

MARYLAND GAZETTE

F. R I D A Y, SEPTEMBER 1, 1780.

L O N D O N, May 8.

Friday, in the lower assembly, general Conway rose, and after a long introduction, moved to bring in a bill for quieting the troubles that have for some time subsisted between Great-Britain and America, and enabling his majesty to send out commissioners with full power to treat with America for that purpose.

Having read it, the general said he was neither mad nor so obstinate as to be attached to the words of the preamble, or of the rest of the bill, or to any part of it, as to give way to better words or wiser clauses, should the house either propose the one or the other; he only begged them to receive it, to alter it, add to it, diminish it, new mould it, take the bad out of it, and keep only what was good in it.

Mr. Eden expressed his sentiments against the motion, and gave the following, among other reasons, for objecting to it. That the generous acknowledgments and affections of Great-Britain were universally known to all the world. The colonies were now in the very moment of recollection. "The balance of desperate rebellion, and returning loyalty is now, he said, equally poised; trembles on its center; at such a moment any confidence, wisdom, moderation, and the making of untoward events, might decide in our favour, but precipitation in our councils, superfluous discussions, domestic divisions, unadvised and premature overtures, might turn the beam for ever against us."

Several other gentlemen spoke to the question, and a quarter past twelve the house divided on the motion for the order of the day being put, which was carried by 123 against 81. The house adjourned at half past twelve.

May 25. Governor Pownall in the house of commons, moved for leave to bring in a bill, to enable the king to make a convention of peace, or to conclude a peace with the colonies on terms convenient and necessary, &c. He stated previously his unwillingness to offer such a motion, unless upon reading it to the house he should observe a disposition to receive and adopt it. He took notice also, of the mischief attending debates on such topics, unless they tended to something certainly useful, and therefore declined enlarging further on the subject till he should bring in the bill, &c.

He was seconded by Mr. Dempster, who, among other topics, pointed out the awkward situation of conducting to great a war, in which no person could enter the island to profess or negotiate upon terms of peace, without being liable to be seized as a criminal.

The speaker then put the question, which seemed likely to pass without any dissent, when Mr. Eden interrupted it.

Extract of a letter from Rochfort, May 16.

"Mr. Adams, who is deputed by congress to sit at any conferences that may take place for the purpose of bringing about a peace, has been some time, and has had the honour of being introduced to their majesties and the royal family."

June 3. Yesterday morning pursuant to a resolution of the protestant association, a number of persons met in St. George's fields, where Lord George Gordon joined them about eleven o'clock.

Between eleven and twelve they set out (six abreast) over London bridge, through Cornhill, and the city, to the amount of about 30,000 men, to the house of commons, with the protestant petition, against the bill passed last session in favour of the Roman catholics; which was carried on a man's head, by Lord Gordon presented it.

The number of persons who had put blue cockades in their hats, no sooner reached the avenues to the two houses of parliament than they began to exercise the most arbitrary and dictatorial power over both lords and commons. Some of the members they obliged to take oaths that they would vote for the repeal of the act passed last year, for granting liberty of conscience to the Roman catholics; and almost every one they obliged to put blue cockades in their hats, and cry out "no popery, no popery." It happened we believe rather by accident than design, that the lords spiritual and temporal received most interruption from them. They stopped the archbishop of York, and grossly insulted him. They next seized on the lord president of the council, whom they pushed about in the rudest manner, and kicked violently on the legs.

Lord Mansfield was also daringly abused and traduced to his face. They stopped lord stormont's carriage, and great numbers of them got upon the wheels, box, &c. taking the most imprudent liberties with his lordship, who was as it were in their possession for near half an hour, and would not perhaps have got so soon away, had not a gentleman jumped into his lordship's carriage, and by harranguing the mob, persuaded them to desist. The duke of Northumberland was much ill treated, and had his pocket picked of his watch. The bishop of Litchfield had his gown torn, the bishop of Lincoln's wheels of his carriage were taken off, and his lordship almost by miracle escaped any personal damage.

The earl of Hillsborough and lord Townshend came down together in the carriage of the former, who was known by the mob, and most grossly insulted. His lordship would have felt their fury more, had not lord Townshend whom some of them recollected, and professed a friendship for, been with him; as it was, they were both greatly pushed about, and sent into the house without their bags, and with their hair hanging loose on their shoulders. Lord Willoughby de Brooke, lord Boston, and lord Ashburnham, were extremely roughly handled; the two latter were in the hands of the mob, and were buffeted about, not only with an indecent and unwarrantable freedom, but with a merciless and unmanly severity for a considerable time. Lord St. John, lord Dudley, and many other lords were insulted and personally ill treated. We do not hear that any of the members of the house of commons received much insult, further than verbal abuse, excepting only Wellbore Ellis, Esq; whom the mob pursued to the Guildhall, Westminster, the windows of which building they broke all to pieces, and when they found Mr. Ellis, handled him very roughly. They broke the front glass of lord Trentham's viz-a-viz, and were extremely insulting to his lordship, whom they detained in his carriage a considerable time.

The avenues of the house of commons were so filled with them from the outer door, up to the very door of the house, (which latter they twice attempted to force open) that it was with the utmost difficulty the members got in or out of the house. They attempted, in like manner, to force their way into the house of peers; but by the good management of Sir Francis Molyneux, and the proper exertion of the door keepers, under his direction, all the passages from the street door, and round the house, were kept clear.

June 6. Yesterday the mob which take part with the protestants, continued very riotous in Rope makers alley, Moorfields; they continued to burn every thing they could find in the chapel school-house, and dwelling houses belonging to the Roman catholic people; they took every piece of wood they could find, and burned it, the roof of the buildings not escaping. They pulled down a house belonging to the Roman catholic schoolmaster, in Moorfields, in about one hour yesterday, which, when done, some thousands went to the Roman catholic school in Charles square, Hoxton, where they behaved in a very riotous manner. Guards are placed at the Sardinian and Bavarian ambassadors chapels, night and day.

Last night a large mob of riotous persons suddenly attacked the house of Sir George Saville in Leicester fields, made a forcible entry, and gutted it of best part of the furniture, which they piled up in the street, and set fire to; a party of the horse-guards being sent for, the mob dispersed, but the furniture was consumed.

The house of Mr. Rainforth, a low-clandier, in Stanhope street, Clare market, was also last night set fire to by some evil disposed persons, and was burning furiously when this paper went to press.

June 7. Yesterday about noon, a considerable body of people assembled again in St. George's fields, and from thence proceeded in a body to Palace-yard, Westminster, with cockades in their hats; colours flying, &c. About one o'clock, detachments of the horse, foot guards, and light horse, paraded the streets to preserve a passage for the members carriages to the different houses. Another detachment of foot guards took possession of Westminster-hall, the doors of which they at last closed to prevent the mob entering there; several members of both houses who walked down on foot were thus prevented from getting into the house for a considerable time, among which was Mr. Burke, who was presently surrounded by some of the most decent of the petitioners, who expostulated with him on his conduct, in abetting Sir George Saville's motion for the Roman catholic bill; Mr. Burke in his defence said he certainly seconded the motion for the bill, and thought himself justified in so doing; said he understood he was a marked man on whom the petitioners meant to wreak their vengeance; and therefore he walked out singly amongst them, conscious of having done nothing that deserved their censure in the slightest degree, having always been the advocate for the people, and meaning to continue so.

Mr. Burke at last got rid of these troublesome interrogators. The mob, some thousands of whom were armed with poleaxes, cutlasses, bludgeons, &c. now attacked several of the peers, on their way to the house, whom they roughly treated, particularly lord sandwich, whose chariot they broke, and who was obliged to return to the admiralty, having his face much cut with the broken glass.

About seven o'clock, a large party went to Newgate, and demanded the persons of the four men committed for setting fire to the Romish chapels, but they were told it was not in the power of the keeper to comply with their request: they then broke into Mr. Akerman's house, and set it on fire, which was done so effectually that in a little time the whole of that vast building was one continued flame: in the mean time they broke in and released every prisoner, among whom were several persons under sentence of death; so deliberately did the prisoners make their escape, that they took time to carry off their bedding, and such utensils as they had in prison. A man who was to have been executed to-morrow, was so affected at the unexpected change in his situation, that he fainted away whilst his friends were knocking off his irons. From hence they went to the public office in Bow street, the inside of which they presently destroyed, and burnt the contents, with the office books, &c. in the middle of the street. Their triumphs were succeeded by a general illumination, which they compelled the affrighted inhabitants to make through the cities of London and Westminster.

Lord Petre's house in Park lane was gutted last night by the mob; as was Justice Hyde's in St. Martin's lane. Mr. Cox, the brewer, in Great Queen street, Lincoln's-Inn fields, and three others in that neighbourhood. Mr. Rainford's country house at Hampstead was likewise totally destroyed.

It was reported last night that more than three thousand of the mob were gone down to lord