

In this hope I approve the motion, and join in it with all my heart.

Mr. Fox complimented the minister on the generosity of his disposition with respect to Ireland, and said that to give all the effect possible to this new favour, he advised him to point out to the parliament of Ireland what it ought to do, by beginning with delivering the Roman Catholics in England from the absurd tyranny of the laws which persecute them there. Let an universal acclamation, says he, demonstrate that the torch which has enlightened this age, has not been extinguished on the coast of England.

Mr. Ellis added to what he had already said in favour of the motion, some reflections serving to shew its importance, and to take off the face of the objections that had been made to it. He said, justifying his assertion by examples, that rivalry in commerce, being a principle of emulation, always produced an happy effect.

Mr. Burke having heard attentively all that had been hitherto said on both sides approved of the disposition of the house in general; but added he, when we feel the necessity of yielding to the inclination of doing good, why do it always by halves? why attempt to give Ireland some apparent marks of good will, when you offer her at bottom no real advantage? why for ever restrictions? You say you incline to give Ireland liberty of commerce.— Give her then this liberty in truth. Suffer her to manufacture and export every thing that she produces. Do not except wool or woollen cloth. If you limit your concessions, they are good for nothing. Nay the matter is still worse. They have an appearance of insult; or carry an idea of artifice. The ministers, after the lesson that America has given them, perceive that they must make an appearance of doing something for Ireland. But to appear to give, and to give something in effect, are two different things. Do you know what will happen? These pretended concessions will teach Ireland at what rate England estimates her patience and submission, while on the other hand the commissioners who are going to America will teach her the more powerful influence in certain cases of a determined resistance.—To grant to Ireland the liberty of exportation without restriction, would be a gift worthy of her services and worthy of the generosity of Great Britain; but to except wool from this concession is to reduce it to nothing; it is to leave merit without recompence, and do very little honour to ourselves.

Here the question was put (that is to say, the first motion of Lord Nugent) and passed without the least opposition.

Lord Nugent then made a second;—

“That all the merchandizes and manufactures of the colonies or the English settlements on the coast of Africa might be imported directly into Ireland, except indigo, tobacco and sugars.”

It is with reluctance said the honourable member, that I except sugars; but I have been told, that a certain set of men, who, without any advantage to England, export them to Ireland on a commission of two and a half per cent. would oppose the direct importation.

Lord Newenham observed, that if sugars were excepted, the African trade would be of no advantage to Ireland.

After a short discussion they made an amendment to the second motion, which passed unanimously, and the direct importation of sugars was also granted to Ireland.

Lord Nugent then proposed that they should repeal the act that forbids the exportation of glass from Ireland. This third motion passed without difficulty.

He then made a fourth, and proposed, that cotton spun in Ireland might be imported into Great Britain duty free. Unanimously agreed to.

Then Mr. Burke proposed, that sail duck and cordage might be imported from Ireland into Great Britain duty free. This motion also passed as the rest.—So far the English papers.

[Perhaps a question may be properly asked. Whether does Ireland owe to England or America these important concessions? they are the effect, as is probable, of the present situation of Affairs, what American does not exult in the thought that the successful struggle he hath made for his own rights has already spread its happy influence to a distant nation? We need say nothing to

the natives of Ireland or their posterity now living in America, for they will feel a purer and higher joy than any other can express. There is another set of men whose inward thoughts, after perceiving the above, it would be entertaining to observe if it were possible to discover them; I mean those traitors to their country of America, who have been doing their utmost by words, actions and writing, to persuade us to submit to the dominion of England. What must they think of this single confession of British injustice and tyranny for ages over a sister but dependent kingdom?]

BALTIMORE, August 11.

A writer in a late Philadelphia paper, observes, that it may not be altogether certain that every uncommon appearance in inanimate nature is correspondent to one equally singular in the political and rational system. It must, however be observed, as something extremely observable—1. That after the surrender of Burgoyne, and while a treaty of alliance and commerce with France was on the carpet, the American heavens were brightly illuminated, at different intervals, for whole months together; the aurora borealis, or northern lights, were then the greatest and most beautiful that had ever been seen in America. 2. When the fleet of his most christian majesty, twelve ships of the line, and by the capture of a British ship of force, thirteen, under the command of his admiral, the illustrious d'Estaing, bore in sight off our capes, the artillery of the skies was discharged, and thirteen thunders were distinctly heard on the west of the Delaware. 3. On the morning after the arrival of his plenipotentiary, the accomplished Gerard, being the thirteenth of the month, an aloe tree, the only one in that state, immediately shot forth its spire, which it never does but once in the course of its existence; and in some other climate in not less than one hundred years. It had been planted about forty five years in the neighbourhood of that city, and heretofore every year had produced four leaves, but early this spring it spread forth thirteen. The spire is remarkable, being thirteen inches round, and having grown thirteen feet in the first thirteen days. The Scotch talk much of their thistle, and the South Britons of the Glousterbury thorn, much better things may be said of the aloe-tree of America, and the fleur de lis of France.

NEW BERN, October 2, 1778.

Extract of a letter from General Washington to Congress, dated head quarters, White Plains, Sept. 1.

S I R,

“I do myself the honour of transmitting you a copy of a letter I this moment received from general Sullivan. I congratulate Congress on the repulse of the enemy.”

HEAD QUARTERS, on the North end of Rhode Island, Aug. 29.

Dear General,

“A retreat to the north end of the island having been deemed advisable (from our great diminution of numbers) by the determination of a council of war held the 16th instant, I last evening gave the necessary orders for, and effected a well timed and regular retreat; without losing any part of my stores, baggage, or heavy artillery. The enemy was apprised of the movement some time in the night; they had I suppose concluded I had retreated in confusion and precipitation, and no doubt with expectation of my having crossed part of my army, and that the remainder would become an easy victory. In this belief they marched in two columns on the east and west roads, and vigorously attacked Cols. Livingston and Laurens, whose corps was disposed between the two roads in front of the army. They were warmly received by those two gentlemen, whom I reinforced occasionally, to prevent the contest being too unequal, though at the same time they were directed to retreat regularly and at leisure. They strictly complied with the orders; for I scarcely remember any thing of the kind more regular. The enemy were naturally led on to the neighbourhood. They took post on commanding ground in our front, and immediately attempted to turn our flank; to prevent this I detached considerable bodies of infantry. Our artillery was well served, did great execution, and contributed not a little to the honour of the day. Skirmishing continued during the day; and the success of it was determined by a warm action which lasted near an hour. The enemy were obliged to retire in great dis-