

VIRGINIA GAZETTE



With the freshest ADVICES,

FOREIGN and DOMESTICK.

EDINBURGH, March 5.

Extract of a letter from London, March 1.

MONDAY last the Chairman of the Grand Committee on the American Stamp Act (Mr. Fuller) reported to a great House the resolutions to which the Committee had agreed; they are in substance as follow:

1. That it is the opinion of the Committee that his Majesty, with the advice of Parliament, has full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of North America.
2. That insurrections and tumults of the most dangerous nature have been raised and carried on in several of the North American colonies, in open defiance of the power and dignity of his Majesty's government, and in manifest violation of the laws and legislative authority of this kingdom.
3. That the said insurrections have been greatly countenanced and inflamed by votes and resolutions passed in several of the Assemblies of the said provinces, highly injurious to the honour of his Majesty's government, and tending to destroy the legal and constitutional dependence of said colonies on the Imperial Crown and Parliament of Great Britain.
4. That such persons who have suffered any injury or damage, by manifesting a desire to comply with and assist in carrying into execution any acts of the British Legislature, relating to the American colonies, ought to have full and ample compensation made them for the same, by the respective colonies where such damages were sustained.
5. That all persons who have manifested their desire to comply with, and assist in carrying into execution such laws, have acted as dutiful and loyal subjects, and are therefore entitled to, and will assuredly have, the protection of the H. of C. of G. Britain.
6. That all persons who, by reason of the tumults and outrages, have not been able to procure stamp paper, ought to be indemnified from all penalties and forfeitures which they may have incurred by writing on paper, vellum, &c. not duly stamped, conformable to said act.
7. That it is the opinion of the Committee that the House be moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal an act passed last session, entitled "An act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, towards further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such parts of the several acts of Parliament, relating to the trade and revenues of the said colonies and plantations, as direct the manner of determining and recovering the penalties and forfeitures therein contained."

The first of the above resolutions being read a second time, a motion was made, and the question being put that the said resolution be postponed, it carried in the negative; upon which it was agreed to by the House.

The five next resolutions being read a second time, were likewise agreed to.

The seventh resolution being a second time read, a motion was made to recommend it; but, previous to the question being put, the House was moved that part of an act made in the 5th of Queen Anne, entitled "An act for the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland," might be read; which being accordingly done, the question was put that the said 7th resolution should be recommended, but it passed in the negative: Upon which it was ordered that leave be given to bring in a bill to repeal said Stamp Act; and the following Gentlemen are ordered to prepare and bring in the same: Mr. Fuller (Chairman of the Committee) Mr. Secretary Conway, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Townshend, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir George Saville, Lord John Cavendish, Mr. Thomas Townshend, jun. Mr. Onslow, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Alderman Beckford, Mr. Hussey, Mr. Prowse, Sir William Baker, Mr. Cooke, Sir William Meredith, Colonel Barre, and Mr. Burke.

A motion being afterwards made, and the question put, "that it be an instruction to the said Gentlemen that they make effectual provision in said bill for preserving the just right and authority of the British Legislature, by directing all votes and resolutions of the Assemblies of any of the American colonies, repugnant to the said rights and authority, to be erased and expunged, before the said repeal shall take place in such respective colonies," it passed in the negative.

It was then ordered that bills should be brought in, upon the first and sixth of said resolutions, and that Mr. Fuller, Mr. Secretary Conway, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord John Cavendish, Mr. Thomas Townshend, jun. Mr. Onslow, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Solicitor General, and Mr. Cooper, should prepare and bring in the same.

The second, third, fourth, and fifth of said resolutions, were ordered humbly to be laid before his Majesty.

The House then resolved that an address be presented to his Majesty, humbly desiring that he would be graciously pleased to give directions that said resolutions be transmitted to the Governours of his Majesty's colonies and plantations in America, to be by them communicated to the Assemblies of their respective governments.

BOSTON, March 20.

The following is the copy of a letter from Colonel Isaac Barre, Member of Parliament, to James Otis, Esq; as Chairman of the Committee appointed to transmit him the thanks of the inhabitants of this metropolis for his patriotic speech of the last session of Parliament in favour of the colonies.

S I R,
It is with the highest sense of the honour done me I acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated Boston, New England, September the 20th, with the unanimous resolution of the Committee enclosed, containing expressions of approbation from the metropolis of his Majesty's ancient and loyal province of the Massachusetts Bay, which are exceedingly flattering to me,

During the last war, the course of my profession gave me frequent and pleasing opportunities of observing attentively the spirit, loyalty, and attachment, of his Majesty's North American subjects, in support of a war begun in defence of the limits of North America, and continued to the honour and immortal glory of this nation in every part of the world.

My natural attachment to this country, a regard to its most solid interests, to its improvement in time of peace (which so greatly depends on the establishing our late extended commerce upon those generous and steady principles which a happy experience, and the information of those most materially concerned, can suggest) and to the uniting our strength in case of any future rupture, has, and will ever make me desirous of promoting every measure that may contribute to these good effects, and of strongly deprecating those of a contrary tendency.

My conduct in Parliament, so obligingly referred to, being the real sentiments of my heart, was the natural result of these considerations. The terms in which they were delivered were such as the particular circumstances of time and place first suggested, and such as I cannot possibly, at this distance, charge my memory with. They were not premeditated, nor are they perhaps worthy to be remembered. I must therefore beg your mediation, Sir, with the respectable body whose pen you hold, to excuse my troubling them with an imperfect repetition of words, in themselves of little use in North America; but if there should be any call for the like exertion in Europe, I beg leave, through your means, to assure them that no consideration shall make me forget my duty, whenever an occasion presents itself, of promoting, to the utmost of my abilities, the united interest of Great Britain and her colonies.

As long as the inhabitants of Massachusetts Bay will continue to regard the motives of my conduct, and the consequences, I do not despair of retaining, what I shall ever esteem among the greatest rewards, their approbation, of which I cannot have a more honourable or distinguishing mark than that contained in the last part of their resolution. A flattering request, which I shall comply with as soon as possible.

My being abroad the whole summer prevented me from having the honour of receiving your letter sooner than the end of December: This circumstance I beg may be communicated to the Gentlemen of the Committee, and to your other respectable fellow citizens. At the same time you will accept, I hope, of my sincere thanks for your polite manner of communicating to me their sentiments, and for the trouble you had upon this occasion. I am, with the greatest respect, and personal regard,

Sir, your most obedient and
Most humble servant
London, Jan. 17, 1766. ISAAC BARRE.
To the Hon. James Otis, Esq;

WILLIAMSBURG, May 2.
GREAT and GLORIOUS NEWS to America,
and comfortable news to the PRINTER of
the Virginia Gazette.

An express arrived in town this evening from Mr. Jordan, who came passenger in the *Lord Baltimore*; Capt. Mitchell, arrived in *York river* from London, who brings a certain account of the repeal of the abhorred STAMP ACT. The publication of our paper, upon this account, will be later than usual; but the occasion of it, we are almost sure, will plead our excuse. After reading the following, let the cheerful song go round; for Britons, Britons never will be slaves.

A bill for the better securing the dependency of his Majesty's dominions in America upon the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain.

WHEREAS several of the Assemblies in his Majesty's colonies and plantations in America, assuming to themselves powers and prerogatives inconsistent with the constitutional dependency of the said colonies and plantations on the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain, have passed votes and resolutions highly unwarrantable and derogatory to the dignity and legislative authority of these kingdoms: May it therefore please your Most Excellent Majesty that it may be declared, and be it declared by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the said colonies and plantations in America have been, are, and of right ought to be, subordinate unto, and dependent upon, the Imperial Crown and Parliament of Great Britain; and

that the King's Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, had, hath, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force and validity to bind the colonies and people of America, subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever.

Passed in a Committee of the whole House on Friday the 28th of February, 1766, and ordered to be engrossed, with a clause declaring all votes and resolutions of the Assemblies, derogatory to the just authority of Parliament, null and void.

A bill to repeal an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled An act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America, towards further defraying the expense of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such parts of the several acts of Parliament, relating to the trade and revenues of the said colonies and plantations, as direct the manner of determining and recovering the penalties and forfeitures therein mentioned.

WHEREAS an act was passed in the last session of Parliament, entitled An act for granting and applying certain stamp duties in the British colonies and plantations in America, towards further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such parts of the several acts of Parliament, relating to the trade and revenues of the said colonies and plantations, as direct the manner of determining and recovering the penalties and forfeitures therein mentioned: And whereas your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, upon the strictest inquiry into the state of your Majesty's colonies in America, do find that the laying and collecting the several duties and revenues, as by the said act is directed and provided, will be attended with many inconveniences, and may be productive of consequences dangerous to the commercial interests of these kingdoms: And whereas occasion hath thereby been given to raise discontents, and to disquiet the minds of your Majesty's subjects, we your Majesty's most faithful Commons, having maturely and deliberately considered of the relief necessary to be given in a matter wherein the trade and commerce of your Majesty's dominions, and the welfare and prosperity of your people, as well in Great Britain as in America, are essentially concerned, do humbly beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted, and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of May, 1766, the above mentioned act, and the several matters and things therein contained, shall be, and is, and are hereby repealed, and made void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Passed in a Committee of the whole House, on Friday the 28th of February, 1766, and ordered to be engrossed. Read the third time the 4th of March, and passed; 250 for, and 122 against it. Carried to the House of Lords by Secretary Conway, attended by 200 Members, and Rose Fuller, with the Bill of Rights. Read the first time in the House of Lords on Wednesday the 5th of March, and determined to be committed on Tuesday the 11th of March.