

## NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 1.

Several copies of the following bills, which were brought into the British house of commons by Lord North, and have since, undoubtedly, become laws, were lately sent, by flag, from General Howe to General Washington.

*Sketch of a bill for declaring the intentions of the parliament of Great Britain concerning the exercise of the right of imposing taxes within his majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America.*

**W**HEREAS the exercise of the right of taxation by the parliament of Great Britain, for the purpose of raising a revenue in his majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America, has been found, by experience, to occasion great uneasiness and disorders, and has, by sundry misrepresentations, been made the means of misleading many of his majesty's faithful subjects, who yet acknowledge the justice of contributing to the common defence of the empire, provided such contribution should be raised under the authority of the general court or general assembly of each respective colony, province, or plantation; and whereas, in order as well to remove the said uneasiness, and to quiet the minds of his majesty's subjects who may be disposed to return to their allegiance, as to restore the peace and welfare of his majesty's dominions, it is expedient to declare that the king and parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatsoever, payable within any of his majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations;

MAY it therefore please your majesty, that it may be declared and enacted, and it is hereby declared and enacted, &c. that from and after the passing this act the king and parliament of Great Britain will not impose any duty, tax, or assessment whatsoever, payable within any of his majesty's colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America, except only such duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce, the neat produce of such duties to be always paid and applied to and for the use of the colony, province, or plantation in which the same shall be respectively levied, in such manner as other duties, collected by the authority of the respective general courts or general assemblies of such colonies, provinces, or plantations, are ordinarily paid and applied.

*Sketch of a bill to enable his majesty to appoint commissioners, with sufficient powers, to treat, consult, and agree upon the means of quieting the disorders now subsisting in certain of the colonies, provinces, and plantations in North America.*

**F**OR quieting and extinguishing divers jealousies and misapprehension of danger to their liberties and legal rights, which have misled many of his majesty's subjects in the colonies, provinces, and plantations of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and for a fuller manifestation of the just and gracious purposes of his majesty and his parliament to maintain and secure all his subjects in a clear and perfect enjoyment of such liberties and rights:

BE it enacted, &c. that persons, to be appointed by his majesty, under the great seal of Great Britain, or any of them, shall, by force of this act, have full power, commission, and authority, to treat, consult, and agree with body or bodies politic and corporate, or with such assembly or assemblies of men, or with such person or persons, as in their wisdom and discretion they shall think meet, of and concerning any grievances, or complaints of grievances, existing, or supposed to exist, in the government of any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, or in the laws and statutes of this realm respecting the same, and of or concerning any aid or contribution to be furnished by all or any of the colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, for the common defence of this realm, and the do-

minions thereunto belonging, and of and concerning such other regulations, provisions, matters, and things, as, upon mature deliberation of the said commissioners, or any of them, shall be thought necessary or convenient, for the honour of his majesty, and the common good of all his subjects.

PROVIDED also, and be it further enacted and declared, that no regulation, provision, matter, or thing, so proposed, treated, consulted, or agreed, shall have any other force or effect, or be carried further into execution, than is herein after mentioned and provided, until the same shall have been approved by parliament.

PROVIDED also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in order to facilitate the good purposes of this act, it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners, or any of them, from time to time, as they shall judge it convenient, to order and proclaim a cessation of hostilities, on the part of his majesty's troops, in any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations, or any part thereof, for such time, and under such conditions or restrictions, as they shall think convenient, and such order and proclamation to revoke and annul, in the same manner and form, according to their discretion.

AND be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners, or any of them, by proclamation, under their respective hands and seals, from time to time, to suspend the operation and effects of a certain act of parliament, made and passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of his present majesty, for prohibiting all trade and intercourse with certain colonies and plantations therein named, and for the other purposes therein also mentioned, or any of the provisions or restrictions therein contained, for such convenient time as said commissioners shall think proper, specifying in such proclamation at what times or places respectively, and with what exceptions and restrictions, and the said suspension and proclamation, in the same manner and form, to annul and revoke, according to their discretion.

AND be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said commissioners, or any of them, may, and they are hereby authorised and empowered, to suspend, in such places, and for such times as they shall think fit, during the continuance of this act, the operations and effect of all or any of the act or acts of parliament which have passed since the tenth of February 1763, and which relate to any of his majesty's said colonies, provinces, or plantations in North America, so far as the same do relate to them, or the operation or effect of any clause, or any provision or matter therein contained, so far as such clause, provisions, or matters, relate to any of the colonies, provinces, or plantations.

AND it is hereby enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the same commissioners, or any of them, and they are hereby empowered and authorised, to grant a pardon, or pardons, to any number or descriptions of persons within the said colonies, provinces, or plantations.

AND that no let or hindrances may happen from the vacancy of the officer, or governor and commander in chief in any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, or from the absence of such officer from his government, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said commissioners, or any of them, shall have full power and authority, in any of the said colonies, provinces, or plantations respectively, wherein his majesty hath usually nominated and appointed a governor, to nominate and appoint, by any instrument under their hands and seals, a proper person to be governor and commander in chief in and for such colony, province, or plantation respectively, with all such powers and authorities as any governor of such province, heretofore appointed by his majesty, might or could have exercised, in as full and complete manner and form as if such governor or commander in chief had been nominated and appointed by his majesty's letters patent or commission, and for that purpose, if need be, to revoke, annul, and make void, any commission or letters patent heretofore granted for appointing such governor and commander in chief.