

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1784.

L O N D O N, June 30.

THE peasantry and other inferior descriptions of men, throughout the kingdom, are already employed in blocking up their humble windows, finding themselves by Mr. Pitt's popular tea bills obliged to renounce the lights, or abandon their habitations!

The power of the premier is surely great beyond all compare, who says, let there be darkness—and it is dark!

July 2. Sir Edward Hughes has again wrote to the admiralty for leave to return to Europe; he has also sent to several of his private friends, desiring that a representation of his situation should be laid before the king, insisting that there never was an officer of his rank left in so disgraceful a condition, not having a ship of war able to contend with a French frigate, if the commander thought proper to attack.

July 6. When the last ship that arrived from India left Bengal, Mrs. Hastings and her family were preparing for Europe, and had taken a ship for that purpose. It is considered as a very fortunate circumstance for the captain who commands the Indiaman on board of which she returns to England. The price agreed to be given is thirteen thousand pounds, a sum not considered extraordinary, as no passengers are to be admitted but such as Mrs. Hastings thinks proper to accommodate.

How ill-natured the minister is! he taxes our windows, our candles, and our fires; so that being debarred day light, candle-light, and fire-light, the inevitable result is, that we must drink our tea in the dark!!!

A matrimonial union is on the tapis between Mr. Windham and Miss Harford, the quondam Mrs. Morris, who, with many personal accomplishments, possesses in her own right a tangible £.30,000, with a reversionary prospect of £.20,000 a year, in America, on the death of her brother.

July 8. According to letters from Stockholm, M. de Marcoff, envoy extraordinary from her imperial majesty of all the Russias, has declared in her name, that she cannot look with indifference on any attempt to disturb the peace of the North; and that if his Swedish majesty should think proper to attack the kingdom of Denmark, she will be under the necessity of assisting the said kingdom with all her forces. To which compte de Cruetz has returned an answer in writing to the following purpose: That the king of Sweden never entertained any hostile designs against Denmark, and less than ever at the present time; that his majesty would do every thing in his power to preserve good harmony between the two states, and that he was amazed such ideas could have been formed in Denmark, for which no occasion had been given by Sweden.

According to our last advices from Smyrna, the plague rages so much there, that the streets were strewed with a multitude of dead bodies, the few surviving inhabitants having left the city, in order to avoid the dreadful fate of their unfortunate countrymen.

The report which prevailed of the disgrace of the compte de Grasse is confirmed. The following letter from the minister of the marine to that admiral is handed about at Paris.

"SIR,

"The king has read the letter by which you refuse to submit to a trial by the gentlemen who compose the council of war; and insist upon being tried by his majesty in person. His majesty has not approved of this premature reclamation, which flatly contradicts the definitive sentence to be given by the council of war assembled at l'Orient. And now that the sentence is known, his majesty, after the strictest examination, by himself and others, of all the heads of accusation comprised in the several letters and memorials you have circulated through Europe, against the fleet under your command, disapproves of the said accusations; it appearing to him that all the charges of disobedience to signals, and abandoning the admiral's flag on the 13th of April, have been cancelled by the sentence of the council of war, and that the loss of the battle cannot be ascribed to the faults of particular persons.

"The result of this judgment is, that you have allowed yourself, by ill founded charges, to bring in question the reputation of a number of officers to justify yourself for an event, which perhaps you might have excused, by pleading the inferiority of your force, the fortune of war, or untoward circumstances which you could not remedy. His majesty is willing to suppose, that you did every thing in your power to prevent the misfortunes of the day; but he cannot have the same indulgence for the misconduct you have unjustly imputed to those sea officers who are acquitted. His majesty, displeas'd with your conduct in this respect, forbids you his presence. It is with pain, Sir, that I transmit to you his intentions, and advise you, considering your present situation, to retire into your province. I am, &c."

The committee of privy council, that have been sitting from time to time these six months past, upon the formation of the new colony in North-America having completed their business, no longer exist as a committee. A commission for the governor, and the commercial regulations, with instructions about the granting of lands, are all preparing with the utmost dispatch. The new government lies upon the north of the bay of Fundy, and extends westward to an immense distance. The

committee recommended, that the island of St. John's should be added to the new colony, as a saving to government would accrue from a reduction of its present establishment; it was also recommended, that the office of governor of St. John's should be abolished, and a lieutenant-governor only appointed, who should be under the control of the governor of New Brunswick, as also the establishment at Cape Breton. These regulations are all to be carried into execution. One of the articles of instruction to the governor does great honour to those who suggested it. The lands that are not yet under grant are to be surveyed, and marked in portions from 100 to 500 acres, the largest quantity that is to be given to any one man. Such of the loyalists as apply for lands, are to make proof of the property they possessed before the troubles in America commenced. This is done to ascertain the degree of recompence they have a right to claim, allowing for such as have large families to provide for. Most of the other regulations are equally just, and tend as much as possible to prevent improper partiality in the distribution of the land. We are at a loss to account for the motives that induced several gentlemen to refuse the government of this new colony; but the fact is so, and it is but within these few days that it has been finally disposed of to colonel Carleton, of the 29th regiment of foot, brother to Sir Guy Carleton. A lieutenant governor has not been as yet appointed; it is said the minister means to offer it to Walter Ratterton, Esq; the present governor of the island of St. John's; should this gentleman decline, a Mr. Dunbar is the person talked of for the appointment. The law department is to be filled by those gentlemen, who held situations in the profession, of our late colonies. The chief justiceship is to be given to Mr. Ludlow, who was one of the judges in the province of New York. Who are appointed to the other law offices we have not as yet learned.

By a late calculation made at Petersburg by command of the empress, the inhabitants of the Russias are ascertained to amount to 26,000,000, not including the Finlanders, Livonians, Tartars, or Lalanders; a population which bears no comparison with France or Germany, considering the Russian empire is more than thirty times as large as either of those countries.

July 10. A number of experiments, have been made in the course of these few months by order of the French government, in count Buffon's iron forges, and also at the royal manufactory at Nevers, in order to ascertain whether French and English iron is convertible into steel by the process of cementation. These experiments have succeeded beyond expectation; and have received the approbation of the royal academy of sciences. The object of them is very important to us as well as to the French, as at present the best iron for the purpose of making steel comes from Sweden.

July 12. By a late calculation made at Paris by order of the king, it appears there are now in France upwards of a million and a half of protestant subjects.

To the honourable the commons of Great-Britain in parliament assembled.

The PETITION of the proprietors of landed estates in his majesty's sugar colonies, and of the merchants of London trading thereto, and other persons interested therein, whose names are hereunto subscribed, on behalf of themselves and others,

Humbly sheweth:

THAT your petitioners, or their ancestors, have invested their fortunes in the settlement, cultivation, and commerce, of the said colonies, to the extent, upon the most moderate computation, of more than fifty millions of pounds sterling, whereby the said colonies, and the commerce thereon dependent, have become the most considerable source of navigation and national wealth which Great Britain possesses out of the limits of the mother country; and that, whilst the said colonies, as well directly, as through the medium of other dependent branches of trade, afforded a market for British manufactures to a very great amount, and constant employment for more than 100,000 ton of shipping, in the direct intercourse between Great Britain and the said colonies; the clear income of the estates in the said colonies, after defraying the expences of those who are necessarily resident there, is almost entirely spent in the mother country; wherefore your petitioners humbly conceive, that no part of the national property can be more beneficially employed for the public than theirs, nor any interests better entitled to the protection of the legislature.

That the disasters and expences of the late war, coinciding with many natural calamities, and with the effect of the heavy increase of duties imposed upon the staple articles of their produce, have reduced your petitioners to great distress and difficulty, and endangered their ability, without relief from parliament, to carry on the cultivation of the said islands; which failing, the navigation, and all the other subordinate interests and advantages dependent on that cultivation, must fail with it.

That the said sugar colonies cannot produce any quantity of provisions, at all adequate to their wants, without misapplying thereto that culture which the public good requires to be appropriated to those articles of commerce which that climate alone produces, and that Barbados and the Leeward islands do not afford any supply of lumber whatever.

That the said sugar colonies never have been, and to the perfect conviction of your petitioners, never can

be, supplied, so as steadily to support the culture thereof, with lumber and provisions, from any other countries, but those which form the United States of America, seeing that the Gulph and river St. Laurence are frozen up half the year, and that the open half includes the hurricane months in the West Indies; and that the want of inhabitants and the rigour of the climate, as well in Nova-Scotia as in Canada, frustrate all just expectations of those colonies becoming speedily, if ever, productive, to any considerable degree, of those articles of which the West Indies stand in need.

That the said sugar colonies never have paid, and, to the perfect conviction of your petitioners, never can pay, for such lumber and provisions, but by that part of their produce, which being superfluous to Great-Britain, has never found a market therein, consisting chiefly of rum; of which the dominions, now forming the United States, used in time of peace to consume a greater quantity than Great Britain and Ireland did, even before the consumption in Great Britain was discouraged by the heavy duties imposed thereon, to the equal detriment of the revenue and the interests of your petitioners; and that this superfluous produce, if not consumed in Great Britain or the dominions of the United States, must be lost, seeing that the consumption of the additional inhabitants, which Canada and Nova-Scotia may acquire, can amount but to a mere trifle; thus the value of the supplies, which this superfluous produce ought to pay for, would become a drain of so much cash from the mother country, as must, in payment for such lumber and provisions, be drawn out of what would otherwise rest in Great-Britain of the value of the remaining produce of the sugar colonies sold there, and which would be paid, through the medium of America, to the French and other foreign sugar colonies, for supplies similar to that which we should thus in the first instance throw away.

That the intercourse, naturally arising out of these mutual wants of his majesty's sugar colonies and the dominions now forming the United States of America, was, in time of peace, chiefly carried on by American shipping, of which a large proportion consisted of sloops, schooners, and other small vessels, adapted to the cheap conveyance of bulky commodities for a short navigation, and not at all fit for, or employed in, the conveyance of sugar from the West-Indies to Europe, but which took back the returns for their own cargoes in the superfluous produce before mentioned.

That although the direct intercourse with America in American ships is, by his majesty's proclamation, freely permitted to your petitioners fellow-subjects, not only in Great-Britain but in Ireland, it is withheld from your petitioners, to whom, of all his majesty's subjects, it is the most essential, and the said intercourse stands restrained to British built ships, by which, if the trade were to be carried on, they must generally proceed from Great Britain to America in ballast, at a ruinous expence, and greatly enhance to the continuance the price of those commodities, which form the foundation of all his culture, and which your petitioners humbly submit, that every principle of commercial policy coincides in requiring to be conveyed to his hand at the cheapest rate possible.

That additional duties, upon the consumption of the said superfluous produce of his majesty's sugar colonies in the American dominions, and on British ships trading thither, have been imposed, upon the express ground of Great-Britain's prohibiting that intercourse by American vessels, which the French sugar colonies not only admit, but, with true policy, invite; whereby a preference, most dangerous to our essential interests, is given to the foreign sugar colonies in the demand for those commodities, which there is no natural obstacle to their supplying, as well as we can, although their regulations had hitherto prevented it.

That, under all these circumstances, your petitioners are impelled, by every public as well as private duty, with all humility, but in the most explicit terms, to inform this honourable house, that if, by means of this prohibition, the British sugar colonies are deprived of a market for that part of their produce which is superfluous to Great-Britain and Ireland, and loaded with the additional expence of procuring lumber and provisions as above stated, which seems the inevitable consequence of persevering therein, the cultivation of several of the said sugar colonies cannot be carried on at all, nor of any of them to advantage. For which reasons your petitioners are convinced, and humbly submit to this honourable house, that, far from being favourable to British navigation, the prohibition in question is big with destruction to one of its principal sources, and that, if it should be persisted in, his majesty's sugar colonies must, in the natural course of things sink, together with the navigation, revenue, and all the complicated public interests thereon dependent, in one common ruin with the private fortunes of your petitioners.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray, that this honourable house will take the premises into consideration, and give such relief therein as to the wisdom of this honourable house shall seem meet: And your petitioners will ever pray.

HALIFAX (Nova-Scotia), July 23.

On the 10th of June last, a schooner belonging to Liverpool in this province, was cast away at the island St. Paul's, near Cape Breton, in a gale of wind at night, the people with the utmost difficulty saved their lives, and arrived here yesterday, being six men; these

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H COWMAN

July 12, 1784.
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April 5, 1784.
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AD MAGRUDER.

Charles-Street.