North America, makes it expedient to petition parliament for redress."

It was also resolved, "that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the house of commons, and lay the same before a general meeting, to be held, at this place this day fortnight."

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

For NEW-ENGLAND. Mr. Lane, Mr. Champion, Mr. Brownfield.

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

For PENNSYLVANIA. Mr. Barclay, Mr. Mildred, Mr. Neate.

For MARYLAND. Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Molleson, Mr. Campbell.

For VIRGINIA. Mr. Norton, Mr. Gist, Mr. Athawes.

For NORTH CAROLINA. Mr. Bridgen, Mr. Clark, Mr. Woodbridge.

For SOUTH CAROLINA. Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Nutt, and Mr. Molleson."

To the above gentlemen were added, Mr. Lee, Mr. Baker.

It was also resolved, "that the committee be desired to entitle the petition

"A 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 Wednesday next at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at this house, then to receive the report of the committee."

THOMAS LANE, chairman.

Jan. 10. Lord Chatham is with earl Temple at his seat at Stowe, where, it is reported, those two patriotic noblemen are preparing the plan of a reconciliation with America.

It is very currently reported, that several members of administration have publicly declared they will not any farther accede to violent measures with the Americans.

Jan. 11. The greatest 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, Cornhill.*

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) reporting 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:

"First stating to the house the several particulars of "the extensive trade carried on between this country "and America as it respected the amount of commo- "dities—the balance of cash, as well as the negociation "of exchange in several parts of Europe; it next stated "how this very extensive trade was hurt by the several "revenue bills affecting North America, passed since "the repeal of the stamp-act to the year 1773. It then "concluded by praying redress in these particulars, as "well as in the operation of all other acts which may "affect the general trade carried on between this country "and North America." The whole was couched in decent, manly terms; and in point of stile, good sense, and precision; shewed the committee appointed for drawing it up, 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 extensive, 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 Massachusett's-bay bills were ommitted for the same purpose, yet were by no means precluded (if the committee should afterwards think proper to instruct their counsel so) from being remonstrated against, either in part or in the whole.

Mr. Sargent supported Mr. Baker in a very eloquent and forcible manner, and shewed, 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 positive grounds, that the King, by a clause in the Quebec bill, empowering 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 effects 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 those 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—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. Strettell, 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.

Kings Arms Tavern, Cornhill, Jan. 11.

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. Strettell, 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.

Copy, THOMAS LANE, chairman.

BRISTOL, *January* 11.

Extract 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. Rose 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 shewn such virtue and public spirit in the choice of their representatives, will not be backward in following so noble an example."

NEW-YORK, *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 vice-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, many volunteers entering every day, their orders are to inlist none but Europeans.

ANNAPOLIS,

CUSTOM-HOUSE

ENTERED.

Schooner Friends Adventure, John Fulford, Barbados.
Schooner Welcome, Joshua Paine, Madeira.
Schooner Rebecca, John Harvey, Virginia.

CLEARED.

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

Annapolis, March 9, 1775.

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 the Monday the 20th instant; and all persons desirous to keep such parts of the said church as have been erected at their private expence, or willing to remove the tomb-stones, 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 impowered me to engage a vessel of 2000 to 2500 bushels 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.

R. T. HOOE.

THE subscribers hereby give notice, that they intend 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 finish an alms 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.

2 w GEORGE PLATER,
ABRAHAM BARNES,
ZACHARIAH BOND,
JOHN REEDER, jun.
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 dock, where they intend to carry on the blacksmith and farrying business. Those gentlemen that choose to favour them with their custom, may depend to be punctually served, and at the most reasonable rates. 6 w

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Annapolis, March 14, 1775.

ALL persons indebted to Thomas Harwood jun. and to Thomas Harwood, jun. and John Brice, are requested to make immediate payment, or otherwise settle to their satisfaction, no longer indulgence will be given; as this is a reasonable request, and long indulgences have already been given, one 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 on the front 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 overshot 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. w 5

HENRY TUBMAN, clerk.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

March 22, 1775.

RAN away yesterday, from the subscriber's plantation, near Dorsey's forge, on Patapsco, Baltimore county, Maryland, an English convict servant man, named John Thomas, born in Wales, 5 feet 8 inches high, wears his own short black hair, thin visage, a small scar on his upper lip, and a sore leg; had on and took with him, a new castor, half 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 plain striped silk handkerchief, one red flowered ditto, one pair of speckled worsted stockings, one pair of white yarn ditto, two pair of shoes, one pair with steel buckles in them, the other shod on the heel and nailed 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 ROBERT OWING.

TAKEN away from Annapolis dock, about 5 weeks ago, by those who ought to have returned her, a 7 hhd. flat, she was newly trimmed, 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 fore 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 40s currency from the subscriber.

N. MINSKIP.

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