

## NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 29, 1777.

By his Excellency WILLIAM HOWE, &amp;c.

A Declaration to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware, and the Counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

SIR William Howe, regretting the calamities to which many of his Majesty's faithful subjects are still exposed, by the continuance of the rebellion, and no less desirous of protecting the innocent than determined to pursue with the rigours of war, all those whom his Majesty's forces, in the course of their progress may find in arms against the King, doth hereby assure the inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties of Delaware, and the Counties of Maryland, on the Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay, that in order to remove any groundless apprehensions which may have been raised of their sufferings by depredations of the army under his command; he hath issued the strictest orders to the troops, for the preservation of regularity and good discipline, and has signified that the most exemplary punishment shall be inflicted upon those who shall dare to plunder the property, or molest the persons of any of his Majesty's well disposed subjects.

Security and protection are likewise extended to all persons, the inhabitants of the province and counties aforesaid, who not guilty of having assumed legislative or judicial authority, may have acted illegally in subordinate stations, and conscious of their misconduct have been induced to leave their dwellings: Provided such persons do forthwith return and remain peaceably in their usual places of abode.

Considering moreover, that many officers and private men, now actually in arms against his Majesty, may be willing to relinquish the part they have taken in this rebellion, and return to their allegiance.

Sir William Howe, doth therefore promise a free and general pardon, to all such officers and private men as shall voluntarily come and surrender themselves to any detachment of his Majesty's forces before the day on which it shall be notified, that the said indulgence shall be discontinued. Given under my hand, at head-quarters of the army, the 27th August, 1777.

By his Excellency's command,

ROBERT M'KENSIE.

New-Castle, ff. } THIS day came Francis Alexander, a reputable resident in the county aforesaid, before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace, made oath, that he was eye-witness to several brutal ravages committed by the merciless troops of the tyrant of Great-Britain, on their late landing on the Head of Elk, that he particularly saw one of them, in the presence of divers others, ravish, or attempt violently to effect a rape on the person of a young woman of spotless character, living at his house, notwithstanding her cries and resistance to the contrary, at the same time making use of severe menaces, in case of refusal; and sundry other acts of barbarity he saw there perpetrated, shocking to humanity, and which cry aloud for vengeance.

FRANCIS ALEXANDER.

Sworn before me this 31st

Aug. 1777.

GEO. LATIMER.

The above deposition, taken in the presence of Wm. Maxwell, Brigadier, Alexander Martin, Colonel, and Theo. Bland, Colonel of a regiment of light dragoons.

The humble ADDRESS of the INHABITANTS of PENNSYLVANIA, the LOWER COUNTIES ON DELAWARE, and the COUNTIES ON the EASTERN SHORE of MARYLAND, to his Excellency Sir WILLIAM HOWE, &c. &c.

YOUR Excellency, having in the course of your voyage from New-York, frequently appeared off our coasts with your numerous fleet, upon your arrival at the Head of Elk, excited no doubt in the flattering idea, that unable to support, even the distant view of your force, filled with the most abject terror and dismay, we had fled from our homes and embosomed ourselves in woods and morasses, there to lie concealed until

your vengeance should pass over, lest in the severity of your displeasure we should be utterly consumed; and hence, actuated solely by that humanity which moves your Excellency so sincerely to regret those calamities to which many of his Majesty's "faithful subjects are still exposed by the continuance of rebellion," although your Excellency most confidently assured your royal master and the British nation this rebellion should long e'er now be totally suppressed, by the immortal prowess of your victorious arms, your Excellency hath been graciously pleased, and who can sufficiently admire the unparalleled condescension, to issue your declaration, calling us forth from those retreats to which you supposed us driven by our fears, and kindly inviting us to our forsaken habitations, holding forth to us terms of domestic security and protection.

How unfeeling must be that heart which overflows not with gratitude for that peculiar attention your Excellency hath shewn to the weak and the timid, who start at shadows of their own formation, and tremble at imaginary dangers, when you point out to them the caution you have taken to remove even their "groundless apprehensions."

Having been informed, and some of us eye witnesses, of the insults, the cruelties and barbarities inflicted on the persons, and the ravages, devastation, and wanton destruction of the property of the inhabitants of the Jerseys, and other parts of this continent, of which you have had a temporary possession.—Having heard of the indignities, shocking to humanity, offered without regard to age or character, to that sex, which the brave of every nation ever held themselves bound, by the strongest ties, to protect and defend,—indignities, the recollection of which crimson the cheek of American manhood with a blush of virtuous indignation, only to be effaced by the blood of the more than savage perpetrators.—From the knowledge of these facts, we foolishly had imagined that the same scenes of rapine, oppression and violence, were about to be re-acted on our theatre, unless by a brave exertion of our arms we should be able to chase hence with infamy the brutal actors; but how were all our fears hushed to silence, when we found from your Excellency's declaration, an authority which would surely be highly criminal to call in question, that all those "apprehensions," which to our weak understanding appeared so well founded, are perfectly "groundless" and delusory; and that the troops under your command, from having been inured to a long series of cruelty, instead of being thereby familiarized to violence, and healed against the gentle movements of compassion, and so prepared to improve, even upon their former barbarities, have, on a sudden become filled with remorse, and determined, by their future, to atone for their past conduct.

We acknowledge your Excellency's unmerited goodness in issuing your "strictest orders for the preservation of regularity and good discipline," but at the same time we must observe how extremely fortunate it is, that our apprehensions, for the removal of which your Excellency hath taken all this trouble, are "groundless," since we are too well assured that, were there any real foundation for them, your Excellency's "strictest orders" ought to be of no avail for their removal;—we know your Excellency hath frequently, of your great clemency, issued orders of the same nature, and we also know the conduct of those troops, to whom they were directed, have been the very reverse, afforded neither security to the persons, nor to the property of any, who confiding therein have unhappily fallen into their way; nor can we reasonably flatter ourselves that any stricter obedience will be paid to your orders in this than have been in other instances; or that the threat of exemplary punishment, annexed by your Excellency, will be more regarded by your troops than formerly. On the contrary, we have reason to fear, that, having been long accustomed to violate with impunity those orders your Excellency hath, from time to time, heretofore issued for similar purposes, they may thereby be encouraged to assure themselves of a continuance of impunity.

These reflections had inclined us to believe, that if there was any security for our persons or property, on the part of your Ex-