

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1782.

LONDON, December 15.

The following is the petition which was agreed upon on Monday by the inhabitants of Westminster, assembled in Westminster-hall.

To the king's most excellent majesty. The humble address, petition, and remonstrance of the electors, and other inhabitants paying taxes to government, resident in the city and liberty of Westminster.

IMPRESSED with an awful sense of the dangers which surround us, feeling for ourselves and our posterity, anxious for the glory of a country as much renowned for the virtues of justice and humanity as for the splendour of its arms, we approach your throne with sentiments becoming citizens at so alarming an hour, at the same time with that respect which is due to the monarch of a free people, and a prince of the illustrious house of Brunswick, to which we feel ourselves in a particular manner attached by all the ties of gratitude and affection.

It is with inexpressible concern that we have heard your majesty declare, in your speech to both houses of parliament, your intention of persevering in a system of measures which has proved so disastrous to this country. Such a declaration calls for the voice of a free and injured people. We feel the respect due to your majesty, but in this critical and awful moment, to flatter is to betray. Your majesty's ministers have, by false assertions and fallacious suggestions, deluded your majesty and the nation into the present unnatural and unfortunate war. The consequences of this delusion have been, that the trade of this country has suffered irreparable losses, and is threatened with final extinction.

The manufacturers in many valuable branches are declining, and their supply of materials rendered precarious, by the inferiority of your majesty's fleets to that of the enemy in almost every part of the globe. The landed property throughout the kingdom has been depreciated in the most alarming degree.

The property of your majesty's subjects vested in the public funds, has lost above one third of its value. Private credit has been almost wholly annihilated by the enormous interest given in the public loans, superior to that which is allowed by law in any private contract. Such of our brethren in America as were deluded by the promises of your majesty's ministers, and the proclamation of your generals, have been surrendered by your majesty's armies to the mercy of their enemies.

Your majesty's fleets have lost their wonted superiority. Your armies have been captured. Your dominions have been lost. And your majesty's faithful subjects have been loaded with a burthen of taxes, which, even if our victories had been as splendid as our defeats, have been disgraceful, if our accession of dominions had been as fortunate as the dismemberment of the empire has been cruel and disastrous, could not in itself be considered but as a great and grievous calamity.

We do therefore most humbly implore your majesty to take all these circumstances into your royal consideration, and to compare the present situation of your dominions with that uncommon state of prosperity to which the wisdom of your royal ancestors, the spirit and bravery of the British people, and the favour of Divine Providence, which naturally attends upon principles of justice and humanity, had once raised this happy country, the pride and envy of all the civilized world.

We do beseech your majesty no longer to continue a delusion from which the nation has awakened, and that your majesty will be graciously pleased to relinquish entirely and for ever the plan of reducing our brethren in America to obedience by force; a plan which the fatal experience of passed losses has convinced us, cannot be prosecuted without manifest and impending danger to all your majesty's remaining possessions in the western world.

We wish to declare to your majesty, to Europe, to America itself, our abhorrence of the continuation of the unnatural and unfortunate war, which can tend to no other purpose than that of alienating and rendering irretrievable the confidence of our American brethren, with whom we still hope to live upon the terms of intercourse and friendship, so necessary to the commercial prosperity of this kingdom. We do therefore further humbly implore your majesty, that your majesty will be graciously pleased to dismiss from your presence and councils, all the advisers, both public and secret, of the measures we lament, as a pledge to the world of your majesty's fixed determination, to abandon a system incompatible with the interest of your crown, and the happiness of your people.

The above petition is an exact copy verbatim of the address, &c. agreed to by the livery of London at the common hall on Thursday last. The lord mayor, sheriffs and livery ordered the messengers to wait on his majesty, to know when he would receive it; when his majesty was pleased to say, "I shall take time to consider of the manner in which I shall receive it, and the time when, and will let you know." The 15th of December lord Hertford informed the sheriffs, that his majesty would receive the address, &c. at the livery, on the 24th, but as the sheriffs were ordered to present it to his majesty sitting on his throne, and as he was not there, the address was not presented at all.

BASSETTERE, (St. Christopher's) Feb. 19.

The marquis Bouille has been pleased to order the editor to carry on the printing business as usual, and to insert what he may deem proper, except against the king of France; the public are therefore informed that this gazette will continue to be published, under the present form, every Tuesday and Friday.

An account of the invasion of this island and of the different engagements will be published as soon as the particulars can be carefully collected.

The unremitting attention, the mildness and humanity with which we are treated by the marquis de Bouille, count Dillon, count Flechin, captain Nolan, and by the French officers in general, deserve our warmest acknowledgments.

Count Dillon is appointed governor of this island, and Mons. Fraine, lieutenant-governor, the former is to embark on a grand expedition; the latter is a gentleman of an amiable character, and is to continue with us; captain Nolan is to remain in Basseterre.

An English fleet of ten sail of the line, five frigates, the trade, and some transports have certainly arrived at Barbados: the Victory of 110 guns, and Queen of 98, are two of the above squadron.

Six sail of the line and a number of transports, have arrived at Martinique, and two sail of the line which were separated from them have joined the count de Grasse.

It is said that admiral Hood in his way to Antigua, fell in with four Spanish line of battle ships, and has captured them.

CAPITULATION of the islands of St. Christopher and Nevis, between his excellency the count de Grasse, commander of his Most Christian Majesty's naval forces, and his excellency the marquis de Bouille, governor-general of the French windward-islands in America, and his excellency Thomas Shirley, Esq; a major-general in his Britannic majesty's army and governor of the islands of St. Christopher and Nevis, and Thomas Fraser, Esq; brigadier-general, commanding the troops on Brimstone-hill.

Art. 1. THE governor, the commander of the troops, the regular officers and soldiers, the officers and privates of militia, shall march through the breach on the fort of Brimstone-hill with all the honours of war; with drums beating, colours flying, one mortar, two brass field pieces, ten rounds each, arms and baggage, and then lay down their arms at a place appointed, the officers excepted.

Art. 2. The regular troops shall be prisoners of war, and sent to England in safe and good vessels which shall be furnished with provisions for the voyage; but they shall not serve against the king of France until they shall be exchanged.

The officers are permitted to reside in any of the islands upon their parole.

The militia and armed negroes shall return to their respective homes.

Art. 3. The inhabitants or their attorneys shall be obliged to take the oaths of fidelity to the king of France within the space of one month, before the governor of the said islands, and those who are prevented from it by sickness or otherwise shall obtain a delay.

Art. 4. They shall observe an exact neutrality and shall not be compelled to take arms against his Britannic majesty or any other power.

They are at liberty to retain their arms for the internal police and better subjection of their negroes; but they are to make a return of them to the justice of the peace, who shall be responsible for any bad use that may be made of them, contrary to the tenor of the present capitulation.

Art. 5. They shall enjoy, until the peace, their laws, customs and ordinances, justice shall be administered by the same persons who are actually in office—all expenses attending the administration of justice, shall be defrayed by the colony.

Art. 6. The court of chancery shall be held by the council of the island and in the same form as heretofore, and all appeals from the said court shall be made to his Most Christian Majesty in council.

Art. 7. The inhabitants and clergy shall be supported in the possession of their estates and properties of whatsoever nature and denomination, and in their privileges, rights, titles, honours and exemptions; and in the possession of their religion, and the ministers in the enjoyment of their livings.

The absentees and those who are in the service of his Britannic majesty shall be maintained in the possession and enjoyment of their estates and properties, which shall be managed by their attorneys.

The inhabitants may sell their estates and possessions to whom they shall think proper—and they are at liberty to send their children to England to be educated and from whence they may return when they judge proper.

Art. 8. The inhabitants shall pay monthly, into the hands of the treasurer of the troops, in lieu of all taxes, the value of two-thirds of the duties that the islands of St. Christopher and Nevis paid to the king of Great-Britain, which shall be estimated according to the valuation of the revenues made in the year 1781, and which shall serve as a basis.

Art. 9. The slaves which may have been taken during the siege shall be religiously restored; and they may also be reclaimed in any of the French windward or leeward islands.

Art. 10. The inhabitants shall not be obliged to furnish the troops with quarters, except in extraordinary cases; but they are to be lodged at the expense of the king, or in houses belonging to the crown.

Art. 11. In cases where the king's business may require negroes to work, they shall be furnished by the inhabitants of the said islands, to the number of 500; but they shall be paid at the rate of two bits per day each, and victualled at the expense of the king.

Art. 12. The vessels and droghers belonging to the inhabitants at the capitulation shall be restored entire to their owners.

The vessels which the said inhabitants expect from the ports of England, or from any of his Britannic majesty's possessions, shall be received in the said colonies during the space of six months, and they may load them to return under neutral colours, even for the ports of Great-Britain, with the particular permission of the governor; and if any of the vessels expected should stop at any of the English islands, the governor shall be authorized to grant permission for them to come to either of the said islands.

Art. 13. The inhabitants and merchants shall enjoy all the privileges of commerce granted to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, throughout all the extent of his dominions.

Art. 14. Whatever may have been furnished for the French army during the siege and to this day, by the said islands, and the losses that the inhabitants have sustained by the burning of plantations, and by every other means, shall be estimated by a meeting of the inhabitants; and the amount shall be equally borne by the two islands, under the head of contribution or indemnity for the expenses of the war, but in such a manner that this article shall not diminish the taxes above mentioned, which are to take place from the date of the capitulation, but the assembly of the inhabitants may apply to it the arrears of the general taxes which remain in their hands at the date of the capitulation.

Art. 15. The failors of merchant ships, those of privateers and other individuals, who have no property in the said islands, shall depart from the same in the space of six weeks, if they are not employed in droghers, or avowed by two proprietors, who will answer for them, and means shall be furnished them to depart for the neutral islands.

Art. 16. The general of the French troops shall be put in possession of all the artillery, all the effects depending on the said colonies belonging to his Britannic majesty; all powder, arms, ammunition and king's vessels, shall be given to the commander of the French troops, and an inventory of them presented to the governor.

Art. 17. Out of respect to the courage and determined conduct of generals Shirley and Fraser, we consent, that they shall not be considered as prisoners of war; but the former may return to his government of Antigua and the latter continue in the service of his country; being happy to testify this mark of our particular esteem for these brave officers.

At St. Christopher, the 15th of February 1782. Le Marquis de BOUILLE, THOMAS SHIRLEY, Governor and major-general of his majesty's army, THOMAS FRASER, Brigadier-general. It is moreover covenanted that the inhabitants of these islands, with the permission of the governor, may export their merchandize in neutral vessels for all the ports of Europe and America.

Le M. de BOUILLE, THOMAS SHIRLEY, THOMAS FRASER.

ANNAPOLIS, March 28. HOUSE OF COMMONS, (Westminster) Wednesday, Decem-

Sir James Lowther observed, that the king's speech had talked of the prosecution of the war, in a manner that had alarmed the whole country; that notwithstanding the endeavours of ministers to explain away the words of the speech, and of the address, which that house had agreed to present to the throne upon it, it was universally understood, that the address had pledged the house to the prosecution of the American war, therefore from that account, as well as from a consideration of the melancholy state of our affairs, in consequence of the various calamities of the war, and especially the late dreadful disaster that had befallen lord Cornwallis in the Chesapeake, he thought it highly incumbent on that house, previous to their voting the army, to come to some solemn resolution, in order to mark and define their idea of the American war, and to convince their constituents, that they were awake to the real state of the country, and anxious to do their duty in a manner becoming the representatives of a great and free people. Sir James concluded with reading two motions to the following effect.

Motion 1. That it is the opinion of this house, that all our efforts to reduce America to obedience by force, have been ineffectual, and have only tended to weaken this country, and exhaust its resources, while they have served to strengthen the hands of our ancient and natural enemies. And Motion 2. That this house is of opinion, that all further efforts to reduce the Americans to obedience by force, will be ineffectual, and injurious to the interests of