

MARYLAND GAZETTE 137

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1775.

Annapolis, November 1, 1774. M.A.S. P... method to inform his friends... Annapolis, December 7, 1774... JAMES DICK and STEWART... ROBERT COUDEN... JOHN BAYNES... BENJAMIN ROBERTS... and S.O.N.

ON THE FRONTIERS OF SWITZERLAND, OF. 24.

On the tenth of last month an earthquake was felt at Atdorf, the chief town in the canton of Uri, which threw the inhabitants into great consternation. There were three different shocks, one at three o'clock in the morning, another at nine, and the last at eleven, which never happily did no damage. About four in the afternoon there was so violent a shock, that the great arch was considerably damaged by it. The temple divided into two. The dome of another church split and fell down, and many other buildings were split down; but the town-house suffered most of all public buildings. The parish church of Strinxen, two leagues distant, was entirely destroyed. Enormous blocks of stone fell from the mountains along the lake of the Four Cantons, and another such shock had have in a manner destroyed the whole country. At 11th about midnight another shock was felt, and still more considerable towards three in the morning. Public prayers and processions were immediately ordered to implore the clemency of the Almighty. The earth has hardly been still since, which has terrified the inhabitants to that degree, that they have fled into the country, and lie under tents.

LONDON, November 24.

It was rumoured yesterday, that the last American packets brought accounts from General Gage which have alarmed administration. It is said, he advises... The conduct of the ministry in America is become... The new parliament is said to be so perfectly... The following toast is given in all polite and genteel companies throughout Scotland: "To the free and independent lords of Scotland, who opposed the ministerial mandate; and may the points of their swords never be blunted, when drawn in the defence of their liberties."

Extract of a letter from the Hague, Nov. 23.

The plan laid by the court of Spain is no longer a secret; the English cabinet knew it as soon almost as it was formed. The court of Versailles neither approved nor disapproved of it; therefore, when prince Malborough set out for that court, the English ministry charged Lord Stormont to acquaint the count de Vergennes with the discovery they had made, in order to preserve the pacific assurances which these three powers had reciprocally made to each other, and prevent that ambassador's meeting with a cold reception in England.

Nov. 23. In consequence of some authentic advices lately received from America, great hopes are conceived that the affairs of the distressed colonies will soon undergo, on this side of the water, a very favourable turn.

It is said the general Howe will be appointed commander in chief of the forces in North America, in the room of general Gage, who has desired to be recalled. A private letter from Gibraltar says, a Spanish squadron, consisting of five sail of the line, two frigates and three xebecs are now cruising in the Mediterranean.

They write from Madrid that two xebecs are taken up at Carthagena, to carry over a detachment of militia to reinforce the garrison of Oran, on which the Moors had made an unsuccessful attempt.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, December 8.

This day the house met a little after two o'clock. As soon as the speaker took the chair he informed the house, that his majesty had been waited on the preceding day with the address agreed to on Tuesday, and then read his majesty's most gracious answer, as follows: "Gentlemen, I return you my particular thanks for this very loyal and dutiful address. I receive with the highest satisfaction and approbation your assurances of assistance and support, in maintaining the supreme authority of the legislature over all the dominions of my crown. It shall be my care to justify by my conduct the confidence you so affectionately express, and to show that I have no interests separate from those of my people."

Very considerable quantities of goods, which had been shipped at Bristol for the colonies, were last week unloaded, in consequence of the late advices from America.

Dec. 3. It is said more troops are to be sent to America.

All persons who have read and considered the late ministerial speech, do with great concern take notice, that it is written too much in the style of *hoc via se jabet*, and conveys all the dreadful ideas of an arbitrary power; but however, it is to be hoped, the Almighty Providence will interpose, and preserve this nation as well as its colonies, from the terrible calamities of a tyrannical government.

By letters from an English gentleman at Constantinople to his friend in London, there is advice that two bakers of that city were lately sentenced by the cady, or magistrate, in the quarter they lived, to lose their right hands by the executioner, and afterwards be hanged in the market-place, for adulterating bread, and selling it short of the legal standard.

The hereditary prince of Brunswick has lately obtained the post of a field marshal in his Prussian majesty's service.

It is said, at the west end of the town, that it is a proper respect due to the king, to make the payment of his debts the first business of the new parliament, and so it would, if they were the king's debts; but here, as in other cases the word king is substituted for the word minister; the debt has been contracted by pensions, gifts, and election bribery, to support the minister and now a heavy tax is to be laid on the people, and the charge of extravagance to be laid on the king.

Extract of a letter from Rome, to a member of the Cocoa-Tree.

"You will doubtless be agreeably surpris'd to hear that the cardinal York is likely to be at the head of the christian church; the Quebec bill, which seems to be a bitter pill on your side of the water, is received as the most agreeable sugar plumb on ours. It is intended, in a reasonable time, to shew every respect and regard to the bishop of Quebec, and his holiness will keep the bishop in his mind upon the next vacancy of a hat. What do you think of New-England, New-York, &c. will they return to the church? If you doubt it, we do not, as we have great confidence in the king's friends."

Dec. 5. His majesty has appointed col. Amherst lieutenant-governor of St. John's, Newfoundland, which place that officer retok from the French in the late war.

Letters from Paris assure us, that the new administration begins to acquire a consequence not to be expected in so short a time; the minister seems equally to share the confidence of his prince, and the warmest gratitude and thanks of his fellow-subjects.

The last accounts from Holland confidently affirm, that the states-general are at length determined to greatly augment their forces by sea and land.

Three persons are in custody for attempting to engage workmen from the dock-yard at Rochester, into foreign service.

Dec. 6. A large ship laden with tobacco, name unknown, was totally lost, a few days ago, near Helvoetsluys, and it is feared the crew all perished.

Dec. 7. On the 15th of November, the following sixteen noblemen were chosen to represent the peerage of Scotland: Duke of Gordon, earls of Cassils, Strathmore, Abercorn, Galloway, Loudon, Dalhousie, Breadalbane, Aberdeen, March, Marchmont, Roseberry, Bute; viscounts Stormont, Irwin, and lord Galloway.

A number of transports are fitted for Ireland, to receive on board the 22d, 49th, 55th, and 63d regiments. Major general Howe, and Sir William Draper, are going out as brigadiers on the staff.

Doctor Johnson, bishop of Worcester, died near Bath, in consequence of a fall from his horse. He is succeeded in that see by doctor North, bishop of Litchfield; the latter by Dr. Hird, bishop of Bangor.

Dr. Barrington, bishop of Landaff, is translated to Bangor, and Dr. Moore, dean of Christ church, is consecrated bishop of Landaff.

Dec. 9. The empress of Russia intends to make some material alterations in the military establishment of her dominions, amongst which, one is that of establishing a regular and well disciplined militia, according to the custom of some other European nations, throughout her territories.

Orders are sent to Corke for contracting for 2000 tons of peas, and the same quantity of oatmeal, for the use of his majesty's royal navy.

Dec. 13. The ministers, it is said, are much offend'd with general Gage. They certainly have great reason, for he has most grievously disappointed them. They had great hopes of throwing the blame upon him; but he, acting upon the defensive, has thrown it upon them.

We hear that a late protest has given more real easiness to a great portion than the whole of the city addresses put together. The latter he only bore his part in, as they remonstrated against government in general; this he felt personally.

It is strongly agitated among the American merchants, to wait upon the king with a very spirited address relative to American affairs, and the deplorable state of our trade and manufactures, which is immediately to be backed with a strong remonstrance from the three branches of the corporation of London, in common hall assembled, upon the general score of public grievances; when, it is said, the livery at large will absolutely insist upon their right to accompany the lord mayor to St. James's.

All the great trading towns must and will either address the throne, or instruct their servants in parliament, upon the decline of trade, and the excessive high price of provisions.

Emigrations from Birmingham and Sheffield, we are told, are making every week, the trade in those places being greatly lessened.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, December 13.

This day immediately after the resolutions of the committee of supply of Monday were reported and agreed to, Mr. Rolle Fuller moved for leave to bring in a bill to prevent the inconveniences arising in large counties to the freeholders, from being too far distant from the place where the poll for members to serve in parliament is usually taken, and to appoint others, as remote for the above purpose, which was agreed to.

Lord John Cavendish then rose, and begged leave to state to the house the conduct of administration in one or two points, particularly respecting the naval establishment for the ensuing year. He observed, that there were 4000 seamen voted the present year, and the preceding year, notwithstanding the speech from the throne announced the very critical and alarming situation of affairs in America. This was a conduct he could by no means reconcile; for, taking the speech to have been framed upon right information, as calling for measures of a spirited and active nature, what sort of correspondence there was between the contents of the speech and the naval establishment, was more than he could possibly discover. But were he to declare his sentiments, he feared it would be found to be a mere ministerial trick. A forming estimate in the first instance, that were never intended to be adhered to, or rather designed as mere waste paper, and afterwards surprise and drive the house into grants of a very improper and burdensome nature. Such being his suspicions, for his part, he said, he could not face his constituents without previously knowing what he must tell them, both in relation to further burdens, and what was involved in such an inquiry, if compulsive measures were really intended to be pursued towards the Americans; for to talk of enforcing the acts upon a reduced establishment, either naval or military, was a sort of language fit to be held only to children.

Lord Beauchamp said, that the noble lord who spoke last had communicated to him that morning his intentions of moving something on the subject matter of the present conversation; that he had actually apprized the noble lord who resides at the treasury therewith; and that his lordship had authorized him to acquaint the house, that he had no information whatever to lay before it, nor measures respecting America. He was therefore of opinion, that as the noble lord was indisposed and absent, it would be better, particularly as there was a very thin house, to suspend all further solicitude, till his lordship should have an opportunity of fully explaining the motives of his conduct in person.

Mr. Cornwall next rose, and endeavoured to apologize for the minister's conduct. He insisted, that the present was not a proper time to enter into any discussion relative to American affairs; that the naval reduction, he presumed, was founded on good and substantial reasons; that, however, the motives which gave birth to them might vary with the circumstances; and that when the question concerning Great-Britain and the colonies came in a parliamentary way before the house, every member would then be fully at liberty to deliver his sentiments, and maintain his opinions.

Mr. Burke answered the gentleman on the treasury-bench in a very masterly manner, and was extremely severe on the conduct of administration. Among a variety of other things, he compared the house of commons to a dead senseless man, that had neither sense, soul, or activity, but as it derived them from the minister. If his lordship chutes to tell them one day, that America is in a state little short of actual rebellion, it is all very well; if, in a few days after, he acquaints them, at second hand, that he had no information what-ever to authorize such an assertion, who can doubt his candour and veracity? Both assertions still remain uncontradicted, and all must be silence. We despise the parliament, who are our only proper and constitutional counsellors; but when we have blundered and ruined our affairs, perhaps beyond a possibility of redress, then we will come to parliament to do what?—to renege what is incurable, and to recover what can never be regained.

Mr. William Mays, in a short speech, condemned the very extraordinary conduct of those in power, in withholding from the house the necessary information,