

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

From the ST. JAMES'S CHRONICLE of April 17.
TO THE PRINTER.

St. James's, April 15, 1777.

SIR,

AS the Subject of the following genuine Letters, the Time when they were written, and the Rank and Reputation of the Writers, render them of much Importance to the Public, I desire you will give them a Place in your next Paper, and oblige, Sir,
A. B.

Your most humble Servant,

Eagle, June 20, 1776.

I CANNOT, my worthy Friend, permit the Letters and Parcels which I have sent you, in the State I received them, to be landed, without adding a Word upon the Subject of the injurious Extremities in which our unhappy Disputes have engaged us.

You will learn the Nature of my Mission from the official Dispatches which I have recommended to be forwarded by the same Conveyance. Retaining all the Earnestness I ever expressed, to see our Differences accommodated, I shall conceive, if I meet with the Disposition in the Colonies which I was once taught to expect, the most flattering Hopes of proving serviceable, in the Objects of the King's paternal Solitude, by promoting the Establishment of lasting Peace and Union with the Colonies. But if the deep rooted Prejudices of America, and the Necessity of preventing her Trade from passing into foreign Channels, must keep us still a divided People, I shall, from every private as well as public Motive, most heartily lament that it is not the Moment wherein those great Objects of my Ambition are to be attained; and that I am to be longer deprived of an Opportunity to assure you personally of the Regard with which I am, Your sincere and faithful humble Servant,
HOWE.

P. S. I was disappointed of the Opportunity I expected for finding this Letter at the Time it was dated, and have been ever since prevented by Calms and contrary Winds from getting here to inform Gen. Howe of the Commission with which I have the Satisfaction to be charged, and of his being joined in it.

Off Sandy Hook, 12th July.

Superfcribed TO BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Esq; Philadelphia.
Philadelphia, July 30, 1776.

I RECEIVED safe the Letters your Lordship so kindly forwarded to me, and beg you to accept my Thanks.

The official Dispatches to which you refer me, contain nothing more than what we had seen in the Act of Parliament, viz. *Offers of Pardon upon Submission*; which I was sorry to find, as it must give your Lordship Pain to be sent so far on so hopeless a Business.

Directing Pardons to be offered to the Colonies, who are the very Parties injured, expresses indeed that Opinion of our Ignorance, Baseness, and Insensibility, which your uninformed and proud Nation has long been pleased to entertain of us; but it can have no other Effect, than that of increasing our Resentments.—It is impossible we should think of Submission to a Government, that has with the most wanton Barbarity and Cruelty, burnt our defenceless Towns, in the Midst of Winter, excited the Savages to massacre our peaceful Farmers, and our Slaves to murder their Masters; and is even now bringing foreign mercenaries, to deluge our Settlements with Blood. These atrocious Injuries have extinguished every Spark of Affection for that Parent Country we once held so dear:—But were it possible for us to forget and forgive them, it is not possible for you, I mean the British Nation, to forgive the People, you have so heavily injured:—you can never confide again in those, as fellow Subjects, and permit them to enjoy equal Freedom, to whom, you know, you have given such just Causes of lasting Enmity; and this must impel you, were we again under your Government, to endeavour the breaking our Spirit by the severest Tyranny, and obstructing, by every Means in your Power, our growing Strength and Prosperity.

But your Lordship mentions "the King's paternal Solitude for promoting the Establishment of lasting Peace and Union with the Colonies." If by Peace is here meant, a Peace to be enter-

ed into by distinct States, now at War, and his Majesty has given your Lordship Power to treat with us of such a Peace, I may venture to say, though without Authority, that I think a Treaty for that Purpose is not quite impracticable, before we enter into foreign Alliances: But I am persuaded you have no such Power: Your Nation thought, by punishing those American Governors who have fomented the Discord, rebuilding our burnt Towns, and repairing, as far as possible, the Mischief done us, she might recover a great Share of our Regard, and the greatest Share of our growing Commerce, with all the advantages of that additional Strength, to be derived from a Friendship with us; yet I know too well her abounding Pride, and deficient Wisdom, to believe, she will ever take such salutary Measures. Her fondness for Conquest, as a warlike Nation; her Lust of Dominion, as an ambitious one; and her Thirst for gainful Monopoly, as a commercial one, (none of them legitimate Causes of War) will all join to hide from her Eyes, every View of her true Interest, and will continually goad her on in these ruinous, distant Expeditions, so destructive both of Lives and of Treasure, that they must prove as pernicious to her in the End, as the Croisades formerly were to most of the Nations of Europe.

I have not the Vanity, my Lord, to think of intimidating, by thus predicting the Effects of this War;—for I know it will in England have the Fate of my former predictions, not to be believed, till the Event shall verify it.

Long did I endeavour with unfeigned and unwearied Zeal, to preserve from breaking, that fine and noble China Vase, the British Empire; for I know, that being once broken, the separate Parts could not retain even their Shares of Strength and Value that existed in the whole, and that a perfect Re-union of these Parts could scarce ever be hoped for. Your Lordship may possibly remember the Tears of Joy, that wet my Cheek, when at your good Sister's, in London, you once gave me Expectations, that a Reconciliation might soon take Place. I had the Misfortune to find those Expectations disappointed, and to be treated as the Cause of the Mischief I was labouring to prevent. My Consolation under that groundless and malevolent Treatment, was, that I retained the Friendship of many wise and good Men in that Country, and among the rest, some Share in the Regard of Lord Howe.

The well founded Esteem, and permit me to say, Affection, which I shall always have for your Lordship, make it painful to me to see you engaged in conducting a War, the great Ground of which, as described in your Letter, is "the Necessity of preventing the American Trade from passing into foreign Channels: To me it seems, that neither the obtaining, nor retaining any Trade, how valuable soever, is an Object for which Men may justly spill each others Blood; that the true and sure Means of extending and securing Commerce, are the goodness and cheapness of the Commodities; and that the Profits of no Trade can ever be equal to the Expence of compelling it, and holding it by Fleets and Armies. I consider this War against us therefore, as both unjust and unwise; and, I am persuaded, that cool and dispassionate Posterity will condemn to Infamy those who advised it, and that even Success will not save from some Degree of Dishonour, those, who have voluntarily engaged to conduct it.

I know your great Motive in coming hither was the Hope of being instrumental in a Reconciliation; and believe, when you find that to be impossible, on any Terms given you to propose, you will relinquish so odious a Command, and return to a more honourable private Station. With the greatest and most sincere Respect, I have the Honour to be, my Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
B. FRANKLIN.

Directed [To the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Howe.

PHILADELPHIA. Sept. 6.

Extract of a letter from General WASHINGTON to CONGRESS, dated Wilmington, Sept. 3, 1777, 8 o'clock, P. M.

THIS morning the enemy came out with a considerable force, and 3 pieces of artillery, against our light advanced corps, and