

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, M A Y 21, 1779.

L O N D O N.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, February 17.

IR William Howe rose, and in a short speech descanted on the injustice which had been done him, both in that house and without doors...

That a humble address be presented to his majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to give directions that there be laid before the house copies or extracts of all letters of correspondence that have been received by the secretary of state for the American department...

Lord Howe rose to second his brother, and spoke for a short time in a similar manner. His lordship concluded with saying, that it was his determination to retire from the service, and to have no connection whatever with any public person...

The governor said further, that the loss of America, and the various ill successes of the American war, highly demanded an enquiry; that every member of the British parliament, who had a grain of spirit...

ments upon an object of the first importance, with the freedom that should ever characterize the members of that house.

Lord Howe, after complimenting the governor on what he had said respecting the general and himself, declared that he had understood that he had designed to have moved an enquiry, and as he probably would take the lead on the present occasion...

Governor Johnstone replied, and declared that he never intended to have stirred the question, if the honourable gentleman, or some other person, had not moved it.

General Burgoyne rose, and expressed a wish that the enquiry might be general, and might take in the whole of the American war, including his expedition and the surrender of his army at Saratoga.

The question being read was agreed to unanimously. Extracts from lord North's speech on opening the budget, Monday, March 1.

Lord North rose, and addressing himself to the committee for raising the sum of seven millions for the service of the current year, on terms which had been reported to the house and accepted; it therefore, he said, was now his duty to lay before the committee propositions for raising the annuity to be paid to the lenders for the loan of the said seven millions.

But after having proved them to be deficient, it certainly behoved him to try some other expedient, and no better could be devised than to lay an additional duty on articles already taxed; the produce of which being ascertained for years back, accurate calculations can be made of the produce of any augmentation.

From this digression his lordship returned to the business of the day.

The sum wanting to pay the three per cent. annuity, and the additional terminable annuity for twenty-nine years, is 472,500 l. In order to raise this, his first proposition was an additional five per cent. on the produce of all customs and excises.

His lordship shewed on what articles it would fall heaviest, viz. on wines, on sugars, on British made low-viell, viz. on wines, on beer, soap, candles, and hides for wines and spirits, on beer, soap, candles, and hides for shoes; but as any further excises on the common drink of the labouring people, or on soap, candles and hides, would alarm the common people and the manufacturers...

His lordship then gave a detail of the produce of the customs and excises separately for three years back, and stated the average produce of each. The customs at 2,500,000 l. or thereabouts; the excises at 5,500,000 l. or thereabouts, annually. And he made the net produce of his new tax of five per cent. to produce 315,000 l.

allowing the beer, candles, soap and leather, to be taxed; but if these were to be excepted, it would make a deficiency of 32,000 l.

His second proposition was 9 d. on every horse for every stage to all persons travelling post in post-chaises, to be paid by the traveller; and a halfpenny per mile on all diligences in, and a halfpenny out, that is to say for their journey and return, to be paid by the owners.

The above tax he said being a new one, he would not pretend to warrant its produce, but from the best information he could obtain of the number of chaises and horses let out for hire, exclusive of London and Middlesex, he had reason to conclude that it would produce 164,000 l. which added to the 314,000 l. the amount of the five per cent. would make the sum total 478,000 l.

These are the outlines of the remainder of the budget. What his lordship said further, by way of explanation, we shall give in concise terms:—

No one he believed would think an addition of forty shillings on a ton of Oporto wine any hardship, after the vintners had so far imposed on the public as to raise a bottle from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. because government had laid one penny per bottle, by their tax last year.

As to the tax on travelling post, it would affect only those who could well afford that conveniency, which was greater in England than elsewhere; it was the luxury of travelling. His lordship computed, that there are 4200 post-chaises kept for hire on the roads, exclusive of London and Middlesex, and 16,000 horses, who perform two stages a day one day with another.

Mr. Pulteney spoke very long, not in direct reply nor opposition, but to make propositions of his own, asserting, it would be better for every man to make a declaration of his property upon oath, and to pay 15 s. for every 100 l. than to adopt the ruinous method of loans, and such taxes to pay the interest.

Mr. Burke could not by any means allow of Mr. Pulteney's reasoning. He made no material objections to the taxes; but thought travellers should pay so much per mile. Upon this hint, lord North made an alteration in his motion respecting this tax. It now stands at one penny per mile for every pair of horses travelling post in a chaise; and all inn-keepers and others to have licences for letting horses, and to pay five shillings a year for such licences.

Further particulars from lord North's speech.

He said, that though the war should be continued, we should still have the means of carrying it on with vigour, and be enabled to procure as much as we might want. If the terms of the loan were hard, our credit was good, and in high reputation; and though it might not be thought necessary or proper in the future prosecution of it to continue borrowing and funding, means might be devised for raising the necessary supplies within the year.

He said that he knew further, that Mr. Neckar did not approve of the present war because the real state of the finances, and the credit being high in other countries, they could not procure a loan in Holland on the terms proposed by them, but were obliged to go without it.