

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A P R I L 5, 1783.

L O N D O N.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, November 13.

MR. LORD MABON moved that he might be favoured with the attention of the House, with respect to the matter which he called upon them to turn their thoughts upon a matter of the very last importance to the state. He said he, relating to the Dutch. I was informed, and call upon ministers to whether my information is authentic, in the month of August last, six American traders, being pursued by an English ship of the line, and some frigates, fled to the Dutch island of St. Martin near St. Eustatia. The commander of the English Squadron demanded that the American ships should be given up, threatening that if they were not, he would put the whole island to fire and sword. The governor asked whether the English commander threatened the life of himself, or if he acted in that manner by orders from his court. It appeared that he acted in consequence of orders from admiral Rodney, whose conduct was deemed to be conformable to the sentiments of the British ministry.

His lordship observed upon this affair, that it was true, that it was at once impolitic, and contrary to the law of nations, at a time when so many powers were in combination against us, it was madness to provoke a friendly, at least a neutral power to become our enemy. Our behaviour to the Dutch, in the island of St. Martin, was a violation of the law of nations. For suppose, said he, that the British and Dutch were at war, and the British fleet should pursue them into the port of London, and threaten to burn the city if they were not given up, would not we have reason to complain of such conduct? and ought we not to do to others as we would be done by.

Lord George Germaine disclaimed the doctrine of the servants of the crown being obliged to answer any questions of the kind; at the same time, he would give the noble lord all the satisfaction in his power, as he was very desirous of being gentlemanly, as far as he could, with propriety. He had not received any official accounts of that matter, but he had heard, by private letters, from an inhabitant in the neighbourhood of St. Martin, that in August an English ship of the line and some frigates, had pursued some trading vessels, not knowing to what nation they belonged.

As soon as the American vessels had entered the Dutch harbour in the island of St. Martin, they hoisted American colours, and set the English at defiance. The English commander had thereupon demanded them, and a dispute ensued upon the principles of the laws of nations. The English captain remarked a difference between the case of any independent nation sending their ships into a neutral port, and rebellious subjects doing the same thing; he had used threats, and the ships had been given up. A representation of this fact had been made to the states of the United Provinces, who were about to send over a state of the matter and complaint to this court, when both parties, the Dutch of St. Martin's to the contrary, and Sir G. Rodney, would have an opportunity of being heard either in accusation or defence.

Mr. W. H. Hartley prefaced a motion which he held in his hand with several observations on the arduous and deplorable situation of public affairs. In such circumstances as the present, unanimity alone could save us. All the sons of Bri-

tain should, if possible, be united in one noble cause; that of curbing the ambition of the house of Bourbon. If some cordial and sincere offer of reconciliation and friendship were held out to America; if some basis could be established for mutual forbearance; if some mutual concessions could produce peace, the habits of ancient intercourse revived, and the prospect of future advantage, would re-unite Great-Britain with America. He proposed no specific plan for reconciliation. He only recommended the proposal of some plan or other, of such a plan as might be thought the most conducive to bring about the proposed object. He then gave notice, that on a future day, Thursday, perhaps, he would make a motion, that an humble address be presented to his majesty, a copy of which he read to the house. It was of considerable length, and contained these three things:

1. Many professions of loyalty to his majesty, and of zeal for the support of the interests of this country.
2. A representation of the difficulties Great-Britain had to encounter, and of the necessity of unanimity to such a vigorous conduct as might lead to a glorious and permanent peace.
3. For that purpose, some offer or other, dictated by sincere and cordial good will to the Americans.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24.

Extract of a letter from the president of the council of Georgia, to the delegates of that state, dated March 2, 1781, from the southern camp.

"Notwithstanding the most arduous and unceasing efforts on the part of the enemy, to suppress all opposition in our state, I have the pleasure to inform you, that, so far from having accomplished it, we are more and more convinced they never will. We have at this time three companies in the state, who bid defiance to their arts and to their arms. Captain McKoy keeps post in the great swamps below Augusta, and intercepts the Savannah trade both in the river and road, and cuts off all communication except by large parties. Captain Boyakin keeps post in the woods southward of Augusta towards Ogechee, and prevents in a great measure the intercourse between the enemy and the unfriendly Creeks; and captain Dunn patrols the country above Augusta, to cover the whigs in Wilkes from surprise, twenty of whom have been seized and confined as hostages; and they occasionally join and act together. Repeated attempts have been made to disperse these corps, without effect; and colonel Twiggs, who has been in with a flag, and who was way-laid on his return and several persons killed, has no doubt they will be able to continue in arms: for having a perfect knowledge of the country, and being entirely light, they can always avoid fighting a superior force. Besides these, there are upwards of five hundred men in arms out of the state, who have done much and essential service. This opposition, however honourable and necessary, has not been made or continued but with severe personal sufferings and great loss. Many of our brave and virtuous countrymen, both officers and men, have fallen since the surrender of Charles-town, and the families of all have experienced the greatest hardships and want. By Williamson's shameful submission we were obliged to retreat one month afterwards through the midst of the enemy, in the course of which we had several severe but successful conflicts: In November last the enemy seized our property, and drove our families out of the

country, without suffering them to bring the means of travelling or subsistence; and Mrs. Heard had to walk several days before she got to me. In addition to these things, many of the men have been wounded; and are all destitute of necessary apparel, as well as of the means of procuring it: but all are determined, in all possible events, to persevere. Should we succeed against Cornwallis, of which there are hopes, we shall push to Augusta immediately, as indeed we shall at any rate, when the French fleet goes to the southward."

March 27. Yesterday arrived at Chester the *Hermione*, a French frigate under the command of Mr. De la Touche, having been dispatched from the French Squadron on the evening of the nineteenth. By this vessel we are informed, that on the 16th there was an action between the two fleets, which was maintained for an hour and a quarter with great spirit by both parties. The enemy's line was then thrown into disorder, many of their ships having suffered much in their rigging, and one of them so considerably, that her fire entirely ceased, and she was obliged to bear away before the wind. The king's ship *le Conquerant*, which led the van of the French line, having sustained the fire of three of the enemy's ships, received so much damage, as not to be in a condition to renew the action, a circumstance which prevented the French admiral from tacking upon the enemy, and taking advantage of their disorder. We shall, in our next, give a more circumstantial account of this action, which, considering the superiority of the enemy's force, does honour to the arms of his Most Christian Majesty.

The following is a list of the respective fleets:

- French. *Conquerant*, 74 guns. *Jafon* 64. *Ardent*, 64. *Duc de Bourgogne*, 80. *Neptune*, 74. *Eville*, 64. *Provence*, 64. *Frigates*. *Komulus*, 44. *Hermione*, 32. Total 560.
- British. *Bedford*, 74 guns. *Prudent*, 64. *Europe*, 64. *Royal Oak*, 74. *London*, 98. *America*, 64. *Adamant*, 50. *Robust*, 74. *Frigates*. One of 44. One of 32. One other of 32. *The Galatea*, 28. Total 698.

Advices were yesterday received from the southward of an action being fought on the 15th instant, between general Greene and lord Cornwallis, at Guilford court-house, in North-Carolina; that general Greene retired a small distance, with intent to renew the combat next day, but the weather proving unfavourable, prevented any farther operations for that time. These are all the particulars yet come to hand, and those not authentic. We anxiously wait for accounts from authority of this event.

The *Confederacy* and *Saratoga* ships of war, have lately carried into Caps Francois a ship of 20 guns, from St. Eustatia for Jamaica, with a very valuable cargo on board, said to be part of admiral Rodney's plunder at St. Eustatia.

It is said a large embarkation has lately taken place at New-York, and that the light infantry and grenadiers, of the British army, make a considerable part of it.

ANNAPOLIS, April 5.

A correspondent has favoured us with the following:

On Saturday the 31st ult. a party of the enemy from his most gracious majesty's ships, the *Meek* and *Hope*, off this city, proceeded up West river, with an intention of destroying, with their accustomed savage cruelty, the property of Mr.

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