

*Newport, April 25, 1775.*

GENTLEMEN,

You have, without doubt, before this time, heard of the bloody, savage massacre of a number of the inhabitants of Lexington, a town about 12 miles north-west from Boston, perpetrated by a detachment of about 1200 of the king's troops, and what ensued thereon. We inclose you two accounts, which may be more particular than any you have yet received: The one was brought us by a gentleman who left Cambridge on Thursday last in the forenoon, and is contained in the hand bill; the other is in the newspaper. Since we received these accounts, we have been credibly informed that the number of the king's troops, killed and taken, amounts to about 300, besides many were wounded and carried into Boston; the number of Americans to about 40 killed and wounded, and it is said about 4 or 5 taken prisoners. A large body of men, not less than 20,000, are assembled, and form a semicircle from Charlestown to Roxbury: what their plan of operation will be is unknown. By a gentleman of the committee of correspondence for the town of Providence, in this colony, who arrived here this afternoon, we are informed, that the provincial congress of the Massachusetts bay, now sitting, have determined that a standing army of 30,000 men should be raised in the New England colonies, expecting that the southern colonies will assist in furnishing monies for their support. That our people had taken possession of a hill on Dorchester point, which commands general Gage's works on Boston Neck, and that they had made entrenchment within gun shot of those works at Roxbury. That two men of war had arrived at Boston, and brought the three generals that have been expected, that 6000 troops had embarked for that place when those men of war left England. There were not more than 300 Americans in a body at any one time during the action on Wednesday, and they acquitted themselves with such intrepidity as has convinced the king's officers, that Americans can and will fight. All communication between the town of Boston and the other parts of the colony being shut up, and things being in a state of confusion, renders it almost impossible to obtain any certain particular intelligence from that quarter: However, the foregoing account we think may be depended upon. We had hoped that the dispute between Great Britain and these colonies would have been settled without bloodshed; but the parliament of Great Britain it seems have determined to push their iniquitous unconstitutional measures by dint of arms. The sword of civil war has been drawn by the king's troops, and sheathed in the bowels of our countrymen. May