

America at one blow; and what they expected to get by a conquest being infinitely greater than any thing they could hope to get either by taxation or accommodation, they seemed determined to prevent even the possibility of hearing each other, lest America should disappoint their greedy hopes of the whole, by listening to their own terms. On the one hand they refused to hear the petition of the continent, and on the other hand took effectual care the continent should not hear them.

That the motion of the 20th of February and the order for commencing hostilities were both concerted by the same person or persons, and not the latter by general Gage, as was falsely imagined at first, is evident from an extract of a letter of his to administration, read among other papers in the house of commons; in which he informs his masters, that though their idea of his usurping certain counties was a right one, yet it required him to be master of the country, in order to enable him to execute it. This was prior to the commencement of hostilities, and consequently before the motion of the 20th of February could be deliberated on by the several assemblies.

Perhaps it may be asked, why was the motion past, if there was at the same time a plan to aggravate the Americans not to listen to it? Lord North assigned one reason himself, which was a hope of dividing them. This was publicly tempting them to reject it; that if, in case, the injury of arms should fail of provoking them sufficiently, the insult of such a declaration might fill it up. But by passing the motion and getting it afterwards rejected in America, it enabled them, in their wretched idea of politics, among other things, to hold up the colonies to foreign powers with every possible mark of disobedience and rebellion. They had applied to those powers not to supply the continent with arms, ammunition, &c. and it was necessary they should incense them against us, by assigning on their own part some seeming reputable reason why. By dividing, it had a tendency to weaken the states, and likewise to perplex the adherents of America in England. But the principal scheme, and that which has marked their conduct in every part of their conduct, was a design of precipitating the colonies into a state which they might afterwards deem rebellion, and under that pretence put an end to all future complaints, petitions or remonstrances, by seizing the whole at once. They had ravaged one part of the globe, till it could glut them no longer; their prodigality required new plunder, and through the East India article TEA they hoped to transfer their rapine from that quarter of the world to this. Every designed quarrel has its pretence; and the same barbarian avarice accompanied the plant to America, which ruined the country that produced it.

That men never turn rogues without turning fools, is a maxim, sooner or later, universally true. The commencement of hostilities, being, in the beginning of April, was, of all times, the worst chosen: the congress were to meet the tenth of May following, and the distress the continent felt at this unparalleled outrage gave a stability to that body, which no other circumstance could have done. It suppressed too all inferior debates, and bound them together by a necessitous affection, without giving them time to differ upon trifles. The suffering likewise, softened the whole body of the people into a degree of pliability, which laid the principal foundation stone of union, order and government; and which, at any other time, might only have fretted and then faded away unnoticed and unimproved: but Providence, who best knows how to time her misfortunes as well as her immediate favours, chose this to be the time: and who dares dispute it?

It did not seem the disposition of the people at this crisis to heap petition upon petition, while the former remained unanswered: the measure, however, was carried in congress, and a second petition was sent; of which I shall only remark, that it was submissive even to a dangerous fault, because the prayer of it appealed solely to, what is called, the prerogative of the crown, while the matter in dispute was confessed to be constitutional. But even this petition, flattering as it was, was still not so harmonious as the chink of cash, and consequently not sufficiently grateful to the tyrant and his ministry. From every circumstance it is evident, that it was the determination of the British court to have nothing to do with America but to conquer it fully and absolutely. They were certain of success, and the field of battle was to be the only place of treaty. I am confident there are thousands and tens of thousands in America who wonder now they should ever think otherwise; but the sin of that day was the sin of civility, yet it operated against our present good in the same manner that a civil opinion of the devil would against our future peace.

(To be continued.)

LONDON, January 30.

A letter from Lisbon, dated January 9, says, "The Zephyr sloop of war has brought in here two prizes; one of them the Argo, captain Ward, and the other the schooner Betty, Lebras, with 1100 quintals of bachela, bound from New-England to Bilbao, on account of the congress."

Feb. 6. Sir John Fielding went yesterday to lord Suffolk's office, and held a long conference with his lordship, relative to the person who was taken up on suspicion of setting fire to the rope-yard at Portsmouth; his worship afterwards attended the lords of the admiralty, and was before the board near three hours on the same business.

Four large vessels are taken up in the river for the sole purpose of carrying over live bullocks, hogs and sheep to New-York, for his majesty's troops there.

Sunday a messenger was sent from lord Weymouth's office, with dispatches to lord Stormont at the court of Versailles.

The American dispatches brought over in the Aurora, have afforded great satisfaction to the ministry. The vessel was taken by the bravery of four Englishmen, who happening to be upon deck with their loaded pieces, whilst the American sailors were up in the shrouds, presented their pieces and ordering them to come down singly, secured them under the hatches, and steered for Liverpool.

Inclosed was a packet from the congress for Dr. Franklin, sealed with their arms, which, with a delicacy not always to be met in British tars, they forbore to open, doubtfully judging it improper for the contents to be made known to any other than administration.

This packet they brought to London, and on Saturday morning delivered it into the hands of lord North. The contents of this packet will inform government of what they have long wished to know, the true motives of Dr. Franklin's journey to the court of France.

Letters from Petersburg, dated January 17th, mention, that the Russian army had defeated 23000 Turks, who had strongly entrenched themselves near Precop, and forced the lines at the Isthmus, which were seven wersts in length, extending from the sea of Asoph or Paulus Mozotis to the Black Sea. Her imperial majesty's troops have taken a great quantity of baggage and ammunition; and from this signal victory are become entirely masters of the Crimea.

Feb. 8. Tuesday last arrived at Glasgow, one of the independent companies of the 42d regiment, or royal highlanders, from Fort-George, in order to embark for America;—four companies of the 71st are also ordered for the same place. It is also said the first battalion of the Scots royals are to embark for America from Greenock at the same time.

An additional company to every regiment in Canada, is ordered to be ready for embarkation.

Twenty officers of the guards, of different ranks, are ordered to be ready to embark to relieve the like number in America.

Yesterday the lower assembly received a copy of a convention concluded between his majesty and the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, relative to taking more foreign troops into our service, dated on the 12th of December last, which was ordered to lie on the table to be perused.

Feb. 9. Two American vessels, with about 2000 barrels of flour on board, from Philadelphia for Bourdeaux, are taken off the Bermuda islands, and sent to the West-Indies.

A further number of troops, it is said, will be asked from Ireland, and their places to be supplied by new levies.

The additional troops for which the treaty was signed last December with the prince of Hesse, consist entirely of foot, and no general officers.

Extract of a letter from Hanau, Jan. 24.

"A corps of volunteer chasseurs are raising here for the service of, and to be in the pay of Great-Britain, destined to join the corps of troops of Hesse-Hanau in America.—They will have the same high pay which the court of London hath given to the Hessian chasseurs."

Feb. 10. Friday last orders were given for shipping 2000 barrels of porter, in order to be sent as soon as possible to Rhode-Island, for our troops.

Feb. 17. Every preparation is making on the side of government, in order to render the ensuing campaign in America decisive; as the land forces are to be considerably augmented, and double the number of cruisers will be employed, the more effectually to block up the ports of the colonies, and prevent their carrying on any trade at all.

General Burgoyne is expected to sail in about six weeks for Canada, to which province he will be attended by several young noblemen and gentlemen as volunteers.

Feb. 20. Two regiments or battalions of foot are to go from England this spring, and the like number from Ireland.

The above troops, with the additional German auxiliaries, will make a reinforcement of 20,000 men to the army in America.

The Raisable of 64 guns, at Plymouth, and the Isis, of 50 guns, at Portsmouth, are to replace the Asia and Experiment, returned from America.

Yesterday a draught was made from the guards, when only two out of every company were taken, and twelve men out of several of the companies offered themselves as volunteers.

Advice is said to have been received from Paris, that lord stormont, having information that an American privateer was at Brest, taking on board a cargo of warlike stores, made application to the court of Versailles, who sent orders for the above vessel to reland her lading, and depart from that port immediately. (Very probable!)

It is asserted that a messenger set out yesterday for Petersburg, with instructions for the British minister at that court to forward with all possible expedition the completion of the treaty, by which the empress engages to furnish Great-Britain with a body of 20,000 men.

The bill to enable his majesty to secure and detain persons charged with high-treason in America, or for piracy on the seas, was read the second time; whereupon great debates ensued, which continued for four till a quarter before nine, when the house divided, For the bill 195 Against it 39

Majority 156 Feb. 25. All the troops destined for America will be embarked before the 20th of March, in order to be early in the field.

Feb. 27. Yesterday the house resolved itself into a committee, to consider the permitting the importation of lumber, and the following resolutions were agreed to. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, That the planters in the West-India islands are in great want of staves, and other lumber, for their plantations. Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise British ships or vessels to carry lumber from the Baltic, the North and Mediterranean seas, to the West-India islands, for a limited time.

Resolved, That it may be expedient to grant a bounty on staves and other lumber, imported from Canada, East and West Florida, Nova-Scotia, and the island of St. John's to the West-Indies, and Musquito-Shore.

Resolved, That it may also be expedient to enable his majesty's commissioners in North-America, and governor Iryon, governor of the province of New-York, to grant licences to the commanders of British ships, to export lumber to the West-India islands from the province of New-York for a limited time. Sir William Erskine is appointed aid-de-camp to his majesty, in the room of Sir Thomas Spenser Wilson, preferred.

Extract of a letter from Plymouth, Feb. 4. "They talk of fitting up storehouse prison (used as such last war) for the Americans who may be taken and brought in here."

Yesterday admiral Shuldham, lately arrived from New-York, was at court, and had a conference with the king, and kissed his majesty's hand on being created an Irish peer.

Yesterday the bill for detention of persons without bail or mainprize, who might be seized on suspicion of treason committed in America, or of piracy on the high seas, was read the third time, and passed by the lords.

This morning some fresh advices were received at lord George Germaine's office, from general Howe, at New-York, which were brought over in the Favorable, at Betsey, capt. Squires, who arrived yesterday off Dover, after a passage of five weeks: Capt. Squires writes as follows:

"That on his passage he spoke with the Lord North, who had fallen in with the King George, a transport, which was dismantled and otherwise in distress, and had on board a great number of Hessian recruits, which the lord North took out and arrived safe with them."

BOSTON, April 24.

Last Sunday arrived in a safe port, from Bourdeaux, in France, a large ship, of 20 carriage guns, after a passage of 54 days, fitted out by private merchants from that port; her cargo consists of ready made cloths, linens and woollens of all kinds, powder, and a great number of arms, &c. &c. She has on board a commission from the French king, empowering her, that in case she was attacked by any British pirate ships, to repel force by force, and capture them.

Same day was sent into a safe port at the southward, by capt. Smedley, in a brig belonging to the state of Connecticut, a brigantine from Ireland, bound to Antigua, with a valuable cargo of beef, pork, butter, &c. &c.

Capt. Smedley has also sent into an eastern port, a ship from Ireland bound to New-York, with a valuable cargo of provisions.

A ship from Ireland bound to the West-Indies is sent into another southern port; as is also arrived a ship from some part of France at the same port.

Monday was sent into a safe port at the eastward, by capt. Skimmer, in a privateer belonging to this country, a schooner from Canis, bound to Barbados, laden with fish and oil.

We are credibly informed, that two of the enemy's frigates are cruising in Ipswich bay; and that they have taken several vessels.

A state sloop of war, arrived in port last Sunday afternoon, from Martinico, having on board a valuable cargo, consisting of the following, viz 1200 stands of arms—13,000 weight of powder—a quantity of linen, and several hundred bushels of salt.

PROVIDENCE, April 19.

Saturday last a small sloop, bound from hence to Uddike's-Newton, ran aground in the bay, and was burnt by a boat from one of the enemy's ships. She had on board a quantity of household furniture, which was saved.

A gentleman from the westward informs, that the enemy at New-York continue to treat the American prisoners with great barbarity. Their allowance to each man for three days is 1 lb. of beef, three worn eaten muffy biscuits, and a quart of salt water; the rest they are obliged to eat raw, as they have not the smallest allowance of fuel. Owing to this more than savage cruelty, the prisoners die fast, and in the small space of three weeks (during the winter) no less than 1720 brave men perished. Nothing short of retaliation will compel those British barbarians to respect the law of nations.

The same gentleman informs, that a wealthy tory, who owned a fertile farm on the North river, worth fifteen hundred pounds sterling, and who sometimes fine siced to Howe and Co. for protection, was lately seen in the streets of New-York, sawing wood for a miserable subsistence; that servile employ, or inflicting into the ministerial army, being his only alternative to prevent starving.

The American Revenue privateer, of New-England, has taken and sent into North-Carolina, a vessel bound from London to New-York, valued at 30,000l. sterling.

NEW-HAVEN, April 23.

We have advices from Martinico, (to the 22d ult.) that there were then in that island about 4000 troops, and two battalions more daily expected from France; that provisions were plenty, and trade brisk; that there were at St. Pieres, a number of Englishmen, three of whom were supposed to be officers from New-York, which they left in January, and were to return in a man of war that was refitting at Antigua; that about the middle of January, there was great rejoicing in many of the English islands, on account of gen. Howe's success against the rebels, especially on his taking Philadelphia, as was reported among them, but they soon had that good news contradicted, and a well authenticated account of gen. Washington's successes at Brandywine and Princeton; that a great difference had subsisted between the inhabitants of Antigua, and admiral Young, on his refusing to commission a number of arm'd vessels fitted out there.

Thursday evening last, a little after sun-set, about thirty Tories, assaulted and dispersed five or six continental soldiers, who were passing through New-Town; but a number of friends to their country assembling, soon dispersed the insurgents, five or six of them were taken, among whom is the leader, who has been taken, and from the enemy, several times the winter past. The rest of the gang are not yet apprehended.

Last week, several disaffected persons were taken up and brought to town, being charged with treasonable practices against the United States; two of them, the most culpable, have been committed to gaol, the others were admitted to bail.

FISH-KILL, May 1.

Last Friday afternoon, upwards of 20 sail of men of war and transports appeared coming up the Sound, from New-York, and soon after came to anchor near Fairfield, in Connecticut, and in the evening about 3000 of the enemy landed at a place called Compo, about six miles west of Fairfield, and early next morning marched to Danbury, which place they set on fire, the greatest part of which is entirely consumed. They likewise took possession of the continental stores at that place, which were very considerable, and which they destroyed.

The enemy used some of the inhabitants with great barbarity. They were attacked in their retreat by a party of militia. They lost about 200 killed and taken prisoners. Gen. Wooster, we are told, is badly wounded; gen. Arnold had his horse shot under his;