

loss must fall in the British merchants, if the fisheries should be prohibited, as their other remittance consists only on furs and pearl shells, a few furs, some flax seed, lumber and ships, which would be very inadequate to the amount of their British debts; that the merchants in New-England have remitted with as much punctuality since the difficulties in those provinces as they have done for some years past, they having, for four or five years past, overstocked their markets with British manufactures; and the merchants in London are now willing to give them extensive credit, if the trade is again opened.

Mr. Barclay observed on the above evidences, "that by the evidence of Stephen Higginson and Capt. Jenkins, it was fully proved, that, by the operation of this bill, should it pass into a law, the inhabitants of the four provinces of New-England may probably be reduced to famine, by the clause which is to restrain their trade; and that, by the deprivation of their fisheries, that dreadful calamity will not only be increased, but a great number of innocent subjects will undergo a punishment which they do not deserve, as, by their occupation, the greatest part of them are, for the most part of the year, at sea, and consequently have not been concerned in the disturbances at home; that by the evidence of Capt. Jenkin, the inhabitants of the island of Nantucket, will, in a more particular degree, be affected from the banishment of the soil; and they are the more to be commiserated, because, had that island remained within the district of the province of New-York, as it originally was, they would not have been included in this bill, it being about sixty years since the island was made a part of the Massachusetts Bay. To which he added, that as the inhabitants are peaceable and industrious subjects, and by the principles of the majority, and the occupation of the whole, are innocent subjects, it was consequently extremely hard that they should be included in this severe punishment: But he desired to be understood that the people called quakers have the same regard for civil and religious liberty as others their fellow subjects, but that their principles lead them to a more patient sufferance of oppression than others; in hopes that their superiors may, by proper and respectful remonstrances be induced to give them relief; for any other mode of resistance they cannot adopt."

By the evidence of Mess. Higginson and Jenkins it appeared how terrible were the ideas entertained of the military government at Halifax; how certain it is that the seafaring people of Nantucket will be constrained to emigrate elsewhere for subsistence, and how probable that some of them will settle amongst the French. By the evidence of Mook Watson it appeared how extensive the fisheries were in 1764; by Hussy and Higginson, how much they are since increased. By the evidence of John Lane, it was proved, that a very considerable debt was due to Great Britain from New-England, and that if the fisheries are stopped, there is little to be expected from their other means of remittance. By Watson, Higginson, and Jenkins, the impracticability of carrying on these fisheries (to an equal extent and advantage) from Great Britain was clearly demonstrated; and it was likewise shown how dangerous it will be to divert a certain trade, so beneficial to Great Britain, out of its usual channel, as all the advantage resulting from that trade have hitherto centered in this kingdom.

From these combined circumstances, Mr. Barclay declared himself led to believe, "that the honourable committee would be convinced of the impropriety of passing the fishery bill into a law, and the house, he hoped, would be convinced that the merchants and traders of London do not trouble them with petitions, but when the necessity of their case absolutely requires; and that their only anxiety to be heard at their bar, before measures are adopted, is from the belief that they have it in their power to give such information to the house as may enable them to adopt measures the most advantageous for the land and commercial interest of the whole British empire."

Feb. 25. A patriotic member of an august assembly has declared, that he will assuredly introduce the impeachment of a great character, should he only be backed by a single voice in the house.

Some important discoveries of state machinations will be made public in a few days in a certain assembly which will reflect less honour on the discoverers, than disgrace on the proficients of them.

March 1. The house referred the farther consideration of the American papers till Friday.

In a committee, went through the bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the American colonies, &c. with several amendments, to be reported on Monday.

March 3. A report is current, that Sir Joseph Yorke will be recalled from the Hague to occupy a considerable American department.

Lord North has held more conferences with his Majesty within this month past, than has been known since the time of his commencing premier.

March 4. An officer from the commissioners and customs attended the house of lords yesterday and presented an account of the exports from England to North America from Christmas 1749, to Christmas 1773 inclusive; and also an account of the imports and exports to and from America and the West-India islands during the above period.

The troops destined for America are now on their march for the transports, where the transport vessels are ready prepared to receive them, but we hear that they are in hourly expectation of orders to countermand this disagreeable expedition.

The measures the man behind the curtain hath prescribed, look much like facilitating the conquest of these countries; he has, for these ten years, been weakening every nerve of England. The ruining the East-India company, and of America, are great strokes towards destroying the wealth as well as the strength of the kingdom.

NEW-YORK, May 4.

Lieut. Col. James Abernombie, of Gen. Gage's regiment, is arrived from England at Boston.

On Sunday last a number of provincial troops arrived in this city from the western parts of Connecticut; also on Monday a detachment of the cavalry of that province.

The unhappy state of things in the town of Boston having occasioned the printing presses to be stopped, and there being at present no communication as usual, with that metropolis; we are deprived of the power to give our readers any particular accounts of the measures concerning by the two armies in that province.

In the Harriet packet, which will this day sail for England, goes passenger, Lieut. Col. John Maunsell, (who has resided in this province 12 years, and is well acquainted with it) in order to lay before administration a true state of the colony: It must be supposed as this gentleman has long served his majesty, and being still a servant of the crown, that his report will be favourably received.

We hear there are letters in this town, from Connecticut, which say that the number of men lately assembled at Boston, including those from Connecticut and Rhode-Island, amounted to 60,000; that they are mostly returned to their respective homes, leaving an army of 25,000 to watch General Gage's motions; who, we are told, has given the inhabitants of Boston permission to leave the town on condition they left their arms behind them; and that both General Gage and the inhabitants of Boston, had sent expresses to Great Britain with accounts of the late action at Lexington and Concord.

A letter from Boston, dated last Monday evening, and received since writing the above paragraphs, says: "The communication between this town and country is entirely stopped up, and not a soul permitted to go in or out without a pass. This day the governor has disarmed all the inhabitants, after giving them his word and honour that the soldiers should not molest and plunder them. Cambridge is the head quarters of the provincials, and they are commanded by... They are entrenching themselves at Roxbury, and erecting batteries to play on the lines.

The men of war at Rhode-Island have taken two sloops bound from this to Providence, with flour, belonging to Mr. Brown, of Newport; and the owner was taken on board one of the king's ships.

Last night a ship arrived in about six weeks from Plymouth, by which we learn, that ten sail of transports, with a body of marines, had arrived in that harbour, in order to take on board a regiment which was there ready for embarkation.

By the copies of letters lately laid before the parliament, and printed in London, from the governors of the several British colonies, relative to the late unconstitutional and tyrannical acts of parliament, it appears that Governor Eden of Maryland, was the only one who honestly and ingenuously represented the case, with his opinion thereon, to the ministry, which conduct and opinion will do him lasting honour. In general, the governors and other ministerial people outstrip their instructions and anticipate the wishes of their patrons, even in their most blameable designs. Had it not been owing to the encouragement, and even temptation thus given to the ministry in the last treasonable and most horrible design of destroying the English constitution and enslaving the colonies; it is more than probable they would have desisted from the black attempt. In Governor Martin's speech to the assembly, he is extremely liberal of his invectives upon the general congress and their proceedings, and upon all the most noble exertions of the Americans, in defence of their rights and freedom. He strongly urges the illegality of such proceedings, and endeavours to persuade the assembly to discourage and throw their censure upon them.

The following association was set on foot here last Saturday, and on that day it was signed by above 1000 of our principal inhabitants. It is to be transmitted to all the counties in the province, where we make no doubt it will be signed by all ranks of people.

PERSUADED that the salvation of the rights and liberties of America, depends, under God, on the firm union of its inhabitants, in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety, and convinced of the necessity of preventing the anarchy and confusion which attend a dissolution of the powers of government we, the freemen, freeholders, and inhabitants of the city and county of New-York, being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the ministry to raise a revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scene now acting in the Massachusetts Bay, do, in the most solemn manner, resolve never to become slaves; and do associate under all the ties of religion, honour, and love to our country, to adopt, and endeavour to carry into execution, whatever measures may be recommended by the continental congress, or resolved upon by our provincial convention, for the purpose of preserving our constitution, and opposing the execution of several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British parliament, until a reconciliation between Great Britain and America, on constitutional principles, (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained; and that we will in all things follow the advice of our general committee, respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of peace and good order, and the safety of individuals and private property.

PHILADELPHIA, May 4.

Yesterday evening arrived here captain Osborne, from London, in whom came passenger the worthy Dr. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, agent for Massachusetts government in this province.

Extract of a letter from London, per Capt. Osborne.

"The behaviour of the New-Yorkers has raised the drooping spirits of the ministry, and has been the cause of their pursuing their tyrannous measures towards America with tenfold vigour. A bill is brought into the house, by lord North, to stop the trade of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South-Carolina; it is determined, if you will not trade with Great-Britain, that you shall not trade any where else. The friends of the ministry declare, publicly, every where, their intention of starving the four New-England colonies; ought not the merchants of Pennsylvania, &c. &c. as they have but a little time before the act takes place that will prevent their sending them any provisions, to fill their towns with bread, flour, and every thing else they may stand in need of? If it is true what the ministry give out, that they have divided you, I yet hope, when America comes to see the insidious part administration is taking to subdue her, that you will all unite as one man, and suffer every hardship rather than become the dupes of the present set of men who govern this country. If you persevere in your non-importation and non-exportation agreement, in less than twelve months you will become complete conquerors; if you break, then you become slaves, not to see tyrant, but to five hundred."

Monday last the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this province met here pursuant to adjournment.

A Message from the GOVERNOR to the ASSEMBLY.

Gentlemen, I HAVE ordered the secretary to lay before you a resolution entered into by the British house of commons, the 26th of February last, relative to the unhappy differences subsisting between our mother country and her American colonies. You will perceive, by this resolution, not only a strong disposition manifested by the august body to remove the causes which have given rise to the discontents and complaints of his majesty's subjects in the colonies, and the dreadful impending evils likely to ensue from them, but that they have pointed out the terms, on which they think it just and reasonable a final accommodation should be grounded.

Let me earnestly entreat you, Gentlemen, to weigh and consider this plan of reconciliation held forth and offered by the parent to her children, with that temper, calmness and deliberation, that the importance of the subject, and the present critical situation of affairs demand. Give me leave to observe, that the colonies, amidst all those complaints which a jealousy of their liberties has occasioned, have never denied the justice or equity of their contributing towards the burthens of the mother country, to whose protection and care they owe not only their present opulence, but even their very existence. On the contrary, every state and representation of their supposed grievances that I have seen, avows the propriety of such a measure, and their willingness to comply with it.

The dispute then appears to me to be brought to this point:—Whether the redress of any grievances the colonists have reason to complain of shall precede, or be postponed to, the settlement of that just proportion, which America should bear towards the common support and defence of the whole British empire.

You have, in the resolution of the house of commons, which, I have authority to tell you, is entirely approved by his majesty, a solemn declaration that an exemption from any duty, tax, or assessment, preferable to future, except such duties as may be expedient for the regulation of commerce, shall be the immediate consequence of proposals on the part of any of the colony legislatures, accepted by his majesty and the two houses of parliament, to make provision according to their respective circumstances, for contributing their proportion to the common defence, and the support of the civil government of each colony.

I will not do you so much injustice, gentlemen, as to suppose you can desire a better security for the inviolable performance of this engagement, than the resolve itself, and his majesty's approbation of it gives you.

As you are the first assembly on the continent to whom this resolution has been communicated, much depends on the moderation and wisdom of your councils, and you will be deservedly revered to the latest posterity, if, by any possible means, you can be instrumental in restoring the public tranquillity, and rescuing both countries from the dreadful calamities of a civil war.

May 2, 1775. JOHN PENN.

THE RESOLUTION of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

"Luna, 20 die Feb. 1775. Motion made, and question proposed,

That it is the opinion of this committee, that when the general council and assembly, or general court of any of his majesty's provinces or colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstance, or situation, of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the general court, or general assembly, of such province or colony, and disposable by parliament) and shall engage to make provision also, for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice, in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his majesty and the two houses of parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear in respect of such province or colony, to lay any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any farther duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose, for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties last mentioned, to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively."

A MESSAGE to the GOVERNOR from the ASSEMBLY.

May it please your honour,

WE have taken into our serious consideration your message of the 2d instant, and "the resolution of the British house of commons therein referred to." Having "weighed and considered this plan with the temper, calmness, and deliberation, that the importance of the subject and the present critical situation of affairs demand;" we are sincerely sorry that we cannot "think the terms pointed out" afford "a just and reasonable ground for a final accommodation" between Great-Britain and the colonies.

Your honour observes, "that the colonies, amidst all those complaints which a jealousy of their liberties has occasioned, have never denied the justice or equity of their contributing towards the burthens of the mother country;" but your honour must know, that they have ever unanimously asserted it as their indisputable right, that all aids from them should be their own free voluntary gifts, not taken by force, nor extorted by fear.

Under which of these descriptions the "plan held forth and offered by the parent to her children" at this time, with its attendant circumstances, deserves to be classed, we chuse rather to submit to the determination of your honour's good sense, than to attempt proving, by the enumeration of notorious facts, or the repetition of obvious reasons.

If no other objection to the "plan" proposed, occurred to us, we should esteem it a dishonourable desertion of our sister colonies, connected by an union, founded on just motives and mutual faith, and conducted by general councils, for a single colony to adopt a measure, so extensive in consequence, without the advice and consent of those colonies engaged with us by solemn ties in the same common cause.

For we wish your honour to be assured, that we can form no prospect appearing reasonable to us, of any

lasting advantage they may be from a communication opened to us, brethren, and performance of pleasure from them at present.

Your honour's attention has been moderated as to be deservedly the public tranquility the dreadful

Your honour's attention has been moderated as to be deservedly the public tranquility the dreadful

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