

(XXXVIIIth YEAR.) THE MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1783.

LONDON, February 24. HOUSE OF COMMONS. FRIDAY, February 25.

R. secretary Townshend gave notice, that he would, on a future day, make a motion relative to the regulating the commercial intercourse between Great-Britain and North-America. Lord John Cavendish informed the house, that at first it was his intention to wait till the Dutch articles were laid before them, in order that they might judge with the greater precision concerning the peace; but when the greater part of the debate on Monday last, he was convinced that the farther consideration of these articles should immediately take place, without any intermission whatever. He did not argue in this manner from any pique or personal enmity against any man, but for the national good, which ought to be the rule of every member of that house. It had been industriously spread abroad, that the part he took in Monday's debate tended to militate against the peace, whereas he meant no such thing. His amendment is intended to delay the consideration of the terms of the treaty, till such time as parliament were fully informed of the different articles, and not to inform his majesty that they had considered and approved of the treaty, when, in fact, they knew very little about it. He did not at all mean to insinuate, that the treaty should not be looked upon as binding in every respect, and that it was ratified to all intents and purposes. He thought that the national honour and faith were pledged upon it, and he would by no means wish to have it believed without doors, that he entertained any the least idea of breaking this treaty, although some very malicious persons had industriously circulated such an opinion; but he assured the honourable house and he believed every gentleman upon the least reflection would agree with him, that the amendment of Monday last, which he had the honour to make, had quite the contrary tendency. What motives such persons could have in circulating a report which carried along with it such notorious falsity, he could not pretend to determine; but he was sorry to think it might be now fully propagated in the country, that those were his intentions. He then said, that although he thought that the national faith should be held as sacred and binding in every respect, and that the articles of pacification, which were now ratified, should be considered as finally entered into and agreed upon by the different powers, yet he begged leave to observe, that the peace was not to be honourable to this country as might have been expected. He did not think that the framers of this treaty were entitled to such high compliments, or such distinguished praise, as their dependents had imagined. We were not in such a deplorable situation as they thought proper to represent. We had been victorious in many parts of the globe, and we should not have made such shameful and extravagant concessions as we had done. We had given up great and lucrative possessions, and gained nothing in return. We had lost our national importance, and diminished our grandeur. We had tarnished our splendid victories, by yielding to our enemies such possessions as they could not with any degree of reason look for. He did not mean to censure any of the gentlemen in administration, but he thought, and he flattered himself every gentleman, who judged with candour and propriety, on a subject of so great importance, would coincide with him in opinion, by saying that there was fault some where, and ought to be enquired into. Perhaps it might appear that government were not to blame in this treaty, but it should be proved to the house. After some further argument to the same purport, he made five motions to the following effect: 1. That the house will support his majesty in the articles of peace already concluded between him and the different powers. 2. That they will assist his majesty in dispensing the blessings of peace among his subjects. 3. That his majesty, considering the circumstances of the times, acted right in granting independence to the thirteen United States of America. 4. That it is the opinion of the house, that the concessions made on the part of Great-Britain, by his majesty's ministers, were too many, and too extravagant. 5. That it be recommended to government, to provide some way or another for the loyalists, so as that they may be relieved from their present distressed situation. Mr. St. John supported the noble mover. He thought that our concessions were too many, especially when we considered the insignificance of what we had in return, and that the peace was a shameful one to Great-Britain. Mr. secretary Townshend did not attempt to defend the peace on any other than national principles. If the gentlemen were resolved to make an enquiry into the treaty, let them do it in a fair and candid manner and not be led away by party prejudices. Let them if they were not satisfied with the present administration, make a motion for the immediate removal of the present administration, if they thought they had not acted agreeably to the interests of the nation. It was not his business to lay any blame on him, he would be ready to meet him whenever he thought proper; and he was certain that his colleagues, who acted in every respect with as much rectitude and probity, would be ready at any time for such an investigation. He said

he had no objection to the first, second, and third motions, but the fourth he would oppose, as he thought it uncandid and improper; that his majesty's ministers, if they had made any concessions, had certainly some compensation in return. He likewise objected to the fifth, although he agreed that the loyalists ought to be provided for. Sir Cecil Wray declared, that he was an enemy to all parties, particularly those that were detrimental to the interests of the nation. A directory conversation then took place between lord North, Sir Richard Sutton, Sir Horace Mann, Mr. Burrell, secretary Townshend, general Conway, &c. concerning this point, whether or not the different motions should be taken into consideration in toto, or debated upon one after another, when the latter was agreed to. The first and second were then read, and passed nemine contradicente. After which the third was read, when Lord Newhaven and Sir W. Dolben wished to know what authority his majesty had for dismembering the empire? The bill that passed in parliament, granting his majesty power to make a truce or peace with America, did not grant him such authority. The framer of the bill certainly did not mean that his majesty should have full power to grant America independence. As the honourable gentleman was in the house, they would like to have his opinion upon it, and to know what his sentiments were when he brought the bill into parliament. Sir Wallace said, that when the bill was first brought into parliament, it undoubtedly bore that meaning, and that it granted his majesty full power to give the Americans independence, if that was the price of peace. A short conversation took place between the attorney general, Sir Lee, and the solicitor general, relative to his majesty's prerogative to grant independence to America, in which they differed from one another, and promised at any time to meet each other on this point of law; but they deterred entering into the grounds of it then, as it would in all probability soon come before the house. Sir Adam Ferguson doubted much whether or not this was the original intention of the bill. But allowing that it was, surely, says he, his majesty has no power to give away any principal part of Canada. The bill never went so far, and he denied the legality of such a procedure. Lord North thought that we had given up too much, and wondered that we should have made such concessions; but he would not embarrass ministry by declaiming against their conduct, as he thought it an uncandid mode of proceeding. The motion was then agreed to. The fourth was then read, when Mr. Powys, in a speech of considerable length, inveighed against those who were dissatisfied with the peace, and was surprised that the noble lord should have made such a motion. He respected him for his integrity and philanthropy, and wondered how he could be guilty of so great an impropriety. He declaimed against party prejudices, and imputed a great part of our misfortunes to the noble lord in the blue riband. Lord John Cavendish refuted the last honourable speaker in his attacks on him and his party; and added, he did not mean to im each administration, but he thought it necessary to enquire into the reasons of making such great concessions. Sir Edward Aitely deputed all parties, and thought every one should unite in the cause of the nation. He would wish to see discord banished, and all sides of the house shake hands in an amicable manner, and exert themselves in the common cause. So far was his interest from administration, that he assured the house he had not influence enough to make an officer of the customs or excise. He thought that the noble lord in the blue riband had plunged us in the ruinous and destructive war in which we had been engaged for many years. But the enormity of pensions had proceeded to such a height, that his lordship had been rewarded with one, and his secretary with another. With regard to this, his successors could not dare to blame him, as they had committed the like enormity. He was therefore amazed at the corruption of the times, and concluded with dissenting from the motion. Mr. M'Donald opposed the motion. Mr. Fox, in a long and very able speech, said, that we had made bale and mean concessions to our enemies. The condition of our country was much more respectable than had been represented. France had decreed thirteen in line of battle ships this last year, while those of Great-Britain had increased seventeen ships of the line. We had a great superiority in the West-Indies. Our fleet, he said, was put on the most respectable footing, by the great exertions of the first lord of the admiralty (lord Keppel), a man who deserved well of his country, but who had been invidiously and maliciously calumniated. We had given away inestimable possessions, and we were wifer tortoise. What we had given to France was equal to a general restitution. He said he had taken notice of the usurpation on a former day, and he averred that what we had done was as lucrative to France as a general restitution. This to him appeared prima facie; and at first blush he was convinced of our error. He lamented the untimely death of the marquis of Rockingham, and paid many compliments to his memory. He said he himself had withdrawn himself from the present administration, as soon

as he found that the gentlemen with whom he had confided in for years abandoned their principles. The present administration were formed from the ruins of the last, and he was sorry to see many gentlemen for whom he had the highest regard remain so long in administration. He blamed the earl of Sandwich, and said, that he had never a great opinion of his lordship. He was up near three hours, and entered minutely into his political principles. Mr. chancellor Pitt made a long and elegant speech, in which he gave a narrative of the condition of our navy, and compared it with that of our enemies, by which he endeavoured to show that Mr. Fox's statement was erroneous. He said, that he and his colleagues should be forced from their situation, he would not erect, like Mr. Fox, a fortress for the invitation of a phalanx, but would leave to government the management of the state, unlogged by invidious opposition. Sir Cecil Wray rose to explain. He was only the enemy of lord North's principles; but of all men in this country he would select Mr. Fox to be prime minister. Lord North made a long and most able speech, in which he confirmed what Mr. Fox had said. Their enmity had ceased with its cause. He had always found Mr. Fox a warm friend; a fair, but formidable adversary. Mr. Pitt arraigned the unnatural junction of men the most adverse in principle, and told a story of a barbarian, who meeting a friend as he was going to a feast, mangled and left him in a miserable condition; and afterwards, when he found that they had bathed and bound up his wounds, he tore off the bandages, and let them bleed afresh. This story he applied to lord North. Several other members spoke, and at length the house divided, ayes 207; noes 190. Majority against minority 17. Lord John Cavendish then withdrew his fifth proposition respecting the loyalists, and the house adjourned. MONDAY, March 3. Read a first time the bill for opening an intercourse with America. The secretary at war moved, that the house should go into a committee, and vote one year's supply for the army. He gave a particular account of the different estimates, and explained to the house the several extraordinary that had been voted during the time that he had held his office in the administration. Mr. D. Hartley, in a speech of considerable length, said, that instead of one year's supply, he thought that six or nine months supply would be sufficient to answer all the purposes requisite. He did not, he said, speak to a ministry, nor were he so to do, it would be doing nothing, as there were at present no administration in this country, therefore he hoped the house would take the matter into consideration, and insist that the troops should be immediately withdrawn from America. The speaker then put the question, when the house divided, and the numbers were, ayes 183; noes 10. Majority against Mr. Hartley, 175. Mr. David Hartley used some arguments similar to what he had already advanced, and expressed his intention of moving for an address to his majesty relative to the withdrawing the troops immediately from America. Secretary Townshend observed, that it would take a considerable time to accomplish this, as it required an immensity of tonnage to convey the troops and the equipments of war from that country; and was surprised that any gentleman could doubt the sincerity of this country to America, after what he had said. Mr. Pultney was equally astonished at the former honourable gentleman's sentiments with regard to our sincerity to America, and thought that administration should not be teased on the occasion, as he hoped that all cause of enmity between the two countries was now at an end. Mr. H. W. Hartley warmly urged the committee to take care in time, and not to vote a matter, the evil consequences of which were not felt at present, but he was persuaded would be greater than any of the ministry, or any other person could possibly have expected. Mr. Hartley talked of the supplicants that had already been embraced respecting the sincerity of this country's conciliatory disposition towards America, and said he was sorry such supplicants had really been entertained. Mr. Sheridan rose immediately after Mr. H. W. Hartley sat down, and observed, that any one man in that house holding a language similar to that the committee had just heard, and hinting even at the suspicions of the sincerity of this country, with respect to her reconciliation with America, might create very ferocious jealousies, and do much mischief. Mr. Sheridan declared, that to say this country was not sincere, in regard to the United States, gentlemen must know and feel to be an assertion very ill founded indeed. This country was, this country could not but be sincere, in what she had done, but it did not appear that it ought to follow that New York should be evacuated in any limited time. If he understood the 6th article of the provisional treaty rightly, he meant that article which stipulated that there should be no further confiscations made, and that those persons in confinement at the time of the ratification of the treaty, should be unimpe-