

NEW-YORK, February 20.

Extract of a Letter from London, Dec. 17, 1765.
 "Every Thing will be done on this Side the Water, that is possible for your Relief: The principal Merchants having chosen a Committee among themselves, who correspond with the chief manufacturing Towns in the Kingdom, and will make the utmost Efforts to free you from the Stamp-Act, which you deem so great a Grievance, as well as from a Number of Restraints, which your Trade labours under. We sincerely hope their Representations will be attended with Success, in which Case we think all Parties will be benefited."

Another Letter of the same Date, mentions, "We are very sorry to receive no new Orders from you, and to understand, that it proceeds from the general Distress and unhappy Interruption your Trade labours under at present, which gives equal Alarm here, and we believe will be the first Matter that will be taken into Consideration when the Parliament meets, and we hope will be accommodated to general Satisfaction, and that Trade will return to its former Channel; which we heartily wish to see for mutual Benefit."

Extract of a Letter from Manchester, per Packet.
 "We can now with Pleasure congratulate you on the prudent Measures the new Ministry have taken, the Consequence we expect will be a Restoration to Trade, and will put a Stop to the present Combinations: It is very certain, that all the Ships of War have received Instructions, not to molest any foreign Ships coming to the Islands or the Continent, with Bullion, "and that every Thing in Matters of Commerce, is to be as formerly, any Rules, Orders, or Regulations made by the late Ministry notwithstanding." This is a Copy of the Minutes of the Board of Treasury, which was sent down to this Place by one of the Lords of the Admiralty, as a Reply to a Memorial sent to said Board by the chief Manufacturers here, touching the great Difficulties our Trade laboured under, from the late anti-ministerial Orders, we therefore hope that Trade will once more flourish, and that we may live to see a total Eradication of the late arbitrary impolitical Proceedings."

[We are favoured with Copies of many other Letters, dated from the 14th to the 19th of December last, to Gentlemen in this City, from several Members of Parliament, eminent Merchants and Gentlemen of Distinction in London; from which we have made the following Extracts, viz.]

That, in general, our Opposition to the Stamp-Act has been highly approved in England,—except the Acts of Violence,—the Destruction and Plunder of private Property;—which, though generally disapproved among us, and executed by Men not at all concerned in our Cause, who, taking occasion from the Tumults which Oppression naturally produces, to perpetrate their evil Designs without Discovery, furnish the Enemies of the Colonies, Authors of their Oppression, and consequently of all the Tumults and Disorders arising therefrom, with Arguments which they are glad to improve against them, and endeavour to impute to the general Body of their Inhabitants, whom they would represent as actuated by a rebellious Spirit, disaffected to the legal Government of their Country.—These Disorders are generally blamed in England, but they are even there commonly imputed to the right Authors, that is, to the Contrivers and Promoters of the late oppressive Acts, and especially the Stamp-Act, calculated to strip us of all our most valuable inherent Rights, Liberty and Property, to overturn the English Constitution, and reduce us to the Condition of Slaves.—But the Nature of our Grievances, and the Reasons of our Conduct, having been as much as possible concealed by the Ministry, from the Public in England, were not as yet fully known; so that there were various Opinions concerning our Proceedings.—But it was the general Opinion, especially among the most intelligent People, that the Stamp-Act in particular ought to be, and would be, immediately repealed or suspended, as soon as the Parliament met,—as also some other oppressive Acts and Measures, which were thought to be injudicious, impolitic, and attended with extreme bad Consequences to Great-Britain.

That many Gentlemen in London had so nobly exerted themselves, both by speaking and writing, in Favour of the Colonies, that they had convinced and brought over many, who had formerly opposed them, to espouse their Cause (which is indeed the Cause of Great-Britain also) and become their powerful Friends and Advocates, of which Number Lord C----- T----- was one; and that their Cause was becoming more and more popular.

That after a private Meeting of some stanch Friends to America, a Meeting was advertised of all Merchants trading to it, which brought together a great Number, nearly the whole Body, of whom a Committee was appointed, and particular Gentlemen among them chosen to represent the particular Colonies. Mr. Nicholas Ray* was unanimously chosen to represent this Colony, and Alderman Trecothick (we hear) Chairman of the Committee.—Some of the Gentlemen of the Committee proposed to petition only for Relief on some particular Articles relating to our West-India Trade, such as lowering the Duty on Melasses, &c. but not mentioning Sugars. Our Friends took Occasion to mention to some of the Committee, that such a contracted Plan, if executed, would by no Means have the desired Effect, and that nothing less than an ample Importation of the Produce of the foreign Islands, and an unrestrained Exportation of the Produce of North-America, free from the Fetters of Stamp Acts, and all restrictive Laws, could enable the People to pay their Debts in England, and re-establish their Tranquillity and Confidence in their Mother Country, and mutual Harmony and Affection between them.—On these Representations the Committee, it is said, concluded to adopt a more extensive Plan of Proceeding than was at first proposed; and to use their Influence to remove all just Causes of Complaint, Jealousy and Uneasiness, between Great-Britain and the Colonies. To this End, they resolved and ordered sixty Letters to be sent to all the maritime and manufacturing Towns of the Kingdom, to accede to, and join them in, a united Effort and Application to Parliament, and to influence their Members, in order to obtain Relief; so that there would be the strongest Application that ever was made to Parliament, on any Occasion, and it is hoped it will be crowned with Success.

The Committee waited on the Ministry, to let them know their Intentions, and beg their Influence, Countenance and Protection.—Mr. Secretary Conway, a most amiable Gentleman, expressed his Concern, expected much Opposition in the House; but his Disposition and general Answer were favourable.—Lord Rockingham, first Lord of the Treasury, Lord Dartmouth, first Lord of Trade and Plantations, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, all received them with the utmost Politeness, and gave as favourable Answers as could be wished, shewing themselves, from Principle, Friends to the Cause of the Colonies, and heartily disposed in their Favour.

Some of our Friends have expressed their Apprehensions, that our Claim of Right to Exemption from Taxes, except by Representatives of our own choosing, will incense the Parliament, who have very high Notions of their own Power, and are alarmed at the Thought of our Independency.—And, say the Advocates of the Act, "If we repeal it, it is giving up our Power and Sovereignty over them;" and others say, "the Question is, whether the Americans shall submit to us, or we to them." Both these Positions are absurd and invidious.—The Parliament, which represents the People of England, who choose them, have no Right of Sovereignty over us; but the King has a constitutional Right, and that we always have submitted to and always shall. We want no Submission from the Parliament, we never invaded their Rights,—and if they invade ours, they ought to recede.

Our Friends seemed also apprehensive, that G----- G----- the Proposer of the Act, who is determined to support it with all his Power, would have a Party in the House strong enough for that Purpose, and Lord T. was reckoned as one of his powerful Supporters.—But by the following Postscript of a Letter from an eminent Merchant, our very good Friend, now in London, we have the Pleasure to find we have no Reason for those uneasy Apprehensions.

"Nine o'Clock at Night. P. S. This Moment returned from the House of Commons, where I had the Pleasure to see Mr. Greenville sink under, and withdraw the Motion he made, of inserting in the Address to the King, that the Disturbances in America was open Rebellion, &c.—owing to the Opposition and powerful Bloquence of Mr. Charles Townsend, Mr. Cook, Lord George Sackville, &c. &c. I hear from

* A Native, and formerly an Inhabitant of this City, to whom all the English Colonies in America are highly obliged for his unwearied Affiduity in their Behalf in England, and for his sensible judicious Writings published weekly in the London Papers, under the Titles of Marcus Aurelius, and Rationalis, and soon to be republished here in a Pamphlet at his Expence, and sold for the Benefit of the Society for Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures in New-York.

"good Authority, that Mr. Pitt, is to take the Lead in the Administration, and intends moving for a Repeal of the Stamp-Act."

The same Advices concerning Mr. Pitt, are received from a great Number of Hands of the highest Authority, and that he has declared against the Stamp-Act.

A few Days ago, our much esteemed Governor, Sir HENRY MOORE, obligingly gave us Intelligence at the Coffee-House, That it was now a settled Point at Home on the Case of Forsey and Cuaningham, that there can be no Appeal from the Verdict of a Jury.

PHILADELPHIA, February 27.

By Letters from England, of the best Authority, we are advised, that, "the PETITIONS for and against the CHANGE of the GOVERNMENT of this Province, had been read twice before the KING and COUNCIL, when it was put off sine die, which, to use the Lord President of the Council's own Words, is for ever and for ever." Thus we hope we have got rid of this unhappy Bone of Contention, and that now Peace, Good-Will and Brotherly-Love will take place.

ANNAPOLIS, March 6.

On Monday the 24th of February, a considerable Number of the Principal Gentlemen of Baltimore County, met at the Market-House in Baltimore-Town, form'd themselves into a SOCIETY for the Maintenance of Order and Protection of AMERICAN LIBERTY, by the Name of the SONS OF LIBERTY, and resolved to meet at Annapolis on Friday last, to oblige the several Officers there, to open their respective Offices, and proceed in Business, as usual, without Stamp'd Paper: And that the Society and Application might be still the more respectable, the SONS OF LIBERTY in Baltimore, gave the most speedy Notice to Gentlemen of the Neighbouring Counties, to form themselves into the like Societies, and Co-operate with them in this so laudable Work: Saturday last, a much greater Number of the SONS OF LIBERTY than could be expected from the shortness of the Notice, met, by Adjournment, at the Court-House in Annapolis, those of Baltimore and Anne-Arundel Counties were present Personally, and those of Kent were represented by their Deputy; and after hearing different Proposals, and Debating thereon with great Decency, Coolness and Order, Resolved, To make a written Application to the CHIEF JUSTICE of the Provincial Court, the SECRETARY and COMMISSARY-GENERAL, and JUDGES of his Lordship's LAND-OFFICE, to open their respective Offices, and proceed as usual in the Execution of their Duties, on the 31st Day of March Instant, or sooner, if a Majority of the SUPREME COURTS of the Northern Governments should proceed in Business before that Time. And therein to propose, "That if the above Officers would proceed agreeable to the Request, that then an Indemnification be signed by the SONS OF LIBERTY, and as many others as could be induced thereto, and that the respective Officers be requested to give an Answer in Writing under their Hands to that Proposition." A Committee having been ordered to deliver the Requisition of the SONS OF LIBERTY to the above mentioned Gentlemen, afterwards returned and reported the Verbal Answer of the CHIEF JUSTICE of the Provincial Court, and Doctor Stewart one of the JUDGES of the LAND-OFFICE, and communicated the Written Answer of the SECRETARY, to this Effect, "That if he should continue in Office, the Clerk of the Provincial Court would receive his Directions to act as the Judges should in their Judicial Capacity, at the next Court, Order him as their Minister; but before the Meeting of the Provincial Court, he could not undertake to give Directions to the Clerk, to issue Process, whatever the Determination of the Majority of the Northern Colonies might be, whose Courts might Sit before Ours. The COMMISSARY-GENERAL, not being in Town, the Committee could not deliver the Requisition to him: The Verbal Answer of the CHIEF JUSTICE, and that of one of the JUDGES of the LAND-OFFICE, were taken under Consideration, and in Consequence of the Order of the SONS OF LIBERTY, the Committee again waited on those Gentlemen, and having informed them, "That their Refusal to give their Answers in Writing, to the Proposition aforesaid, was deemed a great Indignity offered to the SONS OF LIBERTY, and that their Answers in Writing were instantly expected;" they received and reported their following Answers:

Gentlemen,

In Answer to your Application of this Day, my Considerations and Circumstances speak my Attachment to the Liberty of the Subject here. The carrying on Business at the adjourn'd Provincial Court, with, as to myself, depend on the Opinion I have as yet to form. I shall meet my Brethren on the Day to which the Court is adjourn'd, and be governed by those Reasons and Principles which ought to actuate every Man who sits in Stations similar to that which is filled by

March 1, Your Humble Servant,
1766. JOHN BRICE.

A Proposition being this Day given in to me, requesting that Business should be done in the Land Office of this Province as usual; to which I answered, That the Land Office was open, and the Records thereof subject to the Perusal of all Persons who have Occasion to make Searches; and that Copies of the Records, authenticated by the Register, should be made out to any Person so applying, paying the usual Fees; and, as I apprehend the Sale of the Lord Proprietary's Lands, are Matters of private Concern, respecting his own Interest, he may grant Warrants, or refuse to grant them, as he shall think Proper. GIVEN under my Hand, at Annapolis, this First Day of March, 1766.

GEORGE STEUART.

To the SONS OF LIBERTY, of Baltimore, Anne-Arundel, and Kent Counties.

After reading of which Answers, it was Ordered, that Copies of the Proceedings be transmitted to the several Counties, and their SONS OF LIBERTY invited to enter into the like Associations, and a Number, not less than Twelve, from each County, be requested to attend at Annapolis, on the 31st Instant, to see the Event of, or Repeat, if necessary, the Applications already made.

We have an Account of a very melancholy Catastrophe which lately happen'd in the Bay, on the Eastern Shore. Last Month Mr. Jacob Bromwell, a Man of good Character and well Esteem'd, left Oxford, in his Boat, (the Oxford Packet) in order to Pilot one or two Ships down the Bay: Saturday the 15th in the Afternoon, the Packet left Capt. Peacock's Ship off Sharp's-Island, in order to Work up to Capt. Laing's, off the Mouth of Wye River, the Wind then being Easterly, and very tempestuous, and in the Evening suddenly came about to West, blow'd extreme hard and became very Cold. The Boat being missing for some Time, and Capt. Laing waiting for his Pilot, occasion'd a Suspicion of an Accident; and after a diligent Search, they found the Boat, with a little of her Masts to be seen, at the Westward of Poplar-Island, in Three Fathom Water. We are told that Three Persons were in her, beside Mr. Bromwell, viz. John Rowlandson and Edward Brining, both young Men, and a Dutchman, who, undoubtedly, all Perish'd together.

We hear that Capt. Robert Bryce, in the Brig Nancy, belonging to this Place, outward Bound with a Load of Wheat, sprung a Leak, and was obliged to put into Norfolk to stop it.

Col. JOHN HENRY, of Dorchester, is Elected a Representative for his County, in the Room of Col. Henry Travers, Deceased.

ANNAPOLIS, March 4, 1766.

ALL Persons having any Claims against ANDREW THOMPSON, Rope-maker, Deceased, are desired to bring in their Accounts, that such Claims may be adjusted, by

(4*) ANTHONY STEWART, } Executors.
THOMAS RICHARDSON, }

KENT-ISLAND, Feb. 15, 1766.

ALL Persons indebted to the Subscriber, are requested to make immediate Payment, and as he has a Number of Notes of Hand of Persons living in the several Counties which have been due a long Time, they are desired to pay them off, or they will be given into Lawyers Hands for the Collection of them; and he hereby informs the Public, that he will give no Credit after this Date.

JAMES HUTCHINGS.

SOME Time in the Month of October last, was left along Side of the Subscriber's Sloop, in Wicocomoco River, by four Men supposed to be Sailors, A YAWL of about 18 Feet by the Keel, with a Chain fastened to her Stem instead of a Painter. The Owner may have her again, on proving his Property, and paying Charges, by applying to the Subscriber in Princess-Anne Town.

(4*) J. G. O. WILLIAM GEDDES.