

THE

# CAPE-FEAR           MERCURY;

*Quod verum atque decens cura*

*et rego, et omnis in hoc sum.*

( FRIDAY, November 24, 1769. )

N<sup>o</sup>. 7.

To his Excellency William Tryon, Esq;  
Captain-General, Governor, and Com-  
mander in Chief, in and over his Maje-  
sty's Province of North-Carolina.

The Address of the Assembly of the said Pro-  
vince.

S I R,

**W** H I S Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the assembly of the province of North-Carolina, return your Excellency our sincere thanks for your speech at the opening of this session, and beg leave to congratulate your Excellency, on your happy return from Virginia to your government.

The Information your excellency has given us, that no petition to his Majesty from the colonies, praying an emission of paper currency as a legal tender, can meet with success, gives us the utmost concern, as we considered ourselves, that on the humble representation of the late assembly, with your Excellency's interest at home, which you were pleased to kindly to offer, and which we doubt not, has been most strenuously exerted in favor of the province, we should have obtained the relief so necessary to the distressed situation and circumstances of this country.

We are truly sensible of the necessity of having an agent in England, duly authorized to act in every case, in which the interest of this colony may be concerned. This house therefore, will proceed to the appointment of an agent, in which we desire to have the concurrence of the other branches of the legislature; and will make the necessary provision for supporting such an establishment.

The encouragement given by an act of parliament to the culture of raw silk in America, is pleasing and agreeable to us; and we assure your excellency, that it shall meet with such further encouragement (consistent with the true interest of this country) as so interesting an object may require.

The making provision of powder and lead for his majesty's service and the defence of this government, at this time, when we are enjoying the blessings of peace, permit us sir, to say, we humbly apprehend, is by no means necessary, as every clog or tax whatsoever upon our trade must of necessity be a discouragement to the same, and of course have such

a tendency as to be prejudicial rather than advantageous to the country.

The state of our public funds at no time since the settlement of the colony has required a more strict examination than at present; and we agree with your excellency that a settlement of the public accounts should be forthwith obtained, so as a general state of them may be made known to the country; and shall be extremely obliged to your excellency for any observations or regulations in the manner of keeping the public accounts that you shall be pleased to lay before us, which may tend to render the same free from that obscurity they have hitherto been in.

We shall ever esteem it our indispensable duty to enquire into, and see how far the laws for the emission of paper currency have had their effect, and in whose hands the sums raised to sink those emissions remain.

The intelligence your excellency has received from home, and which you are pleased to communicate to us, regarding the intention of his majesty's present ministers having no design to propose to parliament to lay any further taxes on America for the purpose of raising a revenue, and their proposing to take off the duties upon glass, paper and colors, is very grateful to us, and will be much more so, when we find their designs are carried into execution, even upon the consideration of such duties having been laid contrary to the true principles of commerce; and we rejoice that we are once so happy as to have the sentiments of the ministry, in in that particular, coincide with our own.

We sympathize with the unfortunate sufferers in the late storm in general, and with the inhabitants of Newbern in particular: But the calamities, losses and misfortunes, occasioned thereby, being general, we cannot, consistent with the duty we owe our constituents, think of granting them assistance, in preference to any other part of the province, lest, by so doing, we should shew a partiality we would ever endeavor to avoid.

To which ADDRESS his excellency was pleased to return the following ANSWER.

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly,

I Thank you for your congratulations on my return from Virginia to this country. It would have afforded me much sa-

tisfaction if the supply of ammunition for the country, and the assistance for the town of Newbern, which I recommended to you in my speech, had been honored with your approbation.

WILLIAM TRYON.

North-Carolina, Newbern, Oct. 13, 1769

Recommended by his Excellency to the house of representatives now assembled as an object worthy of their attention that they take under consideration the state of the public revenue, and the regular application thereof, for the purposes to which it is appropriated.

**T** H E fact is too well known to admit of a denial, that in a long course of years past, great sums of public money have been lost by the negligence or insolvency of sheriffs, and other collectors.

And it is presumed, that in the same course of time, considerable sums have been sunk, after they were lodged in the public treasury, whereof no account has hitherto been made.

A law of this province lately passed, will, if executed with vigor, probably, in a great measure, prevent, for the time to come, the first of these mischiefs; and a law to prevent the latter, might be of great public utility, for mankind never part with their money, either for their private, or public benefit, so readily, as when assured that it must be honestly applied for the purposes intended.

A constant, regular, plain and uniform method of keeping the books of accounts of the public revenue, and of stating and settling these accounts, may prevent such abuses, and make it extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to embezzle the public money.

The house, therefore, will consider, if, for the future, the public treasury, respectively, for the time being, shall be obliged to keep a regular diary, or day-book; in which shall be entered, every particular sum of money received or paid by them on account of the public, with the name of the person from whom received, or to whom paid, as well as the day, date, and nature of the transaction.

A cash-book, debtor and creditor, where the treasurer upon one side shall make himself debtor, for all sums of public money paid in to him; and on the other side, creditor for all sums of public money paid out by him, with the dates of such receipts and payments; which cash-book is altogether abstracted from the diary or day-book.