

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1776.

L O N D O N, March 23.

FRIDAY a court of common-council was held at Guildhall, when a motion was made to petition the king, beseeching his majesty that the most solemn, clear, distinct, and unambiguous specification of the just and honourable terms which his majesty, with both houses of parliament, mean to grant to the colonies, may precede the dreadful operation of his armament: Which petition was prepared and ordered to be presented by the whole court. In consequence of the above resolution; the sheriffs went yesterday to his majesty to know when he would be pleased to receive it, and his majesty appointed Friday next.

CORPS in and under orders for AMERICA, Jan. 1776. NOW in AMERICA.

- 17th, drag. Preston's; 4th, foot, Hodgson's; 5th, Percy's, at Boston.
7th, Bertie's, taken at Chamble the greatest part, the rest with Carleton.
8th, Armstrong's, at the upper posts, Niagara, Detroit, &c.
10th, Sandford's; 22d, Gage's; 23d, Howe's; at Boston.
26th, lord William Gordon's, late Scott's; taken the greatest part at St. John's, the rest with Carleton.
35th, Fl. Campbell's; 38th, Pigot's; 40th, Hamilton's; 43d, Cary's; 44th, Abercrombie's; 45th, Haviland's; 47th, Carleton's; 49th, Maitland's; 52d, Clavering's; 63d, T. Grant's; 64th, Pomroy's; 65th, Urmiton's; at Boston and Halifax.
Royal artillery, at Boston, five companies, each one captain, one captain-lieutenant, one first lieutenant, three second lieutenants, three sergeants, three corporals, six bombardiers, twelve gunners, one scribe, two drums, and forty-eight matrosses.
1 company ditto, at Quebec; 1 company ditto, at Montreal, &c. sup. ofed to be taken; 1 company ditto, at St. Augustine; 1 invalid company ditto, at Newfoundland.
Marines, intended to be made up to 2000, and it is expected that more artillery will be sent.

INTENDED for the service in NORTH-AMERICA, 1776.

- 29th, foot, Evelyn's; now at Chatham, ordered to be in readiness to embark on board of men of war, supposed to be destined for Quebec, and to sail so to arrive there as early as the navigation of the river St. Laurence will admit.
3d, foot, Sir J. Amherst's; 9th, Ligonier's.
11th, A Court's; 20th, Parker's; 24th, C. Cornwallis's, now Taylor's; now ordered to be in readiness for embarkation in the spring.
24th, lord F. Cavendish's; 53d, H. Elphinstone's; 61d, Brode's, now Jones's; 6th, Boothby's; the latter now at St. Vincent's.
14th, Cunningham's; partly at St. Augustine's, partly with lord Dunmore, the rest at Halifax.
15th, Cavan's; ready to sail from Corke.
6th, Gibborne's, at Pensacola.
17th, Monckton's; 27th, Massy's; on their passage from Ireland. Four companies of the 17th arrived at Boston.
28th, Erle's; put back to Corke.
33d, Cornwallis's; 37th, Coote's; ready to sail from Corke.
42d, Lord Murray's; recruiting in Scotland.
46th, Vaughan's; 7 companies put back to Corke, the other three on their passage to Boston.
44th, Frederic's; 55th, Ja. Grant's; 57th, Irwine's; the first and third ready to sail from Corke; and the second on their passage from Ireland.
2d battalion, Fraser's corps; raising in Scotland, to consist of 1000 men.
Governor and Mr. Kean's corps; raising in America, to consist of 4 or 500 men each.
N. B. The marching regiments, for the American service, are to consist of twelve companies, of fifty-six effective rank and file each company; the three Highland battalions excepted, viz. lord John Murray's and Fraser's, which are to consist of 1000 men each.
16th, drag. Burgoyne's; under orders for Boston.
N. B. The present establishment of the 16th and 17th drag. exclusive of the commissioned officers: Two sergeants two corporals, and thirty-five effective privates to each troop, six troops; but an augmentation is ordered of one corporal, one sergeant, two corporals, and thirty privates to each troop, to do duty on foot; no horse to be provided for this augmentation.
1000 of the guards to be drafted from the three regiments, and commanded by col. Matthews.
Besides the above British force, it is reckoned there will be 15,000 foreign auxiliaries; and that the shipping necessary for the embarkation will be ninety-thousand tons.

B R I S T O L, February 17.

Lord Cornwallis sailed from Corke the 12th instant... two transports are fitting out now for Boston with necessaries for the troops. One is a large ship with 16 guns, and will have provisions; the other will have shoes, hose and clothing, and 8 or 10 guns. They will be ready to sail in 14 days.
The West-India traders outward all take guns. The captures of the homeward bound would alarm the merchants and distress those as yet unprovided.
H A L I F A X, April 23.
Tuesday afternoon last arrived his majesty's ship Viper, with some transports from the West-Indies, being part of the fleet which was drove off this coast by the severe weather last winter.

Thursday morning arrived his majesty's ships Rose and Glasgow, captains Wallis and How from Newport, Rhode-Island.

Saturday sailed the Viper sloop of war for Quebec, with three transports and troops on board.

Sunday arrived here the Scarborough from Savannah, in Georgia, in whom came gov. Wright of that province.

We are informed that governor Campbell, of South-Carolina, is on his passage for this place.

B O S T O N, May 15.

George Merchant, a private in capt. Morgan's company of riflemen from Virginia, who went to Canada with col. Arnold last fall, was taken prisoner with two Indians and a New-England soldier, passing over the river St. Lawrence. Merchant was sent to England to be hanged, but never was even examined, and the other three were kept close prisoners in Quebec, confined in irons: he left Bristol the 24th of March, and arrived at Halifax in 23 days' tarried there 10, when he with several masters of vessels that had been taken by the ministerial cruisers, hired a small vessel to bring them to Newbury; but, by reason of contrary winds, put into Old York last Thursday, and came to town by land yesterday to gen. Ward, who soon dispatched him express to gen. Washington.

N E W - Y O R K, May 20.

Extract of a letter from Montreal, May 1.

On Sunday last arrived here, Baron Woedike, and col. de Haas, with Mr. Joseph Terry, of this place, accompanied by several other gentlemen of the army. And on Monday the committee of the hon. continental congress, for establishing and regulating the continental affairs in this province, with the celebrated Dr. Franklin at their head. They were received on the beach at the port de Vadreuil by gen. Arnold, and the friends to liberty, and a salute was fired from the citadel; being escorted to head quarters, they and a number of friends to liberty spent the evening with decent mirth.
Thursday last 24 Indians, the chiefs of several Indian nations, arrived here from Albany; we hear they are to set out for Philadelphia in a few days, in order to wait on the hon. continental congress.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, May 21.

The hon. the continental congress have promoted Horatio Gates, Esq; late adjutant general to the rank of major-general, and Thomas Mifflin, Esq; late quarter-master-general, to that of brigadier-general.

May 22. At a meeting at the state-house, on Monday last, of a very large number of the inhabitants of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, upon due notification,

Major John Bayard, as chairman of the committee of inspection and observation of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, &c. informed the people that the meeting was called at the request of a considerable number of respectable citizens. Whereupon col. Daniel Koerberdeau was appointed to, and seated in the chair—and it was

Moved, That the resolve of congress, of the 15th inst. be read—whereupon it was read accordingly.

The people, in testimony of their warmest approbation, gave three cheers.

Moved, That the instructions given by the house of assembly to their delegates in congress be read, and the same were read accordingly, as follows:

GENTLEMEN,
THE trust reposed in you is of such a nature, and the modes of executing it may be so diversified in the course of your deliberations, that it is scarcely possible to give you particular instructions respecting it.
We therefore, in general, direct, that you or any four of you, meet in congress the delegates of the several colonies now assembled in this city, and any such delegates as may meet in congress next year; that you consult together on the present critical and alarming state of public affairs; that you exert your utmost endeavours to agree upon, and recommend such measures, as you shall judge to afford the best prospect of obtaining redress of American grievances, and restoring that union and harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies, so essential to the welfare and happiness of both countries.

Though the oppressive measures of the British parliament and administration have compelled us to resist their violence by force of arms, yet we strictly enjoin you, that you, in behalf of this colony dissent from, and utterly reject, any propositions, should such be made, that may cause, or lead to a separation from our mother country, or a change of a form of this government.

You are directed to make report of your proceedings to this house.

Signed by order of the house, JOHN MORFON, speaker.

Nov. 9, 1775. Col. Thomas McKean informed, that the committee of the city and liberties, apprehending the dangerous tendency of the said instructions, had presented a memorial to the hon. house of assembly, praying that they might be rescinded, and that the house, taking the said memorial into their consideration, did, as the last act of that body in their last sessions, determine not to alter the said instructions.

Upon motion, resolved unanimously, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the said instructions have a dangerous tendency to withdraw this province from that happy union with the other colonies which we consider both as our glory and protection.

Upon motion, resolved unanimously, That the present house of assembly was not elected for the purpose of forming a new government.

On motion, resolved (with one dissenting voice only) That the present house of assembly, not having the authority of the people for that purpose, cannot proceed thereon without assuming arbitrary power.

Resolved unanimously, That a protest be immediately entered, by the people of this city and liberties, against the power of the said house to carry the said resolve of congress into execution.

It being moved, and the question thereupon put, Whether the present government is competent to the exigencies of our affairs; the same was carried in the negative unanimously.

Resolved unanimously, That a provincial convention ought to be chosen by the people, for the express purpose of carrying the said resolve of congress into execution.

As some difficulties may arise respecting the mode of electing members for the said convention, therefore

Resolved unanimously, That the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia; be directed to send the aforementioned resolve of congress to the several committees throughout the province, and to call together a number from the committee of each county, to hold a provincial conference, in order to determine upon the number of which, the convention for framing a new government shall be composed, and the manner in which they shall be elected.

A protest being produced and read, the same was unanimously approved.

The PROTEST of dissent of the inhabitants of this province, in behalf of themselves and others. To the hon. the Representatives of the province of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the inhabitants of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, in behalf of ourselves and others, the inhabitants of Pennsylvania, conceive it our duty to represent unto this house as followeth:

That whereas the hon. continental congress hath, by a resolve bearing date the 15th instant, recommended the taking up and establishing new governments throughout all the United Colonies, under the "AUTHORITY of the PEOPLE"; and as the chartered power of this house is derived from our mortal enemy the king of Great-Britain, and the members thereof were elected by such persons only as were either in real or supposed allegiance to the said king, to the exclusion of many worthy inhabitants, whom the aforesaid resolve of congress hath now rendered electors; and as this house, in its present state, is in immediate inter-course with a governor bearing the said king's commission, and who is his sworn representative; holding, and by oath obliged to hold, official correspondence with the ministers of the said king, and is not, within the reach of any act of ours, to be absolved therefrom;—We therefore, in this solemn manner, in behalf of ourselves and others, do hereby renounce and protest against the authority and qualification of this house for framing a new government:

As we mean not to enter into any altercation with this house, we shall forbear enumerating the particular inconsistencies of its former conduct, and content ourselves with declaring that, as a body of men bound by oaths of allegiance to our enemy, and influenced as many of its members are, either by connections with, or pecuniary employments under the proprietary of this province, who is likewise the said king's representative, it is to all good intents and purposes, disqualified to take into consideration the late resolve of congress; and as an house is not within the description mentioned in the said resolve, as an "assembly under the authority of the people" only, and because likewise that we have very alarming apprehensions that a new government, modelled by persons so inconsistently circumstanced, would be the means of subjecting ourselves and our posterity to greater grievances than any we have hitherto experienced.

In thus protesting against the authority of this house for framing a new government, we mean not to object against its exercising the proper powers it has hitherto been accustomed to use, for the safety and convenience of the province, until such time as a new constitution originating from, and founded on the "the authority of the people," shall be finally settled by a provincial convention, to be elected for that purpose, and until the proper officers and representatives of the people shall be chosen agreeable thereto, and qualified to succeed this house;—For which purpose an application will be made to the committee of inspection and observation of the city and liberties (whose services on all occasions hath been applied to the support of the rights of the people) for calling a conference of the committees of the several counties of this province, agreeable to the powers it is already invested with for that purpose, which said conference of committees shall issue out summonses for electing, by ballot, a provincial convention, consisting of at least 100 members, for the purpose of carrying the said resolve of congress into execution. As we are fully convinced that our safety and happiness, next to the immediate providence of God, depend on our complying with, and supporting firmly, the said resolve of congress, that thereby the union of the colonies may be preserved inviolate.

Resolved unanimously, That the chairman be directed to sign and present the said protest to the hon. house of assembly.

Resolved unanimously, That we will support the measures now adopted at all hazards, be the consequences what they may.