. This day continually we had cannon discharges at us from our enemies, and we likewise kept firing at them. Last night four of our own men came to us, from that Crocodile, and second Pharoe, namely Tom: Gage. Not one of our men hurted.

20. This day we have had a heavy but warm rain the whole day. This day also our army is computed to be above 60,000, and that we have taken and killed of the Regulars 2500.\* We had six Regulars come to our side last night.

21. Last night 5 Regulars came to us. Nothing else of note this day.

22. This day at sunset we had thunders of cannon round our ears, but had none hurted. We fired some few, there came 11 men to us last night. This day the Regulars had fine sport firing powder, it being the King's Damnation day, or Coronation day, as they call it. In the afternoon they fired three

\* Of course, this computation was not "official."

cannon at us; very rainy weather. Great suspicion of war, or what I may call a field battle.

23. This day we fired 5 -eighteen pounders, in return they gave us 108, but hurted not one of us, though they concluded that they killed 100 of us.

24. Nothing remarkable. Cold frosty night and fair days. Gaber and Dasy sott off for home.

25. Last night was a most unaccountable cold frosty night. This morning we fired 3 7-pounders, but got no return. Wm. Long wrote his first letter to Natt. Morgan.

26. This day I was ordered by the Captain to the Room Fort to work, it being my first days work. No cannonading at either side. 300 of our men went out on the scout to Governor's Island in whale boats. They began to cut turf on the Commons of Boston this day.

27. This day high blustering winds and mighty heavy rains. In the afternoon our men returned and brought 17 head of horned cattle, two fine horses, killed one steer, drowned an elegant fine mare, burnt down one dwelling house and two boats. As soon as our men landed on this Island the Regulars fled for it.

28. This day we had no alterations, but had the honor and pleasure to see troops of ladies and gentlemen coming to view our forts.

29. This day the Arabian Ann, Man of War, removed from Bunker hill channel to Dorchester hill, but her place was supplied by another larger vessel. This day I was on the mean guard over cattle. This night I was at Judge Hutchinson's fine house, guarding steers and sheep above. But O my! the piercing coldness of this night.

30. This morning I being relieved of the mean guard, I sott off, but before I reached our cabin, our men fired two 18 pounders, but was paid back by 28 of the like kind. We had not one man hurt. This day our men found a Regular dead

and rotten on our shore, this poor body we supposed to have been coming to us, but as we supposed to have been tired in crossing the neck and drowned near our coasts.

*October.*

1. From this day until the 4th we had nothing of note save that of the coldness of the weather.

5. The evening of this day they discharged 9 cannon at our Meeting House where about 2000 men were collected, but hurted not one man. This morning the Regulars came out very civilly with their flag.

This morning they came out again with their flag. Had no account of note.

This was the first time we got our account of a Man of War from England, bound for Boston, which was loaded with provision &c. This ship our men took and made a prize of. The ship and cargo is appraised or more properly valued at 13,000 pounds sterling. Last week our men also took a ship and cargo on the River Providence, loaded with fruit and sea turtle. The aforementioned vessel was loaded with flour and ammunition, also three days ago at Cape Ann was taken one ship laden with black cattle, sheep and hogs. Those three prizes our brave men has made with the loss of one man only, which like other enterprises is very amazing, but being governed by the Hand of the Almighty, when exposed to the thunderings of their cannons in slight fishing boats not an inch thick. But how amazing is it, this first ship that we took, all the hands on board killed, 15, and wounded many more. The others were taken without killing many, but made them all prisoners.

6. This morning our Artillery having spied a party of Regular Soldiers collected together on the neck, among whom they fired a cannon, and made a street right through their body, in return they discharged 89 cannon at us, killed two cows and shot off one of the musket men's arms from the

elbow, it being his right hand. This day one of Captain Stenson's\* and one of Crissip's Company died of the flux.

Elegant fine weather, day and night these few days past. It is much talked that Tom. Gage is for setting off for England soon. It is also thought that we will soon sutt off for storming Boston, though I am of opinion as well as many of our old warriors that it will prove a difficult task, it being almost surrounded with cannon and fortifications.

7. Nothing remarkable this day.

8. Last night as one of their Grenadiers was standing sentry at Brown's Chimnies, together with more Regulars and the night being a wet dark night he took some opportunity to make his escape to us, but being missed soon by his party they fired about twelve guns at him, but he made his escape to us with joy and huzzas.

A wet rainy day, but warm in the evening. There came one of the light dragoon horsemen to us, he says that a comrade and him, made up in the stable for to go swim, which they immediately agreed upon and so attempted for to come, but the sentries spied them and hallowed them for to stop, but they did not mind them, they then fired upon them the floating battery. Observing that they were firing sent out a boat down the channel to see if they could spy any thing, they then observed this man's comrade and catched him, but did not observe this man, by which he arrived safe on our shore, he was received with a great deal of joy. He says there is a ship going out soon from this place, with nearly 200 Rangers for to forage in the back settlements, all well armed for to fight their way amongst the woods, but I hope they will not get their designs accomplished, if our brave heroes hear where they intend to strike.

9. This morning one of our Riflemen, belonging to Captain Stenson's\* Company, received 39 lashes well laid on for desert-

\* Qu.?

ing and stealing a twenty dollar bill, and after his having had his number he was drummed out of the camp by fifty and two drums and as many whifers. This was the first time that ever I heard such a number of drums beat all together, they made such a report in my ears, when accompanied by such screaming of whifes that I could not hear the next man to me, or however could not hear what he said. Last night was a fine moonlight clear night and not very cold. But this during the day blew very high wind, but warm. Our men watched this whole day to give them a shot, but got no opportunity. Nothing else remarkable.

10. This morning we were informed that Tom. Gage is sotted for England, but no certainty of it. This very day about 11 o'clock a ship set sail from Boston, and as she sailed off they fired several cannon, loaded with powder which makes us to believe that General Gage was aboard of her, or some other man of note among the English. This day being windy and fair, we had no more news. I got a heavy headache. We expect firing of cannon to-morrow at both sides, but our men are determined to begin.

About the first day of this month Inst. one Doctor Church being our general Doctor was discovered to have kept correspondence with General Gage by letters, a large quantity of letters from that Dam: G: was found with him and several copies of his own.\* Also on the 7th of this month Inst. our men had a battle at Newport in Rhode Island. But we don't know yet how it happened or ended.

11. This day though much expected we had no firing at either side. Our flag went in with letter, but we received no account. This day about 11 of the clock came Doctor Williams to take away a Corn house belonging to him, which

\* A hearsay account. For a biographical notice of Dr. Benjamin Church, of his correspondence with the British, trial, &c., see *Sparks' Washington*, iii. 502; see also *Bancroft*, vi. 409-431; *Chandler's Crim. Trials*, i. 417, note.

stood adjacent to our house. This corn house was 13 ft long and 11 Broad and very strongly made. He brought a cart, 6 oxen or steers, and two horses, first the House was lifted upon the cart and balanced evenly then our men conveyed him for about a mile off, at which time we met a hill, which made us think that the house could never be hauled up, we halted a little and this Doctor Williams went into an orchard and fetched a hat full of apples and came out on the hill top and spilt the apples and expressed himself in these words to the steers: "come up and you may eat apples." At which words the cattle strained and pulled for life untill they got up which caused us to laugh very heartily and wonder much. My headache still continues pretty sore. A fine day.

12. A droll affair happened at Kindernock last week. A young fellow who hated liberty, took much pains wherever he went in villifying the measures of America—going one evening to a quality frolic where a number of young women were collected and where he was the only man in company he began his aspersions upon the Congress as usual and entertained the girls a good while on the subject, till the girls exasperated at his impudence laid hold on him, stript him naked to his breeches and instead of tar covered him with molasses and for feathers took the downy tops of flags that grew in the garden and coated him well, then let him go.

He has prosecuted every one of them and the matter was tried before one Justice Sullivan, but we have not heard the sentence yet.

Last night was a wonderful night of thunder, Lightning and rain.

We have been informed that four of our friends in Boston having got liberty from G. G.\* to go in company with two Tories, as they were supposed Tories too, those six sailed off untill they got out of the Capes and when they found them-

\* Genl. Gage.

selves at a convenient distance from the seat of despotism, our 4 friends obliged those two real Tories to accompany them into Salem, where the vessel arrived last Tuesday safe.

This whole day I have been very sick of my headache.

13. This morning we have been informed that our men having grappled the King's packet boat, and seized it, as also the hands. We read the packets and then sent them into Boston to let them read them after us.

This being a fair day but last night very cold. I have had a physic to day which I believe occasioned my head to get better.

14. I'm almost got well. Nothing of note this day. This morning we had ice on the water. A fine day.

15. I got quite well. Nothing else remarkable.

16. Nothing of note. I wrote to Jno. Collins.

17. This day I got a little better. A fine fair day but nothing of note. Geo. Huddle deserted out of our Company.

18. This day four or five ships came into Boston. But they coming late in the evening we had no account from them. Also last night two new floating batteries belonging to us went out a coasting, it being their first night fitted out.

They fired in Boston about 16 guns, and by accident splitted or busted one of the cannon, two of our men were killed on the spot and 7 wounded. The floating battery sunk, but we saved the loading and the living and wounded crew.

19. This day we had nothing remarkable, a foggy day but warm.

20. This day we had nothing of note among us. A heavy foggy day.

This morning two of the Regulars (or else three) but I know not which number, came out from Boston to Cambridge and one of our Riflemen who ran in there some time ago. I have heard nothing of what they say, or have said. This same day one of our musket men falling at variance with one of his comrades shot him on the spot for which he is to be shot by



order of a General Court Martial, but on what hour or day I cannot say, but when it happens I shall insert it.

This day being wet and foggy, I have heard nothing of note. But morning, towards daylight our sentries and the Regular' Centries began to fire at each other like hail, but our Sentries received no hurt. This night was a surprising dark and rainy Night untill day light.

(Turn over this day.)

This day one of our men in Boston and a sister of his took a boat and pretended to go oystering. This sister of this young man dressed herself in man's cloathes and her brother and her rowed the boat ashore.

She was a fine young lady, and looked very plump in her dress and stout withal, she brought a bundle of fine cloaths along.

This morning also one of our men belonging to the mean guard was missed. We dont know nor eant tell, whether this man was killed, or whethér taken by the Enemy, or else went to them, but it is supposed that he is not gone to them of his own will as he has his father and brother in the same Company where he was.

21. This day I have heard nothing of note from either side, being obliged to keep close quarters, it being an inundation almost, it poured rain so hard, and last night in like manner it rained and blew.

One of the Regulars came over to us last night.

22. This day being a Sunday I heard nothing of Note. Their flag of truee came out this morning. By the flag we learn that some ships are sailing soon from Boston to Old England. Since the 6th of this month Inst. we have not been fired upon as appears by the Journal, neither do we see or hear any signs of their firing from either side. This day blows very hard, but dry and moderate.

23. This day I went on the Mean Guard for George Switcher's sake and a little before dark our flag was sent in. They hailed

our men and told them to halt, and that before they were at the line, though I was very close to them I heard nothing, because they said nothing, but delivered their letters or papers. There is more and more noise about our going into Boston and various other accounts.

This day was a fine day, but looked much snow like, and pretty pinching.

24. Last night hailed very fast for some time, and this morning I got up at the gun shot which is generally fired at day break. I have seen a vast number of men and though I am well acquainted with seeing large numbers of men at this time, yet I wondered much at the infinite number which I see this morning collected together. It was a dry serene morning until about 10 o'clock at which hour it began to hail very thick.

General Gage is gone to England without doubt, also Adml. Greaves. Gen. Howe is in the place of Gage, and the other is succeeded by ———.

25. This 24 hours I have nothing of note to insert, having no alterations among us, excepting the general conjecture which always remains—i. e. being compelled to keep a sharp look out in the day time and have many hundreds under arms every night. The Regulars exhausted a vast quantity of powder this day in honor of George the third, it being his consumption day, O no! his assintion day.

26. Last night I stood Picquet, and though I am well acquainted with vast numbers, or at least am no stranger to seeing large collections of people, yet the immense number of armed men which marched this night to the alarm posts, really drew my attention and surprised me much. I was one of the number and had to stand the whole night, cold and piercing as it was. We had ice this night to the surprise of many of our southern climate men, it was so solid as not to have been thawed until about one o'clock in afternoon. Falmouth is

lately burnt. The People of Newport in Rhode Island is lately removing out in expectation of having that town burnt.

27. I have had an account this day, which actually assures from good authority that the Indians and Canadians are in our favour. We have been very silent here these times but it is believed that we shall have it soon hot and heavy. The enemy's silence is much suspected for a plot. This day was a moderate day, but the coldness of the night I can't describe. The 18th Inst. Captain Crissop died at New York.\* I heard nothing else of any account.

28. This twenty four hours we have no account of note. This day is a cold rainy day.

29. Last night tho' very cold, our men scized a fine boat, belonging to our infernal enemy which lay at anchor close to their floating battery, in which boat was six oars and other materials. We took the boat and its contents without opposition, and carried it to the General's door, when we went to the boat there was none in or about it but it's much suspected that they fled from it.

This day being a Sunday, is a fair, but a very cold north west wind. Our men work this day as well as every other day in the week to get their Barracks ready and accomplish their forts.

Last Wednesday one of the Regulars Sergeants came out to us, and brought one of our rifle guns along. Also this evening met a friend of ours and a particular acquaintance of mine who came lately out of Boston. He informs me that the Enemy is drawing a cannon through the town of Boston in order to incompass that town corporally and lay snare for us in case we should attempt to go in.

30. This day was a fine fair day, and last night a cold frosty night. This day I was on the fatigue party.

\* Capt. Cresap.

31. An elegant fine day. Nothing material happened these two days.

..Some of our men went out on the scout this day.

November the first, 1775.

1. This day we had nothing of note. A fair day, But frosty nights.

2, 3, & 4. We had no material occurrence.

5. Being a Sunday the Regulars fired off all the cannon they had in memory of the Gunpowder plot. When this farce begun I thought that heaven and earth was coming together, the firing came so thick and heavy. Captain Price\* set off for Maryland.

6. A fine day. Nothing remarkable.

7. This day at 12 o'clock 3 women and one man with all their baggages were sent to us from Boston, they being advised that all our friends there, are to be let out in a few days.

8. This day we have nothing remarkable. Daniel Stull is made Sergeant.†

We had a warm fire on our men at Winter's hill from the enemy, who received from our side a fire. Their floating batteries went out close to our side and fired cannon and small arms: in return our men fired at them. This action continued for about 2 hours. But we received no account.

9. A fair moderate day. We received accounts that the Regulars yesterday came out at Prospect Hill first to take some live cattle, and as they sailed out the enemy fired at our men from the fortifications, ships, tenders and batteries. Yet

\* Afterwards, 1776, Major of the Maryland Battalion; and, March 27, 1777, Colonel of the Second Battalion, Maryland Regulars.—*McSherry's History of Maryland, Appendixes A and C.*

† Daniel Stull was subsequently promoted to a Captaincy in the Seventh Maryland Battalion (Regulars), Lt. Col. Peter Adams, commanding. McCurtin's MS. has Capt. Stull's name written in it, as though it had passed into the hands of the latter. In *Lee's Memoirs* (Appendix), i. 410, for *Steel* read *Stull*.

our men in the middle of all their firing went down on the open shore and attacked them. We killed six dead and can't account for the Number we wounded, and that without the loss of one man, and wounded but two. One was grazed on the breast, another slightly wounded with a stone which flew from a stone wall at the impulse of a cannon ball. Our men are at work this night and last night at the Peninsula where they came out. We suspect that this will breed some trouble soon.

10. Last night two Regulars came out to Cambridge. This morning four Regulars were found dead on the ground where yesterday's battle was. One Rifleman was killed after the fray by one of their large plums.

11. Nothing of note happened this day. A dry moderate day and very cold nights.

12. A very blustering cold frosty day, but no accounts of note.

13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. We had no account of note, excepting some Regulars coming out in the nights to all quarters and monstrous deep frost. This day its as good as 5 inches deep and very blustering winds. Last night I stood Picquet, I never yet felt such cold. St. John's was surrendered last month. I am much indisposed after last night's cold.

18. Cold frosty weather and snow.

19, 20, 21, 22, & 23. Still continues frosty and cold. No account worth inserting. This day is a day of thanksgiving in England.

19. Desperate cold weather, snow, frost and high winds.

20. Great talks of the Regulars making an attempt soon.

21. The above rumor still prevails. No picquet, but a very strong guard and far more so than common.

22, 23, 24, & 25. Still continues colder and colder. No accounts.

26. Being a Sunday we have had no news, it being a severe cold day, frost, snow, high winds, and rain sometimes. Our

men entertains a strong thought of the Regulars making an attempt soon.

27. This day I heard nothing material. Very cold weather.

28 & 29. Nothing occurred worthy my notice. Some flags came out and brought some goods and a Chaise to one of our friends from Boston here.

30. We received information that our Privateers took a Transport loaded with small arms and belonging to the enemy.

December 1st, 1775.

1, 2, 3. I have seen nothing of note, but it is reported that our men on the Coasts took a great prize, but I can't tell it for certainty. Yet those 3 days were fine days and clear weather.

10. From the 3rd untill this day I heard nothing material excepting the ship Nancy taken by our men at Cape Ann in which was the remarkable 13 inch Mortar pounder called the Congress. In this ship were various other Artillery and War-like stores: During this time the weather has been very favourable.

11. Nothing of note this day.

12. Jno. Collins came into the Camps, and visited me.

13. Jno. and I went to Cambridge to see the noble brass Mortar pr. called the Congress which weighed 27 cwt. 2. 16.

14. No material occurrence.

15. Nothing material this day.

16. The Regulars fired several cannon at our men, at Copple Hills, in return of which, our men, there returned many shots at the vessel at Bunker Hill channel.

17. She left her place and is much suspected to be hurted and much damaged.

18, 19, 20, 21, 22. They continued firing at both sides from Bunker's Hill side, but no damage done to us. Those two days past and this day are pronounced to be the coldest three days that ever happened, to the knowledge of many of the

inhabitants here, however they certainly are remarkable in my eyes. The bay was frozed up in two nights.

23. Very cold and frosty.

24. Last night it rained and snowed heavy, and continued the whole day. I went in company with another young man about three miles out of our camp this day, and never felt such cold in my living days. We bought some fruit and fowl for Christmas day.

25. This is a fine day, though the snow is very high, but it shined the whole day, in a clear sun. In the afternoon I enlisted at a fencing school just by our Camps.

26. Was a fine clear day and desperately cold. This evening Jno. Collins came to see me. I took a walk with him in company with Sergeant Stull and Corporal Teas and after we drank some together I conveyed Jonny home and got my left hand four fingers frozed up, but were brought to again, by the family's procuring some stuff for that purpose. John got one of his frosted, but it swelled up before he got any thing applied to it.

27 & 28. Fair sunshine day. No news.

29. This day is a fine sunshine day and remarkable for its warmness. Great talk that we shall soon storm Boston.

This day five Regular soldiers skated over the Bay on the ice to us, and landed on Brookline, there were several small arms fired after, but they came safe to us.

30. A moist day but not very cold. No occurrence.

31. A rainy day and cold. No news.

January 1st, 1776.

1. This day blew desperate cold, but ceased in the night. No material occurrence.

2. A fair sunshine day but no news.

3. A fair day. No news.

4. I was on Qr. Guard. No news. A fine day.

5. I received 1£. 16s. No news but fine weather. A monstrous windy day, but dry.

6. A fair day, but somewhat smart. There is great talk that we shall soon make an attempt on Bunker's Hill.

7. A fine dry day, but no material occurrence.

8. Last night we had a fine sight here, or more intelligibly speaking, from here. When our men or a part of them went over across the neck and set the remains of poor Charlestown in a flame of fire, which the Regulars held for Barracks. This caused the hue and cry among the Regulars, then bursted out their thunders of cannon from their ships, forts, batteries and all other places. Begun battering with field pieces on the streets of Boston. We also got ourselves ready for an engagement and just as we got to our alarm posts the Regular troops fired a volley of small arms, which caused the whole company to turn out on our side. Our men while the Regulars took to thus preparing themselves made free enough to purchase five or six Regulars with some few small arms.

9. This day went down to New York a number of Artillery men.

10. No material occurrence this day. We have information that seventeen carpenters were consumed on the night of the 8th inst., in the flames of the conflagration at Charlestown.

11. No news this day. Very cool frosty weather.

12. Still frost and snow but no news.

13, 14, 15, & 16. No material occurrence, but still cold weather with frost snow and rain.

17. This day being a fine moderate day and I being unwell, I was sent out to a place called Jamaica Plains, about three miles back in the country to St. Thomas' Hospital. But O Good God, what was my surprise and astonishment when I entered this deplorable house of pangs and misery where nothing was heard but sobs and sighs, some crying to their Lord for relief, others with a tremendous and shivering tongue, blaspheming his August holy Name. Some would start up from their little



couches, sometimes seizing the adjaent afflicted by the eyes, or attempt to jump out at a window, if not interrupted. Some with shrilling voice attempted to express some emotions of the mind but could not perform his designing task for the want of the use of them faaulties necessary to human beings, but what was most striking in my eyes, was this, that the most part of the whole were blistered, some of whom got eleven patches on their bodies at once. This faint relation of the Hospital was all that I could gather material during this interval of time. But an extreme deep frost and continues desperate eold. Our men prepares exeeding fast for Dorehester hill. The duty now is desperate hard. This day Lieutenant Williams\* got his Commission for Captainship, being February 5th, 1776.

21. Since the first to this date we had nothing of note, excepting this, viz, About three days ago, about 300 of the Regulars came out from Castle William to Dorchester Hill and sot five or six houses on fire but being interrupted by our men, who put out some of the houses, however the villains took care to seize six of our men in their ehase. Very high frosts, but little or no snow.

March the 1st, 1776.

From the 21st ult. untill this date we had nothing material. Great preparations making for our going on Dorchester hill which we believe will very soon happen.

2. Last night our men begun a very heavy fire from several parts on Cambridge side and Roxbury lines. The Regulars played from the West side of Boston. But we fired several shells which they answered not.

3. Last night also the same firing was kept going from both sides.

\* Of whom some notice has been already given; subsequently, March 27, 1777, Colonel of the Seventh Maryland Battalion and Brig. Genl.

4. Those other two nights which I have mentioned I thought was bad enough. But O my God the wonders of last night. Just as it was dusk our people let fly at them from all sides and corners. I can't, it's impossible I could describe the situation of this town and all about it. This night you could see shells, sometimes 7 at a time in the air and as to cannon the continual shaking of the earth by cannonading dried up our wells. We lost 2 men this night, but I heard no certainty from Boston's loss, it must be great, for our Cannon balls went Bang, every shot through the houses, besides most of our bombshells broke about their barracks and in the streets, it is reported however that one of our shells happened to fall in Boston hospital and killed near a hundred of both sick and well.

This very night as was suspected we entrenched on Dorchester hill, made two strong Forts and seven small breastworks. I cant tell how many men there was on the hill, but this I am certain that there were between 5 & 6 thousand, though I have been informed by authority that there were 11 thousand. This night our Riflemen at Roxbury and 2 Companies from Cambridge went and lay in ambush close by the water side expecting every moment that the Butchers belonging to the Tyrant of Great Britain would be out among us.

5. This morning about 5 o'clock, they spyed our works to their immortal grief, at which the fire ceased a little, but then begun a weak fire from the Block house on us, which soon ceased again, in short they did not attempt to come out to us this first day.

6. Last night we had a violent storm of wind and rain. I never before felt such cold and distress, as I did this night and I believe it was the case in general with our men.

7. This morning at 10 o'clock we, viz. the Riflemen, left the hill and went back again when we had some provisions cooked. No firing those two nights.

8. Last night we came home and slept a little, which really

was needful to the whole of us, being five nights successively without rest. We had to go and come to & from the hill this day again in order to be there at high water.

9. No material occurrence this day. Still attend the hill at high water.

10. Last night about 8 o'clock in the evening the Red Lobsters\* spied a little fire which a party of Centry made on a small hill adjoining the water and very close to Boston. I believe it is about 300 yards from the Town, being a point shooting out of Dorchester hill and upon seeing the fire on this hill, they suspected as we suppose that we were going to entrench on this point and that they must be certainly Caught, but to prevent our working on this little summit they drew up [I don't know how many ships of war] and let fly at the whole hill at large, but more particularly at the point. Our men in like manner fired from the Forts at all sides into Boston, But no bombs from either side. It's needless to specify a word about the enormous thunders they kept going, and as to giving any account of the number they fired at the hill, no man on earth could do it, however there was a watch kept for half an hour where I was and in that space of time there was 200 cannon fired at the hill, which makes in 14 hours, they continued firing 5600. At clear daylight they stopped, there were about 400 fired from us.

We lost this night but 4 men but they were cruelly massacred.

Another was found dead. This day there set sail from this harbour 24 sail 5 of which were put back by contrary winds before they were far from the wharfs. It's thought those Canabals will soon set off from here.

11. Last night there was no firing from either side. There has been a report to day that his Majesty's sheep are gone and exiled from Bunker's hill (Amen) sacked by Yankees.

\* British soldiers. So called from their uniforms.

12 & 13. We stopt from going on the hill. We got orders to get ready for a march to-morrow.

14. In pursuance to yesterday's orders we marched off at 2 o'clock and went to Cambridge. We were stationed this night in the College among other soldiers.

15. This morning at 9 o'clock we sot off on our march to Watertown. Got six days bread to take along on our baeks. The cakes we got were so hard that indeed I did well know what to do with my share as I could not chew, and to pound them would be spoiling of them. We continued our march to about 6 miles. We slept in barns, eoked some meat and had very bad fare.

16. This was a wet foggy day. We marched and bad marching it was. When we marched about 9 miles we stopt at one Colonel Bennisters, here lay 12 twenty-four pounders, 5 twelve-pounders 2 Howitzers 8 inch-pounders and one small mortar piece. Yesterday I feteched 6 biscakes for my 6 days and threw them away at this house.

17. This day we eoked—in morning at Captain Bekers Grafton Township—we drew provisions at his Commissary store and took his wagon along, and about 5 miles off it broke, then we got chains and taekeled it up and marched on to Sherman's Tavern in the Town of Grafton. We had confounded bad walking this evening. We are exactly 40 miles from Cambridge.

18. We marched to Sutton, 6 miles from Grafton. A fine day. No breakfast for the men. We continued our march 9 miles to Oxford. I had bad rest this night. Our intire march is 56 Z miles. We lodged at one Bomans.

19. We sott off pretty early went through Dudley and rested at Woodstock, that night exceeding good road. Our march this day was 16 miles.

20. We marched to Southard 16 miles. Good road.

21. We marched through Bolton and rested to feed. Here is a huge rock and a surprising artificial eave in it. I went up

about 40 feet to view this arch and found it to be full of rooms, stairs and entries. We continued on to Harford and had good road, but in crossing Connecticut River was very dangerous. Such bad flats and high winds which caused the water rough. Here our Company stayed this night it having turned out cold and wet. I met Mr. Connor returning from Quebec after deserting the Regulars.

22. We marched through Weathersfield and continued to Wallingsford where we breakfasted at little Harford.

23. This was a fine travelling morning. Bad stony ground. We came into New Haven. This is a beautiful town and a fine seaport. It has 4 churches in it and several grand buildings, besides a large University. Here also were a vast number of iron field-pieces.

24. Thence through Stratford to Fairfield 25 miles. We crossed a fine navigable river named Housatnock and passed through fine low lands.

25. This day we came up to the Green sounding along the north side of Long Island, in the evening the land got Blake and rocky. We put up at Stanford after crossing Milford 39 miles from Fairfield.

26. Lands very poor. We still go along the green soundings. At 10 miles from Stanford, we came into N. York Government.

27. We traveled from East Chester pretty slow and got no breakfast, but what little we took along with us.

28. We marched on about 10 o'clock. When we came to King's Bridge we saw on one side of the road 184 pieces of iron cannon, all marked and numbered. I also saw a most amazing Rock on a ridge like as if it went due N. I could not see the end of it, but I thought it to be 100 ft. high, E. side of Bridge I saw it.

Here is the first place I heard a cow bell since I left Boston. About 2 o'clock we came into N. Yk. Barreck to ourselves for this night.

29. This day I travelled through the town and see about 18 Cannon from 12 to 32 pounders mounted at and about the wharfs. In all the town I believe there are 300 Cannon.

30. We were ordered to get ready for a second march but where I don't know.

31. We still remain in town. Nothing else of note.\*

[April, 1776], New York.

We took their colours and none was in the engagement but ourselves and Stinson's Company. The first party of our men that reached the place took the prisoners. There was 3 killed, one of what we took was wounded. We marched home at 3 o'clock with the colours flying. None of our men was in the least hurted. One of the farmers near this place was slightly wounded in the side with Grape shot, as he was driving off cattle back of us.† Last night came 4 men from the ships to us.

8. This day I was on the Mean Guard. We caught a Tory carrying Sauce to the enemy.

9. No material occurrence. There were some forts laid out this day on our Islands adjacent to the rivers North and Killmiculler.‡

10. No material occurrence. I heard that Adam Ott was in N. Yk and bound for Quebec.

11. No material occurrence. Last night was a desperate cold night.

13. Nothing material. Adam Ott and Company came into this Island. I see him and all the boys from Hagers Town.§

\* Several pages of the MS. are missing here.

† This fragment of an entry probably refers to some small skirmish about one of the fortifications constructed for the defence of New York, by Gen. Lee's orders. Mr. McSherry does not mention it.

‡ Killmancull.

§ In Washington (formerly part of Frederick) County, Maryland. It was from this town, I doubt not, that McCurtin came.

14. We had an alarm, but nothing happened.

15. The Asia went down to the Narrows to the ship Phoenix. This place called the Narrows is about 8 or 10 miles from New York right at the Harbour's mouth.

16. Nothing material.

17. Adam Ott and Co. went to N. York and are supposed to be intended for Quebec. The ship Betsy & Polly was launched out in the river Killmakull yesterday, prepared for a privateer.

18. We had nothing material, excepting scarcity of allowance, but this was the first time we ever had it. The ships are cleared out of the Harbour.

19. No material occurrence. Our Armies keep continually passing and re-passing to and from this Island.

20. No material occurrence.

21. Nothing of note.

22. Nothing at all material.

} Be it known and kept in  
 { memory that happy day  
 { we got possession of Bos-  
 { ton. March 17, 1776.

Nothing at all material untill the month's end, excepting our great men having various changes in their proceedings relating to the general moving of the Soldierys from one place to another. Several gone up to Quebec and great noise about Independency. The people seem to quiver at the word, I mean the inhabitants of this Island.

May 1st, 1776.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd. No material occurrence.

4, 5, 6, & 7. Nothing worth my inserting.

8 & 9. No news nor occurrence.

10. One Wm. McClue of Captain Stinson's Co. shot off his own hand accidentally upon Main Guard, its supposed that he did not ram down the bullet and as he was somehow pokey,\*

\* *Pokey*—a provincialism for awkward.

the following day his hand was cut off above the wrist. Some think he did over load.

11 & 12. Nothing new.

13. This day I went to N. York. The strength of this place at this time is actually wonderful to behold. I could see nothing there that is otherwise than warlike.

14 & 15. No material occurrence.

16. This day all the cannon there were proved with a double charge and two balls. One broke, but did no damage as I heard of.

17. This few days cloathing has raised here to an uncommon price, as for instant one skein of silk is sold at 3 shillings, and in proportion for other articles. This particuar point confounds the Privates very much. The Lord relieve our distressed country.

18. We had no material occurrence here.

19, 20, 21, & 22. Nothing material happened, but on the latter we were informed that a fleet was here on the coast.

23. Nothing material.

24. Last night a party of us went out about 4 miles from our Station to a Country frolic 8 in number, among whom I happened to be and in the course some one of our men began a toast and drank success to our Honorable Congress. There happened to be an old fellow in company, and when he got the bowl, he drank success to the King and all his proceedings. We all still kept neutre, and the first that got the bowl belonging to our party drank Damnation to the King and all his proceedings and gave the bowl around untill it came to this fellow again. And as soon as he got it drank Damnation to the Congress and all theirs. We would not have heard so long, but the house being full of people and none of us but only 8. Yet notwithstanding our dread and the fewness of our numbers, against upwards of 30 who were then in the house, We all 8 started up and laid hold on the fellow and as soon as we seized him not one soul staid in the house to our inexpressible joy, in



short we paid off the reekoning and dragged this fellow through thiek and thin, untill we came to Head Quarters, then it was no better with him. The Guard took one end out of a hogshead and compelled him to dance Yankee Duple in it untill next day.

25. The Captain let the above fellow go home\* for having been instrumental in that horrid act of assassinating his Excellency and other Generals and Staff Officers, &c. &c.

28. No material occurrence.

29. This morning as I was up stairs in an outhouse I spied, as I peeped out the Bay, something resembling a Wood of pine trees trimmed. I declare at my noticing this that I could not believe my eyes, but keeping my eyes fixed at the very spot, judge you of my surprise, when in about 10 minutes, the whole Bay was as full of shipping as ever it could be. I do declare that I thought all London was in afloat. Just about 5 minutes before I see this sight I got my discharge.

December 7th, 1775.

Then settled with Lieut. Wm's for the months July and August

Rested in my debt	.	.	.	.	.	.	£ 6.9.0
9th. One pair stockings	.	.	.	.	.	.	4.6

George Switeher's Acc. Date as above

One gun	.	.	.	.	.	L: M:	£ 3. 8.0
Blanket and Leggings	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.18.3
Napsaek	.	.	.	.	.	.	0. 3.0
Hoppers	.	.	.	.	.	.	0. 0.8
Cash	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.14.0
One pair shoes	.	.	.	.	.	.	0. 8.0
One Jacket	.	.	party.	.	.	.	0.10.7
The cloath for one Coat and Trimmings	.	.	.	.	.	.	1. 5.1
							<hr/> 7. 6.7

One pair stockings	£ 0. 4.6	}	.	.	.	.	0.13.6
One shirt	0. 9.0		.	.	.	.	
To Cash Reed.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0. 4.0

\* A gap occurs here in the MS.

SIEGE OF BOSTON.

41

Danl. McCurtin to Capt. Price  
 Nov. 7th, 1775.

Dr.

Then settled with Lieut. Williams Ballance due to me as per	
Ledger of the first 2 months . . . . .	£.6.9.0.
Received since one pr. stockings . . . . .	4.6
Nov. 28 One do. shoes . . . . .	6.0
In cash . . . . .	3.0
Dec. 21. One Coarse shirt . . . . .	8.0
	<hr/>
	19.6
	6.9
	<hr/>
	12.8
Bl. Bugg	2.3
	<hr/>
	4 10.5
	<hr/>
	12
Jan. 4th. Ballance due me . . . . .	7. 9.7
By cash received . . . . .	4. 5.3
Jan. 5. By cash received in part . . . . .	1.16.0
By cash in N. Yk . . . . .	1.10