

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1782.

L O N D O N.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, November 27.

THE crowds of people were so great and tumultuous in the lobby to-day, that the persons who commonly attend to take down the speeches of the members, from whom we usually derive our information, either could not get in, or were turned out; so that it is but from parts here and there procured, that we have it in our power to give any account of this day's very interesting debates: we however will venture to give a general idea of them.

It appears, that as soon as the speaker had finished reading the king's speech, Mr. Percival rose, to propose an address of thanks; we know that these motions are always introduced by a speech, more or less eloquent and able, according to the address and abilities of the speaker.

We may say of Mr. Percival, if the eloquence of his lips was not conspicuous, that of his eyes were; fixing them in the most pointed manner, upon the seats in which the minority sat, he lamented bitterly the industry that a certain class of citizens took to throw others into contumination and despair; reproaching a certain class in terms not very equivocal, of a design, as apparent as guilty, of encouraging the enemies of Great-Britain, by discouraging her defenders; such was his eloquence, such his address. After having thus fixed the attention of all upon the minority, to whom these very moderate reproaches were directed, "thank God," cried Mr. Percival, "I am very sure that what I have said does not concern any person who hears me." He finished by exhorting the house to unanimity.

Mr. Ord seconded the motion, and spoke also a great deal about unanimity, asserting that unanimity alone was sufficient to destroy the dangerous combinations of the enemies of Great-Britain. It is to be observed, that Messrs. Percival and Ord are new members.

Mr. Fox congratulated the minister upon the choice he had made of them, observing that nothing more was necessary to determine them to undertake such a ridiculous task than inexperience and ignorance, of both which they had given the plainest proofs. Still, had they confined themselves to the business which had been particularly recommended them, viz. the justification of the ministry, we should have said, that they did their business; they served their masters; but to forget themselves so far, as to cast offensive reflections upon that part of the members who have preferred the service of their fellow-citizens to that of the murderers of the constitution, is an arrogance that neither youth nor inexperience is able to excuse: these gentlemen affect to present the speech to us as the speech of the king: but happily for England it is not the speech of the king; it is the speech of the ministers: a king who could be really capable of making such a speech, would be a cruel monarch, whose hardened heart is insensible to his own misfortunes; no, I repeat it, this is not the speech of the king; and I am provoked, the whole house ought to be provoked at this further instance of the audacity of ministers, in putting this speech in the mouth of their sovereign; in making him say publicly to his people, that in proportion as the war in which he is engaged, is unfortunate, dishonourable, and distant from peace; he will increase the taxes till all his revenues shall be exhausted! This is not the language of a prince in whom we are fond to contemplate all the virtues which form the ornament of the throne. It is the language of traitors who have ruined us, and who have left us but the hope of seeing them one day expiate on the scaffold the enormity of their crimes. This day I hope is not distant.

A learned lord (the lord advocate of Scotland) smiled at this expression, which appeared to him a little extravagant. "I do not know," continued Mr. Fox, "if I, in the warmth of discourse, may not have exceeded propriety, but, in speaking of the scaffold, I am sure I have not. Does the noble lord think ministers have not injured their country sufficiently to require an example of the scaffold? Have they not ruined our affairs in America? Have they not rendered us ridiculous and contemptible in the eyes of the whole world? Have they not lost the West-Indies? Are they in a situation of affording the smallest succour to Gibraltar and Fort. St. Philip? Have they not annihilated our commerce? Have they not been the cause of our losing the dominion of the sea? I ask, what remains to complete our ruin, or for them to do in order to merit the scaffold? If the noble lord thinks it is not time to bring administration to the scaffold, let him tell us when it will be time, and what he imagines they can do worse than they have done to meet more completely this recompence of their fatal deeds? Our navy is too weak, says one, for to protect the operations of our army; we have not, says another, sufficient land forces to carry on an offensive war; very well! it is the very thing we, this side of the house, have been representing to them, without ceasing, for five years. They have been told it a thousand times; I myself have told them a hundred times, "you are not

in a situation to carry on this war." What have they constantly answered? that it was necessary to proceed, that is to say, to throw themselves head foremost down the precipice that we warned them of! Here is one, who, with five thousand men, undertook to run over America, from one end to the other, in triumph. Here is another who was to answer with his head for the superiority of our fleets, in declaring, emphatically, in the face of the nation, that a lord of admiralty who should neglect to keep up a navy superior to our enemies, at all times, would merit the scaffold. Is it then very extraordinary that I talk of tending, to-day, the minister to the scaffold, since I do but confirm, in the name of the people, the sentence that he himself has pronounced! Let him then, together with his colleagues, be led there; let the noble lord smile, but let the people hear me; it is the people's voice that I express here. I swear I will listen to nothing, I will relinquish nothing, I will not relax in any thing, till I have seen those who have ruined their country brought to the scaffold.

Mr. Fox finished by proposing an amendment.

B O S T O N, March 21.

Extract of a letter lately received from Connecticut.

"The merchants of New-York, and their associates in a number of these states, employ every kind of means for conveying British goods through this continent. We see by the New-York gazettes, and by divers letters from that city, that its inhabitants are enraged at the late resolves of congress for the confiscation of English merchandise: this is one proof that these resolutions have struck them in a most sensible part. In truth, if we could but agree to do what is in our power towards ruining the commerce of England, should we not cut off an arm of this tyrannical power, and have more hope of speedily reducing her to the terms which form the object of the present war. But this, plain as it is, the private interest of some of our pretended patriots will not allow them to see. Instead of assisting congress in the execution of such resolves, they assist the enemy, without reflecting, that every piece of goods they purchase of them, puts them in a condition of arming to many men against us. In the beginning of this glorious revolution, associations for non-importation were formed; the merchants, the farmers, the women combined together against the English commerce. The students of some of our colleges distinguished themselves by the most spirited resolutions. At this day, when we are at open war, associations are formed for the importation of those very merchandises which we had prohibited in a time of peace. There is not even so much mystery preserved in this case, as is commonly employed in a contraband trade. There are regular magazines established now on, or not far from, the lines; the English manufactures are sold in them openly. It is pretended that not more is sold to the same person than amounts to five pounds; as if there were not an hundred ways of eluding this ridiculous regulation; and as if a commerce which is criminal when it amounts to six pounds, must be innocent when it is only for five. We have waggons loaded with flour and other provision, which pass without disguise to New-York, and to which the enemy allow, we may well suppose, all possible facility. Thus for the profit of some avaricious individuals, we support ourselves an hostile garrison, from which we may before long expect a visit to burn our towns and massacre the defenceless inhabitants. There are stage-waggons which regularly carry purchasers to the lines of the enemy, and bring back to us their merchandise. Sometimes indeed these fraudulent dealers have modesty enough to disguise their importations; but if they perceive a danger of being discovered, they immediately go themselves to give information of the fraud, and the law adjudges to them the confiscated goods. If in any state there are persons zealous for the public good, who watch in order to inform, the smugglers, like so many harpies, unite to harass them, to injure their reputation, and by every trouble and distress in their power, discourage them from acting the part of honour and fidelity to their country. We hear of such kind of injustice to the common interest of the United States, from various quarters; of British manufactures arriving among us, not only from neutral ports, but from different parts of the enemy; of vessels going from these states and finding their way to England, and then returning to us with the goods of that country; late instances of which, at Nantucket, I have heard mentioned with particular indignation.

"There is in these things a complicated and a most atrocious injury to our bleeding country: our own honour is wounded at the same time that the strength of our enemies is increased, and their cruelty towards us encouraged. In what humiliating attitude does such a conduct place us before the whole world; to our friends and allies, and even to our enemies. Have not these states, with all their boasted character, men of sufficient wisdom or firmness to frame laws for prevention of so fatal an evil? Or are there no men to be found, of integrity and courage to execute such laws? Have we

lost a sense of injury as well as a sense of honour! And shall we go on to put weapons into the hands of an enemy whose mode of warfare speaks at once the most inhuman rage against us, and the utmost contempt of us? Excuse me that I have run to so great a length upon this subject; it indeed impresses me deeply; and if it does not also impress the minds of my fellow-citizens, and engage them to unite in carrying the honourable and manly resolutions of congress into an happy effect, I cannot forbear being anxious for the dangers to which we are exposed, as well as weeping at the loss of our virtue and reputation."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, April 6.

A very important advantage has been lately gained over our savage enemies on the frontiers of this state, by a party of the back county militia. We hope to give the particulars in our next.

For some days a report has circulated here that the island of Tortola had been wrested from the enemy by the victorious arms of our illustrious ally; but it is probable this report arose from the circumstance related in the following—

Extract of a letter from St. Thomas's, dated March 7, 1782.

"We have just heard from Tortola, and find that the alarm there proceeded from the appearance of five American ships and a brig, with intent to cut out the vessels ready for sea. They made no attempt for landing, but succeeded so far as to bring off a privateer brig belonging to New-York."

Monsieur de Meaux, an officer in the French artillery, at the time the lightning struck the house of the minister of France, was in one of the rooms on which the lightning fell the heaviest, and was mortally wounded. He was alone, seated near a window, his right arm resting on the window-cill, the electrical matter, proceeding from conductor to conductor, fell upon his shoulder, descended along his right arm on the window-cill, where it made so great an explosion, that every thing near it was broken in pieces; the arm making but a weak resistance to the explosion, was not broken or fractured, but bruised and burnt all over in a terrible manner.

All his body, and particularly his right side, from the shoulder to the end of his foot, served as a conductor for another part of the electric matter, which set fire every where as it passed.

It was not till six or eight minutes after he was struck that any body knew of his misfortune; when upon entering the room, they saw this unfortunate person surrounded with flames. When they had stripped off what little cloaths the flames had not time to burn, and had restored him to life again, he exhibited a most terrible spectacle; a living body not only singed, but scorched all over, and the miserable object making the most lamentable groans.

The parts which have been the most damaged are the left hand, which was burnt in such a manner that it must have undergone an amputation if he had lived; all the lower part of his belly, the inside of his thigh, was burnt so as to lose all feeling; the other wounds caused him to suffer incessantly for three days the most excruciating pains, when the gangrene began to appear in several places, after which his body gradually perished, and finally he died on the 3d of April at 9 o'clock in the morning; he preserved his reason, senses and presence of mind, to his last breath.

Extract of a letter from Newport, Rhode Island, dated March 26, 1782.

"The Emerald French frigate of 34 guns, arrived here this morning. She sailed 42 days ago from Brest, in company with about 150 men of war, transports, &c. bound to the West-Indies. The men of war consisted of about 12 sail of very large ships."

April 9. We are told that the above fleet were to separate off the Western Islands, and a part of it to be joined by a Dutch squadron, supposed from the East-Indies.

The articles of capitulation of Brimstone-hill, published in one of our late papers from the St. Christopher's gazette, differs from the copy of them published in Boston; in which we find the signature of the count de Grasse, which was not inserted in the St. Christopher's paper. Another article mentions, that the British troops taken at Brimstone hill should not act during the present war against France or her allies; but in the copy which we had, it was against France alone.

A N N A P O L I S, April 18.

We hear that in consequence of an advertisement from Frederick county, inserted in the Baltimore journal No. 443, petitions to the assembly are set on foot for a law to make restitution to injured orphans, widows, and creditors, for the great losses they have sustained in receiving depreciated paper money for old debts, and that they are filling very fast.

All persons sending to the post-office for letters, are requested at the same time to send the money.