

[XXXVIII Year.]

THE

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1781.

UTRECHT, June 13.

THE contents of the dispatches brought by the courier from Petersburg have at last transpired, and contain in substance as follow: "The minister has laid before the empress the representations of the ambassadors of the republics it is with the greatest satisfaction that her majesty perceives the zeal with which their high mightiness accepted her mediation, which only served to encrease her concern at the difficulty thrown into the way by the court of London, by deferring the reconciliation with the republic until a general negotiation for peace should take place between all the belligerent powers, under the united mediation of her imperial majesty and the emperor of Germany. As soon as such a negotiation shall be entered upon, the empress promises the republic all possible assistance, that the republic may again become a neutral power, and possess all the rights and privileges to which the united alliance entitles them; for which purpose her majesty intends immediately concerting with the kings of Denmark and Sweden, in order jointly to make another attempt to bring the court of London to those sentiments of peace and moderation which their high mightiness have on their part shewn. The empress flatters herself that circumstances may occur which may give her an opportunity of shewing her affection and good will to their high mightiness in the strongest manner. The emperor is, we are informed, to visit the Hague, and afterwards proceed to England this spring."

LONDON.

HOUSE OF PEERS, Wednesday, July 13. This day his majesty came to the house, and being seated on the throne, the usher of the black rod was sent to the house of commons, to desire their attendance. The commons being come, the speaker took his stand at the bar, and holding in his hand the East-India company's bill, made the following speech to the king:

"SIRE, Your majesty's faithful commons have, in the course of the present session, granted every supply which your majesty has asked, in order to enable you to answer all the emergencies of the present crisis of public affairs, and to resist effectually the unprovoked confederacy which has been formed against this country; and, although in the raising of those supplies, they have done every thing in their power to render them as little burthenome to the people as possible, and have found the resources of this country equal to every demand which has been made upon it; yet, as the burthens which the necessity of the times obliged them to impose were great indeed, however cheerfully imposed, his majesty's faithful commons trust, that his majesty's humanity and wisdom will take care, that the supplies they have so liberally granted, shall be applied only to the purposes for which they have been voted."

"SIRE, I have the satisfaction to inform you, that during the present session your faithful commons have paid particular attention to the support and extension of public credit, and the improvement of the public revenues, in order to be the better prepared to strengthen your majesty's arms, and to enable them to answer the future exigencies of affairs."

"SIRE, I have in my hand the last of the bills which make up the supply of the current year. It is an act for enabling your majesty to enlarge the charter of the united company of merchants of England trading to the East-Indies, and for securing to your majesty, for public use, the four hundred and two thousand pounds; which bill I most dutifully present from your faithful commons, who humbly entreat that it may receive your majesty's royal approbation."

The royal assent was then given to the following bills, viz. To the East-India new charter, Bengal Indenture, and insolvent debtors bills; bill to amend an error in the cocoa nut act; bill to regulate the driving of cattle; that to provide places of residence for the parochial clergy; bill for erecting new buildings near the Bank; bill to prevent the stealing of iron rails, pewter, brass, solder, &c. Plymouth dock bill, and several public and private bills.

After which his majesty made the following speech to both houses:

"My lords and gentlemen, Although the business of this session has required a longer attendance than may have been

consistent with your private convenience, yet I am persuaded that you look back with satisfaction on the time you have employed in a faithful discharge of your duty to your country, in the present arduous and critical state of public affairs.

"I cannot let you depart into your respective counties, without assuring you of my entire approbation of your conduct, and of my perfect confidence in the loyalty and good affections of this parliament.

"The zeal and ardour which you have shewn for the honour of my crown, your firm and steady support of a just cause, and the great efforts you have made to enable me to surmount all the difficulties of this extensive and complicated war, must convince the world that the ancient spirit of the British is not yet abated or diminished.

"In the midst of these difficulties you have formed regulations for the better management and improvement of the revenue; you have given additional strength and stability to public credit; and your deliberations on the affairs of the East-India company have terminated in such measures as will, I trust, produce great and essential advantages to my kingdoms.

"I have observed, with much satisfaction, that during the course of that important business, your attention was not more anxiously directed to the benefits to be derived from the territorial acquisitions, than to the happiness and comfort of the inhabitants of those remote provinces.

"Whatever may remain to be done for securing those valuable possessions, and for restraining the abuses to which they are peculiarly liable, you will, I doubt not, proceed to provide for at your next meeting, with the same wisdom and temper that have governed your late proceedings and enquiries.

"Gentlemen of the house of commons, My particular thanks are due to you for the ample provision you have made for the service of the current year. I see with great pleasure that you have had it in your power to apply to large a sum to the discharge of the debt of the navy, and that the supplies which you have granted have been raised in a manner the least burthenome to the property and industry of my faithful people.

"My lords and gentlemen, While I lament the continuance of the present troubles, and the extension of this war, I have the satisfaction to reflect, that the constant aim of all my councils has been to bring back my deluded subjects in America to the happiness and liberty they formerly enjoyed, and to see the tranquillity of Europe restored.

"To defend the dominions, and to maintain the rights of this country, was, on my part, the sole cause, and the only object of the war. Peace is the earnest wish of my heart; but I have too firm a reliance on the spirit and resources of the nation, and the powerful assistance of my parliament, and the protection of a just and all-ruling providence, to accept it upon any other terms or conditions than such as may consist with the honour and dignity of my crown, and the permanent interest and security of my people."

Then the lord chancellor, by his majesty's command, said,

"My lords and gentlemen, It is his majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this parliament be prorogued to Thursday the thirteenth day of September next, to be then here holden; and this parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the thirteenth day of September next."

NEW-LONDON, September 10.

We had prepared our paper thus far for publication, when at about day break on Thursday morning last, 24 sail of the enemy's shipping appeared to the westward of this harbour, which by many were supposed to be a plundering party, after which alarm guns were immediately fired, but the discharge of cannon in the harbour has become so frequent of late, that they answered little or no purpose. The defenceless state of the fortifications and of the town are obvious to our readers; a few of the inhabitants who were equipped advanced towards the place where the enemy were thought likely to make their landing, and manœuvred on the heights adjacent, until the enemy about 9 o'clock landed in two divisions of about 800 men each, one of them at Brown's farm near the light-house, the other at Groton point; the division that landed near the light-house marched up the road, keeping out large flanking parties, who were attacked in different places on their march by the in-

habitants who had spirit and resolution to oppose their progress; the main body of the enemy proceeded to the town and set fire to the stores on the beach, and immediately after to the dwelling houses lying on the mill-cove; the scattered fire of our little parties, unsupported by our neighbours more distant, galled them so that they soon began to retire, setting fire to stores and dwelling houses promiscuously in their way; the fire from the stores communicated to the shipping that lay at the wharfs, and a number were burnt, others swung to single mast and unhurt. At 4 o'clock they began to quit the town with great precipitation, and were pursued by our brave citizens with the spirit and ardour of veterans, and drove on board their boats. Five of the enemy were killed and about 20 wounded, among the latter is a Hessian captain who is a prisoner, as are seven others. We lost four killed and ten or twelve wounded, none mortal.

The most valuable part of the town is reduced to ashes, and all the stores. Fort Trumbull, not being tenable on the land side, was evacuated as the enemy advanced, and the few men in it crossed the river to fort Griswold, on Groton hill, which was soon after invested by the division that landed at the point; the fort having in it only about 120 men, chiefly militia hastily collected, defended it with the greatest resolution and bravery, and once repulsed the enemy; but the fort being out of repair could not be defended by such a handful of men, though brave and determined, against so superior a number; they did all that men of spirit and bravery in such a situation could do; but after having a number of their party killed and wounded, they found that further resistance would be in vain, and resigned the fort; immediately on their surrender, the valiant colonel Ledyard, whose fate in a particular manner is much lamented, and 70 other officers and men, were murdered, most of whom were heads of families. The enemy lost a major Montgomery and 41 officers and men in the attack, who were found buried near the fort; their wounded were carried off. Soon after the enemy got possession of the fort, they set fire to and burnt a number of dwelling houses and stores on Groton bank, and embarked about sun set, taking with them sundry of the inhabitants of New London and Groton.

A colonel Ayres, who commanded the division at Groton, was wounded, and it is said died on board the fleet the night they embarked.

About 15 sail of vessels with effects of the inhabitants retreated up the river on the approach of the enemy and were saved, and four others remained in the harbour unhurt. The troops were commanded by that infamous traitor to his country Benedict Arnold, who headed the division which marched to this town. By this calamity it is judged that more than 100 families are deprived of their habitations and most of them of their all.

This neighbourhood feel sensibly the loss of many deserving citizens, and though dejected cannot but be highly indebted to them for their spirit and bravery in their exertions and manly opposition to the merciless enemies of our country in their last moments.

Sept. 14. The following savage action, committed by the troops who subdued fort Griswold on Groton hill, on Thursday last, ought to be recorded to their eternal infamy:

Soon after the surrender of the fort, they loaded a waggon with our wounded men, by order of their officers, and set the waggon off from the top of the hill, which is long and very steep; the waggon went a considerable distance with great force, till it was suddenly stopped by a tree; the shock was so great to those faint and bleeding men, that part of them died instantly; the officers ordered their men to fire on the waggon while it was running.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 22.

Various have been the reports circulating through this city the week past, relative to the movements of the enemy. All that can be depended on are, that a body of about 5000 men, with light artillery, waggons, &c. &c. were embarked on board about 80 transports at New-York, and were laying last Sunday in the Narrows ready for sailing, delayed as was supposed merely to know the issue of admiral Graves's attempt on the fleet of our royal ally in the Chesapeake. This was announced to them on Wednesday last, by the return of the English fleet, with the loss of the Ruby man of war, of 64 guns, and the Roebuck, of 44, taken by count de Grasse, and the Terrible, of 74 guns, which, after the engagement, sunk at sea, they being able only to save