

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1784.

An act respecting the tonnage of vessels.

HEREAS the tonnage of ships or vessels registered in this state are calculated by carpenters measure, by which means the citizens of this state pay a greater tonnage than the citizens of any other state, whose ships or vessels of the same dimensions, registered elsewhere, are estimated differently, or at a much lower tonnage, and consequently the citizens of this state pay heavier duties at foreign ports: For relief therefore, and to place the citizens of this state as nearly as may be upon an equality with the citizens of other states, in foreign ports, as well as in the ports of the United States,

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all ships or vessels to be registered shall have their tonnage ascertained in the manner heretofore directed, except in the number to divide by, which shall be two hundred instead of ninety-five; and all ships or vessels under register, the property of a citizen of this state, or one third of which is held by any citizen belonging to this state, may and are hereby authorized to take out new registers, dividing by two hundred, agreeable to this act.

And be it enacted, That the tonnage on all registers taken out agreeably to this act for and during the present year, be rated at two shillings per ton, and collected accordingly.

An act laying a duty on British vessels, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS it appears by a proclamation of the king of Great-Britain, bearing date the second day of July last, that the growth or produce of any of the United States is prohibited from being carried to any of the British West-India islands by any other than British subjects, in British built ships, owned by British subjects, and navigated according to the laws of Great-Britain: And whereas this proceeding, which excludes the vessels of any of the United States from carrying the growth or produce of said states, or any of them, to any of the British West-India islands, or from importing or bringing from said islands any of their growth or produce, is repugnant to the principles of reciprocal interest, and aims at the sole monopoly of the carrying trade;

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a duty of five shillings be and hereby is imposed on every ton of British shipping, at the entrance or clearance of any ship or other vessel, to be collected and paid into the treasury in the same manner prescribed in an act passed at November session, 1783, entitled, An act for the defence of the bay, and to impose certain duties on imported articles.

Be it enacted, That an additional duty of two per cent. ad valorem, over and above what is now paid, or may hereafter be paid, by the citizens of this state, be and hereby is imposed and directed to be collected, in the same manner as other duties imported in vessels the property of the citizens of this state, or the United States, upon all merchandise, manufactures and commodities, the growth or produce of Great-Britain, or any colony or other place under the dominion of Great-Britain, brought or imported in any British ship, or other British vessel owned or belonging in part or wholly to any British subject or subjects; provided that all merchandise, manufactures and commodities, being the property of any citizen or citizens of this, or the United States, brought or imported into this state before the first day of August next, in ships or other vessels owned as aforesaid, shall not be subject to the payment of the duty aforesaid.

Be it enacted, That no register shall be granted for any ship or other vessel owned in whole or part by any British subject, any law to the contrary notwithstanding; and the master, owner or mate, of any ship or other vessel for which register is required, shall make oath that the said ship or vessel is not owned, either in whole or any part thereof, by any British subject.

And, For the more effectual removal and prevention of all restraints laid, or that may be laid, upon the commerce of the United States, Be it enacted, That the delegates from this state to congress are hereby authorized and empowered, in the name and on behalf of this state, to agree, and ratify any article or articles, by which the United States in congress assembled shall be invested with a power to prevent or prohibit the importation of all foreign goods or commodities in any other than ships or vessels owned by citizens of the United States, or any of them, and navigated by seamen citizens of the United States, or any of them, or such a proportion of seamen citizens of the United States, or any of them, as from time to time may be agreed to by nine states in congress assembled; and the article or articles containing the power aforesaid, or a power substantially the same, when agreed to by the other states in the union, or that may be in the union, shall be considered, taken and held, as a part of the articles of confederation and perpetual union; provided always, that said power shall not be exercised to the contravening any stipulation or treaty between the United States and foreign nations.

LONDON, September 26.

THE Turkish minister, by commencing the war in the Crimea, will stand chargeable with the same fatal mistake which our ministry made in America, by

confiding in the assistance of those who may still have preserved their allegiance. It is certain that even the Russian accounts allow the defection not to be universal; but still a small number of turbulent men have ever been found more formidable, than an host of peaceable ones; and of course those Tartars who have accepted the protection of the empress will be found the strongest allies.

The Venetians are upon the most friendly footing with the court of Russia, and ready to give the empress every assistance against their ancient enemy the Turks, that may be consistent with the good understanding that subsists between them and other European powers.

Large orders have been received in Birmingham for muskets, which are to be shipped for Petersburg for the use of the Russian army.

A very respectable force will in future be kept up in the East-Indies by government; not only because the European powers will do so, but because the country of India have found the method of building men of war in that quarter of the globe, as is instanced in the 64 and two 50 gun ships taken at one of Hyder Ally's ports when the place capitulated; it is very likely, however, that they were building for the service of France, and that many articles are wanting to complete them which are the produce of Europe. The Malabar coast abounds with a timber peculiar to itself, it looks like cedar, but its texture is much like that of our English oak in its best state. The trees grow large too, but they are in general very rough and knotty. It is the only timber for ship-building in the country, a few pines excepted, which are of a very diminutive nature, so that India does not produce any thing for masts or spars, nor have they any iron. The Dutch build men of war at Batavia: they have now two or three on the stocks. Their report that a ship built in India is done at such a vast expence, is by no means true, though it was political to broach such an opinion, as it was likely to restrain other powers on the score of expence, till they began the experiment, and found out the duplicity of the Dutch.

OB. 14. The last accounts from Petersburg particularly assert, that the empress will not relinquish the Crimea upon any consideration, and that of course war with the Turks must be the inevitable consequence, as the divan cannot consent to such a loss of territory, without endangering the safety as well as the dignity of their empire.

The gentry of Ireland begin to see the combination of the volunteers in a very serious light, there being no power in that country that can in any degree check their demands, to what extent soever they may go; for there are no extremities to which popular assemblies may not be led when conducted by artful and designing men.

OB. 22. The day after Sir Edward Newenham was elected a member of parliament for the county of Dublin, he advertised a request that a county meeting be called, by the determination of which he might be enabled to give his voice agreeable to the delegated trust reposed in him. This is perfectly conformable to the spirit of the constitution, by which members of parliament are only considered as the attorneys or agents of their constituents; and for an attorney or agent to speak a language, or consent to a measure contrary to the sentiments of his employers, is a solecism in politics and in human transactions.

An historical correspondent observes, that it is a bad sign when the clergy desert religion for politics. The annals of England shew how she was priest-ridden in former days, it may greatly be apprehended, that those days will return, since prayers are addressed to the king, instead of to the King of Kings, and since the prayer-book has been laid aside for the statutes at large. When Henry the IVth of France was dictated to by a priest on a political subject, he answered, "Open your breviary, father, and shew me if it be there you learn your politics."

IRISH VOLUNTEER MEETING.

Account of the Dunganagh meeting in Ireland, September 18.

At half past twelve, the committee of correspondence having taken their places, the remaining delegates, to the number of at least 500, from 278 corps of volunteers, were admitted by tickets into the lower part of the dissenting meeting-house; an amazing crowd of ladies and gentlemen occupying the galleries.

Colonel James Stewart, with unanimous consent, was called to the chair, who opened the business by reading the call of the 45 corps met at Lisburn 11th July last, and their address to the province, which had confined itself to the single point of a more equal representation of the people in the parliament of Ireland.

Before the business of the day was entered into the chairman read a letter from Lieut. Colonel Francis Dobbs, claiming his seat as the representative of a volunteer company; Before the question on his request was put, it was explained to comprehend the idea that the assembly of volunteer delegates could not with propriety debate with any sensible officer. The question thus explained and carried unanimously was, "That the consideration of the letter be postponed till the second day of the meeting."

This matter being carried with a show of spirit and happy presage of a coincidence of opinion, a venerable old gentleman, Mr. Stewart, of Kellymoon, arose, and

in a tremulous voice, expressive of fire, good sense, and a warm heart to the glorious business of the day, urged the necessity of that assembly discovering in their conduct the most complete unanimity, as such a line of conduct must infallibly lead to success. The reverend figure from whom this animated address came, and the manner of it, were felt by every person present, and did not a little tend to promote the perfect union which characterized the glorious proceedings of the day.

The committee of correspondence, through their chairman and secretary, read a report of their proceedings, in which it appeared that they had opened a correspondence with a number of the first characters in England; and had received answers fraught with most important information, all of which expressed the utmost zeal and certainty of success, in the great undertaking. It appeared also that the vast and populous county of York, in England, that has made such noble struggles in a parliamentary reform, had in consequence of the spirited conduct of Ulster and Munster, called a meeting for the cause of the present month—in order that the zeal of the two kingdoms operating at the same time, may level every difficulty, and restore the representation of the people to that purity, without which, to use the words of the Ulster address to the other three provinces, "The unanimated forms of a free constitution would be a curse, and life itself cease to be a blessing." Such ardour has that country discovered already, that the society for constitutional knowledge, composed of the best, and some of the most illustrious characters in Britain, have published the address of the 45 corps to Ulster in the public prints, and circulated copies of it gratis over that extensive kingdom, in order to excite a similar spirit to that which promises such glorious effects in this.

The report being closed, the committee proceeded to lay before the assembly a system of ideas on the subject of a reform; and proposed them paragraph by paragraph—all of which were with very few alterations in point of expression unanimously carried.

The bishop of Derry, who was a delegate from the Derry corps, made a very eminent figure in the debate—till seized with a gouty complaint, he was under the necessity of retiring. His first essay was adjusting some historical facts, relative to the early state of the representation of the commons, after the Norman conquest, in which he exhibited admirable quickness and perspicuity. But in consequence of its being urged in the course of the debate, that "As the object of the meeting was a reform of the commons house of parliament, the interference of the peerage was informal and unnecessary." He delivered one of the most animated and interesting orations that we remember to have heard. He avowed, that he was not afraid to say that he preferred that meeting, as a faithful, honest, and spirited representation of the people, to every other meeting or senate he was acquainted with in either kingdom;—and in the close of his speech he drew a very mortifying picture of the present state of the house of lords. He declared the highest reverence for the volunteers; their permanence, and their objects; but desired the most spirited among them to point out a length for the service and dignity of this kingdom, to which he would not lead or follow. He concluded by saying, that he would rather have an opportunity of serving Ireland, in the national convention of volunteer delegates, or even in the very lowest of their committees, to any other mode of doing it in any other assembly.

His speech was received with universal and marked applause; soon after which he retired from the meeting, having been seized with a slight gouty complaint, which has since we find subsided.

The meeting of the eighth of September, as far as property and rank constitute it, was more splendid and great, than any other of the former ones. There were present as delegates, acting under the instructions of their corps, fifteen members of the new parliament; besides several in the galleries.

The aggregate number of volunteers presented at the meeting, was not less than eighteen thousand.

After the matter proposed by the committee of correspondence had been adopted, a member of the committee rose, and read a motion in favour of a declaration of rights, expounding the constitution of Ireland, in order, as it is expressed, that Irishmen should not have to seek for an acknowledgment of their independency in the journals of a foreign state. In a spirited debate on the question, every speaker discovered a mark of regard for a measure, that from late transactions must naturally take place during the course of the ensuing session of parliament—but objected to the use of its being then declared by a resolution of that assembly, for the following reasons, viz. That the call of the meeting having limited the object to the single point of a more equal representation of the commons, their companies had therefore given no instructions on that head, and that they could not consistently act under that circumstance; others alleged, that it was already so generally the sense of the volunteers, that a notice of it in that place was unnecessary; but the leading feature of objection was, that were the assembly to deviate in the smallest degree from the express words of the call, a door would be opened for the discussion of a multiplicity of inferior points, which could