

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A Y 2, 1782.

L O N D O N, December 11. WESTMINSTER MEETING.

YESTERDAY, in consequence of an advertisement from the Westminster committee, signed by the honourable Charles James Fox, there was a meeting of the inhabitants of the city of Westminster, in Westminster-hall. The principal persons who appeared on the temporary stage, erected at the entrance into the common pleas, were, the earl of Derby, the hon. Charles Fox, Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Sir Watkin Lewis, general Burgoyne, Dr. Jebb, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Edmond Burke, Mr. William Burke, Mr. Byng, Mr. Polhill, Sir Richard Hotham, and Sir Joseph Mawbey. The hall was very much crowded, and the meeting remarkably respectable. Upon the motion of Mr. Samuel Houfe, Mr. Fox was unanimously voted to the chair. Mr. Fox rose, and in a short speech, lamenting the fallen state of this once flourishing empire, and proving the rights of the people to petition, remonstrate and address, proposed to the committee, a remonstrance, petition and address to the throne, as a measure very necessary in the present wretched crisis of public affairs, and as serving to conduce to a restoration of the happiness, peace and commercial greatness of this country. He said, that the measures adopted in the present ministerial system, had involved us in a line of misfortunes and defeats, and that our consequence, which formerly preponderated in the scale of European politics, had sunk under the enormous weight of our disgraces. Notwithstanding which, it was the royal determination, delivered from the throne in his majesty's speech, to continue a war, which had brought ruin and desolation on the empire. He touched upon our late losses in America, and concluded with saying, he would reserve himself to enter more largely into our deplorable situation, and the necessity of the proposed measure, until gentlemen had heard the remonstrance, &c. read. Dr. Jebb warmly seconded Mr. Fox; he said he felt for the degraded situation of Englishmen, and declared a fear, that it was the intention of government, by means of standing armies, to annihilate the liberties of this country, so gloriously preserved and handed down to us inviolate from our ancestors. There was, he remarked, great danger in trusting fleets and armies to men, who had brought us to the very verge of destruction. He described the hardships imposed upon our American brethren, and shewed the necessity of withdrawing our fleets and armies from America; she would never be beaten into a reconciliation, and conciliatory measures were therefore most likely, and he believed the only means of producing to desirable an event. He then read the remonstrance, which was couched in terms, declaratory of the rights of a free people to petition, remonstrate and address, and breathing a warm spirit of English freedom, expressive of their deep sorrows for the unfortunate consequences the measures of the present ministers were stated to have induced, and beseeching his majesty to redress the grievances of his people, by removing from his councils the men who had brought the character of the empire to its present fallen situation, and tarnished the glory of his reign. The petition was nearly the same as that of the city of London. The doctor then moved the address, which passed unanimously. Mr. Fox once more came forward, and said he was happy to find there was no dissentient voice to a measure which the situation of this country at present demanded. He then entered into a minute investigation of the rise, cause, and progress of the American war, and pathetically lamented that necessity which reduced the meeting to the distressed situation of remonstrating to their sovereign, on the dangerous errors of those men to whom he had committed the administration of affairs; he had uniformly, from the first moment of this unhappy war, reprobated it, because he conceived it to be, what the fatal consequences proved, big with destruction to this country, though he acknowledged there were many country gentlemen, who had, from a conviction of principle, agreed to the fatal commencement of hostilities with America, because they considered it hard for the burthen of the glorious conquests of the late war to lie upon the people of this country, without the participation of America, to ease the load of taxes thence incurred. Now, said he, this war has proceeded thus far, how do you feel yourselves? Are your burthens lightened? So far, he contended, were those causes of complaint, which had influenced the conduct of gentlemen, from being removed, those causes were multiplied without alleviation; tax was loaded upon tax, and disgrace and disaster were the melancholy consolation. To preserve our West-Indian settlements was this war begun. How has it succeeded? By the loss of Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincents, Dominico, and our other valuable settlements in that part of the world, which it was the glory of the last war to acquire. To prevent the interference of France with our dominion in America was one of its first objects. It has unfortunately answered all the ends it was intended to pre-

vent. It has established the power of France in America, and brought us into that melancholy situation, which it has been the endeavour of every king of France, till now, without effect to attempt. He then described our glorious successes, when lord Gatham had the direction of affairs, and contrasted his with the present administration. The dignity of this nation, he said, was in that time raised to a degree of superior consideration; never was the British name exalted to such a pitch of pre-eminence; till now the purposes of the crown of France were never effectually answered. When the gold of Lewis XIV. had an influence in English councils, the crown of France had never been so effectually served as at the present time. In no age, in no reign, was political refinement carried to such excess as now. The policy of France has turned all our measures to its advantage; the refinement of its schemes has turned our own means against ourselves. In Lewis XIVth's time, it was the custom to bribe the ministers with the money of France; but now the crown of France bribes them with the money of England. The burthens under which the people groan, the taxes which they pay, bribe the ministry to concur with all the views of France; the destruction of our power in America; the loss of our islands in the West-Indies; the arming Englishmen against Englishmen in America; and the arming Englishmen against Dutchmen, their only natural allies in Europe. Thus has the crown of France been gratified in all its wishes; it has seen the dominion of England annihilated in America; it has despoiled her of her most valuable islands in the West-Indies. And to crown all, the link of protestant confederacy in Europe has been severed by our war with the Dutch. His duty as a member of parliament, his anxiety for the liberties of his country, and his attention to the interest of his constituents, to whom he owed every grateful acknowledgment, called for his most strenuous exertions; and he pledged himself ever to be devoted to preserve his country's rights and liberties inviolate. He recommended to them to think on the unhappy consequences of a late petition, which had nearly involved this metropolis in destruction. He cautioned them to behave with decency, propriety, and firmness, but to avoid every kind of excess; and he explained to them that firmness which their present situation required. Their petition, he said, should be conducted with a proper decorum in its way to the throne; he made no doubt but his majesty would receive, and lend a gracious ear to their remonstrance. A prince who owed his title to the crown, to that right which his people have of granting it; a prince who reigns over a free people, a prince of the house of Brunswick, under whose illustrious family England arrived to the greatest pitch of glory; and who knows, and must feel this power to be inherent in his people, will never refuse to hear their complaints in a petition urged with coolness, a remonstrance offered with decency, and an address breathing at once the temper and spirit of his people. It would be unjust in him, as a subject, to suppose his majesty would refuse their petition, deny their address, or neglect their remonstrance. If, however, it should so happen, which he did not believe to be possible, it became their duty to reiterate, nor to cease until they effected their purpose. The behaviour of the assembly was remarkably quiet, and the whole business of the meeting was carried on with a decency highly honourable to so numerous an assembly.

C H A T H A M, April 7.

Extra of a letter from Minnik, dated April 7. "This moment we received the disagreeable intelligence that the savages killed a family of the Smiths yesterday about twelve o'clock, on the Pennsylvania side of the river, about twelve miles below this place—it is said that the whole family, both parents, children and workmen were all scalped together."

Last Friday a captain Hurdy, who was taken by the refugees in the block-house at Tom's river, as lately mentioned in this paper, was brought on shore, near Squan, by a party of the murderers, and hung. His will was found in his pocket, and a paper purporting the occasion of his executing him, which was, in retaliation for a refugee, who, being under guard, attempting to make his escape, our people had shot.

Aroule, countrymen! and suffer not this black act to pass with impunity; but let full atonement for his hapless life be made on those hell hounds we have in our possession.

Since our last a fleet of forty odd sail of vessels, with some troops on board, mostly invalids and officers, arrived at New-York from Charles-town.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, April 23.

A gentleman from Elizabeth-town informs us, that the celebrated captain Hylar, of New-Brunswick, with in these few days past, in an open boat, boarded and took a large cutter lying near Sandy-Hook, almost ready for sea, in sight of the Lion map of war of 64 guns. This vessel mounted twelve 18 pounders, and was commanded by one White, formerly of this city,

but proved an apostate to the cause of his country and went off with the enemy on their leaving Philadelphia. She was designed to cruise in Delaware bay. Captain Hylar, in coming off with his prize, was pursued by several armed vessels, and finding it impracticable to save her, blew her up; but brought off the said White and about forty other prisoners.

This is another of the gallant enterprises of captain Hylar, which add to his reputation, and command the esteem of his countrymen.

The following paragraph is taken from a Boston paper, dated the 11th instant: "Saturday last arrived here, after a passage of nine weeks and three days, from Holland, the brig Fire-Brand, captain Trowbridge—By her we have an account, that Holland has entered into an alliance with France, loan'd her five millions of florins on account of the United States of America; and that France have engaged to convoy the Dutch trade, that they may protect their own coasts."

A N N A P O L I S, May 1.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

WE have many causes of complaint against you. Whether you will grant us redress, or not, remains with yourselves. Most of you, from your own knowledge of our situation, can judge of the justice or injustice of our allegations. The injured, certainly have a right to complain, even against a whole state, provided it is done in decent language. We are not versed in the sublime, but we are friends to truth. We will proceed in our narrative. You have taken from us our horses, our cattle, and many other things for the public use. This we did not complain of because the good of our country required it, and we expected to be paid full price. But when we apply for payment, you give us scarcely one half, and tell us that we must accept of that half in full of all demands. Some of us owe you for public property purchased, and we always thought, that "discount was good pay," but so it is, when we have received a sort of money of you at par with specie, and offer to pay you the debts that we owe; you refuse to take it, unless at half the sum you charge us for it. Some of us have been soldiers in your service, and you have paid us little or nothing. Others have served you as civil officers, for which you promised us certain wages, but you have often paid us one half in lieu of the whole, and sometimes less. We know you are poor, but that ought not to prevent you from being honest. We are willing to give you as long credit, for any thing that you owe us, as the nature of your circumstances and our situation will admit of, but we cannot agree to lose half our claims, unless you declare yourselves bankrupt, and are never able to pay us. We will ask you a few questions. Is it necessary in carrying on a war to have officers and soldiers? Is it necessary for carrying on your civil government, to have a governor, counsellors, and other officers? You answer yes. Can you find men enough of great fortunes among you, and who are good whigs, qualified to fill every office in the state, and who will accept of the appointments? We think you will answer no. Is it possible for men of small fortunes (otherwise well qualified to serve you) to continue in your service upon half wages? The answer need not be mentioned. If you ask what can we do more than we have done? Attend, and we will give our opinion. If you have more offices in the civil department than are absolutely necessary for conducting your public affairs, set about a reformation in your form of government immediately, and abolish every one that is unnecessary. Such offices as you cannot do without, fill up with your best citizens of known abilities and industry, and let their salaries be assured to them in such manner that they cannot lose any thing by your mode of payment. This will enable and induce them to devote their whole time to your service. Convince the world that you are determined to do strict justice, and your delays in payment of your debts for want of the means, will not be complained of. The honest creditor, will never wish to distress the honest debtor. Should a merchant contract with any of you for the purchase of any part of your crops at a certain price, and afterwards pay you one half, and insist on a receipt in full, and from some law afterwards made in his favour, you could not recover half, would you not reprobate his conduct, and never trust him again? Certainly. What is right with respect to contracts between individuals, is certainly right with respect to public contracts, and ought to be adhered to in one case, as strictly as in the other. Delay not to provide for your officers and soldiers. Pay them as much of their wages, as your distressed circumstances will possibly admit of. Strain every nerve in order to exceed their expectation, and what you cannot pay immediately, secure to them in such manner that they may see plainly, you mean to do them justice. This will give satisfaction, and they will go through the arduous task they have undertaken, with pleasure, when they are convinced you have done all in your power for them. At present our most sincere wishes are, to see public credit restored, but we are convinced that it will never happen while daily acts of fraud and