

same nation, to prevent any succours going in, and the British are to engaged on all sides that they cannot attempt it.

"The emperor of Morocco, has absolutely refused the permission required by England to extract cattle and wheat from his dominions, and on the contrary our fleet and army at Gibraltar, are daily supplied from them with cattle and bread in the greatest abundance."

ANNAPOLIS, December 24.

The honourable George Huger, James Forbes, Thomas Johnson, John Hall, Edward Lloyd, and John Hanon, jun. Esquires, are chosen delegates to represent this state in Congress for the year ensuing.

Cambridge, November 29, 1779.

SIR,

WE, the subscribers, justices and other gentlemen, inhabitants of Dorchester county, fully impressed with a sense of your merit, and conscious that, from the commencement of the present war to this time, you have shown yourself a real friend to your country; that you have sacrificed your private interest to the public good; that you have, in the time of danger, with equal fortitude and zeal given up the satisfaction arising from the sweet converse of a wife and family, think that gratitude demands from every freeman in this state, that approbation which your conduct has deserved.

Friends to the cause of America, the cause of liberty, we wish to let you know our sentiments, show ourselves grateful, and return you thanks.

When we see men of rank and fortune, either through indolence, or fear of danger, averse to render their country that service, which might have been expected from their abilities, we cannot but the more admire and esteem you.

We are sorry and provoked to hear, that you was called to account by an individual for what was done in your executive capacity: confident that in that instance your line of conduct was agreeable to law, we are pleased to hear you treated the matter with contempt and disdain.

Happy under your administration, we sincerely wish that the same motives which have heretofore actuated you, may still prevail and induce you to accept of such trusts as may enable you to render your country real service.

We are,

Sir, with respect,

Your most obedient humble servants.

THOMAS JOHNSON, Esq;
late governor of Maryland.

From the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.
NUMBER XIV.

THE independence of America was an object desirable with France and with others of the powers of Europe. It was desirable because it was lessening the power of Britain, which had become formidable, and because it was opening the channel of a new commerce to their own cities and their own shores.

This commerce had been well explained by our commissioners at Paris who, in their memorials, translate into several of the languages of Europe, had pointed out the advantages of a double market in America, both to receive and to supply commodities. But this commerce in possession of the power of Britain, like a fierce dragon, was guarded as the golden apples in the garden of the Hesperides. It was defended as the fleece of Colchus, by a fire-vomiting bull. It was secure as the fields and the flocks of Sicily, in possession of a mighty giant wading far into the waters, and drinking blood instead of wine. What bold Alcides was there to be found who would slay this dragon, and lay open this garden, that the apples might be plucked by all? What adventurous Jason who would sail the rough sea, and slay these bulls, and bring away this fleece? What wife Ulysses, who by stratagem would deprive this giant of his strength, and set at liberty these flocks and these flocks. What power of Europe would boldly set the king of Britain at defiance, and would grapple with him.

The states of America had set him at defiance and had grappled with him; but, secure in the possession of their mountains, they could be late at least in a defensive war. But that power of Europe who would undertake to brave his anger, must meet him on the ocean; which is his own element, and where his great strength lies. What power of Europe was equal to the undertaking? It was desirable to all, but all had not the resolution to attempt it.

The king of Prussia was one of those powers to whom it was desirable. For, as he had, for a long time, in vain demanded of the king of England the remaining subsidy of a former war, he could demand it more freely in consequence of the reduction of the power of Britain; and if it was refused, he could seize Hanover, and add it

to his own dominions. It was desirable moreover, in as much as the strength of his kingdom being greatly artificial, and consisting more in the resources of insurrection, bravery, and great experience in the prince, than in the extent, population and wealth of his territory, he has had it through his whole reign in view to acquire a real strength, by the encouragement of commerce to his trading towns, and particularly to Embden and Frankfort on the Oder, and to the towns of Silesia. Though willing to extend his commerce, he has not had it in his power until this moment to extend it. Britain had established herself in different ports and other powers were to far before in establishments of commerce, that it was difficult, or rather impossible, for a young power to obtain any share. The trading company of Embden has laboured under every disadvantage, of the prior occupancy of commerce by the neighbouring powers, and therefore must rejoice in the opening of a new trade, where they may establish houses, and allure commerce, before she is engrossed by more potent neighbours. There is for these reasons, no doubt but Prussia is greatly interested in the present revolution, and will be disposed anxiously to wish it success.

His prince of whom we speak is his admiration of his age, and has accomplished greater things than Alexander or Cæsar. It is not in my power to form his panegyric; yet, as I believe him to be favouring to our cause, I would willingly place him in the most respectable light to America. He has not had it in his power to give immediate and direct assistance to the ocean, for his naval strength is yet small; but he has had considerable influence in preventing several of the German powers, and particularly the duke of Wintenberg, from sending out mercenaries to be sent over to America. He has also given the tone to a liberal way of thinking in all the German states relative to America. He is inclined, both by his affection for our ally, by his opinion of the justice of our cause, and at the same time, by his own interest.

It was laughable enough, at the commencement of the present war, to hear the courtiers of Britain adopt a language similar to that of the Cavaliers under Charles II. That, to wit, that their cause was the cause of royalty, and it became every prince and potentate throughout the world to unite in suppressing this revolution. A language of this nature might have had weight in a barbarous age, when names were understood and not things; but in the present clear and enlightened era of the world, when names are understood, and when things are seen in their true light, it becomes ridiculous to prefer this claim; and every sovereign and potentate of Europe, instructed in the writings of the republics of old times, knows well, that where some equality of property amongst a people, and where simplicity of manners will admit a republic, the human species cannot be more happy than under this government. The king of Prussia, I will venture to affirm, has no prejudice against America because she was about to institute a confederate republic; nay, from the philosophy and greatness of his mind, rather has admired our exertions and applauded our designs. If any thing on earth could give him perfect pleasure, it would be to embrace the prison or our brave general, whose fame still following rife, and, compounded with that of this prince, is like the shepherd's fire on the eastern hills, when the broad light that has adorned the west has wrapt itself in the quiet shades of eve.

The states of Holland were another of the powers to whom it was desirable to reduce the power of Britain, and to share our commerce. The province of Holland, and the city of Amsterdam in particular, have been favouring to our cause. Though some individuals, having money in the funds of England, might have been averse from the revolution, because in that case Britain might become bankrupt, and not be able to discharge her debts, yet the greater part have wished well to our attempt. Nevertheless, the states of Holland have not had it in their power to give countenance to America. For though individuals of St. Eustatia and of other places have furnished supplies of arms and ammunition to our trading vessels, yet the nation has thought it prudent to discontinue every thing of this kind; and very early in the contest the governor of St. Eustatia was recalled, agreeable to the demand of the court of Britain, in their remonstrance against the respect which had been paid, under the eye of this governor, to the flag of America, in one of the harbours of this island. The states of Holland have extensive settlements on the coast of Africa and in the East-Indies, and from the numbers of her merchantmen which cover every sea, she is greatly in the power of the naval force of Britain. She has more to lose than she had in the days of De Ruyter and Van Trump, and it is not to immediately

necessary for her now to risk every thing, and cut her way thro' every opposition, as it then was.

We see then that France was the only power from whom our political salvation could proceed. She has interposed, and "invited" powers who have received injuries from Britain to make common cause with her," and to take pole for our deliverance. Spain, bound by the ties of contiguity, by the faith of the former compact, and by the sympathy of a kind affection, has made "common cause" with France. Wounded by the injuries of Britain, it had become necessary to "make common cause" with France; for in co-operation with the latter court she could alone hope to receive a reparation of her damages. So that, on the one side drawn by love, and on the other side impelled by injury, she has judged wisely, and obeyed the dictates of a sound mind in her present conduct. Indeed, from the beginning, we were well persuaded that the sentiments of Spain were with France in her undertaking. For her king and grandees were not ignorant, that our independence would be the extension of their commerce and their great happiness; and moreover, the establishment of these states would be the diminution of the over-grown power of Britain, which otherwise, in a short time, might have been wielded by the ambitious spirit of the nation against their islands, and their colonies of South America, to the total subjugation of them.

It has been absurdly said, that Spain would be jealous of the power of these states. She had greater reason to be jealous of them in the hands of Britain. For every one must know, that republics, in their nature, are not made to extend dominion. The Roman power over-ran half the world, but not while it existed a republic. She made conquests in this state, but it was only over those powers who had before invaded her. If they had not come into Italy to disturb her, it is not probable she would ever have gone out of Italy to seek for them. Besides it may be said, that the states can be formidable to the colonies of Spain, but in their former state, in possession of the power of Britain they must have soon become formidable. It is likewise to be considered, that these states setting out in good will with the Spanish monarchy, will long retain a veneration for it. Whereas Britain, on the other hand, in whose power she should have been, was already hostile, and waited only for an opportunity to oppress France and Spain, and the whole house of Bourbon.

The sentiments of Spain were early favouring to the wish of France in the establishment of these states. And this was evident from the disposition of her people, in their kind treatment of all persons from this country, who happened to be in the harbour of the Havana, or in any other harbour of her islands. But it did not consist with the strict honour of the nation, for which she has been proverbial in every age, to break with Britain until the war against France had been determinedly waged, and there appeared no hope of the acceptance of her mediation in behalf of the latter court; until, moreover, the injuries she herself had received from Britain had added strength to the former cause, already strong enough, and made it necessary to her by every tie, human and divine, to break with her, and be decisive in her measures in co-operation with the court of France. Though she has not yet acceded to the alliance, or formally acknowledged the independence of the states, owing probably to the circumstance of no proper application on the part of these states having been yet made to her; yet, acting agreeably to the stipulations of the family compact of the house of Bourbon, she is in fact, through the instrumentality of France, engaged warmly, and labouring readily for our independence. This forms a new era in the affairs of this continent. It is glorious to behold the combined fleets of France and Spain, sail of the line, blocking up the English fleet in Torbay. It is also agreeable to see an army of 25,000 men by land laying siege to Gibraltar, and six ships of the line encircling the rock by sea; while, in the mean time, other vessels scour the Straits, or ride in triumph on the waves, where they meet the ocean, or bending up the coast oblige every merchantman or transport, or privateer that wears the British colours, or ship of war, to put into Lisbon, or to seek the ports of the British channel. These objects in the eastern prospect are agreeable, while at the same time in the western we behold a fleet of 22 line of battle ships of Spain ready to invest the fortresses of Jamaica, if Byron, with his hastily refitted fleet, should attempt to quit the lately hospitable harbours of St. Lucia, or St. Kitts, in pursuit of count de Espartero on the coast of North-America, and about to ask the enemy in these parts whether it might not be as well for them to cease hostilities, and