

A. He had no doubt but that the congress did contain delegates chosen under this description.

Q. By what mode were the delegates in congress appointed?

A. By the votes of assemblies in some places; by ballot in others.

Q. In what light had the petition, which the witness had presented to the king, been considered by the Americans?

A. The petition had been considered as an olive-branch, and the witness had been complimented by his friends as the messenger of peace.

Q. On the supposition that the prayer of this petition should be rejected, what did the witness imagine would be the consequence?

A. That the Americans, who placed much reliance on the petition, would be driven to desperation by its non-success.

Q. Did the witness imagine that, sooner than yield to what were supposed to be the unjust claims of Great-Britain, the Americans would take the desperate resolution of calling in the aid of foreign assistance?

A. The witness was apprehensive that this would be the case.

Q. What did the witness recollect of the stamp-act?

A. That it caused great uneasiness throughout America.

Q. What did the witness recollect concerning the repeal of that act?

A. The anniversary of that memorable day is kept throughout America by every testimony of public rejoicing, such as bonfires, illuminations, and other exhibitions of gladness.

Q. Would not the neglect with which the last petition was treated induce the Americans to resign all hopes of pacific negotiations?

A. In the opinion of the witness it would.

Q. When the witness presented the petition to the secretary of state, was he asked any questions relative to the state of America?

A. Not a single question.

Cross examined by the lords DENBIGH and SANDWICH.

Q. Were the witness had acted in the capacity of governor, was he well acquainted with the charter of Pennsylvania?

A. He had read the charter, and was well acquainted with its contents.

Q. Did he know that there was a clause which specially subjected the colony to taxation by the British legislature?

A. He was well apprized that there was such a clause.

Q. Were the people of Pennsylvania content with their charter?

A. Perfectly content.

Q. Then did they not acquiesce in the right of the British parliament to enforce taxation?

A. They acquiesced in a declaration of the right, so long as they experienced no inconvenience from the declaration.

Q. Did the witness ever heard of an act entitled, 'The declaratory act'?

A. He had heard of such an act.

Q. Did he ever peruse, and was he sufficiently acquainted with the contents of that act?

A. He never had perused it. It never had been much discussed whilst he resided in America.

Q. Did the witness apprehend that the congress acquiesced in an act which maintained the authority of the British parliament in all cases whatsoever?

A. The witness knew nothing of the proceedings of the congress, they were generally transacted under the seal of secrecy.

Q. Was the witness personally acquainted with Mr. Harrison, a member of the congress?

A. The witness knew him well.

Q. What character did he bear?

A. A very respectable one.

Q. Had the witness ever heard of any persons who had suffered persecutions, for declaring sentiments favourable to the supremacy of the British parliament?

A. He had heard of such oppressions in other provinces, but never met with them during his residence in Pennsylvania.

Q. In the opinion of the witness were the Americans now free?

A. They imagined themselves to be so.

Q. In case a formidable force should be sent to America, in support of government, did the witness imagine there were many who would only profess submission to the authority of parliament?

A. The witness apprehended the few who would join on such an occasion would be too trivial a number to be of any consequence.

Mr. Penn was then ordered to withdraw, and the duke of Richmond, after descending with singular propriety on the necessity of immediate conciliation, proposed the last petition from the continental congress to the king, as a basis for a plan of accommodation: His grace of Richmond moved, "That the preceding paper furnished grounds of conciliation of the unhappy differences at present subsisting between Great-Britain and America, and that some mode should be immediately adopted for the effectuating so desirable a purpose."

This produced a debate, supported on both sides with infinite ingenuity. The numbers were;

For the motion 27—Proxies 6—33
Against the motion 50—Proxies 36—86
Majority against the motion 51.

Nov. 13. It is strongly reported that the court of France has presented a stinging memorial to our secretary of state, upon the taking Russian troops into

British pay. This memorial is conceived in terms that have struck our administration with astonishment, as they consider it as a prelude to a war with the house of Bourbon.

Nov. 20. On Wednesday the house agreed that an address should be presented to his majesty, that he will be pleased to give directions that the petition presented to him from the general congress in America, by governor Penn and Arthur Lee, Esqrs. should be laid before them.

Wednesday the house of commons resolved, that the sum of 47,400l. 12s. be granted for defraying the charge of raising and paying one regiment of Scotch highlanders, to consist of two battalions of a thousand men each, for the service of the year, 1776.

Nov. 21. Prussia as well as France has remonstrated against Russian troops being sent to America.

Nov. 24. The chevalier D'Éon is now expected to leave England every hour to return to the French court; some immediately on which, some most extraordinary anecdotes relative to the two powers will come out, to the astonishment of all Europe.

The taking Hanoverian troops into English pay, and employing them within the English dominions, was deemed so high an insult upon the English army, that the ministers in king George the first and second's reign never would attempt it! When Hessians were brought into England, lord Temple, lord Bathurst, and others, gained immortal honour by driving them out; nay, the English troops were so averse to Hanoverians, that they would not suffer them even in Flanders.

Our ministry are alarmed, with great reason, at the late change in the war department in France. The count de T. Germain, who is now the minister, is a soldier, and possesses, besides being an able statesman, considerable military talents. It was by his advice the marshal Duc de Richelieu sent up the late duke of Cumberland, last war, and reduced him to the convention of Closter-seven. There seems to be little doubt then, that this able statesman, who is so accurate a judge of national events and who has through life, so fortunately availed himself of them, will not be an idle looker on at our quarrels with America; but the moment he finds the balance of victory likely to declare for them, will it like such a stroke, as from the present pacific declarations of our cabinet they are not at all prepared for.

Wednesday several more large ships were contracted for by agency, for the transport service, which are to go to Ireland to take in provisions there, for the use of the soldiers in Boston.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Nov. 22.

"Sailed the Triton man of war, Ludwidge, for Halifax, with shipwrights, &c."

"A few days ago 8000l. in foreign specie, was seized by information, on board the Boreas man of war at Spithead, by an officer of the customs, consigned to a gentleman in Boston."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, November 23.

The speaker did not take the chair till half past three; after the common business was over, the ministry proposed that the agent for the province of Nova Scotia should be examined at the bar, upon the petition from that province, in order to fund a motion upon it. This was violently opposed by the minority, under the assertion that the petition was not authenticated, and the examination could not be satisfactory without counter ones. Mr. Burke and Charles Fox were the strongest opposers in this previous debate, and it was expected to last so long, that no time would be left for the examination without a very late night. The gallery locked according to custom.

The commons agreed to the report of the resolution yesterday on the supply, that 47,400l. 12s. be granted to his majesty, to enable his majesty to defray the expenses of a regiment of Highlanders to be raised in Scotland, consisting of two battalions, for 1776.

Dec. 6. When the order of the day was read yesterday in the house of commons, for going into a committee of the whole house on the bill for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with the colonies in rebellion, &c. A member (Mr. Dempster we believe) moved, that it be an intimation given by the house, before the speaker leaves the chair, to the said committee to accept certain clauses by way of amendment, and to divide the bill into distinct parts, or to make two bills out of one in its present form. Debates arose upon this proposition, which it seems is called by some gentlemen a method of frittering away a bill; and administration not being disposed to submit to this operation on their favourite child, a division followed at about five o'clock, and the numbers were, against the motion, seventy-five; for it thirty-four.

Lord North, it is said, in order to abate the rigor of this act, so far as it respects the seizing the ships of the Americans, or any ships trading to or from their ports, said that provision was made in the 50th clause, page 23, for giving them time to avoid it, by a proper return to their allegiance; but if that was not thought sufficient, gentlemen might propose such other provisions as they judged proper, to come in under that clause.

We therefore think it proper to lay the clause before the public as it now stands, that the friends of America may have an opportunity to exert themselves, to procure the filling up the blanks, with such distant dates as may give them all possible time to reflect on the part they are to act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act, so far as the same relates to the capture and forfeiture of ships and vessels belonging to the inhabitants of the above mentioned colonies, shall commence and be in force from and after the day of the month of March next, and so far as the same relates to the capture and forfeiture of all ships and vessels that shall be found going in, or at any of the said colonies, or bound and trading from any port or place in the same, from and after the day of the month of April next, and shall continue to be in force so long as any of the said colonies shall remain in a state of rebellion and disobedience.

The blanks are proposed to be filled up with the dates of March 1, and April 1; and all the indulgence likely to be procured, will be a prolongation of time before the seizures are to take place.

Yesterday the lower assembly proceeded on the bill to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the North American colonies, during the continuance of the

present rebellion in the said colonies. Debates arising upon the bill, continued till five o'clock. The gallery-door was locked, and hope admitted but few members.

A plan is now under consideration, for all British ships in Great-Britain, sentenced for transportation, to be sent to the British settlements on the coast of Africa.

Extract of a letter from Gosport, Dec. 3.

"Since my last the Peuple and Seaforth frigates came out of dock, and are now sitting for sea."

"Capt. Hallhead, of this town, is appointed to the command of the Jersey, of 50 guns, and is to go to Boston there to lie as an hospital ship for the use of the sick."

"It is said here that general Gage is to return to Boston; the ship he came home in, is come into the harbour."

Extract of a letter from Chatham, Dec. 3.

"Orders are received at the commission office here, for the sail-makers of this dock-yard, to wait for the ships, if either of the aforesaid frigates should be sent to sea."

"The Alford of 28 guns, commanded by John Bur, Esq. is nearly fitted, and will sail in a few days for America."

"The Carysfort of 28 guns, is put into commission at this port, and the command given to Robert Fashaw, Esq. she is also to go to America."

Letters from Lisbon, by Monday's-mail, bring advice, that on the 16th, 17th, and 18th ult. there were such violent storms of wind; that most of the ships in the harbour were driven from their moorings; and by running foul of each other received damage both to their masts and hulls, and several of them lost their bowsprits; that a Portuguese man-of-war was lost at the mouth of the Tagus, and all the crew drowned; and that the shipping on the coast suffered greatly.

Twelve transports, bound to America, are waiting in the Downs for a favourable wind.

Yesterday the house of commons met at three o'clock, and went through a great deal of private business.

The bill for discovering a northern passage to the western and southern oceans of America, and for encouraging adventurers to penetrate to the north pole, was reported with several amendments, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill for the better regulation of his majesty's marine forces while on shore was read a third time, passed, and ordered to the lords.

At half after four, the order of the day for the house to resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, on the bill for prohibiting all trade and commerce between Great-Britain, Ireland, and the twelve American colonies assembled in congress, being read, a motion was made, that the speaker do now leave the chair. This occasioned a short debate, and the question being put, the house divided; yeas 75, noes 34.

The house then went into a committee on said bill, when several amendments and clauses were proposed, which occasioned warm debates. The committee were left sitting till half past seven, and were expected to sit late.

In the house of commons of Ireland, on Monday, Nov. 25, the committee of the whole house sat till half past eleven, on the question of admitting 4000 Hessians and British troops. When at length the committee divided, yeas for admitting the troops 68, noes 30. Majority against the foreign troops 38.

The following changes (says a correspondent) are very confidently talked of to take place in the law department, though not before next Michaelmas term:

Lord Mansfield to retire on a pension; and to be succeeded by Sir R. Aston.

Lord chief baron Smyth ditto; to be succeeded by Mr. baron Fyfe.

The lord chancellor to resign; and to be succeeded by the solicitor general.

Lord chief justice De Grey; to retire on a pension, and to be succeeded by the attorney general.

Mr. Wallace, Mr. Bearcroft, and Mr. Mansfield, candidates for the attorney and solicitor generalship.

An express is said to be come from Lord Grantham, our ambassador at Madrid, that the Spaniards were sending a powerful naval armament to the Spanish West-Indies.

Yesterday a full board of ordnance was held, at the breaking up of which orders were given for several hundred tons of ordnance stores to be got ready as soon as possible.

Canterbury, Nov. 17. The prince of Wales's third regiment of dragoon guards, now quartered here, have met with great success in recruiting. They are to go to America with Burgoyne's and the 9th regiment of dragoons, as soon as complete.

St. J. O. B. N's (in Antigua) Jan. 17.

This morning early four companies of his majesty's 55th regiment, who were drove off the American coast, and put into this island in great distress, marched through the town of St. John from English-harbour to Rat-Island barracks, where they are to rest and refresh themselves till the vessel is got ready to carry them to Boston.

The ships of war on their different stations round the island and the neighbouring islands are daily deterring the Americans, by making captures of their vessels employed in their proscribed trade with the French islands, &c.

P. H. L. A. D. E. L. P. H. I. A. February 19.

We hear that the honourable house of assembly, the mayor and corporation, the committees of safety and inspection, the city battalions, and rifle companies, are invited to attend the honourable CONTINENTAL CONGRESS this day, in the procession and funeral solemnities appointed to the memory of gen. MONTGOMERY, and the other brave officers and men, who gloriously fought and fell with him, in the cause of American liberty, before Quebec.

The procession will set out from the State-house at eleven o'clock, and passing up Fourth-street to the new Calvinist church, will be joined at Dr. Smith's house by the clergy of the city and faculty of the college. No person can be admitted into the body of the church till the procession enters; but a part of the gallery, capable of containing about four hundred persons, will be reserved for ladies and strangers, whose public spirit may induce them to honour the solemnity; and as they can

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