XXI YEAR.) THE (Nº 1592.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1776

LONDON.

The following is a copy of the bill for composing the present troubles, and for quieting the minds of his Majesty's subjects in America, intended to have been presented to the House of Commons last week by Mr. Burke, but was prevented by the previous question being put.

WHEREAS by the blessing of Almighty God, and the industry, enterprize and courage of several of the people of this realm, extensive and valuable territories have been acquired in America to the crown of Great Britain, which are now inhabited by great multitudes of his majesty's subjects, who have cultivated and improved the same for the most part at their own charges, to the great increase of the commerce and naval strength of this kingdom; and have also, of their own free gift, made provision for the support of the civil government within their said plantations, have maintained many expensive wars against the Indian nations, and have at sundry times granted large sums of money and other very considerable aids to his majesty and his royal predecessors to support them against the enemies of this kingdom, notwithstanding which, the inhabitants of the said colonies have been made liable to several taxes given and granted in parliament for the purpose of raising a revenue when they have had no knights or burgesses, or others, of their own choosing, to represent them in parliament, and from the great distance of the said colonies from this land and other impediments, are not able conveniently to send representatives to the said parliament, whereby the said inhabitants of the British colonies have conceived themselves to be much aggrieved, and thereby great troubles have arisen and are likely to continue, if a fitting remedy be not provided. Wherefore we pray your majesty that it may be enacted and declared, and it is hereby enacted and declared, by, &c. &c.

That no aid, subsidy, tax, duty, loan, benevolence, or any other burthen or imposition whatsoever, shall be granted, laid, assessed, levied, or collected, upon the inhabitants of any colony or plantation in America, by the authority or in virtue of any act of parliament, or in any other manner, or by any other authority, than the voluntary grant of the general assembly or general court of each colony or plantation, and which shall be assented to by his majesty's governor, and otherwise confirmed according to the usage of each province respectively, any law, statute, custom, right, prerogative, or any other matter whatsoever, to the contrary notwithstanding. Saving to his majesty, his heirs and successors, his right of reserving and collecting quit-rents, and other antient dues and revenues, and all other duties and taxes by this act not repealed, and saving and reserving to all proprietors and charter companies their antient rights, privileges, and possessions

Provided always, that nothing in this act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to restrain the future imposition and levy of duties and taxes for the regulation of trade and commerce in all the dominions to the imperial crown of this realm belonging.

And in order to remove all doubts and uneasiness from the minds of his majesty's subjects in the colonies, it is hereby further enacted, that if any act of parliament shall be hereafter made for the purpose of such regulation of trade, the produce of the duties thereby laid shall be held of the directors or receivers of his majesty's customs for the disposal of the general assemblies or if the same had been levied by the authority of the several general assemblies in the said colonies.

And whereas during these troubles the assemblies or inhabitants of the said colonies have formed a general meeting, when said meeting was not authorized by law to make any order or resolution, or to do any other act of force to bind his majesty's subjects: And whereas it may be necessary that the said colonies should have authority to do certain acts by common consent which should conclude the whole body of the said colonies; be it therefore enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for his majesty, his heirs and successors, to give authority to his governors in America, to require the said several assemblies to send deputies to a general meeting, with full powers to bind their said several provinces to all acts done by a majority of voices in the said general meeting, which meeting and the powers thereof shall cease and determine on if not further continued by parliament.

And whereas, in consequence of the late troubles, several acts of parliament have been made for the purpose of coercing and restraining the colonies, of which an advantage has been taken to represent the same, as if a design had been formed to deprive the people of the said colonies of several rights, benefits, and advantages of nature and the British constitution, which has greatly increased the discontents of the colonies and fomented the troubles in America—In order therefore to quiet the minds of his majesty's subjects in America, and reclaim the disobedient to that lenity which ought to have the strongest operations on the minds of free subjects; be it enacted, That an act made in the 7th year of the reign of his present majesty, intitled, "An act for granting certain duties in the British colonies and plantations in America; for allowing a drawback of the duties of customs upon the exportation from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa nuts, of the produce of the said colonies or plantations; for discontinuing the drawbacks payable on china earthen ware exported to America; and for more effectually preventing the clandestine running of goods in the said colonies and plantations." Also one other act made in the 14th year of the reign of his present majesty, intitled, "An act to discontinue in such manner, and for such time, as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods, wares and merchandize, at the town and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, in North-America." Also one other act made in the 14th year of the reign of his present majesty, intitled, "An act for the more impartial administration of justice in cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots and tumults in the province of Massachusetts-Bay in New-England." And also one other act made in the 14th year of the reign of his present majesty, intitled, "An act for the better regulating the government of the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England," be hereby severally and respectively repealed.

And the king's most excellent majesty, taking into his gracious consideration the great troubles, discords and wars that have of late been in some of his majesty's colonies in America, and that divers of his subjects are, by occasion thereof and otherwise, fallen into and become obnoxious to great pains and penalties; out of a hearty and pious desire to put an end to all suits and controversies that by occasion of the late distractions in America have arisen or may arise between his subjects; and to the intent that no crime whatsoever committed against his majesty shall hereafter rise in judgment, or be brought in question, against any of them, to the least endangerment of them, either in their lives, liberties, or estates, or to the prejudice of their reputations; and to bury all seeds of future discord and remembrance of the former as well in his own breast as in the breasts of his subjects one towards another; is graciously pleased that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, &c. &c. That all and all manner of treasons, misprision of treasons, murders, felonies, offences, crimes, contempts, and misdemeanors, counselled commanded, acted or done since the by any person or persons in America before the by virtue or colour of any command, power, authority, commission, warrant, or instruction, from his majesty or from any other person or persons deriving or pretending to derive authority, mediately or immediately, from his majesty, or of or from any assembly, council, general court, convention, congress or meeting in any of his majesty's colonies in America, called or reputed or taking on them the name of the assembly, council or general court of any of his majesty's colonies in America, or of a general congress, or provincial congress, or any other name or style whatsoever, or by virtue of colour of any writ, commission, or instructions of or from any person or persons, reputed or taken to be, or claiming or exercising the power of commander in chief of the continental army in America, or of any provincial army, or commander of any army or body of troops whatsoever within any of his majesty's colonies in America, by sea or land, or of any magistrate or reputed magistrate or officer, within any of the said colonies, or by any pretence, warrant, or command whatsoever, from them or any of them, or their or any of their respective council or councils, or any member of such council or councils, or from any person or persons whatsoever deriving or pretending to derive authority from them or any of them, be pardoned, released, indemnified, discharged, and put in utter oblivion.

And that all and every person and persons, acting, advising, assisting, abetting, and counselling the same, they, their heirs, executors and administrators, be and are hereby pardoned, released, acquited, indemnified, and discharged from the same; and of and from all pains of death, and other pains, judgments, indictments, informations, convictions, attainders, outlawries, penalties, escheats, and forfeitures, and every of them, and all grants thereupon made, and all estates derived under the same, be, and are hereby declared and enacted to be from henceforth null and void; extinguishing all actions, suits, demands, and prosecutions, civil and criminal, or public or private, except for the restoration of such estates as have been or shall be seized from their owners during the troubles; and for restoring to the said owners the mean profits of the same. Provided that arms not taken up by his majesty's authority, shall be laid down by our subjects in the said provinces within

Extract of a letter from Harwich, November 19.

"The storm last Tuesday, the 14th, has done more damage on the coast of Holland than has been known since the memory of man; it is horrible to view the coast; a scene of shipwrecks from the island of Goree to Schevelin bay; the strand master has found 26 rudders of ships of different sizes; no marks remain to give account of what ships they were, except on the hogsheads of tobacco that have been picked up on the strand, which are marked Betsey, 1775. Glasgow. Many oranges, lemons, and casks of wine, with square timber, are floating along the coast; not one soul on board the different ships is saved, nor one mark of any of the ships. What masts and yards drove on shore, are most of them broken and shivered; only one gafel schuyt, out of sixteen, rode it out in Helvoet roads, by having his anchors clear, and five down a-head of him.

"The shipping in Helvoet harbour, with difficulty, held fast with two cables a-head, and several men of war in the bason broke loose and received damage; the waters were over the tops of the mooring-post along Helvoet key; the waters overflowed the island of Odenburg, commonly called Blanckenburg, which is about three miles long and two broad: it had several farm houses, &c. on it; nothing has been discovered but some drowned hares; the boats last Thursday sailed over the island, as if no such place had been there."

Nov. 22. It is said that every vessel in the navy, under 40 guns, is ordered to be ready for sea by the first of next month, manned and victualled.

Advice from Cadiz informs us, that two vessel laden with ammunition &c. going to America, were stopped there, by request of the English consul, from proceeding any further.

LEIDEN, *November 16.*

The day before yesterday, between four and five in the morning, a most violent storm arose in the N.W. which, about noon, changed to the N. and continued all the next night, mingled with hail, rain and thunder. This storm has occasioned immense damage at the Hague, Delft and this place; but the most considerable loss was at Rotterdam and Amsterdam, from the inundation having swept away many of their magazines. By the great quantity of water brought down the Maeze, the roads and way to Rotterdam are entirely broken, and immense damage done. At Amsterdam the waters were seven inches higher than in the last inundation, and the lower part of the city and the islands on the coast of Y are under water. Much other damage is done, great numbers of cattle are lost, and the road between Haerlem and Amsterdam, both for carriages and passengers, totally swept away.

WORCESTER, *March 1.*

We are told a gentleman who came out of Boston last Friday reports, that the enemy have taken away their mortars from Bunker's-Hill, and carried them to Boston; that a council of war had been held in Boston for several days; that general Howe had advised the mandamus counsellors to go to England, and the tories to leave the town; that all the vessels in the harbour that were not in the king's service, were taken up to transport the tories and their effects; and that it was surmised in Boston, that should another battle ensue, and the regulars be defeated, they would retire to the town, and remove to some other part of the continent.

It is a prevailing opinion that something extraordinary will turn up in the course of a few days.

NEW-YORK, *Feb. 29.*

Saturday last col. Ward's regiment arrived here from Connecticut, and embarked in boats and landed on Nassau Island.

Extract of a letter from Canada.

"It is not improbable, that unacquainted with all the circumstances, some persons, who while they applauded the courage and resolution of our late brave general Montgomery, in attacking, under every disadvantage, a city so strongly fortified both by art and nature, as Quebec, with less than half the number of men that were within the walls to defend it, many censure the attempt as rash and desperate. But his situation not only justified, but made it a matter of indispensable duty, though a duty of a nature so difficult and arduous, that the most heroic virtue and intrepid courage was absolutely necessary to the performance of it. The expiration of the time for which a great part of the provincial troops had been inlisted, being near at hand, in a council of war, an attack of the town before that time was determined upon, and a plan concerted. But just before its execution, it appearing that some deserters from our army had discovered it to the enemy, an alteration became necessary, nor was there any time to delay, for the men were on point of returning home, and the general was reduced to the dilemma of making an attack under all disadvantages, or of raising the siege, and retiring with the loss of all the advantages we had gained by the unparalleled fatigues of a winter campaign in such a country. It is no wonder therefore, that, perilous as it was, he, with col. Arnold, &c. determined to make the attack, though, to stimulate his men, the general was obliged to head them in person.

"The attack was made with as much bravery as it was resolved on, and probably would have succeeded, had not a fatal discharge from the enemy's cannon, soon after he mounted the wall, finished the glorious career of our gallant general and some of the bravest of his followers. The principal of these were his aid de camp, captain M'Pherson, of Philadelphia, capt. Cheesman, of New-York, and ten of his company, who all fell at the first fire. This mighty loss, at the first onset, so confused and discouraged our men, that the remaining officers in the detachment thought themselves under a necessity of drawing off the men.

"Capt. Cheesman was the first that scaled the wall, and intrepidly pushing forward, he received a cannister of grape-shot through his body, which brought him to the ground: he attempted to rise, and his motions indicated a desire to press forward, but all was over, the fatal wound was given, through which fled as brave and heroic a spirit as ever animated the breast of an Alexander.

"He seemed to have a remarkable presage that he should fall in the attack; he mentioned it without the least superstitious fear, but with the undaunted bravery of a soldier. He dressed himself that morning extremely neat, and putting five half joes in his pocket, said that would be sufficient to bury him with decency. In him I have lost a valuable and much esteemed friend."

March 4. By several gentlemen from Albany we learn, that the noted Indian partizan, Lucas Lorne arrived there last Thursday evening, escorted by major Melcher with a number of the officers taken at Chamblee; that capt. Dickey, with the first company of Pennsylvanians, arrived at Montreal the 16th of February; the 18th capt. Jenkins was met on Lake Champlain with his company; capt. Davis at Crown-Point, and capt. Williams at Ticonderoga, all of the first battalion of the Pennsylvania forces in high spirits; that three companies of Green Mountain boys were also arrived at Montreal; that the lakes were lined with troops