

C H A T H A M, September 17.

The convention which met at Middle-town in Connecticut, the 3d inst. in order to obtain a redress of the grievance of commutation, have adjourned to the 30th.

PHILADELPHIA, September 20.

It appears by the English prints of the latter end of June last, that they were yet ignorant of the French army having left this continent, notwithstanding the duke Lauzun's legion had arrived at Brest. In the paragraphs which shew this, they at the same time start the ridiculous idea, that a body of French troops were to keep possession of Rhode-Island till the United States have paid the money borrowed from time to time of his Most Christian Majesty.

Sept. 23. The snow Maria, captain Wilson, of Dublin, from this port for Hispaniola, is loit on a reef of rocks, called Plate Wreck, to the eastward of Hispaniola; the people saved themselves in their boats.

We are told that several attempts have been made to rob the vessels of the United States laying at New-York, and such threats have been made by the refugees, that the vessels there are obliged to keep constant watch on deck.

Extract of a letter from Charles-town, South-Carolina, dated September 10, 1783.

"By this favourable opportunity I have enclosed you some of the latest papers printed here, although they contain nothing new or interesting. I cannot but at the same time regret, that we are entirely barren of news, every thing being in peace; but how long this will last here God knows; for, at the last sitting of our legislature, they passed an edict, ordering all persons who are not citizens, and in the compact with the governor and merchants, to be banished by the first of October next. Among many of these are numbers of those people who, when the English were here, did every thing in their power to distress all those who were known to be our steady friends; and yet, notwithstanding their cruelty to us, they are daily petitioning to stay among us; but I am convinced that our governor and council will compel them to be gone by the time fixed in the law."

A letter from Charles-town of September 9 says, "We have just received information of a violent hurricane at St. Augustine, by which several houses were overset and a number of vessels driven on shore; among them was a London ship with a great number of Carolina refugees, all of whom perished. The rain and some of the wind reached this place, by which the weather is made so cold, that every house in Charles town has a fire. The day before yesterday a captain H— of this town, in a fit of extreme distress and mortification of mind, put an end to his life at General Gadsden's wharf; it seems the cause of this unhappy affair was owing to his too great fondness for gymnical sports. He married a woman in London, and another in this town; both of these were likely to meet in a few days, and lest the coalition might produce an insurrection in the state, he cut the knot and left them both to move at large."

A man was lately detected, near Salem, New-England, endeavouring to pass counterfeit dollars, but he made his escape while it was in contemplation to seize him.

When Mr. Van Berkel, minister plenipotentiary from their high mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands to the United States of America, took his leave of their high mightinesses, on the 4th of June last, he addressed them as follows:

High and Mighty Lords,

Your high mightinesses having thought proper to name me to be the minister plenipotentiary from this republic to the Congress of the United States of America, my duty demands of me—now that I am ready to proceed on my voyage to the place of my residence—that I present myself before your high mightinesses, to receive your last orders—which indeed my sentiments of gratitude would lead me to do, had not duty demanded it.

Permit me then, high and mighty lords, to return you my sincere thanks for the favourable opinion your high mightinesses have been pleased to form of me; by which the choice of a minister to fill this glorious embassy has fallen upon me, an embassy which I will not, cannot disown to be infinitely agreeable to me. It enables me to be a near spectator of the rise, and, I hope, of the prosperity and flourishing establishment of a new republic, on which all Europe fixes its astonished regards, and for the founders of which every Batavian, who is a friend to liberty, must feel the most sincere affection, and esteem; since on principles similar to those of our own ancestors, tho' from causes somewhat different, they have shewed spirit enough to make head against a powerful kingdom; and to sacrifice both their properties and their lives to the acquisition of freedom and independence.

But, high and mighty lords, this commission is the more agreeable to me, because the chief end of it is to manifest to Congress the sincere wishes of your high mightinesses to connect still closer, if possible, those ties of friendship which are already formed between the two republics, and which by the mutual support and advancement of their commerce in all its branches, will render them powerful and formidable in every part of the globe.

I think these reasons, supported by such orders and with such a commission, charged to represent your high mightinesses, I cannot fail to be received with open arms by a people, who from the earliest stages of their independence have given such continued and striking proofs of their ardent desire to enter into the closest engagements with your high mightinesses, and who in so public a manner have shewn that they do not esteem less the friendships of this republic than that of the greatest and most powerful European states.

With this pleasing prospect before me I leave my country. But however elegant, however flattering, however attracting it may be—I am not unaware, that the road I am about to walk is strewn as well with thorns as with roses.

I am not ignorant, that the execution of the order of your high mightinesses, and the accomplishment of the object of your desire, will require labour, talents, and prudence; and the bare idea I have of mine, makes me

despair of being able to satisfy your high mightinesses, my own mind, and the desire of both countries. But I am encouraged, in the midst of my fears, by the certainty I am in of obtaining the approbation of your high mightinesses, and of enjoying their protection, if my efforts shall appear to be directed by a well intentioned zeal for the state, an inviolable attachment to its dearest interests, and an indefatigable activity in promoting them.

Encouraged then by these ideas, I take leave to observe, in bidding your high mightinesses adieu, that I recommend myself and all mine to your powerful protection; at the same time imploring the Supreme Arbiter of the world, that it may please him to distinguish the members of this august assembly with the choicest marks of his blessings; may these dwell with the families and persons of your high mightinesses. But above all, may it please God to bless your administration—may it be happy and glorious—may prudence crown every deliberation and resolution of yours, that has our dear country's welfare in view, with a more than wished for success—may it permit each of your high mightinesses to enjoy an old age of repose and tranquillity, which is the truest sign of a conscience without reproach; that for your high mightinesses, living, as it were, once more in your posterity, may possess to the latest times the love of an happy and grateful people.

I cannot fail, on this occasion, to add my hearty prayers, that it may please Heaven to pour down its most precious blessings on his highness Van Staudtholder, on his royal consort, and on their illustrious children. May the constant success of all their counsels and enterprises be the prosperity of this our dearest country!

ANNAPOLIS, October 2.

Last Thursday afternoon his excellency major general Greene and his suite arrived in this city from the southward, on their way to the northward.

The next day the corporation met, and presented him with the following address:

To the honourable Major-general GREENE.

S I R,

WE, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common-council, of the city of Annapolis, impressed with the most grateful feelings for the eminent services rendered to the United States, and the cause of liberty, by the southern army under your command, beg permission to congratulate you on your arrival in this city, and to testify, with the sincerest respect and regard, the lively sense we entertain of the invaluable blessings secured to us, by your conduct and unremitting assiduity, in the noblest cause that ever graced a soldier's sword.

Justice would wear the aspect of adulation, were we to enumerate the many signal endowments which endear you to the inhabitants of this city, and inspire us with the warmest and most respectful gratitude. They are, such as will ever engage our prayers to Divine Providence, that you may long continue to possess the affections of a generous republic; to share the sweets of domestic felicity; and to experience the happy reward of your distinguished virtues.

This address springs from the heart, and we solicit your acceptance of it, as the genuine sentiments of a grateful people.

Signed by order and in behalf of the corporation,

JAMES BRICE, Mayor.

Annapolis, September 26, 1783.
To which his excellency was pleased to return the following answer:

GENTLEMEN,

IT is with the highest satisfaction I receive your affectionate address, and feel my bosom glow with gratitude upon the occasion. The happy termination of the war affords the most pleasing field for contemplation, and while it promises the richest harvest to the good citizens of America, it gives the sweetest pleasure, and most desirable repose to the soldier. If the operations of the southern army have answered the expectations of the public, or have had any influence upon this great event, I shall consider it as one of the most happy employments of my life. And if to this I may venture to flatter myself, that my conduct either merits, or meets in the smallest degree, the approbation of the public, I shall be still more happy. The honour you have done me, and the troops under my command, are too sensibly felt, to be fully expressed, or properly acknowledged.

I beg leave to return my most sincere thanks to the corporation, for the interest they take in what concerns my future happiness, peace, and prosperity.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

NATH. GREENE.

To the Corporation of the city of Annapolis.

DEBATES in the British House of Commons, on Friday, June 27.

AMERICAN PROVINCIAL CORPS.

LORD NORTH rose, and expressed a desire, that before the house went into a committee of supply, according to the order of the day, that they would indulge him with a short audience, in order to explain to them some particulars relative to the provincial corps of North-America, with which since the last meeting of the house he had made himself acquainted. He then in a very minute manner entered upon the different arguments advanced by some gentlemen in a former debate, and by the most convincing reasons controverted their opinions. He recommended, in the strongest language that possibly could be adopted, the officers of the different American corps to the protection of parliament, for they undoubtedly deserved well of this country. Their services had been meritorious, their exertions wonderful, and in short their whole line of conduct from beginning to end called loudly for the approbation and reward of Great-Britain; and although the war had been unfortunate, and turned out contrary to their most ardent wishes, he apprehended that it would be ungenerous and ungrateful in the extreme, to desert them in their moments of necessity, and contradict the common opinions entertained of us by strangers, that we were a great, a grateful, and a generous nation.

He hoped, nay he trusted, that it would not go abroad, especially to America, that a British parliament

had revolted against every idea of humanity, of justice, and of national policy, by forsaking her dear and indefatigable friends, and throwing them out to the mercy of the world. Were such things to happen, which God forbid, where then would be our national humanity? What would all Europe say of our gratitude? The conclusion must be obvious to every one, and too dishonourable to Britain to need any elucidation. It would be a stain on our character as a brave and generous people, and who had always been distinguished for a laudable liberality of sentiment.

He then entered into an examination of the merits of the officers, and again declared, that they deserved every reward that we could possibly bestow; but if there should be found men of an unworthy description amongst them, men who appeared not to deserve any remuneration for their services, the committee could easily decide on that head, and deny the benefits which were designed for the meritorious. He said that many questions had been put to him on Wednesday last respecting the birth and education of the officers, and whether or not that he knew that they were really Americans. But these questions, or arguments, or whatever gentlemen pleased to call them, might, he imagined, be overturned without any great labour.

There were twenty-one corps who had served at different times under the eyes of the commanders in chief, and all of whom had acquired great honour; therefore he thought they all deserved the reward of the nation for their prowess. There were several classes of men, into which, for the sake of precision and perspicuity, he would divide them.

The first was, those gentlemen that had gone over to America some time before the commencement of hostilities, and upon a rupture between the two countries had joined the British standard, from a conviction of the salutary laws adopted by this country. This description of men, who had sacrificed their peace and happiness, and every thing that was dear to them, for the love of our glorious constitution, undoubtedly were fit objects for the exercise of our benevolence.

The second description of men were those who, from their spontaneous offering, had entered as volunteers into the service. These were certainly people who claimed reward. And the third description were those who had sold out of the British service at, as he was informed, a high price, and entered into the provincial corps by receiving commissions at almost nothing; but if there were to be any exceptions, he confessed that he could not, with any degree of propriety or justice, insist upon these having half pay, as they had not so well deserved a reward as the other two. Amongst the latter, however, with the permission of the house, he begged leave to mention a very meritorious officer, captain Brown, who had exerted himself wonderfully, and as such was justly entitled to half pay.

He then mentioned, in a particular manner, the different corps, and instanced one that contained one major, nine captains, twenty two lieutenants, and thirteen ensigns, who had behaved very gallantly. The whole sum, he said, for all the corps, would amount to £.31,739 15 10 yearly; but this calculation did include their chaplains, and some other officers, that might be excluded if it was found necessary; therefore it would reduce the sum to pretty near £.30,000 for the 21 corps.

Since the last debate on the subject, he had carefully examined, and found that no stipulation whatever had been held out to them for half pay at the beginning; but that by a letter from one of the secretaries of state, dated the 23d of January 1779, some offers to that purpose were made to the commander in chief, but then it was done in such a manner as required the sanction of parliament to ratify it. He mentioned that there had been three corps put upon half pay some time ago, as they highly deserved such reward; but no steps had been taken with regard to the others, and these had not obtained half pay but on certain conditions. His lordship was proceeding, but

Mr. Martin, seeing a peer under the gallery, caused a short interruption, by asking the reason of such an infringement of the orders of the house; and hoped, that as the sergeant had a sufficient salary for his attendance, that he would pay greater respect to the orders of the house. The noble stranger withdrew, when

Lord North resumed his speech, by asking pardon of the house for being obliged, owing to this unexpected interruption, to recur to some of the foregoing part of his speech. He then repeated several things already mentioned; after which he explained to the honourable house the modes that he intended to proceed in the business; the first of which was, to give instructions to the committee to take the present state of the officers of the provincial corps into consideration, in order to grant certain officers half pay; and the other to vote a sum, not exceeding £.15,000, to be granted to his majesty for the purpose above mentioned, to discharge the half pay of those officers for a certain time. He concluded by making the first motion, the latter of which he intended to make in the committee.

Lord J. Cavendish seconded the motion. Mr. Grenville asked the noble lord if the sum mentioned would be all that was necessary, and whether or not ministry designed any other reward?

Lord North answered, that it might do for the present, and recapitulated some of his former arguments; but he would not go so far as to say that ministry intended no other reward.

Mr. Grenville then in a pointed manner, opposed the mode at present adopted by government, and alleged that it would be better to recommend the officers along with the other loyalists to the commissioners, who were to examine into the merits and claims of the different persons.

Lord North remarked, that this would be unjust, as their situation called for immediate relief.

Sir George Howard paid many compliments to the loyalists for their zeal in our service, and as he was conscious to himself that they should be rewarded in some degree by this country, for that purpose he would vote with the noble lord, who had displayed such ability and humanity on the occasion. He said he would oppose giving half pay to those officers who had sold out of the British service at a high price and entered into the provincial corps, as giving half pay to those men would be an insult to the army; he however greatly praised a major Greene, and said that his uncommon gallant-

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