

## NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MAY 30.

[Continued from our last.]

**T**HE Bishop of Peterborough by rising interrupted the altercation between the noble Duke and the most Reverend Prelate. He recognized the facts, and supported the deductions drawn from them by the noble Duke, and imputed the whole of our present misfortunes to two circumstances equally tending to the same point; that is, supposing two things equally ill founded and contradictory, that the colonies meant independency from the beginning, and that a very considerable part of the people of America were friendly to government, and wish to pay that species of obedience which the British legislature contend for, it was certainly the business of administration to persuade Parliament, and the public at large, into the truth of both these contradictory propositions; because, if in the first instance the colonies meant nothing but independency, not a redress of grievances, the conduct of those in power was perfectly justifiable, unless we abandoned America entirely; if, in the other, a very considerable and powerful part of the people disapproved of the conduct of those who wished to carry matters to extremity, it followed of course that America was still worth contending for, because great numbers there were ready and willing to co-operate in the restoration of legal government, and a return to constitutional obedience. But these propositions, he said, were well known to be repugnant to the true state and real disposition of the people of America. Experience had since amply proved the contrary; the well authenticated important paper now read from the journals proved it; the examination alluded to, taken at the Lordships bar from the most indisputable authority, shewed it beyond question. In considering the subject, he should always take it up on that narrow, but true ground; that America never aimed at independency, till she was compelled to it by our harsh conduct; and that she is at least unanimous in one thing, never to submit to unconditional claims of the British legislature. What then, my Lords, will be the probable consequence of the present unnatural contest, take the matter either way? Supposing that you should meet with no opposition but from the Americans, in effecting your ultimate purpose; if America is unanimous in her notions of independency, or if she be divided, you must reduce her by the sword. The conquest will cost us dear; it will considerably add to the millions we have already contracted. Well, suppose us in possession of this country, it is impossible that we can expect to be immediately repaid, or suddenly grow rich. The very contrary will be the case; you will possess yourself of a country ruined and depopulated. You will find your strength wasted, your treasures exhausted, and the very conquest, instead of recruiting one or replenishing the other, will call for new exertions. You will require a considerable military force to secure the obedience of those you have reduced. Slavery must be ensured by a standing army; and allowing that we had strength, vigour, and internal resources, to bear us through all this, we shall lie at the mercy of France, who may at that very instant think fit to pull off the mask, and drive us to the necessity of defending ourselves, and of trying whether we were equal to the task of making a fresh conquest of our colonies in America. His Lordship spoke very pathetically on the melancholy prospects which presented themselves on every side, but that of conciliation. He lamented the eventual loss of America, the decay of our trade in consequence of that loss, and the inevitable destruction which must follow a war, the professed object of which is the total ruin and subjugating of the party we are contending with.

Lord Littleton controverted almost every thing material urged by the three noble Lords who spoke in favour of the motion. He directed his attention first to the motion, and the noble Lord who made it. He acknowledged the eminent services which his Lordship had performed for his country; and said whatever notice the motion itself was deserving of; the moderate terms it offered, and the remarkable coolness and decorum in which the arguments in support of it were urged, called for candour and

moderation on his part. He seemed much surprised at the timid, despondent tone, affected by the noble Earl, in relation to the conduct and ultimate views of foreign powers, whose fire, spirit and zeal, for the honour and dignity of his country, had carried terror and conquest among the surrounding nations. He asked his Lordship whether he could reconcile to his former conduct, to hold terrors out from the resistance we might meet in pursuing and asserting our undoubted rights, either from America or elsewhere. He remembered the time when the noble Lord held a different language, when he inspired the nation with the most exalted and heroic ideas; when he called upon the people to assert their honour, and do themselves justice, though every power in Europe should combine against them. His Lordship next turned to the state of America; the anarchy that at present prevails there; the acts of violence, treachery, cruelty and injustice, that are daily committed in that country by our rebellious subjects, upon their loyal and dutiful brethren, merely because they would not join in their diabolical schemes of overthrowing all just and legal government. The laws trampled upon, her courts of justice shut, government dissolved, magistrates imprisoned or banished, the faithful and obedient part of the people oppressed, despoiled of their property, suffering in dungeons, or obliged to fly their native land. He observed, that to all the horrors of war, the rebels had added the brutality of savages and treachery of cowards. These were the persons, and this was the cause, some of their Lordships thought fit to espouse and defend. His Lordship reminded his opponents of their predictions concerning the conduct of France; and their repeated assertions that America had never any thoughts of independency. Experience had verified the language of Administration on both those points. The noble Lord who made the motion laughed at the absurdity of such an idea, as no interference on the part of France; and the Congress have long since declared the united colonies independent states. The other noble Lords, on the same side, denied the least probability of any such event, and pledged themselves, if it should ever happen, that they would be the first and most zealous in endeavouring to compel them to a return of their duty. The event has actually taken place, and what is their conduct? Instead of recommending vigorous measures; instead of supporting spirited and decisive exertions of our whole strength, we are told that France does not mean to interfere; but lest she should, it is now proposed to open a treaty with declared and open rebels. Our rights are to be abandoned or conceded, lest France should go to war when our strength and resources are weakened and exhausted. This is surely strange language, and equally pusillanimous, as unworthy the attention of this house. France I am satisfied, from my own knowledge, is neither able nor willing to go to war; and though she were, I trust we are prepared to meet any foreign enemy whatever. Let us turn our eyes to the state of our respective finances, and we may be enabled to judge in some measure of the respective abilities of both countries. Let us reflect on the ease and expedition five millions were borrowed in a nation said to be verging towards ruin. I will venture to say, that a similar offer would not produce the tenth part of the sum in France. Does this accord with the lamentable picture drawn by the noble Duke, and terrors suspended over our heads by the Right Rev. Prelate? Merchants and men in trade, however friendly to government, seldom trust their property to precarious security. In those transactions they pay a constant attention to two objects, advantages and security. They are, of all men, the most cautious of disposing or trusting their money out of their hands, and know best to lay it out where it promises profit, properly secured. This unbounded credit is seldom a forerunner of a bankrupt government, or empty exchequer. His Lordship next answered that part of the noble Duke's argument in respect of the petition from the Congress, and the evidence given by Mr. Penn. He insisted that the former was the effect of mere hypocrisy, and the latter, to his own knowledge, far from being supported by truth. But supposing the former was serious, what did it import? An appeal from the Parliament to his Ma-