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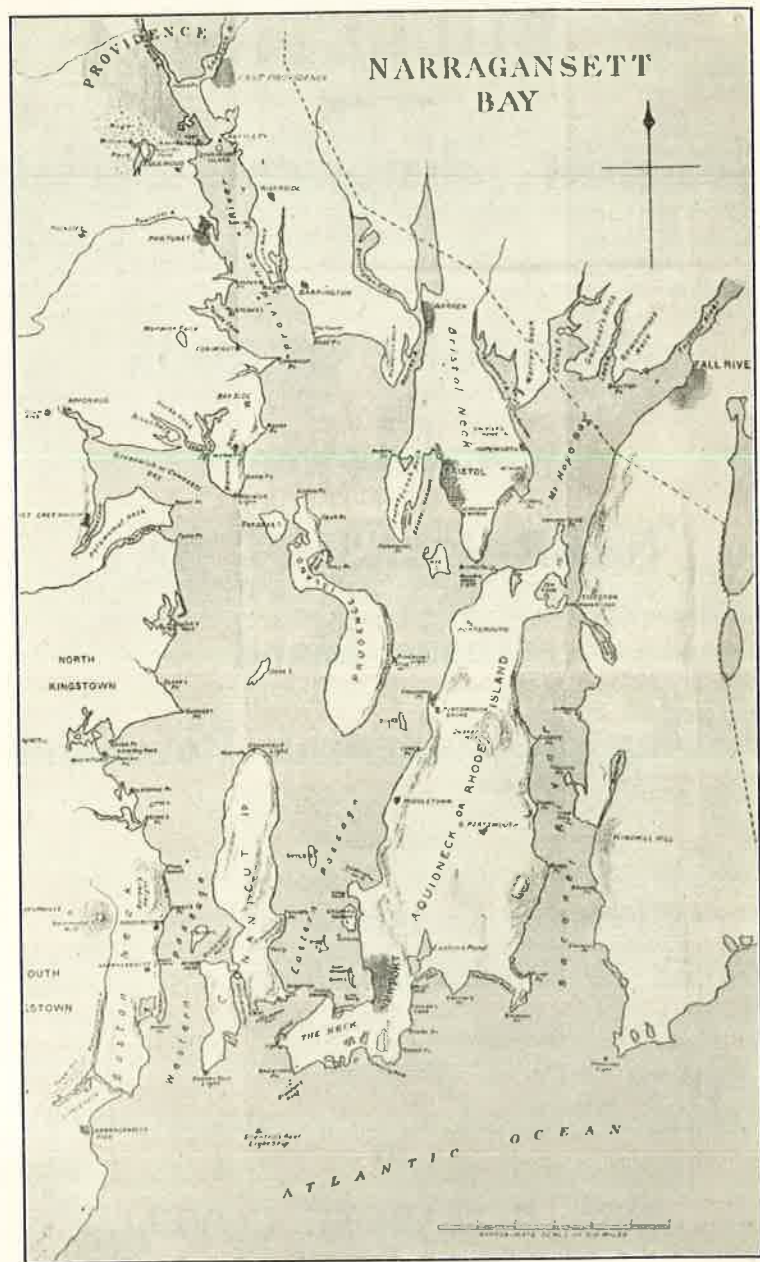
**NEWPORT HARBOR**  
and Lower  
**NARRAGANSETT BAY**  
Rhode Island  
During the American Revolution

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A PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY  
NOVEMBER 21, 1932

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BY  
**MRS. ELIZABETH COVELL**



## NEWPORT HARBOR AND LOWER NARRAGANSETT BAY, RHODE ISLAND, DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The following account is taken from the diary of Frederick Mackenzie, who was an officer of the British Army sent to America to put down the revolutionary measures of the British colonists south of Canada. He was with the army at Boston, Long Island, and Newport; not only this, he was actually in Newport during practically the whole of the British occupation. His diary is a record of the observations of a fair-minded officer who was a keen observer, and who gave thoughtful consideration to the events which were taking place before him, and recorded his private judgment as to the causes, progress, and likely results of the events which he recorded. He expresses frankly in this, his private journal, the thoughts which would perforce remain unuttered, as he could express them neither to brother officers, nor to men under him. It is interesting to see how closely present day history agrees with him in his judgments of men, measures, and currents of opinion then surrounding him.

The diary was published in two volumes by the Harvard University Press, and these excerpts from it are printed as an historical monograph by special permission of that organization. The Newport Historical Society wishes, thro the compiler, Mrs. Covell, to express its gratitude to the Editors of the Frederick Mackenzie diary, and to the President and Fellows of Harvard College who hold the copyright for permission to put into compact form those parts of the diary directly dealing with the events of the Revolution connected with Newport Harbor. The map in the frontispiece has been added for convenience: it was not a part of the original diary. The diary includes other maps of great local interest but as they were not directly connected with the events which took place in the lower bay and harbor they are not included in this monograph.

TYPES OF RIG USED ON BRITISH VESSELS NAMED  
in the  
FREDERICK MACKENZIE DIARY

*Schooner.*

A Schooner may have 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 masts, but all of them are schooner or gaff rig—the two names are used interchangeably. Less than two masts is a sloop. A topsail schooner of two masts has a square sail on the *top* of the foremast.

*Sloop*

A moderately sized vessel, without deck, excepting the small cabin near the single mast.

*Ship*

Of the ships proper, so called, a full rigged ship has three masts (seldom more), all *square rigged*. A *Bark* and a *Barkentine* also have three masts; the *Bark* has *two* masts *square* rigged, and *one* schooner rigged: while the *Barkentine* has only the foremast square-rigged,—the other *two* are schooner rigged. The *Brig* has only *two* masts. The true *Brig* has *both* masts *square* rigged (with sometimes a small schooner rig sail as aid on the mizzenmast): the *Brigantine* has the *foremast* square-rigged, the *mizzenmast* schooner rigged, (altho there may be two small square sails on the top of the mizzenmast.)

(Mizzenmast means literally, the mast near the rudder: so that in two-masted vessels the masts are called foremast and mizzenmast; in three-masted vessels the masts are named foremast, mainmast, and mizzenmast.)

*Frigate*

A frigate is a three-masted *ship of war*, with all of the guns on *one* deck. Warships, however, were usually of two or three tiers of guns (see old illustrations). False gun

holes were often painted on ships of war, to simulate more guns than the vessel actually carried.

*Snow.*

“A snow is a vessel equipped with two masts resembling the foremast and mainmast of a true ship, and a *small* third mast just abaft and close to the mainmast, carrying a trysail. In rig a snow resembles a brig.”

*Galley.*

“A long single or half-decked vessel of war, propelled primarily by oars or sweeps but also having masts for sails.”

E. B. COVELL.

BRITISH VESSELS IN NEWPORT HARBOR

1776 to 1779

(List compiled from Mackenzie Diary.—E. C.)

1. The Buffalo ( supply ship.)
2. The Swan.
3. The Tortoise.
4. The Grampus (on which Burgoyne sailed back to England.)
5. The Bristol.
6. The Brilliant (Frigate.)
7. The Apollo (Frigate.)
8. The Venus (Frigate.)
9. The Brune (Frigate.)
10. The Eagle.
11. The Dispatch (Sloop of war.)
12. The Neptune (Armed schooner.)
13. The Maidstone (Frigate.)
14. The Soleby (Frigate.)
15. The Sphynx.
16. The Swift (Sloop of war.)
17. The Cabot (Armed brig.)
18. The Ariel.
19. The Mermaid.

20. The Harcourt.
21. The Centurian.
22. The Thames.
23. The Royal George.
24. The Isis.
25. The Andromeda (Frigate.)
26. The Halifax (Armed schooner).
27. The Haerlem (Sloop.)
28. The Fanny.
29. The Fowey.
30. The Tryon.
31. The Trident.
32. The Preston.
33. The Cornwall.
34. The St. Albans.
35. The Ardent.
36. The Experiment.
37. The Phoenix.
38. The Roebuck.
39. The Richmond.
40. The Pearl.
41. The Nautilus.
42. The Vigilant.
43. The Princess Royal.
44. The Culloden.
45. The Galatea.
46. The Maria
47. The King George (English privateer.)
48. The Cerberus.
49. The Chatham.
50. The Syren (Frigate.)
51. The Kingsfisher (Sloop.)
52. The Lark (Frigate.)
53. The Diamond (Frigate.)
54. The Unicorn.
55. The Juno.
56. The Renown.
57. The Amazon.
58. The Orpheus.
59. The Fox.
60. The Rose.

61. The Lady Parker (later named 'The Pigot') (Schooner, later fitted as a galley.)
62. The Flora.
63. The Blaize Castle.
64. The Faulcon (Sloop of war.)
65. The Reasonable (one of the transports for Burgoyne's men.)
66. The Somerset.
67. The Nonsuch.
68. The Strambolo (Fire ship.)
69. The Corysford.
70. The Bedford.
71. The Grafton.
72. The Conqueror.
73. The Royal Oak.
74. The Fame.
75. The Sultan.
76. The Niger.
77. The Russell.
78. The Invincible.
79. The Monmouth.
80. The Greyhound.
81. The Grand Duke of Russia.
82. The Adventure.
83. The Senegal.
84. The Emerald (Frigate.)
85. The Lord Sandwich (Prison ship.)
86. The Alarm (Galley.)
87. The Spitfire (Galley.)
88. The Grand Turk (Transport ship, formerly an East Indiaman.)

[Vol. I. p. 68.]

The first record in the diary in which Mackenzie speaks of Newport, Rhode Island, is one which makes note of news which had appeared in the Newport Mercury of Sept. 30, 1776. Mackenzie was then with the British army on Long Island, but had obtained a copy of the Newport paper. The Mercury, one of the oldest newspapers in the Colonies, had been started by James Franklin, brother of Benjamin

Franklin; and, as Newport was then a town of much wealth and commercial importance, its newspaper was widely read. This issue of Sept. 1776 records that a conference had been held between Lord Howe and three members of the Congress of the then newly declared United States. Lord Howe stated that he could meet with them only as private citizens: to which their reply was that *they* could speak only as a *committee* from Congress. They agreed to listen; but as the offers of conciliation which Lord Howe presented were only of a general character and gave no hope of British recognition of the United States as an independent government, this meeting came to naught. The three members of Congress were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Edward Rutledge. After their report Congress resolved to enlist 88 Battalions to continue the effort to gain independence, and the British army began movements which the diary will now record.

[Vol. I. p. 72.]

"Preparations are making for the movement of a very considerable part of the army by water, as many of the transports have been getting ready, and some part of the heavy Artillery and other matters are put on board. It is not improbable that an attempt may be made upon Philadelphia. This is far from being impracticable. But it is generally supposed that the expedition is intended against Rhode Island or some considerable port or place to the Eastward. Most people think Rhode Island is the place, as the harbour is a very fine one for our large ships, the Island very defensible, and the Rebels have but a small force there. . . . Several transports sailed for Halifax. They are to return loaded with coals for the use of the Garrison during the ensuing winter. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 79.]

Oct. 15, (1776). Arrived the *Perseus* frigate, from England, with about 20 sail of victuallers under convoy, in 11 weeks passage. The *Perseus* took a Rebel privateer of 8 guns off the coast and brought her in with her. Oct. 20. The greatest part of the last Fleet from England came up from

Sandy Hook this afternoon. The remainder of the fleet came up. The whole amounts to about 120 sail, and the reinforcement of troops to between 7 and 8000 men. . . . Some of the Captains of the Navy who went through Hell-gate the morning of the 12th Instant, have since declared that it was a most hazardous enterprise to go through a channel of that nature with such a fleet; . . . for there the tide runs with the utmost rapidity, forming dreadful whirlpools, and at half tide roaring over the masses of rocks in the middle of the Channel. . . . I have frequently seen large transports go through *stern foremost* with *all sails set and filled*, the strength of the tide overcoming the power of the wind upon the sails. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 86.]

A report prevails that the Rebels have been defeated near Ticonderoga by (the—our) Army from Canada. It has been said that if that Army, after leaving a sufficient force in Canada to secure the several points there, had embarked, came down the St. Lawrence, and made a descent on some part of New England, or attacked Rhode Island, it would have rendered more service to the cause than by anything which it can effect on its present line of operation. . .

[Vol. I. p. 95.]

Nov. 3 our troops are still on Long Island. It appears rather too late in the season to attempt Rhode Island, although the position of that Island would be extremely advantageous, securing an excellent harbour for large ships, and in a large measure commanding the entrance of the Sound. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 102.]

Nov. 11. Near 200 sail of vessel went out this day for England and Ireland, (mostly empty victuallers.) . . . .

[Vol. I. p. 117.]

Nov. 29. (The) greatest part of the Expedition fleet is now at anchor in the E (East) River. About 60 sail are as-

sembled. Rhode Island is certainly our object, at which place it is said there are some Rebel Frigates, and a great quantity of goods and stores . . . Dec. 1. [The Expedition fleet weighed anchor at daybreak, sailed through Long Island Sound and arrived at Newport Dec. 6, 1776.]

[Vol. 1. p. 122.]

At eight o'clock (A.M.) saw Block Island at 10 Point Judith, which is the S. E. point of Connecticut. (?) and at 12 made the Light House on the S. point of Conanicut Island at the entrance of Rhode Island harbour . . . and stood up the Western Channel between Conanicut and the Main. When the leading ships had got as far as the N. end of Conanicut Island, they hauled round the point to the Eastward, and steered down the Middle Channel toward Newport, and anchored at 5 in the afternoon, about 4 miles from Newport, between Dyer's Island and Weaver's Cove, and immediately off Mr. Stoddard's house.\* As the fleet turned round the N. end of Conanicut Island we saw three large ships and a Brig, standing up the harbour at the back of Prudence Island, with all sails set. We soon found they were Rebel frigates, commanded by Mr. Hopkins, Commander-in-Chief of the Rebel fleet. They went up toward Providence.

No armed Rebels appear on the shore. A few appear on Tammany Hill, about 2 miles from the Town, where they appear to have a work thrown up, and on which there is a Beacon erected. The Rebel Colours are flying on the Batteries below the town. [The following morning] 8 Dec. The Army landed at Weaver's Cove. The first embarkation under Genl. Prescott, marched as soon as formed to the high road from Newport to Bristol Ferry, a short distance from the landing place. The 5th brigade and the two Hessian brigades were ordered to encamp near the road above Mr. Stoddard's house. The 22nd Regiment went down on their transports to Newport, and finding the Rebels had abandoned it, they landed and took possession of it and the Batteries. It ap-

\*'Mr. Stoddard,' whose house on Green Lane, Middletown, R. I., is still standing, was a Loyalist, and had probably been in communication with the British officers. His portrait, painted by Feke, is owned by a descendant, and was until 1931, in Newport, R. I.

pears that the Rebels have driven off a considerable number of Cattle and Sheep belonging to the Inhabitants; and have removed most of their Cannon and Ammunition. The Rebels have Batteries on the Main at Bristol Ferry and Howland's Ferry (Stone Bridge.)

[Vol. I. p. 125.]

Dec. 11. The frost being very severe, the three brigades which are encamped, were this day ordered to go into Cantonments in the farm houses. . . . The Emerald Frigate is anchored in the passage between this Island and Prudence Island; another frigate is stationed above Prudence to prevent any vessel from passing between Conanicut and the Main; and two others are stationed in the Eastern, or Sekonet passage, to prevent any vessel from passing at the back of this Island. Orders given this day for all the Inhabitants to give in their arms. The inhabitants of this Island being principally Quakers, are exceedingly alarmed at the appearance of the Hessian troops. Barracks have been prepared and fitted up for the Regiments in Newport.

[Vol. 1. p. 127.]

There is a hill about 7 miles from Newport, and on the Eastern side of this Island called Quaker Hill, from there being a Quaker meeting-house on it, from whence there is a very fine view of all the N. part of the Island, and the beautiful bays and inlets, with the distant view of towns, farms, and cultivated lands intermixed with woods, together with the many views of the adjacent waters, contribute to make this, even at this bleak season of the year, the finest, most diversified, and extensive prospect I have seen in America. The Ships of War are in such positions as to make it appear as if they were placed there only to add to the beauty of the Picture. In the beginning of summer this must be a delightful view, and I should think hardly to be equalled in America, or any other country.

[Vol. I, p. 128.]

Dec. 18.—General Smith has the command of all the troops cantoned on the N. end of this Island. His quarters

are at Mr. Collins's on the West Road, about 5 miles from Newport. I am in the house with him. . . . A Detachment of 200 men, British and Hessians, ordered to go to Long Island with six transports, to bring wood for the use of the troops in Newport. . . . Permission has been to such of the inhabitants as are recommended by the Commanding Officers, to make use of their boats by catching fish, and to keep a gun for killing wild fowl.

[Vol. I, p. 130.]

Dec. 25.—The Prize that was taken on her entering the harbour a few days ago, is one of a coal fleet from Louisbourg to New York. She was taken by the Alfred, Privateer belonging to Providence, and was sent in here by her not knowing the place (Newport) was taken. . . . Orders have been given to be particularly careful of the Mills on the Island. As there is no stream of water in the Island, wind mills are used by the Inhabitants for grinding their Corn. There is a fulling mill upon a very small run of water near General Smith's quarters, used for fulling the woolen articles made by the inhabitants for their private use."

There is a lapse in the Diary from Dec. 1, 1776, to June 2, 1777. No reason is given, nor is any explanation given in the preface. It may be that Mackenzie went with part of the fleet to Halifax to meet or be with his family, as the Diary later on speaks of his wife's coming to Newport to be with him; or he may have been ill, as he speaks several times of how cold his bedroom was,—a bottle of ink having frozen over night.

[Vol. I, p. 135.]

June 4, 1777.—This morning a Rebel Sloop weighed from Howland's Ferry, and having a favorable wind she went to sea. Seven shots were fired at her from the Redoubt at Fogland ferry, but without effect. She appeared to be armed, and was full of men. It is surprising the Commodore does not station a vessel in the Seconnet passage, to prevent those of the enemy from going out in this manner. The Diamond Frigate is now stationed near Dyer's Island; but

as the Lark and the Galley are advanced above her, she does not appear to be of any use there. She certainly would be of some service in the Seconnet. . . .

June 8. We are very anxious at this time to have some accounts from New York, from whence we have not heard for near a month. We are entirely [ignorant] of the operations of the Army under General Howe. Neither do we hear a syllable relative to the movements or operations of General Carleton's Army.\* . . . The country has a very beautiful appearance at present, and there is a fair prospect of our having plenty of everything except Beef and Mutton.

. . . June 10. Thick fog from 12 last night till 8 this morning. Very fine day. Last night the Rebels made an attack upon the Subalterns' post on the road to Commonfence Neck. They had landed about 50 men in the bottom of a little bay: . . . having nearly surrounded the house, they fired a good many shot; our men fired very briskly on the Rebels, and they were beaten off. Patrols were sent out, but they could discern nothing of the enemy, except the noise of their oars in going off in their boats. . . .

[Vol. 1, p. 140.]

June 13.—A Rebel Frigate of 28 or 30 guns attended by a Brig, and some smaller vessels, came out of Providence River this morning and anchored about 5 miles this side of Providence. It is supposed they will attempt to go to Sea the first fair wind.

June 17.—A Prize, taken by the Unicorn, was brought in today. She had 1200 barrels of flour on board.

[P. 141.]

Sir Peter Parker gave an entertainment on board the Chatham, to above 50 Ladies and Gentlemen. . . .

June 19. Yesterday evening a Rebel Brig came down from Providence and stood toward Papasquash Point. At

\*These were the weeks when the Army waited for news from Burgoyne, which, when it came, told of his surrender.

1 o'clock this morning the Lark made a signal that a vessel was coming down, and fired several shot at her; but the distance was too great to do her any damage. About 2 this morning she came out of Bristol bay and having the advantage of wind and tide, she soon passed our battery. She stood up the bay, and anchored off Mt. Hope. If our Galley had been at her station it is probable she would have taken her. The Brig appeared to be one of 14 guns which came out of Taunton river some time ago, and went up to Providence. The whole Rebel fleet may get out if they have only the spirit to risque a few shots from our Batteries, as they pass, for as our Frigates are now stationed they cannot prevent them, if they take the proper advantage of winds and tides.

[Page 142.]

The Kingsfisher resumed her station in the Seconnet passage this morning.

June 20.—About 5 this morning a Rebel Sloop which lay in Bristol Bay got under way, and passed through the ferry. She appears to be a Privateer, and mounts about 10 carriage guns besides Swivels, and was full of men. She is a very handsome sloop, quite clean, and well rigged. The Brig which lay near Mount Hope was seen at anchor up Taunton River this morning. It is probable they will both go to sea the first fair wind after the dark nights come on. Our galley is now stationed near the Greyhound off Greenwich.

June 24.—A very warm day. Wind S. W. The sloop which lay in Bristol Bay passed through the ferry last night under favor of the Fog, without being discovered.

. . . The work which the Rebels have constructed on the hill above Howland's Ferry appears to be irregular in its figure, but very extensive. . . The Unicorn arrived this morning with a Privateer Sloop, which she captured off Nantucket; also with a small sloop from St. Martins to Boston, laden with Rum, etc.

[Vol. I, p. 147.]

July 7.—Very fine weather, and not too hot. Wind S.

A fine sea breeze which generally comes in about 10 o'clock in the morning, at this season, and continues til sunset, moderates the heat greatly, and makes this Island a delightful residence during the extreme heats of the summer months. The Sea Breeze seldom extends so far up the Bay as Providence. We can frequently observe, when there is a fresh breeze from the Southward which agitates the surface of the water all round this Island, that the breeze dies away somewhat to the Northward of Prudence. This Island used, before the War, to be much frequented by families from the West Indies, and the Carolinas, during the summer months. . . .

[P. 148.]

July 11, 1777.—Last night a party of Rebels landed behind General Smith's late quarters at Redwood's, from whence they advanced to General Prescott's quarters at Mr. Overing's on the West Road. They laid hold of Genl. Prescott and carried him off, also Lieut. Barrington, his aide. One Barton, a hatter of Providence, was known by Mr. Overing, and appeared to have command of the party. The Rebels certainly ran a great risk in making this attempt. They, however, executed it in a masterly manner. . . . It is certainly a most extraordinary circumstance, that a General Commanding a body of 4000 men, encamped on an Island surrounded by a Squadron of Ships of War, should be carried off from his quarters in the night by a small party of the enemy, and without a shot being fired. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 153.]

July 13.—A flag of truce was sent up to Providence to Mr. Cooke, the Rebel Governor, but as he was absent, Mr. Stephen Hopkins, who signs himself President of the Council, answered it, and from this and a letter from Genl. Prescott it appears that he is on parole, has lodgings in Providence, and is civilly treated. He is soon to be removed to Lebanon in Connecticut, under parole to Mr. Trumbull, Reb. Gov. of Conn. The Rebels told Capt. Barry, that they attempted the enterprise, entirely with a view to have a person in their hands as an equivalent for General Lee. . . .



July 21.—At 12 o'clock arrived the Swan, Sloop of War, with Major General Pigot (who is to take command in place of Prescott.) On the 23 he visited all the Posts on the N. part of the Island. Lieut. Genl. Sir Henry Clinton, who arrived lately at New York from England, is to have command of New York, Long Island, Staten Island and Rhode Island.

[P. 161.]

A considerable detachment has been stationed on Conanicut Island, where they have been employed in cutting and making hay for the use of the Army. 1000 tons may be made on that Island. General Howe has ordered that 2000 tons be made on this Island also. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 166.]

Aug. 13.—Came in The Flora from Halifax; and The Orpheus, Juno, and Amazon. They brought in several prizes with them, and have sent 14 or 15 to Halifax during their Cruize. . . .

Aug. 15.—Warm weather. Wind S. Great thunderstorm. I have observed several times within this month, that the southerly winds, which prevail most, bring in a quantity of fog and vapor which form clouds at the head of the Bay near Providence; these clouds produce thunder and lightning, and are driven down the Bay by a N. or N. W. wind. The ensuing morning is clear and hot and without any wind, until about 10 o'clock, when the Southerly breeze begins to come in. Easterly winds usually bring in rain and thick weather. The high situation of this Island, and the fine Sea breeze which comes in before noon almost every day, during the Summer, renders it temperate and very healthy. . . . The inhabitants of this Island have a most promising appearance this year (1777) of a plentiful crop of Indian corn and potatoes, also hay, oats, barley, and rye. Very little wheat is produced on the Island. . . .

[Vol. I. p. 169.]

Aug. 22.—Mrs. Mackenzie and my family arrived last

night from New York; they were left at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in June, 1776 and wintered there. . . .

Aug. 27.—A brig was discovered passing the Battery at Fogland ferry. The Kingsfisher Sloop discovered her, and fired on her, and she changed her course and ran on shore. A great many shots were fired, her people being obliged to take to their boats and row to the shore; as she had run on shore with great force, it was found impracticable to get her off, and orders were given to burn her, which was done, and about 5 o'clock she blew up. She proved to be a Rebel privateer; she was a new ship, well-fitted and clear for action.

[P. 171.]

A Rebel boat which had been loading hay from Hog Island, was taken this morning by the Juno. Her men escaped in a small boat. . . .

[P. 177.]

We saw about 200 men under arms today near Howland's ferry. Barton, who commanded the party that took General Prescott, commands at Howland's. . . . Came in a schooner laden with lumber, from Stonington to St. Eustatia, taken by the Cerberus. . . .

[P. 179.]

Information has been received that the Rebels are collecting a great number of boats at Providence, preparatory to an attack on this Island. . . . We should use every means in our power to keep possession of Conanicut, to prevent the Rebels from fortifying themselves there, and erecting batteries to obstruct the entrance to the harbour. . . .

Sept. 23.—The fleet has brought in from Long Island about 450 cords of wood for the use of the troops. . . .

[P. 198.]

Oct. 21.—A great many disaffected persons have been taken up in Newport within these few days, and sent on board the Prisonship (the Lord Sandwich).

[P. 205.]

Oct. 27.—Our naval force is disposed of as follows:

The Chatham—in the harbour opposite the town.

The Renown—in the West, or Narragansett passage, between Conanicut and the Narragansett shore.

The Amazon—Above Hope Island; W. of Prudence.

The Orpheus—About a mile above Dyer's Island, between Prudence and Rhode Island.

The Juno—In the same channel.

The Kingsfisher—About a mile below Black point, Seconnet passage.

The Unicorn } Between the Kingsfisher and  
The Syren } Sachuest Point.

The Alarm Galley } Ahead of the Kingsfisher and near  
Lady Parker } Blackpoint  
Armed Schooner }

. . . . .

[P. 210.]

Nov. 7.—The Syren Frigate, a transport ship, and a Schooner, were by mismanagement run ashore upon Point Judith. It was impossible (as our ships did not at once put out upon signals of distress), to rescue them. The Captain and crew of the Syren were obliged to surrender to the Rebels. One of our own Sloops rescued the people of the transport. . . .

Nov. 12.—Proposals this day came from Mr. Cooke, the Rebel Governor, for an exchange of the seamen of the Syren for an equal number of the Rebel seamen now confined on board the Prison ship in this harbour, (about 60.) . . .

Dec. 16.—The Lark Frigate having got the smallpox on board, has hauled inside of Goat Island, and put her people on shore there.

[P. 216.]

Nov. 29.—A Rebel privateer (formerly a British ship

called the Blaize Castle), came down the River last night. She passed near the Amazon, who made signals to ships below her, but nothing being done by them, and having a fair wind and a dark night, she got clear out to sea. 'Tis said two Merchant Ships went out at the same time. The Naval people here deserve severe censure for this neglect of duty. A flag of truce came down from Providence with letters from Genl Burgoyne, now surrendered and at Cambridge, desiring shirts, shoes, stockings, cloth for breeches and leggings to be sent to Boston for the use of our troops now prisoners with him.

[P. 219.]

Dec. 3.—The troops are now all in their winter quarters. Last night was the first I have lain in Newport since the troops landed on this Island, having been constantly on duty at the North end.

Dec. 7.—During the last few days the whole of the fleet came in, about 27 sail, ordered here as it is expected that Genl Burgoyne's troops now in Boston will embark at this port or Providence for Europe. . . . The wood fleet is in, bringing 300 cords of wood for the troops, and 400 for the inhabitants. . . . The General being still apprehensive that the Rebels will establish themselves on Conanicut, has ordered a detachment to take post there again.

Dec. 12.—The Faulcon Sloop of War came in from New York. In her passage down the Sound she took a Rebel Sloop, in which she found Mr. Webb, a Rebel Colonel, 6 other officers and 53 soldiers. It is however asserted that 7 Rebel vessels went out to sea the night of 29 of Nov., and that 15 vessels have got out this fortnight. The Navy has certainly been very remiss. . . .

Dec. 20.—This harbour is now fuller of shipping than it has been at any time since our first arrival; there being near 100 sail of Vessels, beside seven two Decked Ships, viz., Chatham, Somerset, Reasonable, Nonsuch, and the Buffalo Grampus and Tortoise, formerly Battle ships, but now store ships, and several Frigates and the Strombolo Fire ship. A Providence paper states that the people of the State are much alarmed at the assembly of so large a fleet.

[P. 233.]

Jan. 2, 1778.—At eleven this morning came in the Brune Frigate with about 30 sail of vessels under her convoy from the Delaware. At the same time came in the Eagle, having on board Lord Howe, who was saluted by Sir Peter Parker. Lord Howe came on shore, but returned on board to Dinner. He does not intend to take any quarters in town. A ball was given to the Ladies of this place: to which Lord Howe was invited. Sir Peter Parker sailed Jan. 15 for Jamaica, having been appointed to the command there. . . .

Jan. 18.—Last night a Rebel Sloop came ashore on Brenton's Reef. She was from Surinam to New London, laden with molasses, coffee, and sail cloth. Our troops were sent out and secured her crew of eight, and took possession of her. Lord Howe signified that this Sloop was Genl Pigot's property, as Lord of the Manor. 'Tis supposed she will prove worth £800 or £1000. Lord Howe gave an elegant Ball and Supper in Newport at which were present about 60 Ladies and 150 Gentlemen.

[P. 238.]

Jan. 27.—Hard frost for several days and very cold. The frost has not been so severe at any time this year as to freeze up the Rivers, creeks, and passages around this Island. It is an observation made by the Inhabitants of this town, that whenever the Pond to the northward of the Long Wharf is frozen over, the River Delaware is, and navigation to Philadelphia impracticable. As this pond is not frozen over yet it is probable the Soleby may get to Philadelphia (then in possession of the British).

[P. 241.]

Feb. 3.—The transports intended to carry Genl Burgoyne's troops have received orders to prepare for sea. . . . Lord Howe has made but few changes in the disposition of the Ships in the Bay. A Frigate always lies at single anchor in the Channel, a little to the northward of the Dumplings. On Feb. 15 the troop ships sailed and are to proceed between Martha's Vineyard and the Main, into Cape Cod harbour,

and thus to proceed for the use of Genl. Burgoyne and the prisoners. It appears from letters and newspapers from England that the surrender of Genl Burgoyne's has caused there great consternation.

[P. 255.]

March 9.—Captain Griffiths of the Nonsuch has been appointed Commodore, and to command on this Station when Lord Howe goes from hence. . . .

March 12.—A large house on Brenton's Neck, the property of Captain Brenton of the Navy, which has for some time past been uninhabited and going to ruin, is now taken for a Naval Hospital, and is fitting up for that purpose. . . .

March 14.—There has been great sickness among the Rebel prisoners lately; a ship with several went up to Bristol where they were released on parole; the distress of the lower classes of this town is at present very great, particularly for provisions and fuel, which are scarce and dear. . . . The country is very wet, and there is not the least appearance of Spring. No birds have been seen yet, except such as remain thro the winter, which are Meadow Lark or Swamp Quail, the Snow Bird, and a few Snipes.

March 15.—Great flocks of Wild Geese were observed this day, going to the N. E., which in most parts of America is looked upon as a sign that there will be no more severe weather.

March 17.—Many Blackbirds, Bluebirds, and Robins seen this day.

[P. 258.]

Mar. 19.—The Warren, a Rebel Frigate of 30 guns, was in New London harbour lately; and 'tis said a vessel of 40 guns, *from France* with clothing and military stores escaped our Cruisers a short time since, and got into the same port.

Mar. 24.—Lord Howe, in the Eagle of 64 guns, sailed out of the harbour today for the Delaware; on the 28th the

fleet will sail for Philadelphia. On the 28th the Lark Frigate, stationed off Greenwich, perceived a vessel coming down, and made the Signal, whereupon the Maidstone and Sphynx put to sea to intercept her; the Rebel vessel came past the Somerset lying in the Narragansett passage, who gave her many shot; outside the two Frigates were ready for her so that she was obliged to run on shore within Point Judith. The wind dying down our ships were not able to approach, so the Rebels were able to get out her stores, and bring some guns to protect her. As the wind came in the afternoon, the Frigates worked up and burned her. She proved to be the Columbus, a Continental Frigate of 36 guns. The Rebels saved all the powder on board, but the ship was entirely destroyed.

[P. 263.]

Sailed the Diamond Frigate for Halifax, and the Apollo, with a fleet of hay ships for Philadelphia.

[P. 265.]

April 7.—This day General Burgoyne attended by several officers, landed from Warwick Point; the General is to go to England on parole; the General was received at the house allotted for him; Major Pollard, aide to General Heath, and a Rebel Commissary, came with Genl Burgoyne.

April 10.—The Genl made a tour of the Island, attended by Genl Pigot and other officers. There was an assembly in the evening, attended by about 40 ladies and 100 gentlemen.

April 15.—Genl. Burgoyne and his officers embarked today on the Grampus, which with the fleet of about 30 Sail, immediately got under way. No Salute was given or other compliment paid to him in embarkng; but he was accompanied to the waterside by the General and many other officers.

April 18.—A Cartel Sloop came in this day from New London, with five Prisoners, Masters of vessels from our wood fleet taken by them on Long Island. I think we should

not suffer these felows to enter the harbour when they please, on pretense of exchanging a few prisoners, as they thus gain intelligence of everything, and plainly observe the position of our ships. . . . An Oyster sloop arrived with news that Gen'l Howe is recalled, and Gen'l Clinton appointed Commander-in-Chief in his room. . . .

Apr. 23.—A sloop came on shore at Sachuest beach yesterday; she belongs to Nantucket, and went lately to Bedford, where she took in a cargo of Tar, Turpentine, Sails and Cordage; her owners and crew being Loyalists, determined to steer for Newport and dispose of the cargo, but they mistook Sachuest Bay for the entrance to the harbour, and were driven on shore.

[P. 271.]

Apr. 25.—Captain Furneal, late of the Syren, came down this day from Warwick, having been exchanged for Mr. Manley, late Captain of the Rebel Frigate Hancock. He brings information of a French Frigate at Falmouth, Casco Bay, which sailed from Brest Mar. 8 and brought out Mr. Deane, and as 'tis said, the Ratification of a Treaty of Alliance between France and the United States of America. . . .

Apr. 29.—General Pigot having received information that the Rebels intend to carry off all the stock from the Elizabeth Islands, has determined to send a force there immediately to prevent it.

[P. 273.]

May 1.—The Providence Rebel Frigate of 30 guns and 350 men escaped to Sea last night about 10 o'clock. The night was very dark, with much rain, and the wind N. N. E. The Lark, stationed off Greenwich, engaged her until near the N. end of Conanicut, when she was fired upon by The Juno, but as this vessel did not get under way, the Providence passed her and proceeded to Sea unmolested. Orders were given to the Orpheus to follow her, but the night being so dark, these orders were not followed. . . .

May 4.—Two soldiers from the Narragansett side came

in last night. They say the Rebels are collecting boats at Providence, Greenwich, and Warren, and that movements indicate an attempt on this Island. . . .

[P. 279.]

The transports from the Elizabeth Islands arrived last night. The troops have been very successful and have brought in 884 sheep and lambs.—150 of them were brought from the Loyalist inhabitants, the rest were taken from the Rebels without payment. The party has also 1000 more on another Island, guarded by The Unicorn.

May 12.—Came into the Seconnet passage the transports having about 900 Sheep and lambs on board. . . . I shot a bird here today called the Bob-o-Lincoln; but properly the Rice bird. The inhabitants say it is never seen before this day and never fails making its appearance on this day. Two more Sloops have come in from the Elizabeth Islands with about 80 head of Cattle on board.

May 16.—Came in a Sloop from Bermuda, lately taken by a Rebel Privateer, but re-taken by the Maidstone Frigate. . . .

[P. 282.]

A schooner, late the Lady Parker tender, having been fitted out as a galley, and named the Pigott, went today to her station in the Seconnet; where there are now three galleys, The Alarm, The Spitfire, and The Pigott. When Lord Howe was here he saw how useful such vessels would be for the defense of the Island, and ordered several of them to be fitted out. Another is now equipping at Goat Island.

May 19.—Accounts are received of the arrival of the Providence Rebel Frigate at Boston, with two Prizes which she took on her passage, after her escape from this harbour. Five large French ships, armed, are also at Boston. They must have been fortunate in escaping our Cruizers, or our Cruizers very remiss in observing Boston Bay.

[P. 284.]

May 25.—About 500 men marched from Newport last

night to Arnold's Point, (opposite Hog Island) and were embarked. They proceeded to the Flora, which lay opposite, and from thence up the Bay and round Papasquash Point, to the Warren River, where they landed, undiscovered, about half past 3 this morning; one mile from Bristol and 3 miles from Warren. They proceeded to Warren; at Kickemuit bridge they found 125 boats, mostly large flat bottom; a sloop, a store house and a corn mill; all of which, together with some houses, the Bridge and some gun carriages were burnt and totally destroyed. At Warren powder and other military stores were discovered in a house which was set fire to; by which means the Church and many houses were burnt. After this the troops returned by way of Bristol; as by now the alarm had become general, they were fired on from behind walls, trees, and houses by about 300 Rebels; notwithstanding which they entered Bristol, where military stores, the Church, and about 20 of the principal houses were burnt, and several guns destroyed. The troops re-embarked near Bristol; 69 Prisoners were brought over with them from Windmill hill, and marched from thence to Newport. The troops returned in the boats to Newport, where they landed about 4 in the afternoon. During the expedition about 40 cannon were destroyed.

The destruction of the Armed vessels and so many boats must undoubtedly prevent the Rebels from making an attempt on this Island for a considerable time. Prisoners brought in belonging to a Col. Topham's Regiment stationed at Howland's Ferry say the people of the country are much alarmed and discontented; and that great blame is thrown on Genl Sullivan for neglecting to place proper guards on their boats. . . .

[P. 289.]

May 31.—The General and the Commodore having determined to attempt destroying some Saw Mills, and a quantity of Plank for building boats, which they had upon Fall River,—the Pigot Galley, a gunboat and the boats of the Flora, Juno, Venus, Orpheus, and Kingsfisher with 100 men of the 54th Regiment were ordered for this service. At 12 o'clock last night they passed through Bristol ferry, unperceived by the Rebels, and proceeded up Mount Hope Bay.

On approaching the shore near Fall River, they were fired on by a guard of about 40 men, but pushed on and dispersed the Enemy. They then proceeded and burned one Saw-Mill, a Corn Mill, 9 large boats, and about 15,000 feet of Plank. The Rebels gathering, our men returned to the boats and re-embarked.

[P. 290.]

June 1.—Came in the Ship Fanny, in 53 days from Liverpoole, with a cargo of Beef, Flour, Wines, Beer, Groceries, etc. This is the first vessel which has come directly from Europe to this port, since we have been in possession of the Island; except the Ariel, and she was bound for New York, but being informed at Sea that Lord Howe was in this port, she altered her destination and came in here.

[P. 291.]

June 3.—The new Chain of Redoubts lately constructed for the defence of Newport, are now completed. They are called Green-end, Dudley's, Bannister's, Irishes, and Tomini.

June 6.—Came in the Maidstone with a Brig laden with 200 ton of provisions, which she re-took yesterday off Block Island. She was taken a few days before by a Rebel Privateer out of Bedford, but re-taken by our vessel.

[P. 297.]

It is reported that in May an Expedition destroyed all the Rebel Frigates, gallies, boats, on the Delaware River. It appears probable that this step is preparatory to the Evacuation of Philadelphia; it is expected that Genl Clinton will burn Philadelphia;—If he does not, we have possessed it at the expense of a whole campaign to very little purpose. . . . As the principal strength of the Rebellion lies in the New England Provinces, our whole force should be collected there. The possession of the Hudson, the ports and harbours in the Sound, this Island and Bay, and the entrance to Boston Bay, would surround them so that they could receive no assistance or supplies, and they would also be under appre-

hensions of attacks from Canada. Such a mode of warfare might appear cruel, but it would be most effectual and in the end most economical. We have been met, in place of lukewarm friends, in every place inveterate enemies.

[P. 300.]

June 12.—The Pigot Galley out of the Seconnet gave chase to a Snow, and at 7 o'clock she struck with resistance. She proved to be a French vessel from Bordeaux to Bedford laden with dry goods and Salt. She mistook the Seconnet for Bedford.

[P. 303.]

June 21.—A flag of truce came down from Providence this evening, with Mr. Bradford, the Deputy Governor, to arrange the exchange of Prisoners taken on the 25th of May (this was the raid on Warren and Bristol.) . . .

June 24.—An Eclipse of the Sun this morning almost total. . . . The quantities of fish of various kinds, now in the different Rivers and Creeks in this Bay, are astonishing. The Inhabitants might take as many as they pleased with Seines; but they have neither boats nor Nets. Indeed they are not to be trusted with the former, as they carry off deserters.

June 26.—Cannon were fired yesterday at Providence; it is expected the Rebels have received some favorable accounts from the Southward. Probably of the Evacuation of Philadelphia. . . . There are surprising quantities of Mosquitoes at present in all the low grounds of the Island. The late warm weather has produced them in such numbers. . . . A great Thunder Storm toward Providence, but no rain fell on this Island. . . .

July 2.—The Prince of Wales Volunteers passed over to Conanicut this day encamped there. They are to be employed in making Hay. . . .

July 4.—This being the 2nd Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of America by the Congress, many cannon were fired at Providence, Warwick, Warren, Bedford, etc. As the day was very still, the Echo down the Bay had a remarkably fine effect. . . .

July 10.—As the appearance of a squadron of French Ships of War on the Coast of America, may be daily expected, our means of defence are to be increased in case they should attempt this harbour; some heavy guns are placing in a battery which the Rebels made on Brenton's Point, which is well situated for the defence of the harbour.

[P. 309.]

A fleet of 18 sail came in this evening, bringing about 2000 men under the command of Major General Prescott, are to be encamped behind Genl Pigot quarters, Green End Redoubt, and behind Bannisters.

[P. 310.]

It appears extremely fortunate that the Evacuation of Philadelphia, and the withdrawing the shipping and stores from the Delaware, was effected with expedition, and before the appearance of the French fleet before the mouth of that River. If any of our ships had remained in the Delaware, they must have fallen into their hands or been destroyed. 'Tis said the French fleet consist of 12 Sail of the Line, and four Frigates; under the command of Count D'Estaing. . . .

[P. 318.]

July 26.—The French fleet arrived off Sandy Hook July 12. It appears that Lord Howe is at anchor with his fleet within that Bar, but too weak to venture out to pursue and attack the enemy. Admiral Byron is hourly expected on the Coast with 11 Sail of the Line from England. The Army under Sir Henry Clinton remains encamped on the Three Islands and at Kingsbridge. So extraordinary an event as the present certainly never occurred before in the History of Britain! An Army of 50,000 men and a fleet of near 100

ships and armed vessels, are prevented from acting Offensively by the appearance on the American coast of a French Squadron of 12 Sail of the Line, and 4 Frigates, without troops. Some unpardonable faults have been committed somewhere, and those whose duty it is to watch the Enemy should answer with their heads for their supineness, and total want of intelligence. . . .

July 12.—The French fleet appeared off the S. end of this Island, and came to anchor off Brenton's Reef. Our six Frigates ran in close to the West side of this Island, and began to land their guns, stores, and Provisions, as Lord Howe had given orders for burning or scuttling them, so as not to risque their being captured by the Enemy.

[P. 320.]

July 30.—Our two regiments, brought over from Conanicut, and the guns which could not be removed were spiked. Two French Frigates had come into the Seconnet, and two into the Narragansett passage. The two in Seconnet, sailing up to Black Point, orders were given to set fire to the Kingsfisher, which was immediately done. The galleys also were set on fire. I think our people were too precipitate in burning the vessels. . . . 76 Rebel prisoners were landed this morning from the Prison ships in the harbour, and lodged in the Barracks within the Redoubt at Fogland Ferry. . . . The French took possession of Conanicut this day, and hoisted a white colour there.\*

Aug. 4.—This morning the two French ships in the Narragansett passage stood round the N. point of Conanicut. On seeing them the Cerberus endeavored to get down to the town, but finding she would be cut off, Captain Symmons ran her on shore behind Redwood's and set her on fire. The Orpheus, Lark, and Pigot Galley, observing the French ships coming up between Prudence and this Island, were immediately run on shore; also the Juno, off Coddington Cove, the Orpheus at Almy's Point, and the Lark and Pigot at Freeborn's Creek, where they were set on fire; all blew up

\*The old French flag with the Fleur-de-Lis.

late in the evening. The explosion was very great, as the Lark had 76 barrels of powder in the Magazine. The house of one Wilcox, in the Swamp was set on fire thereby, and totally consumed. Some books and papers from the Orpheus were found some three miles from the place where she blew up. It was a most mortifying sight to us to see so many fine ships destroyed in so short a time without any loss on the part of the enemy.

[P. 331.]

Aug. 6.—Several small Privateers plying about on the W. side of the Island. They landed about 20 men at Stoddard's and plundered his house and Potter's. . . . We are using every means to obstruct the approach of the Enemy by Sea and land. Several large transports have been sunk off the North Battery (Fort Greene) and Goat-Island. . . . The inhabitants have been informed that in case the Enemy take possession of the town, the General will be obliged to burn it; numbers of them are removing, with their valuables, to the heights above the town. My family removed yesterday and encamped near the Library (Redwood.)

[P. 340.]

Aug. 8.—Soon after the French fleet anchored within the harbour, the General gave orders for all houses and buildings within reach of our guns to be set on fire; this was done and about 20 were burnt. While the French were coming in, the orders were given to scuttle and sink the Flora and Faulcon, the former between the Long Wharf and Goat Island, and the latter off the S. E. end of Goat Island. The Grand Turk transport, formerly an East Indiaman, was run on shore between Goat Island and the N. Battery.

[P. 341.]

Aug. 9.—At 12 o'clock a fleet hove in sight to the Southward, increasing in number until 35 sail appeared, standing directly for the harbour; it was our fleet under the command of Lord Howe, from New York. It lay at anchor over

night. The next day the French fleet got in motion, and kept up a prodigious fire as they passed our batteries, which was returned, but the ships were too far away for either side to do much damage. As soon as Lord Howe saw them coming he made sail. His reasons for thus retiring before the French fleet are not known to us. I believe there never was a naval engagement on which so much depended. The fleets were out of sight about sunset. . . .

Aug. 12.—Heavy rain all night and day, with strong gale at N. E. We are under great apprehensions for the safety of Lord Howe's fleet. The Inhabitants say they have not had so severe a storm for three or four years past.

[P. 353.]

Aug. 14.—Five dead bodies and part of a Wheel and Tiller rope, supposed to belong to one of the French ships, were found yesterday on the shore of Brenton's Neck. . . .

Aug. 19.—It is now ten days since the two fleets went out of the harbour. Two men were captured on the Island who say there are many of the Enemy on the Island, as 23000 rations are issued daily. There are many General Officers with their Army: vizt. Sullivan, who commands, Green, Varnum, Cornell, Hancock, Fayette, Tyler, and Sherburn.

[P. 364.]

Aug. 20.—Part of the French fleet returned to the harbour a good deal damaged; after two days they got under weigh at night, and sailed toward the Southward. . . .

Aug. 22.—A party went to Conanicut and brought off one Eldredge, an Inhabitant, who says that the Rebels have about 18000 on this Island, most of them from Massachusetts and Connecticut, also some Canadians, engaged for six weeks, *three of which have expired.*

[P. 368.]

The report is that two ships are lost, the rest much shattered, (that) The French returned here in hopes of finding the place in possession of the Rebels, and that D'Estaing was



much chagrined at finding otherwise, and so little progress made in the Siege.

It is supposed the French fleet have gone to Boston to refit. Their sick left on the Narragansett shore have orders to proceed to Providence. If the French fleet should not be able to make their appearance before this place, Genl. Clinton will undoubtedly come to our relief.

[P. 371.]

Aug. 24.—A deserter came in who said that the Rebels are much displeas'd at the dilatory manner in which the Siege is carried on. There was a meeting at the General's quarters, after which they determin'd to get off the Island soon, if the French fleet did not appear. . . .

[P. 376.]

Three sails came in, found to be English Frigates, part of Lord Howe's fleet, en route from New York. As the French fleet is not here, Lord Howe has steered for Boston in pursuit of them. . . .

[P. 378.]

The inactivity of the Rebels continues: I am convinc'd that had they attack'd us at first when their numbers were greater, they might have had some prospect of succeeding, and will go off when our fleet appears, laying the blame on the French. [This is what happened.]

[P. 382.]

Aug. 29.—This morning I went immediately to the top of Dudley's house (Mrs. Phelps', Mile Corner), and could plainly perceive that the Rebels had struck their whole camp and march'd off. I rode as fast as possible to Genl Pigot's quarters in Newport, and inform'd him of it. He gave orders for our troops to be assembled as soon as possible and pursue them, but to advance with caution: these troops were under command of Major General Prescott, Brigadier General Smith, and Major General Lossberg, and began to march about half past six o'clock. They advanced along both

roads, there was a good deal of firing near Mr. Overings' (Prescott H.); we advanced as far as Turkey Hill, where the Rebels were oblig'd to retire to their Artillery Redoubt; during this time Brig. Genl Smith was advancing on the East Road, but did not meet with any of the Rebels until near Shearman's house on Quaker Hill, where there were about 700. As our Column advanced without having flanking parties out, it receiv'd a heavy fire which did a good deal of execution. Our column push'd on along through a heavy fire as far as Shearman's, where the Rebels gave way and were drov'e with precipitation and loss down Quaker Hill to the cross road. It was now perceiv'd that a great part of the Rebel Army was still on the Island, so it was not thought advisable to renew the attack on them.\* As soon as the Troops march'd out that morning in pursuit of the Rebels, the Sphynx, and Vigilant, with the Spitfire Galley and the Privateer Brig sail'd up the passage between Rhode Island and Prudence. The Vigilant got up in time to have some shots from the Rebels, but they turning some 18 pr. against her from Arnold's Point, she dropt down and anchor'd with the other vessels opposite Slocum's. Had she continued she would have gall'd the Enemy considerably: there was no necessity for her moving back as soon as she did. The following day the Rebels retreat'd, and on Aug. 31 it was seen that they were gone. They now to all appearances have quitted our neighbourhood. . . .

[P. 389.]

Sept. 1.—At 7 o'clock this morning a fleet of near 70 sail appear'd; it was our friends from New York. At 10 o'clock Sir Henry Clinton came ashore and about 2 the whole fleet came to anchor in the harbour under the Conanicut shore.

None of his troops disembark'd; they expect to sail this afternoon, tis thought for New London, it having been a nest for Privateers who have infest'd the Sound.

[P. 392.]

Sept. 5. Came in this afternoon three ships of Lord

\*This was the Battle of Rhode Island, Aug. 29, 1778.

Howe's fleet, the rest of the fleet are in the offing. We hear that the French fleet had all got into Nantucket road when Lord Howe appeared off Boston. An attempt against them there was impracticable. . . . Genl Pigot, who was blamed by Genl Clinton for not waiting until the fleet's arrival, appears to be much chagrined with Genl Clinton; and Genl Prescott with every Body.

Sept. 8.—Came in a vessel from Genl Gray with information that he had landed at Bedford and totally burnt and destroyed above 60 sail of vessels, many of them privateers, and much valuable stores. . . . Many of our ships have sailed. . . .

[P. 395.]

Sept. 12.—The operations of the Army appear to be entirely suspended at present. If something is not done soon, we have wasted a campaign to very little purpose. . . . Above 5000 sheep have been landed on this Island from Martha's Vineyard for the use of the troops. . . .

Sept. 18.—Several ships came in with news that Lord Howe has given up the command of the fleet to Admiral Gambier. . . . A Flag of truce came over from Howland's ferry, with the Daughter of David Fish, who quitted the Island the 29th August on account of the Cannonade. . . .

Sept. 25.—Lord Howe came in this afternoon and is going on the Eagle immediately from hence to England. . . . Sir Robert Pigot is going from hence to New York; and from thence in a short time to England. Genl Prescott succeeds to the command here.

[P. 405.]

Oct. 5.—The officers who arrived say the French fleet is still in Boston harbour, but not yet repaired.\* . . .

\*(Were there refitting from Aug. 14 to Nov. 4. No wonder the troops assembled could not wait.)

Oct. 14.—There being no armed vessels of ours in the Narragansett passage at present, that entrance is entirely open for the Rebels. The wood fleet are now unloaded, but unable to proceed to Long Island, there being several small privateers continually about Point Judith.

[P. 414.]

Oct. 31.—We are now left in a strange situation. Two of the three passages are entirely open to the Enemy. The winter advancing and no provision made for supplying the Garrison. Only two Frigates in this station, no Barracks provided, no materials to fit up any. Indeed this Garrison appears to have been much neglected. . . .

Nov. 2.—Heavy wind and strong gale of wind from the N. E. Most of the tents blown down and torn to pieces.

[P. 418.]

Nov. 10.—We have learned that D'Estaing's fleet sailed from Boston Nov. 4, our fleet having been dispersed by violent gales of wind the 1st and 3rd inst., D'Estaing has probably escaped. . . . The Rebels say the Somerset was cast ashore on Cape Cod and totally lost, with 60 of the crew.

Nov. 13.—Admiral Byron's fleet has arrived and is now in the harbour, the heavy gales obliging him to put into this port.

Nov. 20.—The fleet sailed this morning, forty sails of vessels of all kinds, but the wind changing, by night they were all back.

[P. 427.]

This fleet has certainly been unfortunate. Never was a fleet of capital ships so completely dispersed, soon after their leaving England. The Russell put back to England, the Invincible to Newfoundland, the Albion to Lisbon, the Cornwall to New York, the Princess Royal and Culloden to Halifax, and finally the remainder arrived at New York. . . . Great shortage of wood and all provisions.

Dec. 12.—Several of the old wharfs were appointed this day to the Regiments, to be cut up for firing. On Dec. 14, after several weeks of gales and contrary winds, the fleet got under way. . . . All trees on the Island except fruit trees are to be cut down for fuel.

Dec. 24.—The cold was greater last night than it has been since we have been on this Island. The harbour and all the rivers smoked from the intenseness of the cold. Port wine froze in the bottles indoors, also mustard and all kinds of pickles. Many poultry died with the cold.

Dec. 27.—Great snowstorm, in some places as much as 20 feet deep. The Inhabitants say they never remember a storm so severe as that of yesterday. Five men of the troops died of the cold. (This was the great "Hessian snow-storm.") . . . A flag of truce went up to Warwick this day with about 70 Inhabitants who have chosen to quit the Island and go to their friends on the Main."

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And so ends this Diary's account of the Revolutionary Events in which Newport Harbor is directly concerned. The British fleet remained around these waters for almost another year; but altho the diary account ends with Dec. 1778, the fleet did not leave until October, 1779. Then the town and the harbor were almost like a deserted place—grass actually grew in the streets, only a nominal American guard, first of 500 troops, later reduced to 150, were quartered there for fear the British fleet might return. But there was nothing apparently left for which it might return; five hundred houses and all the trees had been destroyed, and its shipping trade was ruined. After a winter of bleak discouragement, the people were aroused to hope once more by the arrival in the following July, 1780, of a French fleet with General Rochambeau. The French were here from July to the following March 1781, when Washington came to confer with the French General. During these months the vessels of the French and the American privateers of Narragansett Bay captured many valuable prizes, and by their

activity prevented a contemplated expedition of Sir Henry Clinton against Providence. Immediately after Washington's conference with their officers, the whole forces of their troops left Newport to press the war in the South. The seat of war moved to the Carolinas and Virginia, leaving to a strange and unwonted quiet this bay and harbor; for Newport, since the early days of the 18th century had offered an ever increasing refuge in storm and welcome in trade to the ships of those early days when business and pleasure alike went "all the way by water."

Such then was our island and harbor as seen by the men of American privateers, of British enemy fleet, of French allied troops, who all of them have now left this beautiful bay.

But the breeze it still blows, and the sky is still blue,  
And the grass and the trees give an emerald hue  
To this old Island town, as it sits by the sea,  
And waits for the ships with their sails blowing free.

ELIZABETH COVELL.