

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, September 7, 1748.

His Majesty's most gracious SPEECH to both Houses of Parliament, on Friday the 13th Day of May, 1748.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT the opening of this session of Parliament, I informed you that a congress had been agreed upon by the several powers at war; and I have now the satisfaction to acquaint you, that preliminaries for restoring a general peace have been signed between my minister, and those of the most christian king and the States general of the United Provinces; the basis of which is a general restitution of conquests made during the War, on all sides.

In consequence of these preliminaries, which have been ratified by all the contracting parties, a cessation of hostilities has actually taken place in the *Low Countries*, and in the Channel; and certain periods are fixed, according to former practice, for its commencement in other parts of the world.

In this important transaction, my great views have been steadily to adhere to the true interests of *Europe*, to pursue and maintain those of my own kingdoms in particular, and to procure for my allies the best terms and conditions, that the events of a war, in some parts unsuccessful, did admit.

I HAVE, in the course of this negotiation, acted with the most unreserved confidence and communication towards my allies: And I hope, that when they shall have maturely weighed the situation of affairs, the necessity from thence arising, and the care and attention which have been shewn for their advantage and security, they will not delay to accede to these preliminary articles, but concur in effectuating the good work of peace.

THE vigorous and powerful support you have given me, during this session, towards carrying on the war, has strengthened my hands, in proceeding thus far in the measures of peace. Nobody can suggest the least failure on the part of *Great-Britain*, which, not only for the sake of its own particular interest, but of the common cause, has taken on itself a share of the burden, unexamined in former times. I hope soon to see this necessary work brought to perfection, with the concurrence of all my allies; with whom it is my firm intention to cultivate the most perfect harmony, and to cement and strengthen, if possible, the ties of our ancient Union and Friendship, in such a manner, as may render the peace secure and durable.

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. Nothing could have contributed so much to the putting an end to the calamities of war, and reducing our future expences, as these well judged supplies. The most prudent oeconomy shall be made use of in the application of them; and you may be assured, nothing will give me more real pleasure, than to take the first opportunity of lessening the present burdens of my people.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT sufficiently express my entire satisfaction in your whole conduct, during this session; and I must recommend it to you, to promote in your several countries a right sense of those measures, which have been so necessarily taken for the security and ease of my people. As it is the earnest desire of my heart, to see the crown of *Great-Britain* maintain that figure, strength, and weight, in making war and peace, which justly belong to it; it is equally so, to see my good subjects enjoy the blessings of tranquility and prosperity.

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 thirtieth Day of June next.

to be then here hold; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the thirtieth Day of June next.

HAGUE, May 28.

THE advantage which the crown of France will draw from the peace, according to what may be judged from the preliminaries, will not be near so great as the court of Versailles promised itself. A small establishment for the infant Don Philip; the restitution of Cap-Breton, or to express it better, the exchange of it for Madagascar, and in consideration of the restitution of almost all the *Low Countries*; the re-establishment of commerce by sea and land, and the honour of having vanquish'd the Allies during seven successive years. These are the glorious fruits that have been gathered from the loss of some hundred thousands of lives, and from the expence of millions without number, which the ministry of Versailles have caused his most christian majesty and his subjects to squander away, purely for the pleasure of violating the pragmatic sanction. The advantages which the crown of Great-Britain will reap from this peace does not appear to be much greater: But the States General will obtain every real advantage from the peace, whether separate or general; the restitution of all that France has taken from the republic is secured to it by preliminaries; the limits which are to serve as a barrier to the United Provinces are to be regulated; the commerce between France and the republic, it is said, is to be re-established upon a more advantageous footing, in many particulars, than it was before the breaking out of the war.

It was the intention of the French court, before signing the preliminaries, that the works of all the places that had been taken from the Dutch should be demolished; and whilst it was so, the count de St. Severin in discourse with a certain plenipotentiary, said to him, "Sir, There is no reason for any body to complain of the king's conduct; he is good, and whoever desires his friendship and confidence, and will trust their interest in his hands, will have no occasion for either forces or barrier, which would only separate them from a friend, who aims at nothing so much as their welfare and advantage, and the repose of all his neighbours."

Amsterdam, May 31. By a private letter from Maestricht we have advice, that a French general being in company with some persons of distinction in that city, where he was congratulated upon the return of a peace, which was look'd upon as firm and lasting; answered, "It may possibly last eight or ten years, because we shall require that time to put our marine upon a respectable footing: This will be easily effected by the aid of the tenth penny, which will continue to be paid; and then we hope to be a match for the English, who have exceedingly distressed us by the prizes which they have taken."

Maestricht, May 18. The French army partly decamped in divisions on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, taking the road of Mechlin, Brussels, and Louvain. Some of their heavy artillery are brought within the works, and 23 field pieces are mounted in the square. The Maese is cover'd with boats laden with provisions, and our magazines are overstocked. Our fortifications are actually repairing, and redoubts and intrenchments are making in several places, for four or five leagues round. We cannot divine the reason of this, unless our new guests are resolv'd not to leave us so soon as we expected. At present all goes well, and the civil officers have orders to exercise their functions, as under the former government. All the inhabitants are enjoined to declare, without reserve, what quantity of hay, oats, and bread-corn, they have in possession: And two of them who concealed the truth, have been fined 6000 florins each.

La-Chapelle, May 15. By the 11th article of the preliminaries lately signed here, the powers concerned engage (in the manner of the 5th article of the treaty of London, in August,