

was formerly. We wish that this intelligence may prove true, and acceptable to our American friends."

*Extract of a letter from Amsterdam.*

"If you receive the London papers, no doubt you may be inclined to conclude, that no speck on the face of the globe can be as unfortunate as our commonwealth. Abating the ordinary ferment attending differences of opinion in our assemblies, we never were more united nor disposed to make a respectable figure in Europe. While England, at home and abroad, appears convulsed and on the verge of some revolution, every power on our continent attends to her fall with jealous anxiety. The Irish volunteers, who have made some figure, are now in a ferment; and we hear, that some of their gaudy and defeated generals, with their rook-robbing followers from your continent, are preparing to commence campaigns against them; but it is the general wish that they may terminate, as very lately, in disgrace and separation of dominion.

June 29. By letters from London, dated the beginning of May, we have received the agreeable intelligence of the ship Prince of Liege, captain All, having put into Fayall, after springing a leak. This vessel left London the beginning of March, and it was feared had been lost at sea.

Yesterday morning the ship Friendship, captain M'Adam, arrived here from Belfast, with near five hundred passengers. She was eight weeks on her voyage.

*Extract of a letter from Dublin, April 15.*

"Our city now wears the appearance of a town besieged. The whole garrison is constantly on the watch; the five regiments of foot and one of horse on duty here, are all supplied with powder and ball; and when those who are not actually on guard have occasion for rest, they are obliged to sleep in their cloaths, that they may be ready for service at a minute's warning. In that part of Dublin which is in the earl of Meath's liberty, and which is inhabited principally by the poor silk and other weavers, a battalion is constantly posted, and two or three sentinels are stationed at the corner of every street; their orders are not to suffer more than three persons to walk through the streets. The sight of the military force, and the preparations that appear at the barracks, for falling on the people at a moment's warning, will it is feared, drive the starving manufacturers to desperation; and if they do stir, no doubt many of them will fall by the bullet and the bayonet; but what may be the consequence of shedding their blood, Heaven only knows. Hitherto the volunteers have acted with the utmost temper and circumspection. But it is not in the nature of man to stand by, and tamely see his fellow citizens butchered before his eyes, and the city delivered up to a brutal soldiery. They have arms in their hands; they know how to use them, and they have the feelings of men. May God in his mercy avert the danger that threatens us!"

RICHMOND, June 26.

We are informed, that one day last week, Matthew Womble, of the county of Meath, in a fit of intoxication, deprived his wife, when pregnant, of her existence, by splitting her skull, and afterwards disfiguring her head from her body with a broad ax; he also with the same weapon, put a period to the lives of four of his children out of six, the others having made their escape whilst the massacre was committing. He was a man possessed of a small tract of land, generally called an indigent, sober, and well disposed citizen; but is now confined, and confesses his crime, which is the only direct proof of this shocking tragedy.

ANNAPOLIS, July 8.

The ADDRESS of his EXCELLENCY

ALEXANDER MARTIN, Esq; Governor, captain general, and commander in chief, of the state of North Carolina, to both houses of the general assembly, the 30th of April, 1784.

*Gentlemen of the honourable the general assembly,*

I AM happy to meet a respectable representation of the state at this important crisis, when objects of great national as well as internal concern are to employ your councils, and attend your decisions; from the wisdom of which, I have the highest confidence, those establishments necessary for the interest of the united empire, and the property of this state, will be formed.

The several communications necessary for your information on this occasion I do myself the honour to lay before you; among which, with great satisfaction, I first present you with the definitive treaty, concluded at Paris, between the United States of America and his Britannic majesty, by their respective commissioners, the 3d day of September last, transmitted to me by the secretary of congress; by which, under God, our sovereignty and independence are fully confirmed, a conflict with one of the first nations of Europe gloriously terminated, and a revolution produced, scarce equalled in the annals of mankind; By which we have also secured the inestimable rights of humanity, and the enjoyment of those domestic and political blessings which contribute to render freemen happy. A recommendation from congress pursuant to the tenor of the said treaty accompanies the same, which will require such attentive consideration suitable to its great importance.

With pleasure I communicate to you from the above authority a treaty of amity and commerce, concluded between the United States and his majesty the king of Sweden, the 3d day of April, 1783. The alliance with this great northern power, at the then situation of our affairs, was somewhat unexpected, and becomes the more engaging and interesting, as that monarch, with generous and princely affection for these states, requests it may be known it was unsolicited by them. This new friend to the American republic, joined to her other illustrious allies, raises her to still higher importance, and entitles her to rank among the most favoured nations of the earth.

The jealousy of Britain seems yet to be awake at these distinguished marks of friendship and respect we are honoured with from her neighbours; still uneasy at our separation from her, she wishes by her commerce, to accomplish what she failed by her arms, that we may become her tributaries. I lay before you a proclamation of his Britannic majesty in council, under the authority of his parliament, restricting the American trade

to his West India islands in British vessels; a measure not only injurious to the commerce and navigation of the United States, but highly derogatory to their national honour.

An act of the honourable the legislature of Virginia, together with the communications of his excellency the governor of that state, and our delegates in congress on this subject, I submit to your deliberations; urging the propriety and necessity of granting to congress powers similar to those mentioned in said act, or adopting such uniformity of measures as may be pursued by the other states, that this great commercial wound be healed; in the mean while, that you remove every obstacle in the way on our part, in cultivating harmony and good-will between the two powers, agreeable to the spirit of the late treaty and those principles of reciprocity, on which it is expressly founded.

I present you with a circular letter from his late Excellency General Washington, which I am honoured with, for your deliberations, and which he is pleased to signify may be considered his "Legacy to the States," on his retirement to the class of fellow-citizens, after gaining the mighty objects of the revolution. The interesting matters therein contained evince the able statesman in our late illustrious commander, and demand your serious and particular notice. We must be greatly sensible with him, that the powers delegated to congress by the confederation must be exercised, and supported in the several states, in their fullest extent, to give life and vigour to the American union; otherwise they will become disjointed, feeble, and inadequate to bring to a point the federal government; resolutions and recommendations will be only the shadow or theory of power, to which philosophers may indeed pay obedience, when a practical coercive government must bind the nation. Great wisdom hath been discovered in forming these new commonwealths, and connecting them under one common sovereignty in congress; to whose constitutional authority, if due submission be not yielded, in regulating and directing the affairs of the united republic, a time may come, which God avert, when jealousies and competitions may arise from restless enterprising ambition, and feuds and factions rend the boasted knot, too slender and too loosely tied; and thereby subject the scattered powers of the continent to the first tyrant who will dare to seize them.

The laws of Solon and Lycurgus are still revered, but Sparta, Athens, and the other confederated states of ancient Greece, long since have been no more; pride and ambition dissolved their union, which, during their continuance, caused their enemies to tremble: from those sources sprang their intestine divisions, by which they became a prey to a conqueror, whose more compact strength and wiser councils soon gave law to the world. The superstructure of the vast American commonwealth is raised, we trust, on a firmer foundation; on a land unknown to Alexander or Cæsar; it remains for time and experience to complete the building; the eyes of the world are on this new phenomenon, wondering how the mighty work is so far accomplished: one of the apartments of this fabric is yours, the task will be to strengthen, ornament, and finish, what is so well designed, under one uniform appearance; otherwise rude disjointed materials may weaken and disfigure the whole, and one faulty pillar bring the goody structure to the ground.

The important business of a continental revenue from this state was left undetermined in the last session of the assembly: I am earnestly pressed by his excellency the president of congress, and the financier, to urge the importance of this subject at your first meeting; and even to call you together at an earlier day than the present for this purpose. The weighty arguments contained in the resolutions of congress, their addresses, and other papers I present you with, anticipate any further observations of mine on this topic; but most earnestly to request your compliance with the requisitions of that honourable body, or form in your wisdom some other plan of supporting on your part the continental credit, by which the national character of these states is to be supported at home, and respected abroad.

That the poor be relieved as much as possible in the business of taxation, it may not be improper to suggest, that should you approve of the impost recommended by congress, in addition to the same, some funds be raised for public exigencies, from duties on such articles of produce, in which the more opulent are concerned, provided those states who cultivate the same articles accede to the measure, and extend it to themselves.

The defence of the state, as well as the union, must now be placed in our militia, who being properly arranged, might be very respectable, and answer all the purposes of a standing army.

The boundary with our sister state of South-Carolina, claimed in our bill of rights, is now a proper subject for your consideration, to ascertain which with precision becomes daily more interesting.

A treaty was directed by an act of the last session to be held with the Cherokee Indians, to obtain a cession of their claim to certain lands in the western country within the chartred limits of the state, and that goods to a certain amount be bought and given them as a compensation for the same. The difficulty of procuring proper goods hath somewhat retarded this business, but this is removed, as a purchase has been lately made, and the goods arrived; the intentions of the legislature will be answered, as soon as they can be conveyed to the place of holding the treaty.

The act for opening an entry office for the said lands seems to contain some ambiguities of expression, which I submit to your pleasure for further explanation and amendment.

The paper emission of the last assembly having the happy effect in discharging part of the pay of the continental line of this state, to the great satisfaction of the officers and men, and the public in general, permit me to propose the expediency of forming a sinking fund for collecting and destroying the same yearly, or sooner, that it continue no longer than the period the legislature have assured the public its existence will terminate; by which in the mean while a greater credit will be given to the residue of that emission, which may remain in circulation to the time aforesaid.

The trade and navigation of this country is of lasting consequence, and require your immediate interposition and patronage. It is necessary our rivers be rendered more navigable, our roads opened and supported, by

which the industrious planter may have his produce carried to market with more ease and convenience. Thereby more merchants of opulence would be induced to settle in the state, and open new resources of industry among our inhabitants; whose labour being fully employed, daily additions would be making to their respective wealth, in proportion to which the revenue of the state would be also increased.

The inspection laws have long been dormant; I beg leave to remind you of the necessity of their revival in an amendment, that the former credit of our produce be still supported at foreign markets.

Let me call your attention to the education of our youth. May the minors of learning be revived and encouraged, where the understanding may be enlightened—the heart mended—and genius cherished—whence the state may draw forth men of abilities to direct her councils, and support her government.

Religion and virtue claim your particular care. Legislators in all ages and nations have interwoven the government with these essential materials—to preserve the morals of the people, is to preserve the state—may we of piety and exemplary life, who conduct the affairs of religion, meet your countenance, and receive support not incompatible with the principles of the constitution.

The more minute objects worthy of your deliberations I shall not delay your patience to enumerate, submitting to your wisdom those concerns of the state you shall deem more or less interesting, according to the magnitude; and shall take my leave with these general observations.

At this auspicious period of our affairs, when the noise of arms and war are no longer heard, a glorious opportunity presents of cultivating the arts of peace and good government, on principles of the soundest policy, by which nations have been conducted to greatness, and become the envy and admiration of the world. You have before you the wisdom and experience of ages drawn, which, added to your own treasures of political knowledge, may be wisely applied in bringing the state in some degree towards perfection. I need not mention you are building for futurity, and that your wisdom and caution will hand down only proper materials, monuments of your transactions. For centuries to come, the infant annals of these times no doubt will be traced back with eagerness by inquisitive posterity, to precedents, for maxims, to which the future government may still conform. Let them not be disappointed. Now is the important moment to establish on your part the continental power on its firmest basis, by which the people of these states rose, and are to be continued a nation. Now it behooves you to render permanent the security, and the honour of the state; to form such laws, that public virtue may be encouraged to diffuse its spirit through all ranks, and be pleased with the government which it hath erected; that the guilty be punished, and the just rewarded; that every citizen enjoy those equal rights promised him by the constitution, and which God and nature have given him. By these you will discover to the world the excellency of an American republic, and evince that the government of kings is not always necessary to make a people happy.

ALEXANDER MARTIN.

Hillsborough, April 20, 1784.

The ANSWER of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, in GENERAL ASSEMBLY, April 26, 1784.

To his EXCELLENCY

ALEXANDER MARTIN, Esq; Governor, captain-general, and commander in chief, of the state of North-Carolina.

SIR,

THE papers which accompanied your excellency's address, contain information of such moment, that, without descending to matters of less magnitude, we should make a much longer session than the present advanced season of the year will admit, were we to give them that degree of deliberation which their importance requires.

The internal regulations which the definitive treaty make indispensably necessary, the re-establishment of commerce, and the support of the federal union, will be the first objects of our deliberations; other matters recommended by your excellency, will, during the course of the session, be properly attended to.

You will be pleased, sir, to receive our acknowledgments for the several matters contained in your address, and in particular for the warmth with which you have been pleased to recommend adoption of such measures as may tend to remove all commercial jealousies between the United States and Great-Britain, and which shall be consistent with those principles of reciprocity on which the treaty is founded.

RICHARD CASWELL, S. S. THOMAS BENBURY, S. C.

To which his EXCELLENCY made the following REPLY:

GENTLEMEN,

THE assurances you are pleased to give of employing your deliberations on subjects of the first magnitude on this occasion, justify raise the expectations of our country, that by the wisdom and unanimity of your councils the great purposes intended may be happily effected.

I beg leave to return you my hearty thanks for the attention you have been pleased to pay to the recommendations in my address, and the honourable manner in which you have signified to me your sentiments and intentions on the subjects thereof.

ALEXANDER MARTIN.

The honourable Richard Dobbs Spaight, John Sitgreaves, Thomas Person, Benjamin Smith, Adlai Osborn, and William Cummings, Esquires, were elected delegates to represent the state of North-Carolina in congress, for one year from the first Monday in November next.

*Extracts from the journal of congress, May 3.*

On the report of a committee, to whom was referred a letter of the 26th of April last, from the superintendent of finance, enclosing a letter of the 26th of December, and one of the 10th of January from the marquis de la Fayette, with sundry papers enclosed, Resolved, That a letter be written by the president to the marquis de la Fayette, expressing the high sense