

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 11, 1782.

L O N D O N, December 4.

THE changes expected to take place are the chancellor to go out with a pension, in addition to his agreement, of 1000l. a year; lord Loughborough to succeed him, and enter the cabinet, where he is much wanted, with a pension in reversion of 6000l. a year; if he is obliged to quit the seals; Mr. Wallace to succeed lord Loughborough; Mr. Mansfield to be attorney-general, and Mr. Macdonald, solicitor-general, lord George Germain will certainly go out.

The first reinforcement of troops to be sent to America after Christmas, is 8000 from Ireland, 2000 from Scotland, and a very numerous draught from the guards.

All the well disciplined youngest men of the three regiments of foot guards are, it is expected, to be sent to America, a general muster being ordered for draughts for that purpose.

By the report of a person arrived in the fleet from Jamaica, the greatest damage received by the storm in August last was done by the hail-stones, which fell in large quantities for several hours, and of a magnitude superior to any ever before seen in that country.

The Dutch ships that were lately seen at the back of the Goodwin Sands, were count Byland's, the Amsterdam of 68 guns, with the Diesen frigate, and three East-Indiamen, under convoy: they got into the Maese—the East-Indiamen were richly laden.

A circular letter has been sent to all the circles of Bohemia, letting them know, that the emperor has resolved to grant the protestants in his hereditary dominions greater toleration than they have hitherto experienced, and that his intentions on that head will soon be published; adding, that it is his majesty's pleasure that all emigrants outlawed on account of their religion, and who chuse to return, shall be received without any obstacle.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, March 30.

The general assembly of South-Carolina finished a session of five weeks on the 26th of February, in which they transacted a variety of important business with great unanimity. They have adopted such vigorous and effectual methods for completing their continental battalions, that, in all probability, they will have their full quota in the field by the first of May. During the republican government, before the surrender of Charles-town, the friends of his Britannic majesty were allowed to depart the state, and to sell or remove with them the whole of their property; but the savage manner in which the British have carried on the war, in burning houses, plundering the inhabitants, laying waste the country; and especially the precedent of lord Cornwallis, who by proclamation sequestered the property of the friends of America, have at length induced the legislature of that state to depart from their first plan, and to retaliate on British property. They accordingly passed an act for the confiscation and immediate sale of the estates, both real and personal, of such of the adherents to royal government, as had been active in their endeavours to re-establish British tyranny on the ruins of the free constitution of the country. Though this business was begun, carried on and completed with the greatest deliberation, within 36 miles of Charles-town, yet general Leslie attempted nothing more for the relief of his friends, than to retail in every gazette a proclamation, which promised them ample security and protection, and threatened severe vengeance on all who took part in the second usurpation. The royal gazette which contained this proclamation, had also on the same page a list of the persons whose estates were confiscated by the rebel assembly.

A considerable force of cavalry and infantry commanded by colonel Thomson, sallied out from Charles-town on the side opposite to the encampment of the continental army, which surprised and dispersed a party of militia and state troops on the 24th and 25th of February. Major Benson, of colonel Morry's corps, and Mr. Thomas Braughton were killed, and ten others were killed and wounded. A number of horses were lost, and baggage of several officers taken. The British retreated within their lines before general Greene could lead reinforcements to attack them.

A number of transports had arrived in the latter end of February at Charles town, which gave rise to various conjectures, and induced many to flatter themselves with a belief that the evacuation of that important post was intended. This was confidently asserted both within and without the British lines.

The Rover privateer of four carriage-guns and 125 barrels of flour, was boarded and captured near St. Helena Sound, on her way from Providence to Charles-town on the 21st of February by a party of militia headed by captain Jenkins. Letters on board mention, that the people of Providence daily expected a visit from the Spaniards, and that they had sent to Charles-town for reinforcements. This first prize since the re-establishment of American government, was libelled on the 17th of February in the court of admiralty at Jacksonborough.

The cruelties and depredations of the British army in the late travels of lord Cornwallis through the southern states, have made the luke-warm violent, and the timid resolute in their opposition to royal government: on the whole, public affairs wear a very pleasing aspect in South-Carolina. American government is regularly administered in every department, and the

re-animated commonwealth possesses great energy and vigour.

The honourable Mr. Gadsden, who had been confined 43 weeks in the castle of St. Augustine, in violation of the capitulation of Charles-town in the first instance, was elected governor of the state. This illustrious republican, who has done and suffered too much for his country, declined accepting the office in a speech to the following effect; "I have" said he "served you in a variety of situations for 30 years, and I would now cheerfully make one of a forlorn hope in an assault on the lines of Charles-town, if it was probable, that with the certain loss of my life you would be reinstated in the possession of your capital: what I can do for my country I am willing to do: my sentiments of the American cause, from the stamp act downwards, have never changed; I am still of opinion that it is the cause of liberty and of human nature. If my acceptance of the office of governor would serve my country, though my administration would be attended with a loss of personal credit and reputation, I would cheerfully undertake it; but the present times require the vigour and activity of the prime of life; I feel the increasing infirmities of old age, to such a degree, that I am conscious I cannot serve you to advantage: I therefore beg for your sakes, and for the sake of the public, that you would indulge me with the liberty of declining the arduous trust."

By a gentleman who lately arrived here from the westward, we have the following information; that about the 28th ult. a woman and four children were taken prisoners by the Indians, 25 miles west of Fort Pitt. Happily a heavy snow falling the same night prevented much more mischief, as there were upwards of 40 Indians tracks found in the snow next morning. This naturally threw the people in the neighbourhood into the greatest consternation, and will be a means of causing much distress, unless timely relieved. General Irwin, is now on his way to Pittsburgh; he will do every thing possible for the assistance of the distressed inhabitants. If the general has money to pay the militia, &c. there is no doubt he will find men enough to keep the Indians at a distance, and to enable the farmers to put in their crops in due season.

The commissioners for the settlement of an exchange, were to meet at Elizabethtown the 28th instant; sir H. Clinton has appointed general Dalrymple and Mr. Elliot, on the part of the British, to meet general Knox and Gouverneur Morris, Esq; appointed by his excellency general Washington.

April 2. Wednesday last the house of his excellency the minister of France was struck by lightning. The building stands alone, at a considerable distance from any other, at the western extremity of the city. The lightning struck it in three different places. The principal explosion was on the west side of the house. The chimney of M. le chevalier de la Luzerne was thrown down to the roof, and the bricks scattered to a great distance; the lightning descended down the chimney, attracted by a stove that stopped up the fire place: irritated by this obstacle, it broke the stove in pieces, demolished entirely the mantle piece, split the tunnel of the chimney, threw down and broke all the wainscoting near it, dispersed the bricks to the other end of the room, and cast pieces of the stove to the distance of ten or twelve feet, broke the furniture and glass, and the chamber was found covered with rubbish. The electric matter appears to have scattered, by traces left on the wall at the front of the house, in returning upwards towards the roof, where the lead of the gutters attracted it without doubt. The same explosion which struck the chimney followed the course of the gutters and descended by a leaden pipe, the end of which terminated on the outside of the wall of the bedchamber of the chevalier: attracted by an iron bedstead in the chamber, it penetrated the wall and tore two bricks out of it, leaving a long black trace on the wall, and collected by the iron bedstead set the curtains and bedcloaths on fire; it has started the flooring and made its way into the dining room, underneath this chamber, by a breach in the ceiling of the dining room of about six feet long and two feet broad; gliding along the wainscoting has fallen upon the window-leads and hinges of the shutters, which were all torn off, and has cast the window shutters to the other side of the room; split in several places a mahogany buffet and broke all the china within; the chairs were all broken by the force of the commotion, after which it passed out at a window of the court, without any other consequences.

The lightning struck also the eastern side of the house at the same time that it did the western side. The electrical matter without doubt was conducted by the moisture on the roof, caused by a considerable shower of rain, that had just fallen and coming to a cheval de plomb, penetrated through the cramp irons which fastened it to the timber work of the roof, and entered a cloaths-press in a chamber on the upper story, set fire to the cloaths, broke down the shelves, melted all the nails, broke a china jug of milk, and reduced the milk to smoke. It is probable it would have done a great deal more damage in this chamber, if it had not met with the attraction of an iron bedstead, which was in a room on a lower story.

Two persons who were in this chamber saw the bedposts start abundance of flashes of fire in the middle of a thick black smoke, which had a sulphurous smell; it has torn up all the flooring under the bedstead, and has forced a large passage into a parlour on the ground

floor, by breaking away the intermediate boards, and removing joists four inches thick. Here the electric matter appears to have divided and taken three different directions; one has followed the wire of the bell into an adjoining room, and has taken off a great part of the cornice therein, and then scattered; another has sunken a part of the floor in the direction of its first entrance, but out of the parlour and near the stair case; whence it has been conducted in two different directions along a bell wire, one end of which terminated at the door of the house; and the other at a wash-basin. It tore off the cornice on one side of the front door, and pushed out of its place one of the ornamental pillars on the outside where the bell-wire hangs; it went off in an iron cylinder full of live coals; placed in the middle of a tray of water; it dispersed the coals in all directions; it partly extinguished in the water, and scarce left any further trace. But the third, in its passage, took along the fishes of the window next to the place where it entered, struck the window leads and tore off on one side, all the casing and the window shutter, following the gilding of the rods, and descending along the rods on the lining of the window, opposite to the place of its entrance, which it partly broke. Unfortunately a French officer was near this window; the shock threw him into a swoon on a chair, and set fire to his cloaths: He was alone, and no one coming to his assistance for some minutes; he was terribly and dangerously burnt; his cloaths were almost wholly consumed about him. Here the lightning seems to have divided partly by the sash, a piece of which was torn off; and partly by a nail, through the floor to the cellar; whither it was attracted by some tin'd plates, towards which it made its way, by tearing several boards, blackening the whole of the tin and melting in several places the white metal off the plates, and even some parts of these plates; it scattered and threw aside the dung that closed up a cellar window, through which it escaped, having marked the iron bars of the window. Besides it broke a great many bottles and partly overturned every thing in the cellar.

Exclusive of these particular tracks of the lightning, the house appears to have had a general shock; all the walls have been shaken and cracked; chimneys have opened in many places; the most of the bell-wires have been melted; several locks torn off or broken, the cornices near the bells broken in many pieces; there is scarcely a nail but what has been removed by the shock upon the house, which was general; the inside of the rooms was covered with dust; a black, thick, stifling vapour, which emitted an intolerable smell of brimstone, filled the whole house, and was cleared away with difficulty. Wherever the electrical matter failed of a conductor, the spark or flash with which it darted, has traced in zigzag a broad black streak, with a narrower one within, less tinged.

This incident is a new proof, added to a great many others, of the usefulness of the metallic conductors for which mankind are indebted to the invention of the celebrated doctor Franklin; there is every reason to believe that if the house of the minister of France, had been provided with such, that even supposing the lightning had struck a part of the building, distant from the conductor, its violence must have been considerably weakened by the attraction of the point; and it would have left but light marks of the stroke, as happened some time since, to Dr. Shippen's house.

The circumstances farther shew that the stove, which attracted and stopped the lightning, occasioned these dreadful concussions, from whence we are led to believe, that by this the dangers were greatly increased; it seems also, that the iron bedstead had like effect, as by centering the electric fire they gave new energy to the thunder clap; and that iron bedsteads would be very dangerous should a thunder storm happen in the night.

Extract of a letter from Allen-town, West-New-Jersey, dated March 26, 1782.

"The refugees have paid Com's river a visit. They have burnt most of the houses, stripped and plundered the inhabitants of almost every thing. Mr. Daniel Randolph is carried to New-York. Moses Robins is badly wounded and stripped of every thing; and the people are in great distress."

A N N A P O L I S, April 11. By his EXCELLENCY THOMAS SIM LEE, Esquire, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND, A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS the house of senate and house of delegates adjourned to Monday the third day of June next, and affairs of high importance and concern proper for the consideration of the general assembly requiring its meeting as soon as may be; I have therefore with the advice of the council appointed Thursday the twenty-fifth day of April instant, for the meeting and holding of the general assembly of this state, of which the several sheriffs are hereby enjoined to give public and due notice.

Given at Annapolis, this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two.

T H O S L E E, By his EXCELLENCY'S command, T. JOHNSON, jun. sec. GOD SAVE THE STATE.