

Smith and Mr. Hollis for bribing a borough, who are to be imprisoned six months, and pay one thousand marks.

TO REV. ISAAC SMITH, EXETER.

*London, June 6, 1776.*

DEAR SIR :

We have received advices from America, though not authenticated enough to find a place in the Court Gazette, still generally believed; there are some who doubt the whole.

Gov. Tryon in his letters by the packet from New-York, which left 2d May, writes that "Arnold having received a reinforcement, made a second attack on Quebec, but finding it impracticable to take it by storm, he, on the 19th April, after five days' attempt, retreated; in the meantime, the Isis, with eight hundred men on board two transports which arrived with her, having landed, immediately joined the garrison and issued out, disturbing them on their march, and destroying seven hundred and fifty men." It is reported that eighty men taken last February on Montgomery's defeat from the New England regiments, incorporated with the garrison and behaved bravely; on the contrary, seventy of the regulars entered among the provincials, and turning against them when hard pushed, occasioned the carnage stated above. Gen. Lee is said to be taken with seventy men by a party of Gen. Clinton's, as he was reconnoitering, without firing a gun; the story is told in three different ways, but finds credit. A vessel from Halifax has arrived, bringing their Governor Legge to answer complaints. Gen. Washington has issued a proclamation, forbidding all rapine and plunder in Boston, a source of comfort to our friends here. There is a long list of military stores in the papers, said to have been left at Boston by Gen. Howe, but it is thought to be a false account.

London, my favorite place of abode, is, as the peasant said, "*a sad lickpenny*," and truly one cannot breathe the vital air without great expense. The numerous applications to the treasury by Americans whose pretensions are so much beyond mine, exclude the most distant hope of relief for me, should inadvertence or more unjustifiable principles of conduct reduce me to the necessity of asking a favor, which I am determined at all events to defer to the