

Parliament, makes it expedient to petition parliament for relief.

It was also resolved, that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the House of Commons, and to be presented before a general meeting, to be held at this place on the 15th inst.

It was also resolved, that the committee consist of the following gentlemen:

FOR ENGLAND. Mr. Lane, Mr. Champion, Mr. Bromfield.

FOR NEW-YORK. Mr. Pigou, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Sargent.

FOR PENNSYLVANIA. Mr. Barclay, Mr. Mildred, Mr. ...

FOR MARYLAND. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Moulson, Mr. ...

FOR VIRGINIA. Mr. Norton, Mr. Gilt, Mr. ...

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Mr. Bridgen, Mr. Clark, Mr. ...

FOR SOUTH CAROLINA. Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Nutt, Mr. ...

THE above gentlemen were added, Mr. Lee, Mr. Baker.

It was also resolved, that the committee be desired to make the petition.

On the petition of the merchants, traders, and others concerned in the North American commerce.

It was also resolved, that the minutes of this meeting be inserted in the public morning and evening papers, signed by the chairman.

It was also resolved, that this meeting be adjourned to the next meeting at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at this place, to receive the report of the committee.

THOMAS LANE, chairman.

Lord Chatham is with early empire at his feet, and where it is reported, those two patriotic nobles are preparing the plan of a reconciliation with America.

It is very generally reported, that several members of a nation have publicly declared they will not give further succor to violent measures with the Americans.

The greater part of the military, we are told, will soon be removed from the province of Massachusetts Bay, and the blockade by sea is to be continued, with the addition of more shipping.

A circumstantial account of the proceedings of the North American merchants, held last Wednesday at the King's Arms Tavern, &c.

THERE was a very numerous and respectable meeting of the merchants &c. trading to North America, (consisting of between four and five hundred) for the purpose of the committee (appointed at the last meeting) regarding the particulars of a petition to be presented to parliament in the present alarming situation of American affairs.

The business of the meeting was opened about eleven o'clock by the reading of the petition, the substance of which was as follows:

That owing to the hostile the several particulars of the extensive trade carried on between this country and America, as it respects the carrying of commodities, the balance of cash, as well as the negotiation of exchange in several parts of the world, it next stated how this very extensive trade was hurt by the several restrictive and obnoxious North American laws, passed since the year of the Stamp-act to the year 1773. It then proceeded by paying redress in their particulars as follows: In the operation of all other acts which may affect the general trade carried on between this country and America, the whole was couched in decisive, unambiguous, and in point of title, good sense, and precision, showed the committee appointed for drawing up the petition, every way equal to the great trust delegated to them.

As soon as the petition was read, Mr. Hayley made the following motion: "That the petition entitled &c. &c. now read, be approved of." This opened a very long, yet an able and candid debate.

Mr. Watson said he had no objection to the petition then as it went; on the contrary he highly approved of it, yet he was for adding a clause where the late Quebec bill should be particularly expressed, and where the very great constitutional as well as commercial evils resulting from that bill should be marked out; that he saw no reason why so extensive a province as Canada, the trade whereof was so very material to the interest of this country, should be left out of so great a question as the present; he therefore proposed a clause after "the operation of all other acts" particularly specifying the late Quebec bill.

Mr. Baker answered Mr. Watson, by first calling the recollection of the gentlemen present to the general wish thrown out last meeting, of the committee's avoiding every thing that was political in the petition; he said, that they had, in consequence, been very guarded in this particular; but however, he as executive as they could with prudence, they had still left an open by the words, "the operation of all other acts," for counsel at the bar of the House to plead any inconveniencies arising from the Quebec or other acts; the Boston port and Massachusetts-bay bills were omitted for the same purpose, yet were by no means precluded (if the committee should afterwards think proper to instruct their counsel so) from being re-mentioned again, either in part or in the whole.

Mr. Nutt supported Mr. Baker in a very elegant and forcible manner, and showed, by fresh implications, that the words in the petition, "as in the operation of all other acts," were fully competent to any clauses that could be added, either in favour of Quebec or Boston.

Mr. Nutt acquainted the meeting, that probably he could reconcile this difference of opinion by informing them, on almost negative grounds, that the King, by a clause in the Quebec bill, empowered him to allow, at his pleasure, of the trial by juries, and the use of the habeas corpus act, had either sent out, or was preparing to send out, an order for their continuing in full force, and that as the Quebec bill was not to take place till the first of May next, the ill effect of that bill in these two particulars would never operate. This being the case, he imagined it would be found less necessary to insist on adding the clause respecting Quebec. Several other gentlemen, for these and other reasons, were for having no additions made to the petition.

Mr. Watson replied to them, and urged with greater confidence, the necessity of particularizing Quebec.

He said, though our present gracious sovereign might feel for his Canadian subjects in allowing them the use of juries, and the habeas corpus act, this nation might one day or other have a sovereign of a different way of thinking; he was therefore not for leaving things on such uncertain ground as the will of a prince but for having them established with more certainty and precision.

Mr. Sharp, and some others, agreed with Mr. Watson, particularly the former, who said among other things, "that Canada was universally looked upon as a cudgel, in the hand of government, against the rest of the Americans."

Mr. Creighton more than once attempted to meet the differences of the assembly, by complimenting, in high terms, the draught, purport, and extent of the petition; and then expressing his wish, that three Canadian merchants should be added to the committee, for the purpose of instructing counsel touching these points, which Mr. Watson and his friends so much insisted on, by which they might bring about, equally as well, the effects they so much desired.

This debate continued several hours, in which Mr. Watson and Mr. Baker were principals on different sides. At the close of it Mr. Watson wanted to put his question; Mr. Baker set the company right in point of order, by reminding them there was an original question before them, which must first be disposed of, either by entirely getting rid of it, by negation, or by amendment, or by putting the previous question. The latter was the one, however, adopted, which was carried in the affirmative by a great majority. The main question, "that this petition, entitled, &c. &c. now read, be approved of," was then put, and carried unanimously.

After this a motion was made by Mr. Watson, for entering into a resolution, independent of the petition, "expressing the assent of the assembly to the evil consequences of the Quebec bill." This, though in fact agreed to by almost every body, yet as they thought proper, for reasons already given, not to insert them in the petition; it was urged by the majority present, that such a resolution would rather be out of place. Mr. Watson, after a while, seeing the sense of the company lean this way, withdrew his motion.

A resolution was then agreed to, "that the petition be forthwith engrossed, that the committee do attend for that purpose, and that three Canadian merchants, Mr. Watson, Mr. Stretzell, Mr. Hunter, be added to the committee already appointed for the purpose of instructing counsel, and preparing such evidences and allegations as the petition warranted them to support." This resolution was followed by another, "that the petition, after being engrossed, should lie at that house for signing; and that the committee should afterwards advertise the meeting at large, of the day they intended presenting it." A motion of thanks to the chairman being then unanimously agreed to, the assembly adjourned.

King's Arms Tavern, Corahill, Jan. 22.

At a very numerous meeting of the merchants, traders, and others concerned in the American commerce, agreeable to adjournment.

THOMAS LANE, Esq. in the chair.

The committee informed the meeting, that they had prepared the petition proposed at their last meeting.

Moved that the said petition be read. It was read accordingly.

Resolved unanimously, That the petition now presented and read is approved of by this meeting.

Resolved unanimously, That the above mentioned petition be fairly engrossed, under the inspection of the same committee that prepared it, with the addition of Mr. Stretzell, Mr. Watson, M. Hunter, for the province of Quebec; and that the said committee be desired to attend the signing and presenting of the same to the House of Commons, and to prepare and digest such evidence as may be necessary for proving the allegations of the said petition, and for supporting the same.

Resolved unanimously, That the committee be desired to call another meeting of the merchants, traders, and others concerned in the American commerce (as soon as they know the fate of the petition in the House of Commons) in order that the public may be properly informed thereof.

Resolved unanimously, That the minutes of this meeting be fairly transcribed and inserted in the public morning and evening papers, signed by the chairman.

THOMAS LANE, chairman.

B R I S T O L, January 11.

Extra of a letter from London, dated the 5th instant.

The commercial-part of this city begin to feel a very sensible alarm at the firm and temperate proceedings of the American congress; and many wise men entertain the most melancholy apprehensions at the prospect of approaching ruin to all the manufacturing towns in the kingdom. The merchants trading to America, have resolved to petition parliament; and on Tuesday the West-India merchants were convened to consider of an application made to them from upwards of twenty respectable planters of Jamaica and the Leeward islands (among whom are Mr. Wolfe Fuller, and some other gentlemen who have always been considered as the firm friends of government) to concur with them in calling a general meeting, to deliberate on proper measures to be taken for their common preservation. The resolves of the West-India merchants on this occasion, I enclose to you herewith, and hope that the citizens of Bristol, who have lately shown such virtue and public spirit in the choice of their representatives, will not be backward in following so noble an example.

N E W - Y O R K, March 2.

Last Monday the committee of observation met; it was proposed that they should nominate delegates to the continental congress, for the approbation of the city and county, but being opposed, the final resolution of the committee was deferred until the next meeting.

We are informed by a captain of a vessel who arrived a few days ago from Antigua, that admiral Parry, with the royal squadron under his command, on that station, has received orders to sail for Boston, where this gentleman will be second in command, as he is a junior admiral of the blue flag to admiral Graves; the gentleman who brought this advice added, that he heard admiral Parry himself declare, the above destination of his majesty's ships.

The several parties in Boston, beating for volunteers to recruit his majesty's troops, meet with great success; inlist none but Europeans.

ANNAPOLIS. CUSTOM-HOUSE ENTERED.

Schooner Friends Adventure, John Fulford, Barbadoes. Schooner Welcome, Joshua Laine, Madeira. Schooner Rebecca, John Harvey, Virginia.

C L E A R E D.

Schooner Sally, Peter Faneuil Jones, Cadiz. Brig Woodbridge, William Kaap, Bilbao. Brig Nabby, Jonathan Mason, Lisbon. Schooner Dolphin, Joseph Proctor, Cadiz. Brig Fortune, Thomas Moore, Vigo. Schooner Chatham, Ben. Fleetwood, Virginia.

THE trustees for building a new church in the city of Annapolis, in St. Anne's parish, give notice, that the old church will be pulled down on Monday the 20th instant; and all persons desirous to keep such parts of the said church as have been erected at their private expense, or willing to remove the same, are desired to meet the trustees at the church, on that day. Subscribers are desired to pay their subscription money to Mr. Thomas Hyde.

Port-Tobacco, March 7, 1775. THE committee of Charles county have imposed a burthen, to load with grain on Patowmack river, for the use of the poor inhabitants of the town of Boston, where it is to be delivered. Any person that has such a vessel to charter, and will let me know their terms if they be agreeable, shall have the above freight.

THE subscribers hereby give notice, that they intend a meeting at the house of Mr. Elias Smith, in Leonard town, on the first Tuesday in April next, by 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to treat and agree with any person or persons, who will undertake to build and in a workmanlike manner, complete and furnish an arms and work house, for the use of the said county. Any one inclinable to undertake the same, are desired to attend at the time and place appointed.

WILL ADVERTISE. GEORGE PLATER, ABRAHAM BARNES, ZACHARIAH BOND, JOHN R. EDER, JAMES JORDAN.

HOLLYOAK AND REDDINTON. BLACKSMITHS AND FARRIERS.

TAKE this method to inform the public, that they have just opened shop at the back part of Nicholas Maccubbin's (shoemaker) garden, by the docks, where they intend to carry on the blacksmith and farriery business. Those gentlemen that choose to trust them with their custom, may depend to be punctually served, and at the most reasonable rates.

Annopolis, March 14, 1775. ALL persons indebted to Thomas Harwood, jun. and to Thomas Harwood, jun. are requested to make immediate payment, or a tender, or to their satisfaction, no longer indulgence will be given; as this is a reasonable request, and creditors have agency been given, and it will be speedily complied with, should it be neglected, such steps must be taken to produce payment as will be very disagreeable. Benjamin Harwood, jun. will constantly attend as usual, at the brick building, at the sign of the dock, for the purpose of receiving payments, or otherwise settling, where it is not immediately convenient to pay.

To be let to the lowest bidder, on Tuesday the fourth day of April next, THE building of an overshoot water mill, at the Cool Springs, in St. Mary's county. At which time and place a full meeting of the trustees for Charlotte Hall, is earnestly requested.

HENRY TUBMAN, d. l.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

RAN away yesterday, from the subscriber's plantation, near Dorsey's forge, on Potapoco, Baltimore county, Maryland, an English convict servant man, named John Thomas, born in Wile, 5 feet 2 inches high, wears his own shirt, black hose, thin visage, a small scar on his upper lip, and a fore leg; had on and took with him, a new castor hat cut in the fashion, brown broad cloth jacket with plated buttons, without lining, grey fearnought and cotton ditto, white kersey breeches, two pair of trousers, one striped the other check, two osnabrig shirts, two white ditto, one striped silk handkerchief, one red flowered ditto, one pair of specked worsted stockings, one pair of white yarn ditto; two pair of shoes, one pair with steel buckles in them, the other shod on the heels and padded round the soles, two wallets, one osnabrig the other crocus, and a hatchet. Whoever takes up said servant, and secures him, so as his master may get him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges if brought home, paid by the subscriber OWING.

TAKEN away from Annapolis dock, about 5 weeks ago, by those who ought to have returned her, a 7 bhd. flat; she was newly trimed, pitch bottom and sides, she had a new fore thwart, with a new knees on top of ditto, one new plank nailed down in her stern sheets, two new timbers in her head, and had in her two new oars, loaded with old wood; it is supposed she drifted from Harpoon bay, north side of Severn. Whoever will bring said flat to Annapolis, shall receive a reward of 20s currency from the subscriber.

N. B. If she should have drifted on any gentleman's land, it will be esteemed as a great favour to give notice above.

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