

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1782.

LONDON, December 4.

IF the accursed American war is to be abandoned, or pursued to the destruction of our country, a short time will determine; ministry give no signs of remorse for their past conduct as yet; but whether the people will suffer fresh taxes to be imposed upon them, in addition to the enormous burthens they already endure, merely to gratify the obstinacy of any one man, or let of men whatever, or to retain the present incapable and impolitic men in office, remains to be seen.

The behaviour of the minority in parliament, by their immediate opposition to vote an early supply, is truly laudable and spirited, in this hour of calamity, when the nation is involved so much, by the wretched conduct of administration, and we trust such conduct receives the full countenance and support of the people of England; for there is no measure more constitutional, than to withhold the purse of the public from those men, who have misapplied it; and by rash and improper councils, have brought the country to its present degraded and miserable state. Why don't ministers confess their faults, own their errors, abandon the impracticable attempts of American subjugation, and reform their conduct, ere they again put their hands in the pockets of the people?

Dec. 5. Mr. Thomas Pitt's reply to lord North, on Friday last, (when his lordship asked what would all Europe say, if, in such a juncture, an act of that house should declare that the king and his people were two, or rather that the government of Great-Britain and the British commons were disunited?) was one of the most able as well as one of the most manly and spirited pieces of eloquence ever delivered in the house of commons. He declared, that he had no scruple to acknowledge, that he wished to shew all Europe, that the crown of Great Britain and the parliament were disunited. That the measure was the strongest he had ventured upon, but he had warm expectations of the most beneficial consequences, from its being universally known, that the deliberative branch of the British government had a difference with the executive branch. So sure was he in his own mind, that good would come out of it, that he offered to take the responsibility of the measure entirely on himself, and pledged himself to the house to be answerable for the consequences.

Lord Huntington has received letters from lord Rawdon, announcing his safe arrival at Breck. His lordship speaks in terms of the highest compliment of the civility he has received from Monr. de Grasse, le due de Lauzun, and other of the French officers. He says in particular of the latter nobleman, that he treated him with all the affection of an intimate friend during the course of his passage, and on their arrival at Breck, delivered his letters of credit before he paid any attention to his own personal business.

Notwithstanding the mode of carrying on the war as adopted by the advice, and carried on under the direction of lord George Germain, hath proved so unsuccessful, his lordship still perseveres in recommending the same line of conduct, strongly contending for the propriety of replacing the army lost in the Carolinas, and throwing an additional force into New-York; but in this way of thinking he differs from most of the members of the interior cabinet, the lord chancellor, lords North, Sandwich, and Loughborough, have strenuously contended for collecting all our force at New-York, and making one vigorous struggle before we abandon the thoughts of subduing America. This being the case, and lord George being daily left in a minority, it is thought his lordship will speedily resign, rather than submit to have the negative put upon all his propositions for the future operations of the war.

Jan. 1. Yesterday Henry Laurens, Esq; who has been for some considerable time imprisoned in the Tower of London, was by order of government carried before lord Mansfield. His lordship acquainted Mr. Laurens that if he would enter security for his appearance in six months after he should be called for, he would be set at liberty, and might go wherever he pleased. Mr. Oswald, an American merchant, offering to be security accordingly; the chief justice accepted him as bail, and Mr Laurens was discharged. It is said that Mr. Laurens will set out in a day or two for Bath by advice of his physicians, who recommended the waters of that place for the recovery of his health.

Extract of a letter from New-York, to a friend in Edinburgh, November 3, 1781.

"The inhabitants of this city are so affected by the defeat of lord Cornwallis, that many merchants refuse to open the goods received by the last fleet; some will not even sell without ready money. We shall see in humble scene next summer; if this place be abandoned, we shall consider the king's government, as lost forever; at least in this part of America. For my part, which way soever I look, I see nothing but difficulties. Should I go to England with my large family, we may be in want of every thing in a strange land. If I stay here, I shall be liable to insult, and perhaps to vigorous prosecutions."

Jan. 2. The ships of the line which compose the fleet bound for the West-Indies under Sir George Rodney are the Formidable and Namure of 90 guns, the Arrogant, Malborough, Hercules, Conqueror, and Fame of 74 guns; Africa, Anson, Nonisuch, Protheus, Repulse and Yarmouth of 64; and the Dunkirk of 60 guns; they are commonly called 28 in number. These by

the last accounts lay in the sound of Plymouth, ready to sail with the first fair wind.

PETERSBURG, November 18.

We are assured that the empress means to add 20 sail of the line to her navy, which will then consist of 54 sail of the line besides frigates, &c. It is her majesty's determination that a fleet of 12 sail of the line shall always be kept up in the new port of Cherson on the Black Sea; to complete the above augmentation, ten ships of 100 guns are to be immediately built in our dock-yards.

Besides the troops some time since sent to Crimea and the frontiers of Turkey; eight other regiments have orders to march to those parts.

The 30th of last month, the acts of secession of the emperor Joseph II. to the armed neutrality, were exchanged between the minister of this court and that of Vienna, who have respectively received the usual presents.

HAGUE, December 23.

Their high mightinesses have agreed to the augmentation of 6000 sailors.

The admiralty of Amsterdam have, with the consent of the prince Stadtholder, put seven men of war into commission, viz. two of 68 guns, three of 54, one of 44, and one of 36 guns.

BASSETTERRE, (St. Kitt's) Feb. 20.

A few days after the surrender of the island, admiral Hood left the road with his fleet, and where he is now we know not. As soon as he went away the count de Grasse's fleet took their former position in Basseterre road.

Yesterday morning his excellency the marquis de Bouille embarked for Martinico. His excellency count Dillon is left governor of this island and Nevis, with the regiment of Dillon of the brigades, the regiment of Rouffillon, and the regiment of Auxerrois, each equal to 1000 men. And this day also the rest of the troops and the fleet will depart for Martinico.

FISH-KILL, March 21.

Lieutenant Harris with six men belonging to capt. Vermillan's company of militia, on the night of the 14th instant, obtained intelligence of a party of De-lancy's corps being at a house near Mile-square, and had address enough to surprise the whole party, consisting of twelve, to kill one, and make prisoners of four others.

CHARLES-TOWN, January 1.

Last Thursday came to anchor off our bar, a fleet of army vessels from Corke, under convoy of the Quebec and Grana frigates, after a passage of 59 days. On the passage they took two prizes, one a spanish transport, bound from Havana to Porto Rico, the other a brigantine from Cadiz to Philadelphia. On the 31st of October last they spoke the grand fleet under admiral Darby, consisting of 36 sail of the line besides frigates, cruising in three divisions, who informed them that the French and spanish fleets were then in port.

Friday arrived the schooner Mary, Able Frisbie, master, from Antigua. We have advices by her, of admiral Graves, on his passage to the West-Indies, having taken a large frigate, mounting 36 brass twelve pounders, bound from Old France to Philadelphia with a very valuable cargo.

Last Wednesday evening the Ethiopian ladies of this town gave an elegant entertainment at the long room in Meeting-street to a numerous company of gentlemen of various habits and denominations. At dancing, which began about seven, shewed infinite judgment, and the ladies returned to dancing after supper, and the company separated with regret about 11 in the morning. In short, the whole was conducted with a taste that does much honour to the manager.

RICHMOND, March 23.

A ship is arrived in York river with dispatches from count de Grasse to his excellency general count Rochambeau, giving an account of the taking of St. Kitt's and Nevis with 5000 land forces. She also brings an account of the naval action between the French and British fleets, in which the latter lost the Gibraltar of 80 guns blown up, one sunk, one run aground, and one taken, together with two frigates, three sloops of war, and 115 transports.

PHILADELPHIA, March 23.

The New-York paper of the 16th instant, mentions the following prizes arrived there: brig Charming Molly from St. Thomas for Philadelphia; the Esther and Zoutrian from Philadelphia for Havana; brig from Turk's Island for Philadelphia; schooner from Chispakak with flour; brig Hannah from Guadaloupe for Philadelphia; brig from Philadelphia for the West-Indies with flour; brig Flora from Martinique; and a brig drove ashore in Delaware bay.

Perseus just out of New-York say, that an express boat arrived there from Charles-town, which brought an account of an action being lately fought in South-Carolina, between general Greene and general Leslie, but no particulars could be obtained from our informants left the city.

Letters from South-Carolina, dated the latter end of January and beginning of February, mention orders being given at Charles-town, for the embarkation of a number of Hessians.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of character in Nantes, to his friend in this city, dated December 21, 1781.

"You will probably have heard before this gets to hand, of the attempt of the British government to starve Mr. Laurens in the Tower. All the money he had being expended he was reduced to the greatest necessity, and had lived four days on a single fowl, while the most positive orders were given at the Tower not to receive any cash tendered there for his support, when one of the people belonging to the prison had humanity and goodness enough to publish to the world his situation. After that he had liberty allowed him to draw upon a person in the city who owed him money; and now a parliamentary enquiry into his treatment has taken place."

March 16. Last Friday morning His Excellency General Washington left this city. His excellency was escorted by captain Morris's troop of city horse; and we are told that head quarters will be at New-Windfor, in the state of New-York.

Accounts from France, as late as the 9th of February, mention that 25 transports and merchantmen had sailed from Nantes for Breck; where they were to be joined by 25 sail of the line. The West-Indies, particularly Jamaica, it was supposed, are the objects of this armament. The accounts add, that lords Sandwich and Germain had quitted their employments in the British administration.

For some days past it has been reported that an embarkation has taken place at New-York; but we do not find sufficient reason to authenticate it.

PROCLAMATION.

THE goodness of the Supreme Being to all his rational creatures, demands their acknowledgments of gratitude and love; his absolute government of this world dictates, that it is the interest of every nation and people ardently to supplicate his favour and implore his protection.

When the lust of dominion or lawless ambition excites arbitrary power to invade their rights, or endeavour to wrest from a people their sacred and invaluable privileges, and compels them, in defence of the same, to encounter all the horrors and calamities of a bloody and vindictive war; then it is that people loudly called upon to fly unto that God for protection, who hears the cries of the distressed, and will not turn a deaf ear to the supplication of the oppressed.

Great-Britain, hitherto, left to infuriated councils, and to pursue measures repugnant to her own interest and distressing to this country, still persists in the design of subjugating these United States; which will compel us into another active and perhaps bloody campaign.

The United States in congress assembled, therefore, taking into consideration our present situation; our multiplied transgressions of the holy laws of our God, and his past acts of kindness and goodness towards us, which we ought to record with the liveliest gratitude, think it their indispensable duty to call upon the several States, to let apart the last Thursday in April next, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, that our joint supplications may then ascend to the throne of the Ruler of the universe, beseeching him to diffuse a spirit of universal reformation among all ranks and degrees of our citizens; and make us an holy, that so we may be, a happy people; that it would please him to impart wisdom, integrity and unanimity to our counsellors; to bless and prosper the reign of our illustrious ally, and give success to his arms employed in the defence of the rights of human nature; that he would smile upon our military arrangements by land and sea; administer comfort and consolation to our prisoners in a cruel captivity; protect the health and life of our commander in chief; grant us victory over our enemies; establish peace in all our borders, and give happiness to all our inhabitants; that he would prosper the labour of the husbandman, making the earth yield her increase in abundance, and give a proper season for the ingathering of the fruits thereof; that he would grant success to all engaged in lawful trade and commerce; and take under his guardianship all schools and seminaries of learning, and make them nurseries of virtue and piety; that he would incline the hearts of all men to peace, and fill them with universal charity and benevolence, and that the religion of our Divine Redeemer, with all its benign influences, may cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Done by the United States in congress assembled, this nineteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two, and in the sixth year of our independence.

JOHN HANSON, president.

Attest. CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

BALTIMORE, April 2.

Lord North has said, "that the mode of carrying on the war internally upon the continent of America, as practised under lord Cornwallis, and other generals, is to be no longer followed, but that the term of the war is to be wholly changed. A correspondent observes, that as the minister has tried a piratical war—war offensive—predatory—and defensive—a war of burning—and a war of cruelty, he is at a loss to know what war his lordship intends for the next campaign—unless it should be a war of humanity."