

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, SEPTEMBER 10, 1779.

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Copy of a letter from the King, to Monsieur, the Admiral.

MY COUSIN,
 I AM informed that doubts have arisen respecting the precise time when hostilities in the present war commenced, and that from this uncertainty disputes may arise prejudicial to commerce; to prevent which, I have thought proper more particularly to explain what I signified to you in my letter of the 10th of July. I therefore command you to notify to all under your orders, that the insult offered to my flag by the English Squadron, in seizing the 7th of June, 1778; my frigates the Licorne and Palas, laid me under the necessity of making reprisals. And according y, that very day, the 17th of June, 1778, is to be considered as the commencement of hostilities committed upon my subjects by those of the Kingdom of England. Having nothing further to deliver to you, I pray God, my cousin, to take you into his boy protection.

DON E. at Versailles, on the 31st day of the month of April, 1779.
 (Signed) LOUIS.
 (And below) DE-BAUTINE.

L O N D O N.

The parliamentary country gentlemen are seriously called upon to do themselves and country justice in the public enquiries that are likely to come before them this session. Even in proportion as they wish the subjugation of America, they should be ardent in the punishment of those who have protracted the war, either by their want of spirit or delay.

Machiavel observes, that the secret way to destroy the liberties of any country, is to sap them by degrees. Our Tory ministry are practising this with a modern refinement, by encouraging pleasure, idleness, and profligacy, as aids to their purpose; by the assistance of which never failing engines, the people will not be aware of their danger, till the fabric of the constitution tumbles about their ears.

As an additional proof of the economy of government, Colonel Barre informed the house on Thursday last, that general Haidimand, lately sent out as governor of Quebec, though employed on no particular service, was allowed ten pounds a day for that appointment only, besides his pay as general, &c.

Jemmy Twitche is again got at his prophecies and calculations; not abashed at making a little mistake about our superiority at sea over the house of Bourbon last session, he now has the modesty to assert; we shall by the latter end of next year, have a fleet equal to that which we had in the year 1759. But Jemmy should recollect two things before he asserts; the first is, that his credit for assertions is very low; and the second, that the hearts of oak in this country are much rottener than they were in the year 1759.

Lord Shelburne's speech in the house of lords of Thursday last, has been much admired for its spirit and information; and a proof, amongst many other instances, whi. his lordship has given, in his public character, how much a nobleman distinguishes himself, who, instead of running into the follies and irivolities of the times, dedicates his leisure to the company of ingenious men, as their friend and patron. This is living like a nobleman, and partakes of that generosity and true distinction, which in better days marked the character of English nobility.

The Bishop of Peterborough concluded his admirable speech with these words:—"My lords, one word more, and I have done; I see in the moyle or the expence for our savage allies; an article for crucifixes for tomahawks, and scalping knives. Jult heaven! What an abomination, what an union. Better that they had been suffered to remain in ignorance, than that such Christianity should be preached to them; their ignorance perhaps might then be some extenuation of their cruelty, and they might have pleaded before the throne of grace, and before the awful tribunal of offended mercy, that they had never heard of the name of Christ."

All the wars that have been undertaken by Great Britain, have been either carried on for the purpose of supporting the faith of treaties, or the defence of national honour. The present war with America leaves an exception in the annals of this country; it may be now truly called a malicious one, where our highest point of success will be our lowest point of disgrace, and where all our monstrous expences can never be repaid us but in the bitterness of repentance.

It must be a melancholy reflection, even to those who are sanguine in the cause of the American war, to think that all the supplies which have been granted for the service of the last year, were scandalously spent in producing no effect. All the summer was spent in fruitless negotiation, and in retreating; so that in fact, the people of this country have been taxed beyond what they could possibly bear, to spend the produce of those taxes in America.

Advices from Paris, of very late date, positively assert, that the Chevalier de St. George, with his consort the Princess of Stolberg, (whom he married in the year 1775) their two children, a son and a daughter, had lately removed from Brussels (where they had resided mostly since their marriage) to Cambrai, and were expected to spend in that capital, as is supposed, on a political visit.

House of Commons, Wednesday, June 2. After discussing some business, the house resolved itself

into a committee of supply, to take into consideration his Majesty's message.

Lord North, without any preface, moved the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this committee that a sum not exceeding one million be granted to his Majesty to defray any extraordinary expences he may find it necessary to incur for the service of the year 1779; and to enable him to take such measures as he shall think for the benefit of the State; the said sum of one million to be provided for out of the first aids the ensuing year."

Mr. Townsend making use of the privilege the members enjoy, to take a general view of the state of the nation, when they are voting money, allowed himself a large field to range in. He wished to learn what was the present object of the war with America? How it was to be carried on; where, and with what? The force now in America, he presumed, could not in reason be adequate to the conquest of that country; when a much larger had failed in the attempt. The 5000 men we had sent to the West-Indies, had greatly weakened Sir Henry Clinton, for they were the flower of his army; by their absence Sir Henry was so cramped that he could not act on the defensive, while the small reinforcement sent out with Admiral Arbuthnot would probably arrive too late to be of any effectual service this campaign. The troops under general Grant in St. Lucia, he wished to see ordered back to America, for two reasons; one that they might reinforce Sir Henry Clinton; and the other that they might quit a country where they were daily dying, without being able to do their country any further service. If his accounts were true, 300 of them had already died; and 1100 were lying sick in the hospitals. The force of France in the same quarter of the world was supposed to be near 116,000 strong, consisting of old regular regiments from Old France, so that 4000 men could not pretend to make conquests against such an army. The force of Mr. Byron was certainly superior to that of Monsieur d'Estaing; but he cannot detach a sufficient number of vessels to carry safe to New York general Grant's army, he may be said to be confined to a spot as much as d'Estaing is to Martinique.

He wished to know if any more offers were to be held out to the Americans; he admitted indeed that, strictly speaking, we are not bound by terms which when offered were rejected; but he was of opinion, that it would be prudent and politic to treat. He would be glad to know if unconditional submission was still the object of administration; said he was the more desirous to know it, as the commission under which our commissioners held out terms to the Americans, would expire in a short time.

If what was asserted by an honorable friend (Mr. Burke) on Monday last was true, viz. that the negotiation with Spain was broken off, he would not say our case was desperate, for he hoped we should act manfully, and by our spirit, repel the threatening danger; but he could not avoid thinking it to be very alarming. America and France already at open war with us; Spain arming, and a cloud hanging over Ireland, afforded us rather a gloomy prospect.

The reports from Ireland were really alarming, and he could not but attribute in a great measure to administration the consequences that might ensue. They had put off to another session the consideration of Irish affairs; and had sown the seeds of discontent in the north of Ireland, by rejecting the clause, in favour of the dissenters, that was tacked to a bill in favour of the roman catholics. The latter he deemed very proper objects of toleration; and he had done himself the honour to be one of the first who ventured to recommend that body of people to their own parliament; but he could not but contend that it was rather improper to exclude the dissenters from a share in an indulgence offered to roman catholics.

Lord North said, that unconditional submission had never been his object, nor, he believed, of any one member of administration. He never had intended to enslave America, and had never been weak enough to imagine, that he could have supported slavery in it, even if he could have once introduced it. The question now in dispute was; whether we should renounce all connections with America, or whether we should endeavour to preserve her to Great Britain; and he was convinced, that after ages, would certainly applaud us for every effort we had made, and should hereafter make, to keep them. He never had, in either respect, to obtain this end, once thought of over-deavouring to obtain this end, his sole view was to assert the just and natural rights of that country.

With respect to the goods in the West-Indies, he had learned from their generals, that the sickness was no longer mortal, and that the sick were recovering very fast. It was to be sure a disagreeable necessity to be obliged to send brave and gallant troops to an unwholesome climate; but when the French pointed their force to the West-Indies, which are of the utmost consequence to us, administration ought not to be blamed for exposing the bravest men, to prove invaluable possessions.

The mediation of Spain certainly was at an end; the same friendly disposition towards us, however, apparently existed at the court of Madrid; the same pacific professions were still made; no intimation had taken place between France and Spain, but the same armaments to which the king had alluded at the opening of the session, existed still likewise, and consequently it would be proper to look to them with a jealous eye.

The reports from Ireland were certainly greatly exaggerated; applications had indeed taken place, and non-impetunat resolutions had been agreed to, but

he had heard of nothing more. As to the complaint relative to the clause intayd of the dissenters, he did not think it as well founded as gentlemen might imagine; it was tacked to the bill in favour of the roman catholics, with a view to destroy it, and when it arrived in England, it was a moot point, whether the bill was more likely to pass or be rejected by the lords and commons of Ireland, with the clause or without it; and he was really of opinion that if the bill had returned with the clause, it would have been rejected, as the clause tended to repeal the sacramental test, which was greatly liked in Ireland. Besides, the bill and clause were upon very different principles; the former was built upon the rational ground of toleration, the latter was granting a participation in the government; the one was just and proper, the other perhaps imprudent and impolitic.

Mr. Dempster rose just to ask if all idea of negotiation with America was over?

Mr. Fox rose to the same point. When the minister (said he) brought his conciliatory bills into parliament fourteen months ago, it was reasonable to infer, that he had done so because the king had not sufficient powers to treat without them. The parliament was now going to rise; the commission for treating with America would expire in a month, and then, though America should be inclined to treat, it will not be in the power of the minister, according to his own doctrine, to treat.

Lord George Gordon and Mr. Burke entered into a long digression on the religious affairs of Scotland. The house at last got back to the motion on the table, which, after some further debate, was carried without a division.

P H I L A D E L P H I A August 26.

Extract of a letter to the president of congress, dated West Point, August 26, 1779.

"I intended in my last, for the satisfaction of congress, to have transmitted to your excellency the enclosed copies of a letter from captain Hopkins of Moylan's dragoons, of the 50th ult. and from major-general Howe, of the 6th inst. but was prevented through hurry.

I have the honour to be,
 With the greatest respect,
 Your excellency's most obedient servant,
 G. WASHINGTON."

S I R.

Camp, July 30, 1779.

YESTERDAY being joined by 22 men from our regiment, and hearing Baromore was out; I resolved to wait for him a little above the plains. This morning at light, I discovered the enemy advancing; the report was that it was Baromore. I made a disposition to charge him. In the charge we discovered them to be Colonel Emmerick's corps. It was conducted by such vigour, that we had in a little time near half his corps prisoners, when we discovered a large body of infantry, which issued on us from behind a stone wall. Upon this we were obliged to retreat; in which, being pushed by the regiment of yagers, we were under the necessity to leave all of the prisoners but 3 men and 4 horses. I left 1 man and 1 horse, and 1 in the woods, his horse giving out. The enemy were about 500 strong. It was their intention to cut off my retreat. However they got nothing by it. We left 6 dead on the field, and a great number wounded. I had only 2 wounded. I am, with great respect,
 Your's, &c.
 D. HOPKINS, capt. L.D.

To major CARWRIGHT, aid de camp to major-general HEATH.

Camp at Keiler's Hill, Lower-Salem, Aug. 6 79.

Dear Sir,
 INTELLIGENCE making it probable that a party of the enemy might be surprised within their lines, 35 of Moylan's and 10 of Sheldon's light dragoons, with 40 infantry and about 36 militia horse were appointed for this command, with orders to carry the enterprise into execution, if, on approaching the enemy, it was found practicable. Lieutenant Colonel White, of Moylan's, conducted this affair with a conduct and spirit much to his honour. He got within the enemy's lines by midnight, and proceeded near two miles beyond Delancy's bridge without discovery; and though he did not meet with the party he was sent to surprise, he brought off 16 prisoners, 2 or 3 negroes, upwards of 30 horses, a few arms, some accoutrements, and many other things of value. He had got on this side of New Rochelle on his return, when about day break he was charged with spirit by a strong body of horse, who fell on our rear; they were received and opposed with a resolution truly commendable; but inferior numbers made it necessary for our cavalry to retire a little, that the fire of the infantry might operate. The sudden attack of the enemy, and the nature of the ground, gave this corps no time to take a situation very favourable; but they sustained the attack with firmness, and by a well directed fire checked the enemy until the cavalry was again got in order. The engagement then recommenced between the horse, while the infantry took a more defensible position. Though our cavalry exerted themselves as much as possible, they were again obliged to retire, when the infantry gave the enemy another severe check. But their numbers every moment increasing, it was thought proper to order the infantry to retire to a wood, where they could defend themselves with effect; and their retreat or made our horse retired by the road which led to Hort's. The enemy hung for some time upon the infantry, and smart encounters between small parties were opened, in which we constantly had the upper hand. The enemy gave over the pursuit about