[XXXVIth Year.] THE [No. 1784.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1781.

LONDON, *November* 4.

THE world is greatly divided, respecting the steps to be taken with Mr. Laurens. If deliberate treason and active rebellion are crimes against the state, his conduct certainly deserves the severest reprobation; yet such is the distraction of the times, that while one party sentence him to the scaffold, the other would vote him into parliament. Not only the strength and spirit of the contending parties, but the very justice of the war in which we are engaged will be eventually decided by the fate of this captive, so that we cannot but be anxious to see whether government dare enforce the laws against the enemies of the nation, or if obstinacy of opposition is still powerful enough to avert their punishment, and raise them into popularity!

Nov. 14. General Arnold's letter to lord George Germaine, which, it is said, will find way to the public, expressly says, that congress would not be able to stand their ground half an hour, if his lordship would publicly, and under authority, declare to America the terms that would be given to all the colonies. Sir Henry Clinton advises the same thing; and it is confidently said, that a declaration will be issued accordingly.

Every week teems now with something extraordinary and unlooked for! surely the multitude of wonders will produce some event propitious to this island, ere long! in North-America, a rebel chief has revolted from his new masters, and joined the royal standard; but he has revolted alone, that is, come like a common deserter, without bringing a single sentinel with him! for his desertion we have paid dear, in the ignominious, untimely death of a brave officer of distinguished rank and merit!

Expresses were sent off on Tuesday evening to all the different sea-ports throughout the kingdom, to prevent, if possible, the embarkation of the rebel major Tyler, against whom several informations are lodged for high treason.

Commodore Leslie, our naval commander at Gibraltar, has just written home a disagreeable confirmation of the hostile disposition of the emperor of Morocco towards the British, and an avowed predilection in favour of the Spanish. The English vessels are repeatedly taken under the very guns of Tangier, in spite of every remonstrance on the part of our consul.

RICHMOND, *March* 10.

Extract of a letter from High-Rockford, dated February 29.

"On the night of the 24th col. M'Call surprised a subaltern's guard at Hart's-mill, killed 8, and wounded and took 9 prisoners. On the 25th general Pickens and lieutenant-colonel Lee, routed a body of near 300 tories on the Haw-river, who were in arms to join the British army, killed upwards of 100, and wounded most of the rest, which has had a very happy effect on the disaffected."

Another letter, dated Guilford county, March 2, mentions, that lord Cornwallis on his retreat erected the British standard at Hillsborough; that a number of disaffected under the command of a colonel Piles, were resorting to it, when they were intercepted by general Pickens and lieutenant-colonel Lee, and that their commanding officer was among the slain; that lord Cornwallis after destroying every thing he could at Hillsborough, moved down the Haw-river; that general Greene was within six miles of him, that our superiority in the goodness, though not in the number of cavalry prevented the enemy from moving with rapidity or foraging; that a large body of troops from Virginia had joined general Greene, and a great many more were on their march to join him.

In the morning of the 7th instant, a party of the British consisting of about 300 men, under the command of colonel Dundas, came over from Portsmouth to Newportnews in 13 flat bottomed boats, and then proceeded up Back-river in two divisions, with a view of getting provisions. In their rout, they came across the Liberty boat, which they boarded, and made prisoners the captain and eight hands; not being able to get her off, they destroyed all her sails, rigging, &c: About 40 militia being collected at a place called the Race-paths (about 8 miles from Hampton) fired upon them, and killed a lieutenant Salisbury of the Charon, and two others, and took five or six prisoners. Colonel Dundas had his horse shot under him. Our lois is colonel Mallory and five others killed, and one wounded. Colonel Curle, and William and Robert Armistead taken prisoners. After killing a few cattle, they returned to their shipping the next evening.

BOSTON, *February* 22.

The following paragraph is taken from the London Evening post of the 14th of November, 1780:—"The public need not be alarmed at the suspension of payment at the Bank; it has taken place but for twice twenty-four hours, and ought to be attributed to the indisposition of the two cashiers, which happened at the same moment. The Bank now continues to pay as before, and those who are under the least uneasiness, may go there and receive as large sums as they judge proper. Measures are pursuing to prevent any such accident for the time to come. The stock-jobbers have indeed availed themselves of such a circumstance to make a considerable profit from it; but it is not to be doubted stocks will rise again, as soon as it is known that payments continue to be made with the greatest regularity."

March 1. We are well informed, that a merchant of character in England has lately wrote to his correspondent in America, to get insurance of his property on this side the water, as the insurers in London had broke for a million sterling more than they are able to pay.

By authentic accounts from South-Carolina, nothing can exceed the face of misery in Charles-town and the district within 30 or 40 miles of that town, since it fell under the domination of Britain. Pretences have been found for breaking almost every article of the capitulation. An affecting proof is there seen, that no dependence is to be placed upon British promises and stipulations. Gentlemen of the first character and fortunes, in violation of the most solemn agreements, have been confined in prison ships, and sent to the garrison of Augustine. Many families, who a little while ago lived in affluence and splendor, are now reduced to beggary, and not allowed to sell the least article of their houshold furniture or other property, for their necessary subsistence. The conditions upon which the soldiers of the United States who defended that place surrendered, are totally disregarded, and those unfortunate men are now treated with the greatest inhumanity. It is even a crime in the eyes of the British government there, for a gentleman of feelings to speak to them, or afford the least alleviation to their sufferings. Whoever would see a specimen of the blessings to be expected from a surrender to the power with whom we are contending, let him go to Charles-town; there he will behold trade reduced, citizens impoverished and crouching to the soldier, property wrested from the owner, the residue precarious, and even life itself dependent on arbitrary will.

FISH-KILL, *March* 1.

Last week five of our brave whig lads, who had been down near Kingsbridge, on a scout, and brought up two prisoners, as they were on their way back, in a house near Tarry-town, were attacked by six of De Lancey's armed cow-thieves; our men had only their swords, with which they defended themselves, and obliged the ruffians to go off with precipitation; they then mounted their horses and pursued them, and though they dispersed, three of them were taken, which, with the other two, are now lodged in a secure place.

We learn that there is great confusion in New-York, and that two gentlemen had come out of the city, and cast themselves on the mercy of their country.

PHILADELPHIA, *March* 7.

In pursuance of an act of the legislature of Maryland, entitled, An act to empower the delegates of this state in congress to subscribe and ratify the articles of confederation, the delegates of the said state, on Thursday last, at twelve o'clock, signed and ratified the articles of confederation; by which act THE CONFEDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was completed, each and every of the Thirteen States, from New-Hampshire to Georgia, both included, having adopted and confirmed, and by their delegates in congress ratified the same.

This happy event was immediately announced to the public by the discharge of the artillery on land, and the cannon of the shipping in the river Delaware.

At two o'clock his Excellency the President of Congress received on this occasion the congratulations of the honourable the minister plenipotentiary of France, and of the legislative and executive bodies of this state, of the civil and military officers, sundry strangers of distinction in town, and of many of the principal inhabitants.

The evening was closed by an elegant exhibition of fire-works. The Ariel frigate, commanded by the gallant John Paul Jones, fired a feu de joye, and was beautifully decorated with a variety of streamers in the day, and ornamented with a brilliant appearance of lights in the night.

Thus will the *first of March*, 1781, be a day memorable in the annals of America, for the final ratification of the Confederation and perpetual Union of the Thirteen States of America—a union, begun by necessity, cemented by oppression and common danger, and now finally consolidated into a perpetual confederacy of these new and rising states: and thus the United States of America, having, amidst the calamities of a destructive war, established a solid foundation of greatness, are growing up into consequence among the nations, while their haughty enemy, Britain, with all her boasted wealth and grandeur, instead of bringing them to *her feet*, and reducing them to unconditional submission, finds her hopes blasted, her power crumbling to pieces, and the empire, which with over-bearing insolence and brutality she exercised on the ocean, divided among her insulted neighbours.