

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1776.

LONDON, Jan. 2.

In the house of commons of Ireland, on Thursday, Dec. 21, the bill to grant the old and new additional duties, was read a second time.

On the question being put, that the bill be committed, Mr. Clement reported from the committee of comparison, that this money bill had been altered in England, by leaving out the two clauses relative to the 4000 troops allowed to be sent abroad, according to his excellency's message; and the question passed in the negative.

Mr. Malone moved, that this bill be rejected, which was carried nem. con.

Mr. Ogle then moved, that the bill be burnt before the door of the parliament-house, by the hands of the common hangman, and that the sheriffs of Dublin be ordered to see it done.

Mr. Malone replied, the bill was returned under the great seal of England, and it would be a great indignity to it.

Mr. Robert French was against the motion: He could wish, he said, the house would act with firmness, but it should also regard its own dignity.

Mr. Ogle answered, the great seal would help to burn it; and he should never regard the great seal when it was affixed to an affront to the house.

Mr. solicitor general said, he did not imagine any affront was intended by the alteration.

Mr. Ogle then withdrew his motion.

The stamp-bill was then read a second time, and rejected nem. con. on Dr. Clement's reporting these words, "and such commissioners and inferior officers as shall be appointed by the lord lieutenant" had been added in England.

By a letter from Cork, dated Dec. 23, we are informed, that the Marquis of Rockingham transport, which sailed from Portsmouth, with the 32d regiment on board, was wrecked, between Cork and Kinsale, the 22d, when Lieut. Marsh, ensign Sandiman, the captain of the ship, all the crew, except four, with all the women and children, and upwards of 100 soldiers, were drowned.

By the last advices from the coast of Coromandel we learn, that Mahomed Ali Khan, Nabob of Arcot, who is nearly in a state of dotage, had applied to our ministry for their assistance in fixing the succession of his government on Omiral Omrah, his second son, in prejudice to the elder: That this commission was intrusted to the conduct of some inferior servants of the company, who have been promised their douceurs upon its success. Our correspondent, who favours us with this intelligence, is perfectly acquainted with the characters and dispositions of the two brothers, and wholly acries this conduct of the father to a jealousy inherent in Asiatic printes in their decline, who are always then alarmed at seeing their immediate successor too popular during their own lives. He paints the eldest son in the most amiable, the second in the most odious colours, owing to his cruelty, pride, craft, and duplicity. He trusts that our friend, who must have all the tender feelings of a father, will not stain his honour by joining in such an unnatural scheme.

SPEECH OF Mr. DEMPSTER, in the house of commons, on Friday the 27th of October, 1775.

I DO not rise, Sir, to trouble the house on the subject of the question more immediately under its consideration. The noble lord (lord North) who spoke some time ago has, in my opinion, concluded that matter fully and desirably. He has declared his willingness to accept of an indemnity, if the legality of the measure of introducing foreign troops into our distant garrisons and forts shall appear doubtful to the house. The expediency of that measure nobody has disputed, its legality alone is called in question, and in my opinion very justly so; but as this point will be settled by an act of indemnity, what more can be said? What more can we desire? The business is concluded.

But, Sir, I am induced, though at a late hour of the night, to say a few words on something that fell from the same noble lord, and that has since fallen from other gentlemen of great weight and authority in this house; from what they have said, Sir, a ray of comfort breaks in upon us. That dark and portentous cloud, that has hung so long over Great-Britain and America, fraught with numberless ills to both, begins to break and clear up. Within this half hour, I am induced to entertain a hope, to which I have been long a stranger, that there will be an end to bloodshed, and that peace, harmony and happiness, may be again restored to this distracted empire.

To forward this most desirable object, as far as lies in my power; is my sole motive for saying a very few words.

The noble lord has disclaimed any intention of enslaving America. He has gone so far as to say that he would not object to restoring her to the footing on which she stood in the year 1763, was there a probability of America being now satisfied with this concession.

Another right honourable gentleman [Mr. Rigby] of great abilities and a leader of no inconsiderable party in this house, has just now declared, that he will not fight with America for a paltry duty upon tea. And a third right hon. gentleman (Sir Gilbert Elliot) not short of the former in consideration and weight among us, has expressly affirmed, that he will not consent to an armament sailing against America, unless the same fleet shall carry reasonable offers of accommodation to that quarter of the globe.

These appears for the first time, by what has fallen from these three noble and honourable persons a disposition to relinquish the great issue of contention between

our colonies and their parent state; I mean Sir, the exercise of the right of taxing them, unrepresented as they are, in parliament. I hope, Sir, the house will revert to our ancient system of governing the colonies: For till we abandon this new fangled system of taxing them *à la mode*, a system no older than the conclusion of the last war, I will venture to affirm that no coercive measures, short of extermination, will ever compel the Americans to submit to it.

There is no subject on which I have employed more reflection than on the grounds of our present dispute with America; the result has been an opinion by which I believe I shall abide as long as I breathe; it is Sir, that in my conscience I think the claim of the Americans is just and well founded, to be left in the free exercise of the right of taxing themselves in their several provincial assemblies, in the same manner that Ireland now does and always has done. By this beautiful part of our constitution our wise ancestors have bound together the different and distant parts of this mighty empire; by this single principle, heretofore inviolate, they have diffused, in a most unexampled manner, the blessings of liberty and good government through our remotest provinces. Look, Sir, into the history of the provinces of other states, of the Roman provinces in ancient time; of the French, Spanish, Dutch, and Turkish provinces, of more modern date, and you will find every page of it stained with acts of oppressive violence, of cruelty, injustice and peculation; but in the British provinces, the annual meetings of their little assemblies have constantly restrained the despotism, and corrected the follies of their governors; they watch over the administration of justice, and from time to time enact such salutary regulations as tend to promote their happiness and well being. And what, Sir, I beseech you, could ensure the regular meeting of those assemblies, ever troublesome to governors, but their retaining in their own hands, like us at home, the power of granting the funds necessary for defraying the current expence of government. Were your provincial assemblies deprived of this power, I cannot see wherein the government of America would differ from that of Indostan. And have our enquiries, in a former session, into the administration of Bengal, made us in love with the eastern species of government? Do we seriously wish to transplant the rapine and cruelties of India to America?

But now, Sir, that this system is given up to our colonies, peace will speedily follow the concession.

I cannot, Sir, but commend, in the warmest terms, the intention expressed by our gracious sovereign in the speech from the throne, of sending a commission to America to empower persons on the spot to receive submissions, to remove oppressive restrictions, and to grant pardons and other indulgences to our fellow-citizens across the Atlantic. There is but one step more necessary to be taken, and peace will, in my humble opinion, be certain and intangible; and in relation to that step alone have I ventured to rise on the present occasion. It has already been touched upon by an honourable gentleman (Mr. J. Grenville) who always expresses himself with elegance and propriety. The point I mean, Sir, is, that his majesty's commissioners may be empowered to treat with the congress. I am convinced, Sir, that America will not listen to a treaty through any other medium; it stands to reason and common sense she will not; for the congress is not only the sole existing power at this moment in America, but it is to the union formed by means of the congress that America owes its strength, and its formidable power of resistance; without such an union, twelve wide-spread, far-distant colonies, thinly peopled and individually weak, could never act with effect in defence of what they think their violated rights; nor is it to be supposed they will dissolve this firm bond of union, till their grievances are redressed.

Might I then be permitted very humbly to join my feeble voice to the honourable gentleman's before alluded to, and entreat the ministry that no false pride, no misplaced idea of dignity and authority, may induce them to forbid the commissioner from treating for and seeking peace where alone peace may be found. Let the commissioners be vested with discretionary powers, and left at least without an express prohibition to treat with that body; or let some means be devised of legalizing a congress, by calling one *pro re nata* under his majesty's authority.

The commissioners will, Sir, I hope, be well chosen, will be men of rank and character, men of known attachment to the constitution, and men known and revered for services done to their country; and neither too much attached to Britain nor America, but, if possible, impartial in their opinion concerning the present contest.

When men, such as I have described, giving weight and dignity to the commission they bear, come to treat and to reason with the Americans, much may be urged to quiet their jealousies and apprehensions, and to bring them back to their wonted allegiance to the king, and subordination to this country. They may be told, Sir, and told with truth, that parliament is not so determinedly obstinate on the measure of taxation as they apprehend. They may be reminded that, if parliament taxed them in the year 1764, the same parliament, finding this well meant but injudicious measure offensive to America, repealed the tax in the year 1765. They may be told, that on the memorable occasion of repealing the stamp-act, their great champion, the earl of Chatham, laid the claim of America only to an exemption from internal taxation. They may be also told, that the seven or eight duties afterwards imposed, were not internal taxes, but external port duties on foreign commodities. And yet, in consequence of those external duties being disagreeable to America, they were all

repealed, except this miserable threepenny duty upon tea. And when to those arguments the commissioners can add, that parliament, even on this last article, is disposed to relax, I can hardly doubt of their success, I already see peace and harmony restored! I see the two countries, like two friends who have quarreled, returning with eagerness to their ancient habits of friendship, and cementing more closely than before, their useful connection and affectionate union! How ardently, Sir, this is my wish, let the trouble I have now ventured to give you this night bear witness, if the unanimity of my conduct for eleven years that this unhappy contest has subsisted, should not be a sufficient testimony of my sincerity.

To the KING's most excellent MAJESTY.

The humble address of the high Sheriff, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county palatine of Lancaster.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the high Sheriff, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county Palatine of Lancaster, humble beg leave to approach the throne with all the sentiments of veneration and attachment due to the father of his people.

Deeply impressed ourselves with a grateful sense of the blessings derived from your majesty's truly paternal government, the spirit of which has been ever directed by the most sacred attention to the happiness and liberty of your people, we cannot, without astonishment and horror, behold a great part of our American fellow-subjects so regardless of these blessings, and ungrateful to the fountain from whence they flow, as to violate, in the most hostile and daring manner, every principal of legal authority and just subordination.

From the whole tenor of your majesty's mild and auspicious reign, as well as the gracious assurances which have proceeded from the throne, we are fully convinced, that nothing on your majesty's part has been wanting to remedy these disorders, by methods consistent with the honour of this country, and the felicity of its several members.

That these deluded people still persist in their rebellious opposition to the constitutional authority of these realms, must be imputed to the unwarrantable and criminal intentions of those who have usurped, the rights of sovereignty amongst them; intentions, which the most vigorous exertions may be required to defeat.

To your majesty, and the only rightful legislative body of these dominions, we cheerfully condescend the arduous task of restoring order and tranquillity by every means which brave and loyal subjects can put into your hands; and we implore the divine assistance on your councils and exertions.

For our parts, happy in expressing to your majesty the duty, gratitude, and affection to your royal person and family, which animate this populous, commercial, and manufacturing county, we desire thus publicly to testify our determined resolution to support, (by every assistance in our power) such measures as your majesty and the parliament shall think it necessary to adopt for the suppression of these daring and licentious attacks upon the peace of your majesty's government, the vigour of the laws, and the dignity of the constitution.

NEW-YORK, March 20.

A letter from his worship the mayor, to the printer.

SIR, I enclose I send you a copy of a letter I received from governor Tryon, inclosing an address to the inhabitants of this colony, which address he has desired me to get published, I have therefore sent you a copy of the letter and address, in order for your inserting them in your Gazette, if you think proper.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, D. MATHEWS.

New-York, March 16, 1776.

Ship Duches of Gordon, North-River, March 19, 1776.

"SIR;

I desire you will lay before the gentlemen of the corporation the enclosed exhortation to the inhabitants of this colony; and that you will communicate the same to the public, and also have it inserted in the several Gazettes published in the city of New-York.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient servant. W. TRYON

David Mathew; Esq; Mayor of the city of New-York.

Ship Duches of Gordon, North-River, New-York, March 16, 1776.

"To the inhabitants of the colony of New-York.

Notwithstanding prejudice, delusion, and faction, have hitherto, among too many, usurped the seat of reason and reflection, and every exhortation I have offered to the inhabitants of this province (in whose affection I have been taught to be happy) has been reviled and treated with neglect yet as my wishes for their prosperity, and feelings for their calamities, cannot easily be suppressed even towards the disobedient. I cannot but repeat my endeavours to recal those who have revolted from their allegiance to a sense of their duty, and to comfort those who have been the objects of oppression, for their zealous attachment to our happy constitution, and their steady obedience to the sovereignty of the British empire.

It is in the clemency and authority of Great-Britain