

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, NOVEMBER 17, 1780.

L O N D O N, 7th 1780.

HE debates in the house of commons on Wednesday last, intently turned from particular objects to the general measures that had been pursued by administration, and the most important aspect of affairs. Severe censures fell upon the ministry from several of the members of the opposition respecting Ireland, the distorted and convulsed state of the nation, and the ruin of all our distresses, the fatal plan for subverting America. This attack roused the treasury bench and their friends, and at last brought Lord North. His lordship was more warm and explicit than usual. He observed, "that the ministry had often been reproached for the unwise and unwise measures by those very men who had done all in their power to defeat those measures; and that they, whose language and conduct upon all occasions tended to weaken government, and inspire the people with the utmost contempt of it, could yet gravely complain that government was insufficient to maintain due order and regularity in the kingdom. With respect to Ireland, had ministry resolved to continue that part of the dominion under all the circumstances of which it so loudly complained, and without any timid concessions, to have drove it to extremities, would these men have acquiesced in the measure? Would they have employed their eloquence in favour of it? Loudly as they complain of the continuance of the war, would they have justified the concession of thirteen states to a nation with our ancient rival and enemy? Our affairs in America, continued his lordship, wear a brighter aspect. I would not be too sanguine, but we may be allowed to entertain agreeable hopes from the operations of our forces at the eastern quarter. There are other circumstances which increase those hopes; many in the revolted colonies, who appeared zealous to throw off their constitutional dependence on this kingdom, have since discovered themselves more attached to their rights than their independence. There are a number of individuals whom the war has greatly enriched. Many, even of these, shrink, at the bare mention of any extraordinary efforts to sustain their cause, and do not seem to lend what they have acquired, to support the paper money, which, from as it is found to be, is the only instrument by which the revolted colonies, who boasted love of liberty, are too weak to support itself against self interest. Their enthusiasm has abated; they no more regard what shall be foremost in defence of their ideas of independence. They begin to tremble, it is said, about their proposition of the aid, and each one endeavours to shift as much of the burden of this burden from his own shoulders to those of his neighbours, while their army has been un supplied. Much has been said of the union of the revolted colonies, though their confederation is not complete, and Maryland has not acceded to it. While the agents of France at Paris have given exaggerated accounts of the resources of their constituents; they have been obliged to have continued recourse to France and Spain for all kinds of supplies, for arms, ammunition and clothing. Articles so scarce must soon become disagreeable to one another. Notwithstanding all the rebuffs made to the finances of France, it is known that Louis XVI is obliged to continue all the taxes of the kingdom, which were to have ceased in 1785; and that Mr. Necker cannot support the military operations of that kingdom, but by the force of loans, which, considering the losses its commerce has sustained, cannot long continue." Upon the whole his lordship was persuaded that parliament would persevere in such measures as might establish the honour and commerce of the nation, and the safety and tranquillity of its dominions.

Mr. Burke, colonel Barre, Mr. Dunning, and Mr. Fox, with great force in reply to his lordship's speech. Mr. Fox said, "We must have heard him speak of the war with more force, or his speech on this occasion. We can only give a sketch of what was said in his speech on the ministry's conduct in the affairs of Ireland, and the interest of the nation, both which had rendered the nation contemptible in the eyes of all

Europe. He did not dispute the right of Ireland to the advantages it had lately obtained; but all the world knew, they had been gained as much against the will of the ministry, and as truly by force of arms, as the independence of America. What might have been granted as an obligation, and a bond of amity, had been evidently extorted by fear, and concealed with an air of meanness, to become a source of future contention, and perhaps rivers of blood. He remarked with great poignancy on the diametrically opposite principles upon which the same men had acted with respect to Ireland and America; "in their intimated conduct, said he, resolution and concessions, ever misplaced, have equally operated to the disgrace and ruin of the nation. The colonies may boast that their arms have at once given a free trade to Ireland, and established their own independence; and however the sage conductors of our affairs may hope at a convenient season to take back the former, they never will be able to overthrow the latter. Partial triumphs have been a curse to us; and flashes of success, like an ignis fatuus, lead us on to our ruin."

The Americans, driven to resistance by our oppressions, have surprised the world with what they have dared, and what they have achieved; the sound of applause from foreign nations, has reached them: such spirits are not easily quelled: they have endured much for independence: they have possessed it a long time; they are proud of it; by all this they are better prepared to defend it. Their armies, it is granted, have sometimes been un supplied, and tared hard; what has been the consequence? Have they mutinied? Have they disbanded? Have they gone over to the enemy? Nothing like it. Their general, like Caesar, has set the example of contentment, and his soldiers, like those of the Roman, have only demonstrated an invincible attachment to their leader and their cause.

The succours they have asked, and readily received from France show, that the cause is common to them both, and the interest mutual; and this being the case, such a kind of intercourse, instead of weakening, must every day strengthen the bands of the alliance. But France, it seems, with little or no additional expense, with all her resources, and with all the abilities of her great financier, must soon be bankrupt. Instead of expecting this, I dread, from the immense disproportion of loans at which we support the war, our own approaching destruction. At the rate we go on, France, without a single victory, must totally ruin us. But what shall we say of the wealth of Spain? All the world knows her revenues were never in better order, and in these the Americans must find a sure support. I smile to hear the noble Lord in the blue ribon talk of vanquishing them from their want of supplies. They have vast resources in themselves; their fields are covered with plenty; their pastures abound with flocks and herds; their landed interest, even during the war, increases in value every day; foreigners know all this, and will be ready to lend them. We ourselves furnish them with vast supplies: what an immense quantity of provisions and goods of all kinds have their cruisers captured from the trade and public stores of this nation? but their contentment, we are told, is not complete. It may not be formally, but it is virtually; we have felt it. And should any thing be wanting on this head, we ourselves shall cure the defect. They may differ among themselves in unessential points while they think they are safe from our power, but press them with arms and they will be perfectly united; that partial success, the expectation of which pleases so much the noble lord, will only confirm their contentment, and call forth new exertions. Their government is already established, and in itself; if not all the colonies, appears as well settled as if the revolution had taken place a hundred years ago. What masters then must it be in this nation to continue a war with such insupportable burdens, with no prospect of final success, and only to plunge ourselves into deeper destruction?"

POUGHKEEPSIE, Oct. 30.
His excellency Sir J. Van Rensselaer returned here from Tryon county.—We are informed, that

after the repulse of the enemy by the militia and levies, under brigadier-general Van Rensselaer at Fox's mills, Sir John Johnson, Brant and Butler, with the Indians, separating from the main body of the troops, fled to the woods; crossing the country to the Oneida. Our troops pursued the main body of the enemy up the Mohawk river, so closely as to prevent their committing any further devastation. At Fort Herkemer, they left the river, and struck across the country towards Oneida. The pursuit was continued by the militia and levies, headed by his excellency the governor, till within about 15 miles of that place, when their provisions being entirely exhausted, many of them having been near two days without any, and no prospect of the supplies which were to follow them, on so rapid a march, arriving in time, they were obliged to return; or in all probability, the whole party would have fallen into our hands.

The force immediately under the command of Sir John, amounted to about 750 picked men, from the 10th and 14th British regiments, Hessian Jaegers, Sir John's regiment, Butler's rangers, and Brant's corps of Indians and Tories.

The enemy had with them two brass mortars for a and 3 quarter inch shells, and one brass 3 pounder. The former they concealed on their rout, the latter, with all their ammunition, fell into our hands at the action at Fox's mills.—Nearly all the prisoners, and all the negroes, cattle, and other plunder, which they had collected, were also recovered. In the pursuit we have taken about 40 of the enemy prisoners, with Sir John's servant and baggage.—Our principal loss is colonel Brown and about 37 of his party. He was stationed at Fort Plank, and on the enemy's approach, was induced, by false intelligence of their strength and position, to attack them, and was led into the midst and received the fire of their main body, before he discovered them. The party of the enemy which appeared at Ball's town, consisted of between 150 and 200 men, led by John Munroe, Esquire.

On his excellency's return to Albany, (by virtue of the act "subjecting all persons who shall come out from the enemy, and secretly lurk in any part of this state, to trials by courts-martial, as spies,") he ordered a general court-martial for the trial of Jacob Shell, John A. Mullen and James Van Drifson, who were found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged on Friday last. The two former were executed accordingly, and the latter was respited for a few days.

These villains, it appears, had joined the enemy, were now in their service, and found lurking about the country, as is supposed for the purpose of recruiting, and obtaining intelligence for the enemy. As it is probable there may be many more of these gentry in other parts of the state, it behoves us to be very vigilant in causing them to be apprehended and brought to justice.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 7.
Friday afternoon arrived the privateer Fair American captain Decatur, from a successful cruise. On his passage up the Delaware captain Decatur took a refugee pickerooning boat from New-York, which had advanced nearly as high as New-Castle, had done much mischief to the small craft in our bay, and did not submit until fired upon by the Fair American, by which one man (prisoner on board the boat) was unfortunately killed, and two or three of the plundering crew were wounded.

The beginning of last week, during a violent gale of wind, part of the brick wall of an house in Front street above Poole's-bridge fell down. Some men employed in removing the rubbish found the body of a man most terribly crushed. It is supposed he had suffered instant death by this dreadful accident.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of character, dated at St. Eustacia, October 3.
"There is some talk of a Dutch war. Every dispatch is using in Holland for equipping their navy. They will shortly have fifty ships, including frigates, ready for sea. The Dutch man of war we have here is a 64, the admiral's name is Krull. He returns the salute to all Americans. The said continental vessels will have gun for gun. We are no more troubled

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