Letters of marque are now said to be making out at the admiralty-office, ready to sign as soon as ever the new American bill takes place.

A bill is preparing, and will be hurried through both houses, for condemning the vessels of all nations which are found trading with America. Many have been already taken, but it is not determined that they shall be for the use of the captors, or the state; the latter it is expected will secure the emoluments, under the idea of reimbursing government for their amazing expence.

The following is an account which gen. Gage has laid before the ministry of the force which the several colonies can not only raise, but maintain in the field well armed.

New-England	37,000
New-York	11,000
Pennsylvania and the Jerseys	16,000
Virginia and Maryland	13,000
Carolinas	5,000
	82,000

This, it is very well known here, is not the whole of their force; but if the account is a true one, what can 25,000 men do against them?

The Russians are making great preparations for commencing war with the Swedes as soon as the season will permit them to act. Nine thousand five hundred men are sent from Petersburg to Archangel to bring the ships round from that port as soon as the frosts break up. The shipwrights are employed at Cronstadt repairing the fleet at that port. At Petersburg they are employed in the repair of the Russian gallies, which are all kept under cover, and may be worked upon all the winter: they are likewise employed at Revel in refitting the fleet at that department, and providing stores of all kinds necessary for a vigorous campaign in the spring.

Nov. 28. The 33d regiment of foot, of which lord Cornwallis is colonel, is ordered to America, instead of the 52. Lord Cornwallis is to command the expedition to South-Carolina and Virginia.

A letter from Dublin says, "By letters from Sligo we have the melancholy account of several ships wrecked upon the north coast of this kingdom, and among the number a transport, which contained three companies of the 46th regiment, bound for America."

House of Commons. Yesterday, a few minutes after 3 o'clock, Mr. alderman Oliver made his motion; he was seconded by the lord mayor of London. It was couched in the following terms: That an humble address be presented to his majesty, requesting that his majesty would be graciously pleased to impart to the house, who were the original authors and advisers of the following measures, before they were proposed by parliament: The taxing America without consent of its assemblies, for the purpose of raising a revenue; for the extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty; for taking away the charter of the province of Massachusetts-Bay; for restraining the American fishery; for exempting murderers from trial in America; for transporting accused colonists to England to be tried for offences committed in America; and more especially for establishing popery and despotism in Canada.

A little after six the main question was put, and it was rejected on a division, 163 against it, 10 for it.

Nov. 30. A 90 gun ship is ordered to be fitted up with all speed, in the most commodious manner, for the reception of the commissioners, who soon after Christmas are to embark for America, to settle the terms for a reconciliation between them and England.

The following is the conclusion of Mr. Wilkes's speech in the house of commons on Monday, when Mr. Oliver made his motion: "Whoever did advise the measures lately pursued, which have lost half our empire, I consider as a criminal of so deep a dye, that his head would be a just sacrifice to the honour of England and the peace of America. The word impeachment I hope will strike terror to the ear and heart of a wicked and arbitrary minister, and that the noblest and most important prerogative of this free people, secured to us by our great deliverer, king William, in the act for the further limitation of the crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject, will soon have its full effect, that no pardon under the great seal of England be pleadable to an impeachment by the commons in parliament."

A correspondent has sent us the following interesting and authentic account of the late conference between the governor of Canada and the deputies from the Indians, communicated to him by a gentleman who was at the conference.

"The governor, seated at the east end of the great church in Montreal, surrounded by his officers, addressed the sachem, who sat at a convenient distance from him, towards the west, in the midst of the Indians, to the following purport: "I am to inform you that the provincials have taken arms against our king and yours, that a few of his majesty's troops have forced the lines of the rebels on Bunker's-hill, and have taken 5000 prisoners; that I apprehend the greatest part of the rebels will lay down their arms, in consequence of this defeat; but if they should not, I must request you to take up the war-hatchet against them."

The sachem rose up and replied, "Ever since you took this country from the French, we have looked upon you and upon the Americans as our brethren. We believe that we have one father, and we cannot take any part in this quarrel."

The governor said, "That if the rebels should proceed, and attack this country, he must command them, in the name of their king and his, to take up the war-hatchet and oppose them."

The sachem replied, "At the conclusion of the last peace the war-hatchet was buried forty fathoms deep, and they did not know where to find it; they would have nothing to do in this unnatural war; that he did not speak his own sentiments only, but (stretching out his arms) the sentiments of all around him, (setting his hands on his side, he added) whose mouths speak thro' my mouth." His attendants humm'd thrice in approbation.

The governor told him, "they must dig up the war-hatchet, and employ it against their enemies."

The sachem replied, "The handle is rotten we cannot use it;" and departed with his attendants.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *December* 1.

On the second reading of lord North's bill for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with the colonies in rebellion, the following clause was objected to by the gentlemen in opposition, "that all ships and vessels, of or belonging to the inhabitants of the said colonies (wherever the same shall be found) together with their cargoes, apparel and furniture, and all other ships whatever, with their cargoes, apparel and furniture, which shall be found trading in any port or place of the said colonies, or going to trade, or coming from trading, in any such port or places, shall become [a blank for confiscated] to his majesty, as if the same were the ships and effects of open enemies, and shall be so adjudged, deemed and taken, in all courts of admiralty, and in all courts whatever." This they considered as a cruel declaration of war against the Americans, which will frustrate all plans of a reconciliation.

It was likewise urged that the sending commissioners to treat, if this bill is to pass into a law, would be an idle and expensive measure; that the bill was of a piece with all those other oppressive and irritating acts which had roused the colonies to resistance; we first forbad their intercourse with any other nation, and were now about to put the finishing stroke to their accumulated injuries, by cutting off their intercourse even with ourselves; that this would stimulate them to publish that code of laws, which we were certain they had prepared; that, exasperated beyond all degree of forbearance, they would immediately declare themselves a free and independent people; and throw open their ports to all nations, by which we might, in all probability, be involved in the difficulties of a foreign war, at that critical moment when we were most torn with civil broils and domestic distraction. Administration remarked the inconsistency of the arguments advanced on the other side of the house; when an army was to be voted, an army would be certainly ineffectual—it would be much more expedient to withdraw our troops, and carry on a *naval* war *only*, and now that bill was brought in to give greater effect to our naval operations, they were as warm against that measure as they had been against the army; that in short they seem to have but one object in view—that of impeding every measure of administration, right or wrong. Whatever force this argument might have, it was supported by one still more effectual—a majority of near four to one; for on the division there were for the bill, 207; against it 57.

The bill was then read a second time, and committed for Tuesday next, after which the house adjourned to Monday.

Dec. 2. It is confidently reported, that gen. Gage advises an immediate reconciliation with America by all means, and that gen. Burgoyne seconds his opinion.

Dec. 5. The Polly, Ayre, the King George, Carey, the Marquis of Rockingham, Boyman, the Savile, Brown, the Navy Transport, Wilson, the Emanuel, Spencer, the Earl of Oxford, Twyman, the Golden Rule, Thompson, the Nancy, Jerrell, the Union, Wallace, the Myrtle, Burton, and Admiral Sheldon, Mather, (all transports) bound for America, are waiting in the Downs for a favourable wind.

Dec. 7. This day the speaker of the house of commons was not seated till half an hour after three o'clock. As soon as some trifling business was finished, Mr. Alderman Oliver rose, and in his place presented to the house a petition from the merchants, planters, and others concerned in the trade and commerce of the West-India islands, setting forth the very great detriment and the distress the present bill before the house for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with America during the present rebellion, would bring on the said islands, and praying such relief as to the house may seem meet, or that the same may not pass into a law. It enumerates, among other things, the great quantities of bread, flour, rice, Indian corn, live stock, and other provisions; also lumber and various other articles, absolutely necessary and requisite for the sustenance and for carrying on the trade of the sugar islands.

Extract of a letter from Gosport, Dec. 6.

"The ships fitting in this harbour for Boston are greatly distressed for want of men, although so many rendezvous are opened in London, Bristol, &c. intomuch that the people belonging to the guardships are lent to assist the rigging them."

Dec. 8. The clause in the American restraining bill, which occasioned the greatest debate at its second reading, was at length settled as follows:

"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 first of January 1776; and so far as the same relates to the capture and forfeiture of all ships and vessels that shall be found trading in or at any of the said colonies, or bound and trading from any port or place in the same, from and after the first of June 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."

Another amendment we hear is, that all seamen who are taken on board American vessels made prizes, are to be entered into his majesty's service as part of the crew of the ship of war by which they are taken, instead of being made prisoners.

Mr. Hartley made a motion, the purport of which was, to address his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to withdraw his troops from Boston; that the colonists should be restored to their constitutional right of trial by jury, and that all the grievances which they complain of, on the score of taxation, should be redressed; at the same time he proposed a plan for establishing the supremacy of the legislature of Great Britain in all other cases: But after some debate the motion was totally rejected, by 123 to 21.

Yesterday col. Ackland took leave of his majesty, and immediately set out for Portsmouth, to embark on board a transport ship which has his regiment on board, to sail with all expedition for America.

Dec. 9. Yesterday lord Cornwallis took leave of his majesty, he being in a few days to set out to embark for America.

The order of the day was read for receiving the report on the American restraining bill. Mr. Mackworth accordingly reported the bill, together with the amendments; it was then moved, that the said report be now taken into consideration. After which Mr. Mansfield, and Mr. Pratt the counsel, were called in; the report was then read, and likewise the petition from the planters of his majesty's sugar colonies, and several merchants trading thereto, residing in London. The counsel withdrew, a debate arose, which lasted for some time, and then the main question was put, that this bill, with the amendments, be engrossed; ayes 243, noes 38. Adjourned to Monday.

On Thursday died, at his house in Spring-Gardens, of the gout in his stomach, admiral Sir Charles Saunders, knight of the Bath, member in the present parliament for the borough of Heydon, in Yorkshire, admiral of the blue squadron, lieut. gen. of the marines, and elder brother to the Trinity-house.

The troops going to Virginia, (which are to sail as soon as possible) are to be commanded by gen. Clinton from Boston.

Lord Chewton is going a volunteer in this expedition.

Lord Cornwallis, who goes out commander of the troops, is to resign the command when at Williamsburg (if they ever arrive there) to gen. Clinton; and is there to act under that officer, or command a detachment, as the exigency of affairs may require.

Dec. 12. Yesterday lord Chewton, son of the earl of Waldegrave, took leave of the king, and embarked this day for America with lord Cornwallis.

House of commons, Dec. 11. A motion was made for the third reading of the American restraining bill, to which some opposition was made; but as every argument, which reason or ingenuity could suggest for or against the measure, had been already advanced, the debate was as barren as it was short. At half after six the question being put, it was carried by 112 to 16, when the bill was passed, and ordered to be sent up to the lords.

Extract of a letter from the Hague, Dec. 5.

"The Scotch brigade, in the service of this republic, has been applied for by the court of Great-Britain to be taken into British pay. The terms upon which this is to take place are not yet settled, but it is said they have stipulated not to be sent to America, and to have leave to recruit in Scotland, which they have not had for some years past. It is likewise said they are to continue three years in British pay."

Saturday evening a meeting of the great officers of state was held at lord Suffolk's office, as also some of the crown lawyers, to deliberate on a number of propositions which have been offered by a noble lord in an high office, as a ground-work of some conciliatory measures to be offered to the Americans.

Eight sail of the line and 5000 soldiers are to be employed in reducing the southern colonies, whilst the main fleet and army are to occupy Boston. This is the new disposition for the spring.

This day the Arethusa man of war, with several transports bound to America, returned to the Downs, the wind blowing hard against them.

NEW-LONDON, *February* 16.

Last Sunday, near sun-set, capt. Wallace landed a number of men out of his fleet, on Point Judah, took from thence seven loads of hay, a number of sheep, and two cows.

By a vessel from the West-Indies we learn, that the effects of non-exportation from this continent begins to be severely felt in the islands, where the most ordinary beef sells from 7 to 8l. per barrel, ordinary flour at 6l. per barrel, currency, and but little to be had at any price. The islanders (not believing there would be a scarcity) have, till lately, kept the produce of the colonies very low; but finding a scarcity likely to take place, the price suddenly rose. They are under terrible apprehensions from the negroes, whom they are obliged to pinch in their allowance.

HARTFORD, *February* 19.

Sickness in the family of the printers at Cambridge prevented the usual publication of the Essex Gazette, so that we are unable to give our readers a particular account of the heroic deeds of a body of the ministerial gentry, last week, at Dorchester. All we can say is, that a party of about 500 landed on Dorchester-Point, on Tuesday night, and drove off our whole garrison, which consisted of about 40 men---set a number of houses on fire---took an old gentleman who had long been an inhabitant of the place, with two small children, prisoners, and then made off with the utmost precipitation.

NEW-YORK, *February* 22.

The governor of Nova-Scotia has issued a proclamation, publishing MARTIAL LAW in that colony.

We are informed that the continental congress have ordered general Lee to take the command of the forces in Canada, and that general Schuyler is to succeed in the command in this city.

On Tuesday sennight, three fellows, who had committed a robbery in this city, took refuge on board the Phœnix man of war: Upon information given to Alderman Matthews, he went on board in person and demanded them; the captain immediately ordered them on shore, and they are now secured in gaol.

PHILADELPHIA, *February* 26.

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated Feb. 23, 1776.

"A letter from St. Eustatia, to a gentleman here, dated Jan. 27, 1776, brings the following information:---"We have had some late arrivals from England, by which we learn, that a bill for sending foreign troops to America had been thrown out by both houses---that another for seizing American vessels (it was thought) would share the same fate: However, there is one passed for indemnifying captains of king's ships for what they have done or may do.---The papers say there are thirty-six commissioners going to America, to treat with each province separately for conciliatory measures: In the interim, every vessel that can swim is taken up to carry troops, ammunition, and provisions to America. ---Gen. Gage was kept in the channel some time before the ministry would let him land.---There is no doubt that the French have 11,000 men in Martinico and Guadaloupe, and more expected; it is said they have an equal number at St. Domingo."

IN CONGRESS, *February* 23, 1776.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, councils, or committees of safety, and committees of correspondence and inspection in the United colonies, to exert themselves in devising farther ways and means of promoting and encouraging the ma-