

The Premier, it is said, speaks with Transport, and passes many Encomiums on the Conduct of General Gage, which it seems is exceedingly pleasing to Government in general. A very considerable Grant of Lands, we hear, is making out for him in America, which will not be the only Mark he will soon receive, perhaps, of his Sovereign's Favour.

State of POLITICAL STOCKS this Day at 2 o'Clock.

Royal Assurance—high.

Ditto Bank—low.

Ministerial Scrip—in Demand.

Patriotism—below Par.

Justice to America—out.

Corruption—open.

Magna Charta—reduced 1-Half.

India Bonds—negotiating at Government Price.

Bribery and Luxury—consoled.

National Honour—no Price.

Virtualising Bills—at high Discount.

The Ministry—at omnium gaberrum.

BRISTOL, Jan. 11. This Day the Society of Merchant Adventurers held a Hall to consider of a Petition to Parliament respecting American Affairs. The Heads of a very unexceptionable commercial Petition were read, and another Hall is to be held on Monday to determine on the Question.

A Meeting of the Merchants, Manufacturers, and Tradesmen, is to be held at Guildhall on Friday next, at 11 o'Clock, on the same Business.

WORCESTER, Jan. 12. Yesterday there was to be a Meeting at the Dolphin Inn, in Birmingham, of the Merchants, Factors, and Manufacturers, of that Town, interested in the Trade to North-America, in order to consider of the Propriety of an Application to Parliament at the present critical Juncture.

There is also to be a Meeting on Monday next at the Swan Inn, in Dudley, of the Factors and Manufacturers of that Town, for the same Purpose.

NEW BERN, April 7.

The GENERAL ASSEMBLY being prorogued to the 27th of March, several of the Members met, but there not being a sufficient Number to make a House, his Excellency the Governor was pleased to prorogue them from Day to Day to the 4th Instant, when a Number sufficient to form a House met, and being duly qualified by taking the Oaths of Government, waited on his Excellency to acquaint him therewith. His Excellency then directed them to return to the House and make Choice of a Speaker. Colonel JOHN HARVEY, their late Speaker, was then unanimously elected, and conducted to the Chair accordingly. The House then waited on his Excellency, and presented their Speaker, who he was pleased to approve, and then opened the Session with the following SPEECH:

Gentlemen of his Majesty's Honourable Council, Mr.

Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I HAVE now met you in General Assembly, in hopes that dismissing every Cause of private Dissention from your Minds, you will calmly, unitedly, and faithfully apply yourselves to the Discharge of the high and important Office of Legislation, in which you bear so great a Share, according to the Constitution of this Country, that calls upon you for Relief at this Time in a most peculiar and pressing Manner.

I LOOK, Gentlemen, with the extreme Horror and Concern, to the Consequences of the violent and unjustifiable Proceedings in some of his Majesty's Colonies of this Continent, where in many Places the innocent, unwary, and ignorant Part of the People, have been cruelly betrayed into Measures highly inconsistent with their Duty and Allegiance to their most gracious Sovereign and the State, that tend immediately to involve them in the most embarrassing Difficulties and Distresses, and which, if pursued, must inevitably precipitate these Colonies from their present unparalleled State of Prosperity into a Train of Miseries most dreadful to contemplate, whence Ages of Time will not redeem them to their now envied Felicity. You, Gentlemen, are bound by your Duty to the King, to the State, and to this People, as well as I by mine, to obviate the Contagion of these evil Examples in this Country; and to defend it, if possible, from the Ruin and Destruction to which they plainly lead. I see, with infinite Concern, the unhappy Influence they have already had among us. The Meetings to which the People have been excited; the Appointment of Committees; the Violences these little, illegal, unrestrained, and arbitrary Tribunals, have done to the Rights of his Majesty's Subjects; the flagrant and unpardonable Insults they have offered to the highest Authorities of the State by some of their Acts, which have been made public; and the Stop that has been put in some of the Counties to the regular Course of Justice, in Imitation of the unwarrantable Measures taken in other Colonies, but too plainly evince their baneful Progress here, and loudly demand the most effectual Exertion of your restraining and correcting Powers. You are now, Gentlemen, of the Assembly, by your Duty to yourselves and to your Constituents, most peculiarly called upon to oppose a Meeting of Delegates, which the People have been invited to choose, and who are appointed to assemble at this very Time and Place, in the Face of the Legislature. This illegal Meeting, pursuant to my Duty to the King and to the Constitution of this Country, and from Regard to your Dignity, and the just Rights of the People, I have counteracted; and I shall continue to resist it by every Means in my Power. What can this mean, Gentlemen? Are you not the only lawful Representatives of the People in this Country, and competent to every legal Purpose? Will you then submit to see your Constituents misled to violate their dearest Privileges, by wounding your Dignity, and setting up Representatives decagatory to your just Power and Authority? This, Gentlemen, is an Insult to you of so violent a Nature, that it appears to me to

demand your every possible Discouragement, for its evident Tendency is to create a Belief in the People, that they are capable of electing Representatives of inferior Powers to the Members of your House; which, if it can possibly obtain, must lead by obvious Consequences to the Destruction of the Essence, if not the very Being, of an Assembly in this Province, and finally to the utter Dissolution and Overthrow of its established happy Constitution. This, Gentlemen, among others I have before mentioned, is one of the fatal Expedients employed in some of the other Colonies, under the Influence of factions and wicked Men, intent upon promoting their own horrid Purposes, at the Hazard of their Country's Ruin. I hope they have been adopted here more from a Spirit of Imitation than ill Principles, and that you, clearly discerning the Mischiefs with which they are pregnant, will heartily concur with me in opposing the first Drawings of so dangerous a System.

As an Object of the greatest Consequence to all the Colonies, I would recommend it to your first Attention to employ your utmost Care and Assiduity to remove those false Impressions, by which the Engines of Sedition have laboured to effect, but too successfully, a most unnatural Division between the Parent State and these Colonies, which under her protecting, indulgent, fostering Care, have attained to a Degree of Prosperity beyond all Example. The basest Arts have been practised upon the innocent People, and they have been blindly led to partake in Guilt to which their Hearers are contendedly averse; and thus, Step by Step, they will be seduced from their Duty, and all the Bonds of civil Society will be destroyed, unless timely Remedies are applied. This, Gentlemen, is a melancholy Prospect that must seriously alarm every good Subject, every humane, every honest Man; and it will be your Duty, as Guardians of the constitutional Rights of the People, vigorously to oppose Proceedings so manifestly subversive of their Freedom and Happiness. Be it your Care then, Gentlemen, to undeceive the People, to lead them back from the dangerous Precipice, to which an ill Spirit of Faction is urging them, to the Paths of their Duty; Set before them the sacred Tie of Allegiance by which, as Subject, they are bound to the State; inform them of the reciprocal Benefits which their strict Obedience thereof entitles them to; and warn them of the Danger to which they must expose their Lives and Properties, and all that they hold dear, by revolting from it. The frequent Occasions you have had in your several Capacities as Members of the Legislature and Magistrates, most solemnly to swear this Allegiance, which is an implied Duty upon every Subject of every State, where it is not professed and declared, must have brought it home to your Consideration; and you are therefore certainly well qualified to explain the obligatory Nature and Importance of it to the People. They will naturally look up to you for a Rule of Conduct in these wild and disordered Times; and, I have no Doubt, that taught by your Example, they will immediately return to their Duty and Obedience to the Laws, and gladly free themselves from that Tyranny, which ill directed Zeal and lawless Ambition, by all the Arts of Misrepresentation and Delusion, are courting them to submit to. I have the high Satisfaction to tell you, Gentlemen, that I have already received signal Proofs of the steady Loyalty and Duty of a great Number of the good People of this Province; and I have the fullest Assurance that many more will follow their laudable Example. These, Gentlemen, are very favourable Prefiges, upon which I congratulate you, and which, I persuade myself, your prudent Conduct will improve to the Honour and Advantage of your Country.

THE State of the Colonies is at this Time the Subject of the Deliberations of the Grand Council of the Nation, from whose Wisdom and Justice they have every Thing to expect consistent with the Principles of the British Constitution, and the general Welfare of the Empire, while they continue in the Duty they owe to it. The confessed generous Character of Britain, and the Magnanimity of our most gracious Sovereign, who, through the whole Course of his Reign, has uniformly made the Happiness of his People the Object of all his Views, and the Rule of all his Actions, insures it to them. On this great Arbitrator of British Rights, it therefore becomes you to rely with the fullest Confidence, and to deserve, by a dutiful Behaviour, its favourable Regard. If a precedent could be wanting, as I cannot suppose it is, to induce you to such a right Conduct, one of the most respectable of the Colonies affords it to you; and you will see, without Question, how highly improper it will be, at such a Conjunction, to countenance any Measures of a contrary Nature. If the People of this Colony have any Representations to make to the supreme Powers of the State, you are the only legal and proper Channel of their Applications; and through you they may be assured of every Attention to their dutiful Petitions. You, Gentlemen, I dare say, tender too highly the Rights of the People committed to your Guardianship, and know too well the Limits of your own Power, to consign them to any other Hands; that must not only be disqualified to serve the People, but will infallibly divert you of that Dignity and Consequence, which belong to you as their lawful Representatives.

LET me hope, Gentlemen, that laying aside all Passion and Prejudice, you will calmly, and with one Accord, pursue such a Line of Conduct, in these Points of general Concern to America, as may be most likely to heal the unhappy Differences now subsisting between Great-Britain and her Colonies. Consider how great an Opportunity you now have to serve, to save your Country; to manifest your Loyalty to the best of Kings, and to demonstrate your Attachment to the British Constitution; the most free, the most glorious, and happiest political System in the whole World. If you consult but for a Moment your own Interest and Welfare, and the Happiness of this People, I cannot be disappointed in my Hopes that you will avail yourselves of the Occasion. Be it your Glory, Gentlemen, to record to latest Posterity, that at a Time when the Monster, Sedition, dared to rear his impious Head in America, the People of North-Carolina, inspired with a just Sense of their Duty to their King and Country, and animated by the Example of its Legislature, stood

among the foremost of his Majesty's Subjects, to resist his baneful Snares, and to repel the fell Invader of their Happiness. Thus, Gentlemen, you may redeem your sinking Country to Prosperity; thus you will acquire to yourselves immortal Honour and Renown! While a contrary Conduct must inevitably plunge this once happy Land in Horrors beyond all Imagination, whence nothing can recover it but the generous Hand of Britain, interposed to save you from your own Destruction. Thus far, Gentlemen, I have set before you, upon Principles of your Duty to the Constitution, and the Welfare of your Country, the Necessity of discouraging to the utmost of your Power, the illegal Meetings into which the innocent People have been betrayed, and the unlawful Establishments and Appointments they have been led to give their Sanction to. I have also stated to you the more especial Obligations you lie under to prevent that Meeting to which the People have been invited, to send Deputies here at this Time; and I have fully admonished you of the ruinous Consequences of a different Conduct. In Addition to these powerful Motives, Gentlemen, I am authorized to say, that the unwarrantable Measure of appointing Delegates to attend a Congress at Philadelphia, now in Agitation, will be highly offensive to the King; and thus, I cannot doubt, will be Reason with you of the greatest Force, to oppose so dangerous a Step.

YOUR next Attention, Gentlemen, is due to the particular State of this Country, that calls for your strictest Regard.

THE exhausted State of the Public Treasury; the large Demands upon it that remain unsatisfied; the Dues of Public Officers that are unpaid; call loudly for your Attention to the ill Condition of Public Credit, and the Finances of this Country; and I trust you will not fail to pay that Regard which is due to Points of so great Importance. I heartily wish, with Regard to Matters of Finance, and Modes of Taxation, as well as to the Regulation of the Treasury, to draw your Attention to the Admirable Systems of New-York and Maryland, in which last Colony Public Credit is established upon the firmest Basis; but the Example of every other Colony, with Regard to the latter Article, I am sorry to say it, is better than has been yet adopted here.

YOU have now, Gentlemen, fair Opportunity to restore to this Province, by a Law for the permanent Establishment of Courts, that great Store of political Blessings, arising from a due and regular Administration of Justice, of which I have long lamented to see it deprived. I have received his Majesty's Determination upon the proposed Regulations with Regard to Proceedings by Attachment, which have been the apparent Cause of this Misfortune. This I shall communicate to you in the Course of your Session; and I hope it will obviate all the Difficulties that have occurred on this Subject. When the Establishment of Courts shall come under your Consideration, you cannot fail to see the Necessity of making Provision for the Judges; and the Propriety of that Provision being adequate and honourable, and suitable to Offices of so high Dignity and Importance.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I CANNOT doubt that you will see the same Necessity for supporting the usual Establishment of Fort Johnston, founded upon the same Principles of public Utility, that have induced you to maintain it during so long a Series of Years.

Gentlemen of his Majesty's Honourable Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I AM sensible that the advanced Season of the Year requires your Attendance on your domestic Affairs; and I shall be therefore glad to find that your Unanimity in the Conduct of the very important Business you are now met upon, affords me Opportunity to conclude your Session speedily, and happily. On my Part, I do assure you nothing shall be wanting to promote these good Ends.

Newbern, April 4, 1775.

JO. MARTIN.

On Tuesday last the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Assembly received a Letter from the Colony Agents, acquainting him, that they had received the Petition of the Continental Congress to the King, which, through Lord Dartmouth, they had presented; that the same was most graciously received by his Majesty, who was pleased to give for Answer, that the Petition being of very great Consequence, he should lay the same before the two Houses of Parliament.

North-Carolina, Chowan County, March 4, 1775.

THE Committee met at the House of Capt. James Sumner, and the Gentlemen appointed at a former Meeting Directors to promote Subscriptions for the Encouragement of Manufactures, informed the Committee that the Sum of 80l. Sterling was subscribed by the Inhabitants of this County for that laudable Purpose.

The Committee taking into Consideration the Manner in which said Sum may be applied, so as to redound to the Utility of this Province in general, and to this County in particular, Resolved, That the Sum of 40l. Sterling be paid by the Chairman of the Committee to any Person who shall, in eighteen Months from the Date hereof, first make in this Province, or cause to be therein made under his Direction, 500 Pair of good Wool Cards, such as usually cost 15 d. Sterling in Great-Britain, and 500 Pair of good Cotton Cards, such as usually cost 2 s. 6 d. Sterling in Great-Britain; which the Committee hereby obligeth themselves to purchase, and pay ready Money for, at the Rate of 2 s. Sterling for the Wool Cards, and 3 s. Sterling a Pair for the Cotton Cards; And it is expected the Person intitled to such Premiums shall furnish them at that Price. The Quality and Price that such Cards usually cost in Great-Britain to be submitted to the Committee.

The Committee also offer a Premium of 40l. Sterling, to be paid by the Chairman of the Com-