

MARYLAND GAZETTE. 21

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1776.

POWER of LONDON, OR. 24.

BETWEEN the hours of nine and ten yesterday morning, Mr. Stavely, of Half moon street, Piccadilly, and Mr. Mann, of Queen Anne street, Westminster (both king's messengers) attended by a constable, repaired to the house of Stephen Sayre, Esq; in Oxford street. As a prelude to obtain an interview with Mr. Sayre, these two catchpoles of power pretended, that a forged writ, for two hundred pounds, had been issued by the Bank, of which Mr. Sayre is a proprietor. Obliged by such rascally means the interview they desired, Mr. Sayre no sooner appeared than the catchpoles painted him, that "they had an order, signed by lord Rochford, one of the secretaries of state, to take into custody, on a charge of high treason; and to search for, seize, and carry with them, such of his papers as they might deem effectual for their purpose."

Mr. Sayre heard the summons with composure, and read its dictates with a manly dignity. Conscious of his innocence, he smiled at the heinousness of the charge, and, in a perfect reliance on his own integrity, permitted the government-riflers to plunder his drawers, to ransack his boxes, and to pillage his bureau. No sooner did they lay their hands on a letter to Mrs. Macaulay (sister to the lord-mayor elect) than they perceived the signature of "Bernard's Ghost," than they seized them with the head of rapacity, and carried off with as little feeling as men unaccustomed to duty, in the service of government, usually expect.

Mr. Sayre expressed his readiness to accompany the catchpoles unto lord Rochford's house, having joyfully dispatched a servant to Mr. Reynolds, requesting his attendance with the utmost expedition. The king's messengers, thief-takers, or catchpoles (call in which you will) conducted Mr. Sayre to the presence of lord Rochford; and, lest justice should receive a stain of oppression her eyes were blinded—Sir John Fielding was present. An information from Mr. Richardson (an adjutant of the guards) was read, in which a charge contained in this information was to the following purport:

That Stephen Sayre, Esq; had expressed to him, said Richardson, an intention of seizing the king's house, as his majesty went on Thursday to the Parliament-house; also an intention of taking possession of the Tower, and of overturning the present government.

After this information had been read, Mr. Sayre denied the separate charges with that sort of composure which ever accompanies heart-felt innocence; he denied how very slightly he was acquainted with adjutant Richardson, the informer: He mentioned the only conversation which had ever passed between them; and was about to enter more largely into the utility of the charge, when it was announced to lord Rochford the blind justice, "that Mr. Reynolds demanded immediate admittance to his client." That the chicanery of courts might not be laid aside, several messages were sent, but that which could not be denied as a matter of honour, was soon, very courteously, granted as a matter of favour. Mr. Reynolds was admitted, because it was possible, consistent with justice, to refuse his admittance. Having been introduced to lord Rochford and Sir John Fielding, the latter put the following question to Mr. Reynolds:

"Is it Mr. Sayre's desire that you should attend in his behalf?" Mr. Reynolds replied in the affirmative. Sir John Fielding, with a greater share of audacity than decorum, said, "that this was not true." Mr. Reynolds, with a proper degree of spirit, replied; "that Sir John Fielding, as a magistrate, might say that which, as a gentleman, he could not justify." The blind knight inquired if it might be asked of Mr. Sayre, "Whether he had sent for Mr. Reynolds?" Mr. Sayre replied, he had sent for him, without mentioning the place where he was to attend.

These particulars being adjusted, it was agreed that Mr. Reynolds might attend the private examination of his friend. The first advice Mr. Reynolds gave to Mr. Sayre was this, "That he should answer no interrogatories which lord Rochford or Sir John Fielding might propose, and that he should not sign any paper." The information which contained the charge was a second time read, at the request of Mr. Sayre, who smiling at the recital, Mr. Reynolds joined in the laugh, and said, "that the whole was too ridiculous to be seriously attended to." An altercation then ensued between Mr. Reynolds and adjutant Richardson, the former. The two Middlesex justices, lord Rochford and Sir John Fielding, were requested by the informer to silence Mr. Reynolds. He loved them the trouble of observing, "that he should always pay a proper deference to authority; but whatever he had there said of an informer, he would repeat in any other place whatever."

Mr. Reynolds then told lord Rochford, "that if, after consulting the great law officers of state (which a lordship would do of course) as the information did not amount to a direct charge against Mr. Sayre, his lordship should think himself warranted to receive bail, ample and sufficient bail should be given; but if it was thought warrantable to commit, he scorned to ask a favour for his client."

Mr. Sayre was ordered into an adjacent apartment, and he was soon after committed a close prisoner to the Tower. It would be a scandalous omission to conclude this

narrative without doing justice to the behaviour of Mr. Sayre. As a subject of a FREE state, his demeanour was manly; as a patriot, it was intrepid; as a gentleman, it was polite. He treated the malice of informers with the utmost contempt; the futility of informations, when preferred by the creatures, and countenanced by the authority of government, this he smiled at with ineffable disdain. "The unhappy effects of such informations, government (Mr. Sayre said) had amply experienced by giving ear to Bernard and Hutcheson. By false informations, and the vilest of suggestions, these men had consented to become the willing instruments in carrying on the purposes of a bloody minded administration. But whatever informers government might encourage, integrity was a shield which would protect men of honour from their shafts. Defended by that shield, Mr. Sayre said, he should enter the apartments of a prison, conscious that they would prove a safe asylum of virtue."

On the 30th. By virtue of a habeas corpus, granted on Thursday night by lord Mansfield, Stephen Sayre, Esq; was, on Saturday morning at ten o'clock, conveyed by the proper officers from the Tower to lord Mansfield's house in Bloomsbury-square. Messrs. Adair, Dayrell, Lucas, Alleyne and Lee, attended on the part of Mr. Sayre; and White, partner with the solicitor of the treasury, on the part of the crown. After the two first mentioned counsel had debated for some little time on the impropriety of Mr. Sayre's being committed to close confinement by virtue of the warrant of commitment, which only contained a general charge; and Mr. White having declared, he had no instructions to oppose the bail, his lordship called for the warrant of commitment; and immediately after perusing it pronounced, that he had not the least doubt of Mr. Sayre's being entitled to bail, as he observed that that gentleman was only charged with treasonable practices, and that he (lord M.) should not have refused the bail if Mr. Sayre had come without any counsel. Bail was accordingly directly offered and accepted, viz. Mr. Sayre himself in 500l. each, and John Reynolds and Coote Purdon, Esqrs. in 250l. each.

Mr. Sayre very politely thanked lord Mansfield for his readiness in granting the writ, and consequently giving him his personal liberty; at the same time observing, that he hoped his lordship would join with him "in looking back with veneration on the wisdom and spirit of our ancestors, in guarding the subject by such effectual barriers against the inroads of despotism in the worst of times." To which his lordship replied, "I hope so too, Mr. S. let us both act constitutionally, and we shall fall into no difficulties or dangers."

Mr. Sayre afterwards returned with his lady to their house in Oxford-street; and his friends to their respective homes.

The lord-mayor was present, and received very politely by lord Mansfield.

LONDON, November 2.

A great number of soldiers deserted from the five regiments that last embarked from Corke, for North-America, before they could be secured, on board the transports.

This day the lord-mayor elect, aldermen, sheriffs, and city officers, went to the lord-chancellor's, in Great-Russel street, Bloomsbury, when the lord mayor elect was presented to his lordship, for his approbation, by alderman Crosby, who was the senior alderman there; when the lord chancellor informed them, his majesty had been pleased to approve of the choice the livery had made.

Nov. 8. A bill is to be brought into parliament this week, for the purpose of empowering governors Penn, Franklin, and the rest of the governors of the American provinces, to grant indemnities for past offences, and to receive the submission of all such as are willing to submit to the usurpations of Great-Britain.

The following is the copy of a letter from Mr. Ethan Allen, the person who commanded the party of Provincials, which were defeated near Montreal, and who was also taken prisoner, to gen. Prescott, on the general's ordering him into irons, and to be closely confined.

"Honoured Sir,

"In the wheel of transitory events I find myself prisoner and in irons: Probably your honour has certain reasons to me inconceivable, though I challenge an instance of this sort of economy of the Americans, during the late war, to any officers of the crown.

"On my part I have to assure your honour, that when I had the command, and took capt. Delaplace and lieutenant Felton, with the garrison of Delaplace-roga, I treated them with every mark of friendship and generosity, the evidence of which is notorious even in Canada. I have only to add, that I expect an honourable and humane treatment, as an officer of my rank and merit should have, and subscribe myself

Your honour's most obedient humble servant,
ETHAN ALLEN."

HOUSE of LORDS.

Yesterday the house of lords took into consideration the petition and address to his majesty, from the American congress, which was laid before the house by the earl of Dartmouth.

A motion being made, that governor Penn be called to the bar and examined, the same passed in the negative, 36 against 23.

The duke of Richmond's motion for a reconciliation with the colonies passed in the negative, 43 against 21.

HOUSE of COMMONS.

Mr. Luttrell made a long speech, in which he considered the nature, principles, and spirit of government in general, and the constitution of this kingdom in particular; from which he concluded, that, whenever the trust delegated by the people was unjustly or oppressively exercised by the delegates, then the trust should naturally cease, and the power revert to its first source, the people at large; that if this proposition was allowed, it must also be admitted, that conventions or general assemblies of the people were, in such cases, agreeable to the spirit of the constitution; and he observed, that we had several instances in our history of such assemblies; that much good had been effected by them, and much evil prevented; that some of our best princes had been raised to the throne, and our worst kings deposed by means of a British congress. He then made a motion to the following purport: "That the commissioners which are to be sent by his majesty to the different parts of America, be empowered to treat with any convention, congress or assembly, of one or more provinces, who may best be supposed to understand the inclinations of the people, without enquiring into the legality of the manner in which they had been convened, in order that a speedy reconciliation might be effected, consistent with the honour and interest of Great-Britain, and the requisitions of the colonies."

Sr George Young said, that in every dispassionate conversation, which he had with gentlemen of either side of the House, he found they were, to a man, anxious for a reconciliation with America: He was convinced that every day's delay made this reconciliation more difficult; that the congress seemed to him the most speedy, as well as the most effectual medium by which it could be attained; and as he regretted every hour that passed without an effort towards this happy object, he was desirous to adopt this, or any other, or all propositions, calculated to promote a reconciliation.

Mr. Rice expressed some regret, that he had not been soon enough in the house to hear the arguments by which the motion had been introduced: He wished for a happy reconciliation as much as any gentleman in the house, but said he was desirous, if possible, to avoid treating with any self-created assembly; and he apprehended that our entering into a treaty with congress would establish its power, and lay a foundation for future troubles.

The question was then called for, and the motion rejected without a division.

Nov. 9. Great bets are laid in the city, that within six months, one or both of the garrisons of Gibraltar and Malton are surrendered either to the French or Spaniards.

It can hardly be doubted, unless the Americans receive proposals of accommodation soon, but they will relinquish all hope of peace, and throw away the scaffold. They have been accused of entertaining views of independence; it is hard to say, on what that accusation is founded. Professions of attachment to Great-Britain can never be suited to advance such a design: Besides embarrassing their own councils, and diffusing among the people sentiments of veneration and respect for the mother country, they must, so long as they are made use of, absolutely preclude all hope of foreign assistance; for who will interpose in their favour, while a reconciliation seems probable: If they aimed at independence, they would never talk of submission.

Nov. 10. The following is an authentic abstract of the army estimate presented on Wednesday, by lord Barrington, to the house of commons:

Resolved, That 20,752 men be employed for land service, for the year 1776, and that 659,200l. 2s. 10d. 7-8ths be allowed for maintaining them 365 days, from the 25th of December, 1775, to the 25th of December, 1776.

Resolved, That 723,432l. 11s. 7d. 3-4ths be granted for maintaining the forces in the plantations and Africa, for the year 1776.

That 11,503l. 7s. 3d. be granted for the pay of general and staff officers for the service of the current year.

That 104,136l. 6s. be granted for levy money, for the augmentation of the British and Irish forces for 1776.

That 15,071l. 12s. be granted out of the savings of grants of last sessions, for the charge of an augmentation to the forces, and for levy money for the augmentation to major general Preston's regiment of light dragoons, towards defraying the charge of levy money for the augmentation of the British and Irish forces for the year 1776.

That 26,783l. 15s. 2d. 1-2, be granted for defraying the charge of five Hanoverian battalions of foot, at Gibraltar and Minorca, from the first of sept. 1775, to the 24th of Dec. following.

That 46,838l. 11s. 9d. be granted for defraying the charge of five Hanoverian battalions, serving as above, for the service of the year 1776.

That 249,556l. 18s. 6d. be granted for the office of ordnance, land service, for the year 1776. And

That 223,171l. 11s. 11d. be granted for defraying the expence of the services performed by the office of ordnance for land service, and not provided for by parliament, in 1775.

James Harris, Esq; his majesty's minister at the court of Berlin, arrived in London on Monday last; he had but four days notice to settle his affairs and leave that

OUNDS REWARD. from the subscriber, on Tuesday the 20th instant, a dark bay or brown horse, black spring, upon a pair of white, and has a few gray hairs on the neck and gallow; and when he is in a rage, has a grating noise in his throat, and short back; his tail which is very lately, was intended for the usefulness of the post, and is as small as those of a long hair; the ears were broken on the inside, and the lines about half worn. If it is very probable that one of this time, Whoever takes up the horse, should be a great distance, will be allowed if brought home.

JAMES RAWLING

George's county, May 14, 1775. hereby given to all persons indebted to me, either by bond, note, or open account, to come and settle their respective accounts, and to give no longer in discharge, any receipt, or other writing, until this requisition will be advertised, and the compulsory methods to enforce the same, shall be used.

JOSEPH DUVAL

April 10, 1775. UNDS REWARD. from the subscriber, living in Kent, and the 5th of this instant, two horses, each of which has about three

years, about thirty years of age, 14 hands high, about five feet ten inches in the fore-legs, short dark hair; had on an old brown broad cloth coat, and breeches, and a pair of black shoes, with yellow metal buttons, and new large leavers, shirts, shoes and a dicker or brickmaker.

Richard Graves, Calvert county, October 24, 1775. the subscriber, the 20th instant, a named Leven, about 26 years of age, high, his head has lately been shaved, and took with him a gray coat with onabrigs, with metal buttons, cloth ditto without buttons, and a pair of tolerable good shoes. I will give one guinea for returning him in any jail.

W. SMITH.

Patapsco Neck, April 3, 1775. DOLLARS REWARD. spreading a Runaway.

to be sold at the Printing-Office. THE AND ANACK AND MERE-S. Year of our Lord 1776.

THOMAS JONES.