

to the terms offered by the delegates, and were sincerely determined to return to their duty, he would gladly convey the intelligence to the admiralty. He very strongly however, warned them against change of sentiment, and trifling with the government. He would be the means of communication between them and the admiralty, and if they did not mean to act like British seamen. The delegates went on board, and returned on shore about twelve at night. They then materially varied from the terms and humble language they had held in the afternoon. Mr. Stow was immediately sent off to town with intelligence of what had passed.

The propositions which the delegates offered yesterday afternoon were, the king's pardon; an advance of two months pay to the impressed men and the release of five of the delegates that are in confinement on shore.

Their fresh beef is ordered to be stopped. There are 6000 men in the garrison of Sheerness, all in excellent spirits, loyal, and ready for any service they may be ordered upon. The whole of the seamen on board the fleet do not amount to above 7000.

Yesterday two men were taken up distributing seditious hand-bills among the soldiers. The latter were so incensed, that it was with difficulty their rage could be restrained.

#### ALBANY, August 4.

We are informed, by a gentleman of this city, who left the county of Onondago on Saturday last, that on the preceding evening a gentleman arrived there from Niagara, who gave information that the British troops in that quarter, with a general muster of Indians, headed by Col. Brandt, had marched towards the Mississippi, in hopes of meeting a large force of Spaniards and French, in their progress towards Canada—and that a company of American artillery had also marched on the same route, for the purpose of protecting the neutrality of the United States.

#### NEW-YORK, August 9.

##### IMPORTANT.

A gentleman in town has received letters by one of the latest arrivals, which mention that in consequence of intelligence from Paris, great hopes are entertained that all the differences existing between the United States and France will soon be amicably adjusted, as matters were in train and considerable forwardness for effecting so desirable an event—no names were mentioned; but it was thought that a communication had been commenced between the minister of foreign relations and Gen. Pinckney.

Another letter of a date posterior to the above, mentions the same—and adds, that orders were actually given in France, to cease privateering against American vessels—that those which had already been brought in should be released—and restitution made for such as had been condemned and sold.

And another letter from Bristol by the Party, says, that reports are in circulation, and generally credited, that a speedy settlement of the differences between us and France will take place—and that within a short time, it was believed that American commerce will be freed from all interruption.

We received the following note from the publisher of the Albany Gazette:

Albany, August 5.

Last night this city experienced one of the most dreadful calamities—about 190 buildings were destroyed by fire.

#### PHILADELPHIA, August 10.

Letters from London of the 12 June inform, that the French government acceded with promptitude to the proposition on the part of the British, for opening anew the negotiation for peace. These letters also state that the mutiny at the Nord was subsiding and drawing rapidly to a close.

#### WILMINGTON, August 24.

Returns of the Election for Members of the next General Assembly of North-Carolina.

For the County of New-Hanover, John Hill, for the senate; A. D. Moore and Samuel Ashe, for the Commons.

For the town of Wilmington, William Henry Hill.

Craven. Senate—William McClure; commons, Wm. Blackledge, Henry Tillman.

Town of Newbern, Edward Graham.

#### Port of Wilmington.

##### ENTERED

Sloop Friendship, Law, Philadelphia; brig-Elfs, Van Ranseker, Grenada; sloop Sally, Ballentine; Port Plat in St. Domingo; Schooner Americana, Bell, New York; brigs Prudent, O'Neill, St. Thomas's; Dean, Chadeayne, New-York; sloop Alexander, Russell, Charleston.

##### CLEARED

NONE.

By the request of a number of subscribers, as well as to remove, if possible, the false imputation of partiality in the editor of the Wilmington Gazette, by evincing a disposition to gratify ALL PARTIES, in the management thereof, he has given the piece signed "A Citizen of North-Carolina," a place in this day's publication, notwithstanding his former rejection of it.

#### FELLOW-CITIZENS,

THE period is approaching, when by our suffrage we are to select an hundred and eighty odd of our fellow-citizens, to enact laws that may affect us in every relation of life. It is an important trust! the faithful discharge of which, at all times requires the collected wisdom and integrity of our best informed and most experienced citizens; but at this crisis, when we appear on the border of a rupture with one of the most powerful nations upon the earth; when we see our Grand Federal Council agitated, embarrassed & divided by parties; each party criminating and ascribing the actions of the other to improper influence; when little that is salutary will result, or can be expected from such divided and opposed councils: In this conjuncture of circumstances it behoves us as a deliberate people, to be prudent in the exercise of our rights as electors—I call up as our Representatives in Legislation, true Americans, only Americans in heart and principle.—Persons of known integrity and patriotism, whose interest is intimately connected with our own; and who, disdaining all foreign influence and partizanship, will unite in their councils. For this purpose, let us associate as a band of brothers: Let our voices chime in unison throughout the state; and thank Heaven, we still have it in our power to effect it—Maugre the machinations of that host of British Emigrants, Emisseries, Incendiaries, old Tories and false Friends who are dispersed over the country.

Don't mistake me fellow-citizens, and think that by the epithet "true Americans," I mean natives only; far from it: I mean and wish to comprise those of every nation, people or language; who, in the day of our distress took part with us, and fought and bled with us: These are true Americans—Americans in heart and principle; they have proven themselves firm and faithful friends; and may be confided in. We may also I believe, scrupulously admit poor Teague; who, though not then with us, has felt as well as we the rod of iron. But let us resolve and unite our efforts to exclude all those detestable characters, whose views, practices and principles are adverse to the interest of America. Providence dictates the measure and duty urges us to it: Nor can they complain of an injury, or privation of right, or privilege in this particular; for they had none. Our acts of Assembly justly bar the old Tory from the right of being elected; and the Emigrant is proscribed by his own law: For I do announce and aver, that he neither is, nor ever can be a citizen of America: because it is a maxim of the British law, that once a subject, always a subject; it admits of no expatriation.

America seceded—seized upon independence with a strong hand, and constrained Great-Britain by the treaty of 1783, (a supreme law) to accede to the secession, and to acknowledge her independence: But this dear bought right, extends only to Americans of that day, and their descendants.

Emigrants from Great-Britain, since that glorious epocha, though resident among us ever so long, are not citizens: Their government has not relinquished them; and they cannot liberate themselves—length of residence will not do it: Nay, they may be demanded of our government, and we have stipulated in certain cases for the surrender of them. The truth of this position is evinced, by their daily wresting their seamen from out of our service.

Notwithstanding these truths; Wonderful! and to our reproach to tell, we see these characters—Emigrants, Emisseries, Fugitives from justice, and needy Vagrants, with consummate impudence, twisting, wriggling and pushing themselves into office; and clambering into every department of the state.—We hear them babbling at the bars of our courts; misquoting their British code of law and practice, in contempt of our established laws and rules of practice.—We see them filling most of our lucrative offices, without ability or honesty to discharge the duties of them; and the mischief is still growing.

Let us rouse then my fellow-citizens,

from that supine disposition to which the evil is owing; and by our united efforts in the duty allotted to us, check the encroaching mischief ere it is too late. Let us determine to seclude from our Legislative Councils, as well the restless and vivacious Frenchman, (though we are under never to be forgotten obligations to his country) for he may be a partizan: as the haughty and insolent Englishman, whose friendship to America we know; whose tender mercies to us have been cruelties.—The indolent Scotchman; whose perfidy we have experienced.—The old dissembling Tory; his principles are unchanged; his malice inveterate.—Speculators; whose patriotism is self: The capability of these gentry, the newspapers and journals of Congress shew us.—And Gamblers of every denomination, a disgraceful set, without honour or honesty.

These characters my fellow-citizens secloded, we may hope our public councils will be conducted with unanimity, integrity, prudence and dispatch; undisturbed and unretarded by party, faction, or sinister motives.

Purify the fountain and the stream will be pure.

#### A CITIZEN OF N. CAROLINA.

July 27, 1797. Purify thy head and thy ears, and be pure.

For Hall's Wilmington Gazette.

#### To the People of North-Carolina.

IT is much to be lamented, fellow-citizens, that many of those, who have heretofore publicly volunteered, as your instructors in political affairs, instead of addressing themselves fairly to your reason and understanding, have used all the art in their power, to dupe you into the sacrifice of both, at the shrine of passion and prejudice.

Whether the author of a piece published in a late Fayetteville paper, with the signature of "A Citizen of North-Carolina," (and which has made some noise) should be repelled indignantly as a fallacious guide of that class, or whether on the contrary you should view him as a true friend to his country, and a preacher of sound and wholesome doctrines, you are now to determine. That writer having committed himself to the public, has rendered himself amenable to its tribunal. Let us have a calm and dispassionate hearing, and a decision which shall be the result of your good sense only. To those citizens whom he designates to be such, to the exclusion of others, I would be understood to appeal: in that particular, propriety requiring, I should adopt his practice, although I reject his principle. The citizen commences his address by announcing the approaching election, and with some observations which though trite and common enough, respecting the importance of the public trust about to be conferred, he utters in with great solemnity. Then he proceeds to inform you that we are on the border of a rupture with one of the most powerful nations on the earth, that our great federal council is agitated, &c. &c. Mark his deduction from these premises, and when you reflect that if we are in danger of an attack from any nation whatsoever, it must be from France; reconcile it to common sense if you can. The sum of it is this:—Exclude from your legislature all emigrants from Great-Britain who have become citizens since the peace of 1783; let loose your rage against them and the host of British emigrants, emisseries, incendiaries, false friends, and old Tories who are dispersed over the country. To justify such a denunciation, and sink them in character to the level of the most profligate and abandoned, it is not charged or even insinuated, that the poor devils of the first and last desertion have been instrumental in producing or fomenting the difference between the United States and France; and as to the others, I do verily believe that they have an existence, no where, but in the heated imagination of this state empire.

Had he advised the apprehending of all French citizens, within our territory, although the measure would have been very preposterous and indeed highly unwarrantable in the present stage of our dispute, with their government, yet compared with what he does recommend, it would have been rational and argued some sanity of intellect. But not so. To be prepared to meet the awful crisis he pretends, and to repel hostilities from abroad the torch of discord is to be lighted at home, and with "united efforts" the axe is to be levelled at the root of unanimity; for "maugre" the will of this writer, any attempt to introduce persecution into the land or to wrest from men the inestimable privileges freely granted by the legislature, will not be viewed with indifference by the sensible and enlightened part of the community, who feel for the honor and faith of their country, and abhor tyranny under whatever cloak it may be disguised.

Let us now examine into the justice and

reasonableness of the sentence pronounced against persons charged with a specific crime, but by implication involved in the opprobrium of being detestable characters, whose views, practices and principles are adverse to the interest of America; merely, because they once were subjects of Great-Britain. The dear bought rights of independence says that writer, extends only to American citizens of 1783 and to their descendants. The meaning of this is obscure, if indeed, it has any meaning at all. But he goes on to explain himself by asserting that emigrants from Great-Britain cannot become citizens, and why? "because it is a maxim of the British law, that once a subject, always a subject, it admits of no expatriation, their government has not relinquished them and they cannot liberate themselves; he adds, "they may be demanded of our government, and we have stipulated in certain cases for the surrender of them." Observe the monstrous folly and absurdity of this writer. In one breath he tells you that by the treaty of 1783 (a supreme law, mark that, a supreme law) Great-Britain acceded to your independence, and in the next, alleges, that your laws, whereby you have admitted British emigrants to citizenship are nugatory because they are repugnant to the laws of Great-Britain. What! are we independent of Great-Britain and yet subject to her laws? Are the maxims of that government to supersede the fundamental principles of our constitution, and the laws of nations which are the rules of action for all sovereign independent states? The oldest dissembling Tory could not broach a more heterodox rule of political faith than this. But thus it will ever be when people depart from sober reason and become the dupes of rancorous prejudices and enthusiastic predilection. Behold a pretended, zealous advocate of the revolution which emancipated this country from the yoke of Britain, expressly sanctioning a maxim of that government in its nature incompatible with the natural rights of man; with those very rights upon which the real patriots of 1776 founded our claim to independence. That Great-Britain may claim those of our citizens who have once been her subjects is a possible event; it is possible also, that she may claim the sovereignty of the United States, and it is equally possible that she may re-assert her claim to the crown of France, and each of these possibilities, is equally possible. Then in our late treaty with Britain, it is stipulated to deliver up fugitives from justice belonging to that country, charged with certain crimes, may be true, but as I have not that treaty before me I cannot speak positively, to the fact; however if it is so, the stipulation I will undertake to say, is mutual; and the fugitives under like circumstances from this country to Britain are equally exposed to the claim of our government. It is a compact of mutual convenience for the punishment of offences against humanity or society. But to say that our government has stipulated to deliver up any of her citizens, in any case whatsoever, is a gross misrepresentation. The stipulation is as far from fact as the species of proof adduced to support it, is absurd and ridiculous, to wit, that the British se daily wresting their seamen out of our service, British seamen are not American citizens although they may be in the service of Americans. But even these, it is allowed, are wrested from us, not voluntarily surrendered. In spite of the declamation of this writer and the arbitrary laws of monarchies, I do maintain, that individuals have a right to remove from the native country and fix their residence in that, which best suits their interest and convenience; and moreover, when once admitted to all the rights of citizenship under the laws of this country, our constitution guarantees to them as ample protection as to natural born citizens. The latter part of this position cannot be controverted. To prove the first, I presume Vattel on the law of nations will be admitted as competent authority; these are his words, "There are cases in which a citizen has an absolute right to renounce his country and abandon it entirely. If the citizen cannot procure subsistence in his own country, he is doubtless permitted to seek it in another. For the political or civil society being entered into only with a view of facilitating to each the means of living in happiness and safety, it would be absurd to pretend that a member whom it cannot furnish with such things as are most necessary, has not a right to leave it," then follow two other cases not necessary to recite on the present occasion. In truth, although the British government may for political purposes, hold up a maxim adverse to this doctrine, it has in a late instance, by implication given its sanction thereto, for in the 2d article of the treaty between it and our government, it is expressly stipulated, that the subjects of Great-Britain resident within a certain territory of the United States therein mentioned shall have their option of becoming citizens thereof, or of removing. The writer proceeds to complain, that the class of