

HALL'S WILMINGTON GAZETTE.

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TO AMERICANS.

Loud as the tramp of Heav'n thro' dark-
ness roars,
When gyral gusts entomb Caribbean tow'rs
When Nature trembles thro' the deeps in-
vulst,
And Ocean foams from craggy cliffs re-
pellit,
Th' Omnipotent call! attend the warning
cry,
WE LIVE UNITED, OR DIVIDED DIE.

Late Foreign News.

LONDON, Dec. 30.

The example of London, in regard to the assessed taxes, is following over the whole kingdom. Bath, Bristol, Abington, &c. have passed resolutions against the measure.

The Earl of Ormond, and others, have instituted a committee at Kilkenny in Ireland, to receive information against United Irishmen, &c. and have advertised rewards and concealment to informers.

In the procession to St. Paul's, the two Houses of Parliament seemed to have brought out their *shabbiest equipage*. By their appearance they seemed to be quite unable to pay the assessed taxes, though by their votes we might have supposed the contrary.

According to letters received yesterday from Falamos, we learn that the Phoenix Portuguese frigate, having the Marquis de Pombeiro on board, is on shore near that place.

The advices received from the Court of Portugal have occasioned a very sudden and unexpected change; his excellency Count de Pombeiro with his lady and suite left town on Monday morning early for that country; the Count had taken a house in Baker-street, Portman square, for a twelvemonth, but the advices from Lisbon rendered his instant departure necessary.

The following petition was yesterday presented to his Majesty, by the right honorable Fox, and graciously received—

"*May it please your Majesty,*

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, take this opportunity of expressing our loyalty and attachment to your Majesty's person and family, and those principles which placed them on the throne of these realms; at the same time, of declaring, that, in such a period as the present, we should think it little short of treason to be silent on the state of this your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland. It is not merely of a long, disastrous, unjust and unnecessary war, which has destroyed public credit, commerce, and manufactures, we complain; your Majesty, in your wisdom, must have perceived the evil consequences of that war through every part of your dominions. It is not the melancholy waste of blood and treasure of which we complain; because those calamities cannot now be remedied. Ever since the administration of the great Lord Chatham, almost all good and wise men have concurred in the absolute necessity of a Parliamentary reform, as well for the security of the throne as the people. Your Majesty's present minister has given lessons to the empire on that head which can never be forgotten; and the ruin which has accompanied his deviation from that principle has demonstrated the necessity of that measure. The dutiful & loyal petitions of your people have not been attended to. The most constitutional and loyal means of seeking redress have been opposed by the most unconstitutional and illegal coercions. Every right for the establishment of which our forefathers shed their blood, and for the protection of which your Majesty's ancestors were called to the throne, has been successively taken away by the undue influence of your Majesty's present ministers; the right of petitioning greatly invaded by the convention bill; the trial by jury, by summary convictions, under the most unconstitutional laws; the liberty of the press, and the freedom of speech, by the shameful encouragement of spies and informers; the right of habeas corpus has been sus-

pended; and the great right, which is the security of all other rights, the right of bearing arms, has been grossly violated, not only by a series of laws repugnant to the written and acknowledged compact between the crown and the people, expressed unequivocally in the bill of rights, but, in a late instance, by an act of state avowedly illegal.

"We, therefore, humbly entreat your Majesty to dismit from your councils and presence, your present ministers, as the first step towards restoring peace, prosperity, and happiness to this distressed country, and thereby firmly securing the interests of the crown and people, which are both at present in the most alarming danger; and we further entreat your Majesty immediately to call such men to your councils as may assist you, people in obtaining a reform of parliament, embracing every religious persuasion, as the sure and only means of rendering this kingdom prosperous and happy.

(Signed)

AR. JOHNSON, Chairman.

ED. POTTINGER, Sec'y.

By and on the behalf, and at the desire of four thousand eight hundred and three freeholders of the county of Down, who subscribed their names to the above petition.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons.

Thursday, Dec. 23.

The house having resolved itself into a committee, Mr. Hobart in the chair, the bill for raising a supply by the assessed taxes was again taken into consideration.

The chancellor of the exchequer informed the committee, that it was intended, if any persons should be assessed over and above what was really their income, such money should upon due examination, be returned. For the convenience of payment to those assessed, as well as for the more speedy payment of the money to be collected, there was a clause in the bill, appointing such payment to be every two months, or by six installments in the year.

Mr. Jollif objected to this clause, and thought it nearly impossible for many persons to be prepared in so short a period of time.

Mr. Bragge defended the necessity of it, and begged leave to observe, as he was then upon his legs, that gross misrepresentation had taken place respecting an assertion which had been made in a letter, part of which had been read an evening or two ago by an honourable member, who he observed not to be in his place. That letter had stated, that the inhabitants of the city he represented (Bristol) were entirely favourable to the bill, but he could assure the house that such was not the case; though they did not disapprove of the general principle of it, they strenuously wished for very considerable modifications.

Upon that clause being read, in which the time was specified for the existence of the bill, Mr. Pole Carew said, that though he had hitherto uniformly supported the measures of administration, and this bill in its progress so far, yet he would oppose its being in force for a longer period than a year. It was a bill which he was afraid would occasion much discontent, and the sum to be raised with great difficulty, he collected; but one year would serve as an experiment how it operated, and how it would be received; he would oppose its being continued any longer.

Mr. Secretary Dundas complimented the honourable gentlemen on the sincerity of his motives for differing with ministers on this point, but he considered him biased by a false view of the nature of the bill. The war of France with us might be justly called a war against our finance; the operation of the bill being extended more than one year, was with a design that something might in course of time be taken off from the national debt. To limit its operation, therefore, to

one year was to limit the extent of the bill, and to prevent the bill from being continued for a longer time than one year. The present minister had uniformly supported the sinking fund.—To one alone did we owe the present state of the sinking fund; for others, whose bills were now in the way, would scarcely best it.

Mr. Cary was fully persuaded, that as there was no objection to such an extension of the sinking fund, it was reasonable, that the means by which it was to be raised should be kept to long in consequence of the superior circumstances of the sinking fund, and all France they said should be paid upon the sinking fund.

The Chancellor of the exchequer was surprised to hear any gentleman suppose that the bill was meant only as an experiment, whether it would be productive or not. The salutary effects to be produced by it, were not only intended to render service at the present juncture, but to benefit those who should come after us. In its principle & in its modifications, it was founded on justice & equity. Every person who could reasonably claim exemption, was exempted; and those who could not, assessed by an estimate proportional to their class and situation in life; but it was necessary that this bill should have a longer period to operate than some gentlemen had wished for; we should by that means augment the sinking fund, and we had been ably assisted by his right honourable friend (Mr. Dundas) gradually pay off some portion of that accumulated debt that pressed so heavy upon this country.

The clause being read, specifying the sum to be raised seven million, Reginald Pole Carew declared his disapprobation of the mode of raising that sum by the bill now before the committee. He had considered it very deliberately and was afraid it would not, after all, prove effective. He thought the minister had better have had recourse to the four millions of the sinking fund. The measure now adopted was the same as that which had been adopted in France, and had given rise to the revolution.

Mr. Ellison and Mr. Wilberforce said a few words, after which the chancellor of the exchequer rose, and expressed his astonishment at what had been asserted by an hon. gentleman; much as he respected him, his system was ruinous and fatal in the extreme, and, if adopted, would plunge this nation into inevitable ruin. The true causes of the embarrassment of the finances of France were diametrically the reverse of those stated by the hon. gentleman. During the last war they boasted of their carrying it on without taxes—but that line of conduct proved their ruin—their debts were accumulating, until at length they were totally incapable of liquidating them, or disencumbering their finances.

After a short conversation between the chancellor of the exchequer, Sir W. Pultney, Mr. J. H. Brown, and the master of the Rolls, and the bill having been gone through.

Mr. D. P. Coke expressed his regret at having been absent when one of the clauses was discussed, on which he had proposed to have made some observations: That clause respected the money that was raised by this bill being paid into the exchequer.—He would, therefore, as the bill was gone through, move, that the Tellers of the exchequer, two of whom were lord Camden and the marquis of Buckingham, should have no fees arising from that money. He was certain that persons in so exalted a situation as those noble lords, and more especially the father of a noble lord nearly opposite to him (lord Temple), was he in that house, would readily accede to such motion. (A loud laugh.)

The Chancellor of the exchequer observed, that the fees, of the Tellers of his Majesty's exchequer, had been settled by Parliament; with respect to the fees arising from the payment of the sugar tax.

by this bill into the exchequer, that it might undergo Parliamentary sanction.

The Speaker then took the chair, Mr. Dundas reported progress, and the house adjourned to-morrow.

FRANCE.

BERLIN, 19th Nov. 1797.
The French minister, who departed this morning, has just returned, and having called on the French minister, announced to him the double treaty, concluded between the two nations in the last of August, and that you should be interested in my advancement to the rule over the Prussian states. I shall take the greatest care to cultivate and cement the harmony which I find so happily established between the two nations, and upon this I pray God to keep you, great and dear friends, in his holy care.

Your good friend,
FREDERICK WILLIAM.
Berlin, 19th Nov. 1797.

The blacksmiths employed in the naval arsenals have just given a new proof of their attachment to republican institutions, and have at the same time shown how anxious they are to contribute towards the speedy execution of the descent on England, by declaring that they will allow themselves no repose on the Decadis.

The clerks employed under the Minister of Justice have addressed a letter to the Directory, accompanied by a civic collection, to the Directory, in respect of the descent on England, and a tender of their services to march against England.

The persons employed in the internal administration of the Directory, since, have addressed a letter to the Directory, in which after pouring forth many invectives against the English government, they state as follows: "The Secretary, Clerks, and others employed in the general Secretaryship (Secretariat) of the Executive Directory, the persons employed in the internal administration of the Directorial Palace, detained at their posts, regret that they cannot share in the labours of their brave brethren in arms; but, willing to concur, at least, in the means calculated to ensure their success and the triumph of the Republic, they have just closed the subscription they opened on the first of this month (Dec. 20) which have produced the sum of 2,500 livres. They place in your hands citizens directors this patriotic offering, to be employed in the preparations making for the punishment of the tyrants of the seas.

A message from the executive directory to the councils states, that "the cabinet of St. James's has determined to withdraw from the 10th of January, the usual subsistence from 21,000 French republicans confined in England, who are, contrary to the rights of nations, detained in dungeons." It proposes to raise a contribution for their support; the amount of which is stated at one million a month. It concludes in the following manner; Citizens representatives, every class of society, every citizen anticipates the plan, which you have in view, to settle the national loan, which is to assist the conquerors of Arcole, Neuwied, Kehl, Fleurus and Lody, to carry back into the walls of St. James's all the evils with which the British cabinet has desolated the world. The eagerness with which the mode of the loan is universally expected, and even anticipated, by previous subscription, is for the directory a certain pledge of the zeal and punctuality with which the contribution for the prisoners will be paid. The government of Great Britain lately imagined that public spirit was annihilated