

(XXX YEAR)

T H E

(No 1545)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 20, 1775.

Proceedings in the House of Lords, Feb. 11

A MOST interesting debate on American affairs was this day agitated in the house of peers; it originated from a motion made by Lord Chatham, who brought in a bill, which in the noble Lord's opinion would have a happy tendency in reconciling the present subsisting differences between Great Britain and America. The two leading propositions in this bill were, the one of a declaratory, the other of a conciliating nature. As a fundamental basis of negotiation, the sovereignty of Great Britain over the American colonies was primarily insisted on. That being admitted, the propositions of a conciliating kind were, "That if an American congress should be established, as by the consent of Great Britain might constitute it, in every sense of the word, a legal meeting." "That the delegates chosen to represent the several provinces in this congress should be invested with full and efficient powers to treat with Great Britain in behalf of America." "That the conciliating propositions offered on the part of Great Britain, through these delegates, to America, should be a total exemption from parliamentary taxation, on condition that the colonies contributed a certain annual subsidy by way of free gift, which was to be set apart as an accumulating fund, and appropriated solely to the purposes of paying off the national debt." "That wherefore of the great outlines of Lord Chatham's proposed bill, which he supported with that manly force and reasoning, that energy of sentiment and sublimity of expression, for which nature, conspiring with genius, so supereminently qualified him. At the same time, however, that he was virtuously on the side of liberty he was warmly in favour of political order and constitutional government. Hence, though he supported the Americans, where their claims were well founded, he arraigned their pretensions where they appeared to assume on the rights of legislation. The complaints urged by the Americans against the king's troops being stationed in the colonies, Lord Chatham by no means thought justifiable; for he contended, that the king certainly had a right to dispose of the troops in his service, though the employing them to enforce unconstitutional laws, was converting soldiers of honour into the mercenaries of despotism.

a patrician, the virtue of a man, touched with an intimate sensibility for his country's seal. The Lord Chancellor spoke about twenty minutes against the bill, and was for his country exerting in a vigorous manner, her power and authority at this important crisis. The Duke of Manchester contended, that the bill ought to be received, as it might probably contain some very material and wholesome advice; he cautioned the house to proceed with deliberation, as America had now three million of people, most of them trained to arms, and he was certain they could now produce a larger army than Great Britain. Lord Dartmouth said, he by no means would ever admit a bill, because it might contain some good advice; that what he could learn of the bill, rendered it in his opinion imperfect, as it did not mention the qualifications necessary to form a delegate, he should therefore be for totally rejecting the bill. Earl Temple, in a speech pregnant with good sense, freely admitted "the supremacy of the king in parliament, and the consequent right to levy taxes on British subjects, in whatever part of the British empire they resided." He contended, "that all the unhappy differences in which this country had for a series of years been involved with the colonies, originated from the fatal stamp act, which however legally right, was politically wrong. He declared the sense he had of the acts passed in the last parliament; that at the time of their passing he had argued they would turn out bills of exasperation, or bills of intimidation; unfortunately for this country they had proved of the former kind." His lordship, speaking of England said, "that with relation to America, it was a country which had been more sinned against than sinning." Before the last American acts were passed, the colonies, in his lordship's opinion, had been solely to blame; but since those acts took place, England merited the severity of censure. The house divided about half past nine o'clock, and about ten the division was declared to be, Against the bill 61, Proxies 7, For the bill 32.

communicate to us the several papers relating to the present state of the British colonies in America, which, by your majesty's command, have been laid before us. We have taken them into our most serious consideration; and we find that a part of your majesty's subjects, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, have proceeded so far to resist the authority of the supreme laws, that a state of actual insurrection exists within the said province; and we see with the utmost concern, that they have been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements, entered into by your majesty's subjects in several of the other colonies, to the injury and oppression of many of their innocent fellow subjects, resident within the Kingdom of Great Britain, and the rest of your majesty's dominions. His conduct, on their part, appears to us the more inexcusable, when we consider with how much temper your majesty and the two houses of parliament, have acted in support of the laws and constitution of Great Britain. We can never so far desert the trust reposed in us, as to relinquish any part of the sovereign authority over all your majesty's dominions; which, by law, is vested in your majesty, and the two houses of parliament; and the conduct of many persons in several of the colonies, during the late disturbance, is alone sufficient to convince us how necessary it is for the protection of the lives and fortunes of all your majesty's subjects. We have ever been, and always shall be, ready to pay attention and regard to any real grievances of any of your majesty's subjects, which shall, in a dutiful and constitutional manner, be laid before us; and whenever any of the colonies shall make a proper application to us, we shall be ready to afford them every just and reasonable indulgence: at the same time we consider it as our indispensible duty, humbly to beseech your majesty that you will take the most effectual measures to enforce your obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme legislature; and we beg leave, in the most solemn manner, to assure your majesty, that it is our fixed resolution, at the hazard of our lives and properties, to stand by your majesty against all rebellious attempts, in the maintenance of the just rights of your majesty, and the two houses of parliament.

L O N D O N, February 11.

Yesterday the earl of Oxford presented the upper assembly a message from his majesty under his sign manual, the import of which was, "that in consequence of the address he had received, he was determined to take the most speedy and effectual measures for supporting the just rights of the crown, and the two houses of parliament, in which undertaking, he informed them, an addition to his forces both by land and sea would be necessary, not doubting but their lordships would readily concur in such measures as the exigencies of the case should require." In consequence of the above message, their lordships agreed to an humble address to be presented to his majesty, humbly to assure his majesty, that they with the utmost zeal and cheerfulness concur with his majesty in such measures as the present exigency may require. Mr. Vice Chamberlain presented his majesty's answer to the address of both houses of parliament, which was as follows: "My lords and gentlemen, I thank you for this very dutiful and loyal address, and for the affectionate and solemn assurances you give me of your support in maintaining the just rights of my crown and of the two houses of parliament, and you may depend upon my taking the most speedy and effectual measures for enforcing obedience to the laws, and the authority of the supreme legislature. Whenever any of my colonies shall make a proper and dutiful application, I shall be ready to concur with you in affording them every just and reasonable indulgence; and it is my ardent wish, that this disposition may have a happy effect on the temper and conduct of my subjects in America."

Yesterday the house of lords went through the land-tax and marine mutiny bills, without amendments. Reported his majesty's answer to the address of thanks for communicating the American papers, &c. His majesty's answer was referred to the committee of supply, which was adjourned to Monday. The house went into a committee on the American papers, and Lord North moved for leave to bring in a bill for preventing the Americans from fishing at Newfoundland and St. John's, and for prohibiting them from carrying on any commerce, either by way of export or import, but with Great Britain, Ireland, and the West Indies. This produced a very warm debate, in which Mr. Attorney, Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Stanley and Mr. Cornwall, bore a part on one side, and Mr. Dunning, Mr. Secretary of State, and Mr. Fox, on the other.

The principal arguments used in favour of the proposed augmentation, were as follows: "That the house having resolved contumacy and defiance of legislative power in the Americans to be rebellious, and having addressed his majesty that he would be pleased to take such measures as he should find it necessary for enforcing the laws, it was upon a mature consideration determined that an augmentation of 2000 men should be made. That number, it was apprehended, would be sufficient for the purpose of restraining the commerce of the New-Englanders, and for preventing the clandestine trade, which, to some were useful would be carried into practice with force and violence; that their numbers were very extensive, and that their arms were very

Majority against the bill

The noble lords who voted for Lord Chatham's plan of reconciliation, were the following: the dukes of Cumberland, Richmond, Devonshire, Portland, Manchester, Northumberland, Marquis of Buckingham, Earls of Stamford, Abingdon, Scarborough, Bolton, Newcastle, Stafford, Tankerville, Stanhope, Ffinham, Fitzwilliams, Temple, Cadogan, Spencer, Chatham, Lords Bergavenny, Ferrers, Raven, Omney, King, Fortescue, Ponsonby, Lyttelton, Wycombe, Condes, Milton, Camden.

The committee of the commons on American affairs had leave to sit, and Sir John White brought in the chair, Lord North rose, and in a speech of near two hours introduced a motion for an address to his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to take the most effectual measures for enforcing obedience to the laws passed in the last session of parliament, respecting North America, and to declare that this house will support his majesty with their lives and fortunes, or would do to that effect for we do not pretend to give the exact term of this long and important motion. His lordship, after recapitulating the contents of the American papers, pronounced the province of Massachusetts Bay and other parts of New England, to be in a state of rebellion, and proposed a conference with the house of lords, that a joint address might be carried up to the throne. His lordship likewise in the course of his speech pointed out the measures intended to be pursued in case the king should agree to comply with their address. He said he should propose a temporary act to put a stop to all foreign trade of New-England, and particularly to their fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, till they returned to their duty; at the same time declaring, that whenever they should acknowledge the supreme authority of the British legislature, by obedience to the laws of this realm, and make a due submission to the king, their real grievances, upon their making proper application, should be redressed. His lordship observed, that the other colonies were not so culpable, and he hoped might yet be brought to a sense of their duty to their mother country, by more lenient measures. The measures proposed to be taken the better to enforce obedience in New-England, were mentioned generally, and we believe were, to send fourteen frigates to Boston, and ten thousand troops, including Nelson's regiment of horse, to take a supply of 3000 seamen more to man the fleet for Boston, and to supply the usual naval establishment at home, which falls short, because a Admiral's squadron is not arrived as was expected with the fleet from India.

From the LONDON GAZETTE of February 11.

St. JAMES'S, February 9.

This day the two houses of parliament presented to his majesty the following ADDRESS:

The humble address of the right honorable the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in parliament assembled.

Die Martis, 7 Februarii, 1775.

W. your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, in parliament assembled, shew, your majesty, that we are most

With respect to the Americans, Lord Chatham contended "that they were the best subjects in the King's dominion; that by repeated ill usage they had been exasperated even to madness; their petitions were rejected; their agents refused a hearing; their merchants had been treated with a contemptuous insolence, unknown in polished governments, and thus, driven to desperation, worked up by an enthusiastic zeal for religion on the one hand, and liberty on the other, it was not surprising they had been provoked to commit actions, and pass resolutions, which, if not strictly justifiable in the abstract, were just, with relation to circumstances, entitled to every degree of favourable mitigation." His lordship concluded by observing, "that he would by no means undertake to say, the Americans were not now in, what administration might call, rebellion; not, even admitting them to be in this state, it proceeded not from political turpitude, but an heroicism of soul, a love of liberty, for which our fathers were famed; and it was this principle which rendered their insults on you to a ministry, whose souls were of too dastardly a cast to see the force of political virtue."

Lord Sandwich spoke against the Americans, and urged a reason why the least relaxation on the part of Great Britain should be forborne, the subsequent information he had received from respectable authority. His Lordship's letters, had been assured, that Port-Lancient three ships laden with arms and warlike stores were ready to sail for America; that at Amsterdam there were other vessels filled with supplies of a similar nature. For these, and other reasons, Lord Sandwich concluded with moving for the rejecting the bill brought in by Lord Chatham.

Lord Litchfield was for the admission of the bill: As a plan that would conciliate, without impairing the sovereignty of Great Britain was, on all hands, allowed necessary; and no such plan had been proposed by any of the personages connected with administration.

The Duke of Grafton complained much of not being apprized of the motion made by Lord Chatham, declaring, that he was hurried into the house against his will. He denounced the Americans in very severe terms, and concluded with giving his most hearty affirmative to the motion for rejecting the bill.

Lord Camden spoke highly in favour of the Americans, and was much for the bill being admitted.

Lord Hillsborough expelled himself severely against the bill; he contended with great warmth for the supremacy of this country over America; said he was averse to sending a single point to America; though there might be free millions of souls in America; they were not all of one opinion; that he was confident, could the British standard be once fixed in America, and if those well affected to America could be assured of protection, matters would then wear a very different aspect.

Lord Chatham, in reply to his Lordship, spoke warmly in favour of the Americans.

Lord Gosport said that the house was frequently disturbed with two or three persons, who advanced their opinions in contradiction to the major part of that assembly; that in his opinion the bill was of a dangerous nature, therefore he should be hearty for rejecting it. The Duke of Richmond contended that the Americans in the public prints of a Roman nation, the ultimate

Advertisements and notices on the left margin, including names like 'WILLIAM DAVIS' and 'HENRY MASSEY HANSON'.

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