

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, NOVEMBER 24, 1774.

L O N D O N; August 30.

A T the meeting of the bill of rights on Tuesday last, the gentlemen who compose that society took the liberty of recommending to the independent electors of Great-Britain, to form the following articles into a solemn declaration, which the candidates whom they support, shall be required, as the indispensable condition of their being supported, to sign and seal publicly at the general meeting, or at the place of election binding themselves by oath to a due and sacred observance of what is therein contained:

- 1st. You shall consent to no supplies without a previous redress of grievances.
2d. You shall promote a law subjecting each candidate to an oath against having used bribery, or any other illegal means of compassing his election.
3d. You shall promote to the utmost of your power, a full and equal representation of the people in parliament.
4th. You shall endeavour to restore annual parliaments.
5th. You shall promote a pension and a place bill, enacting, that any member who receives a place, pension, contract, lottery tickets or any other emolument whatsoever, from the crown, or enjoys profit from any such place, pension, &c. shall not only vacate his seat, but be absolutely ineligible during his continuance under such undue influence.

6th. You shall impeach the ministers, who advised the violating the right of the freeholders in the Middlesex election, and the military murders in St. George's Fields.

7th. You shall make strict enquiry into the conduct of judges touching juries.

8th. You shall make strict enquiry into the application of the public money.

9th. You shall use your utmost endeavours to have the resolution of the house of commons expunged, by which the magistrates of the city of London were arbitrarily imprisoned, for strictly adhering to their charter and their oaths, and also that resolution by which a judicial record was erased, to stop the course of justice.

10th. You shall attend to the grievances of our fellow-subjects in Ireland, and second the complaints they may bring to the throne.

11th. You shall endeavour to restore to America the essential right of taxation by representatives of their own free election; repealing the acts passed in violation of that right since the year 1763; and the universal excise, so notoriously incompatible with every principle of British liberty, which has been lately substituted in the colonies instead of the laws of customs.

Sept. 13. The following is said to be an authentic copy of a letter very recently received from a general officer some time since sent to America, in a very important and critical situation, by a noble lord in a very high office:

MY LORD,

IT is with the most poignant regret that I find myself greatly necessitated to demand a total exemption from all those restrictions, which are laid upon me by the private orders, and a fuller scope to exert more immediate powers, as the only means left me to form any hopes of effecting the great and arduous task I have undertaken. I have, my lord, long known the people I have now to deal with; and am well assured, they are in the extent bitter enemies to all conciliatory measures, where they think the entrance upon them may throw an odium on their unanimity, or put their public spirit to the least doubt. I had the honour to deliver my sentiments and opinion to your lordship, before my embarkation, on these people and their prejudices, which, to my great astonishment, I now find most obstinately rooted; and every day brings me new fears, that I shall be reduced to the cruel necessity of doing my duty to my country and my royal master, in a way that will, I am certain, be as painful to your lordship as to myself, and which I have most studiously endeavoured to avoid. According to the express commands of my most gracious maker, which I had the honour to receive from him before my departure, I entered on the most lenient measures at first, and acted with circumspection and secrecy, as my arrival added fuel to the flame of the party, as it was universally propagated and believed that I came to act more in my military capacity than my civil. I found the means, my lord, to gain the secrets of the party, and endeavoured, by every means to convince some of the leaders, that I came more as a mediator than to enforce. I gave them to know, that the most soothing measures would be used if they would desist; that the king desired nothing more ardently than the affection of his American subjects, and a good understanding with his colonies, but that it was firmly resolved to gain an honourable and just reparation for the insults offered, and the great disobedience to his majesty's government and authority; and this reparation must be gained; this return to obedience, must be established by means the most coercive and severe; but such is their fatal obstinacy, that every effort for conciliation was refused. As the military force was indeed feared, the cunning and policy of these people immediately suggested the means of debauching the soldiers from their duty, in which they had too great success, before I could have the power of exerting my authority in stopping a defect in which a short time would have rendered very general. I have, my lord, offered such terms to these deluded men, as are infinitely more lenient than they deserve, and which, should they refuse accepting, I am determined to make some very severe examples, which I am very certain

will prove the ultimate resource I shall reap any benefit from, respecting the intent I am to accomplish. I must assure your lordship, that I shall have occasion for a considerable reinforcement of troops, on whose duty and obedience dependence can be placed; and the more immediate the supply; the more effectual service it will render me. Your lordship's judgment will point out the most proper, but I could wish that

may be preferred, as my intimate knowledge with them leaves no doubt of their affection to the service. I have pleasure, however, of assuring to your lordship, that a considerable number of the most respectable people here are well attached to his majesty, and have very much distinguished themselves in opposition to the most extravagant schemes of the party, which is indeed a most violent and large in party. I have, my lord, to the utmost extent of my power, executed those private matters given to me in charge by your lordship, and by their success more confirmed in your lordship's profound and extensive knowledge of mankind in general. I need not use argument to assure your lordship, that I am most firmly attached to an honourable discharge of my commission, or that I have the honour to be, MY LORD, Your lordship's, in all sincerity,

B O S T O N, November 3.

In provincial congress, October 29, 1774. Ordered, that captain Heath, captain White, captain Gardner, Mr. Cheever, and Mr. Devens, be a committee to wait upon his excellency with the following message.

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

May it please your excellency,

THE province having been repeatedly alarmed at your excellency's unusual and warlike preparations since your arrival into it, and having by this congress expressed a reasonable expectation, that you would desist from, and demolish your fortifications on Boston Neck; it must afford matter of astonishment, not only to the province, but the whole continent, that you should treat our importunate applications with insensibility and disregard. The congress are possessed of a writing with your signature, which purports itself to be a message to this body, although addressed to sundry gentlemen by name, who officiating as our committee, presented an address to your excellency. We are surprized at your saying that "what we call a fortress, unless annoyed, will annoy nobody," when from your acquaintance with the constitution of Britain, and of the province, over which you have been by his majesty commissioned to preside, you must know that barely keeping a standing army in the province, in time of peace, without consent of the representatives, is against law, and must be considered as a great grievance to the subjects; a grievance which this people could not with due regard to their freedom endure, was there not reason to hope that his majesty, upon being undeceived, would order redress! is it not astonishing then, sir, that you should have ventured to assert, that a fortress, by whatever name your excellency is pleased to call it, which put it in the power of the standing army, which you command, to cut off communication between the country and the capital of this province, to imprison the many thousand inhabitants of the town of Boston, to insult and destroy them upon the least, or even without any provocation, and which is evidently a continual annoyance to that oppressed community, "unless annoyed, will annoy nobody?"

A retrospect of your excellency's conduct since your late residence in this province, we conclude will convince you of that truth, the meer hinting of which you tell us is highly exasperating as well as ungenerous. We presume your excellency will not deny, that you have exerted yourself to execute the acts, made to subvert the constitution of the province. Although your excellency's connexions with a ministry inimical to the province, and your being surrounded with men of the worst political principles, preclude a prospect of your fully exercising towards this province, your wonted benevolence and humanity, yet, sir, we pray you to indulge your social virtues so far as to consider the necessary feelings of this people under the hand of oppression. Have not invasions of private property, by your excellency been repeatedly made at Boston? Have not the inhabitants of Salem, whilst peaceably assembled for concerting measures to preserve their freedom, and unprepared to defend themselves, been in imminent danger from your troops? Have you not, by removing the ammunition of the province, and by all other means in your power, endeavoured to put it in a state utterly defenceless? Have you not expressly declared, that resentment might be justly expected "from your troops" merely in consequence of a refusal of some inhabitants of the province to supply them with property undeniably their own? Surely these are questions founded on incontrovertible facts, which we think must prove that while the avowed enemies of Great-Britain and the colonies are protected by your excellency, the lives, liberties, and properties of the inhabitants of the province, who are real friends to the British constitution, are greatly endangered, whilst under the controul of your standing army.

It must be matter of grief to every true Briton that the honour of British troops is sullied by the infamous errand on which they are sent to America; and whilst in the unjust cause in which you are engaged, menaces will never produce submission from the people of this province. Your excellency, as well as the army, can only preserve your honour by refusing to submit

to the most disgraceful prostitution of subserving plans so injurious to this people, so notoriously iniquitous and cruel. Your excellency professes to be solicitous for preserving union and harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies, and we sincerely hope that you will distinguish yourself by exertions for this purpose; for should you be an instrument of involving in a civil war this oppressed and injured land, it must for ever deprive you of that tranquillity which finally bids adieu to those whose hands have been polluted with innocent blood. Your excellency reminds us of the spirit of the British nation; we partake, we rejoice in her honours, and especially revere her for her great national virtues: We hope she will never veil her glory, or hazard success, by exerting that spirit in support of tyranny.

Your excellency's strange misconception of facts is not less conspicuous in the close of your message than in many other parts of it. You have suggested that the conduct of the province for supporting the constitution, is an instance of its violation—to declare the truth relative to this matter, must be a full vindication of our conduct therein. The powers placed in your excellency, for the good of the province, to convene, adjourn, prorogue and dissolve the general court, have been perverted to ruin and enslave the province, while our constituents, the loyal subjects of his majesty, have been compelled, for the laudable purposes of preserving the constitution, and therein their freedom, to obtain the wisdom of the province in a way which is not only justifiable by reason, but, under the present exigencies of the state, directed by the principles of the constitution itself; warranted by the most approved precedent and example, and sanctioned by the British nation at the revolution, upon the strength and validity of which precedent the whole British constitution now stands; his present majesty wears his crown, and all subordinate officers hold their places; and, although we are willing to put the most favourable construction on the warning you have been pleased to give us of the "rock on which we are," we beg leave to inform you, that our constituents do not expect that, in the execution of that important trust which they have reposed in us, we should be wholly guided by your advice; and we trust, sir, that we shall not fail in our duty to our country, and loyalty to our king, or in a proper respect to your excellency.

B O S T O N, October 31.

In Provincial Congress, October 26, 1774.

WHEREAS in consequence of the present unhappy disputes between Great-Britain and the colonies, a formidable body of troops, with warlike preparations of every sort, are already arrived at, and others destined for the metropolis of this province; and the expressed design of their being sent is to execute acts of the British parliament, utterly subversive of the constitution of the province; And whereas his excellency general Gage has attempted by his troops to disperse the inhabitants of Salem, whilst assembled to consult measures for preserving their freedom; and to subjugate the province to arbitrary government:—And proceeding still to more unjustifiable and alarming lengths, has fortified against the country the capital of the province, and thus greatly endangered the lives, liberties and properties of its oppressed citizens: Invaded private property, by unlawfully seizing and retaining large quantities of ammunition in the arsenal at Boston, and sundry pieces of ordnance in the same town, committed to the custody of his troops the arms, ammunition, ordnance and warlike stores of all forts, provided for the use of the province; and by all possible means endeavoured to place the province entirely in a defenceless state;—at the same time having neglected and altogether disregarded assurances from the congress of the pacific disposition of the inhabitants of the province, and intreaties that he would cease from measures which tended to prevent a restoration of harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies.

Wherefore, it is the opinion of this congress—that notwithstanding nothing but slavery ought more to be deprecated than hostilities with Great-Britain—notwithstanding the province has not the most distant design of attacking, annoying, or molesting his majesty's troops aforesaid, but, on the other hand, will consider and treat every attempt of the kind, as well as all measures tending to prevent a reconciliation between Britain and the colonies, as the highest degree of enmity to the province. Nevertheless there is great reason from the considerations aforesaid, to be apprehensive of the most fatal consequences; and that the province may be in some degree provided against the same, and under full persuasion that the measures expressed in the following resolves are perfectly consistent with such resolves of the continental congress as have been communicated to us:

It is Resolved, and hereby recommended to the several companies of militia in this province, who have not already chosen and appointed officers, that they meet forthwith and elect officers to command their respective companies; and that the officers so chosen assemble as soon as may be; and where said officers shall judge the limits of the present regiments too extensive, that they divide them and settle and determine their limits; and proceed to elect field officers to command the respective regiments so formed; and that the field officers so elected forthwith endeavour to enlist one quarter at least of the number of the respective companies, and form them into companies of fifty private at the least, who shall equip and hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice; and that each and every company so formed shall elect a captain and two lieutenants to command them on any necessary and emergent service; And that the said captain and subalterns to be so