

# NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

From the LONDON EVENING POST.

**T**H E situation of this country becomes more and more critical, and calls loudly for our most serious attention. Dangers multiply upon us, difficulties increase, and the American war, instead of opening to us in its progress, any prospect of success, only discovers in the clearest point of view the impolicy and inexpediency of our endeavours, as well as the imminent perils to which we are exposed, by madly persevering in this absurd and chimerical project.

The general acquiescence and placid languor which now prevails under our accumulated evils, is to me of all things the most astonishing. The handicraftsman or manufacturer, who is put out of employ; the merchant that loses his consignments, and the man of landed property, who is loaded with an additional burthen on his estate, to support these measures of bloodshed and oppression, must, I should imagine, feel the loads with which they are separately encumbered; and unless the nature and disposition of man is totally reversed, ought, as they have evident reason, to complain against their oppressors.

The disinterested patriot, who cannot but foresee the certain ruin of his country approaching, perhaps the very existence of Britain, as a nation, staked on the event of this campaign, should be under apprehensions greater than those which disturb any of the foregoing orders of men, as his fears are excited by more generous and benevolent motives, the love of his country and the preservation of the lives of mankind; yet, how comes it that we are all so tranquil, and suffer administration, almost without a murmur, to carry on a war, not only unjust in its commencement, dangerous and prejudicial in its consequences, but which threatens ruin, and total destruction in the end? For, excepting the motion made some time since by that renowned patriot and statesman, the Earl of Chatham, whose magnanimity and zeal cannot be sufficiently admired by his countrymen, we have of late scarce made any opposition to these insidious measures.

We ought to complain, if it was only to keep alive, and upon record, the many injuries we have sustained; for my part I expect some good to arise from our complaints, as I hope we shall obtain redress in the end. This country has ever found means of avenging its wrongs. The many revolutions we have experienced, not only afford us sufficient testimonials of the spirit of our ancestors, from which we ought never to degenerate, but point out to us, in the strongest manner, that line of conduct we ought ourselves most steadily to pursue. Let not ministers in a future day, when misfortune, heaped upon misfortune, shall have brought this country to the utmost pitch of destruction, have any subterfuge by which they may escape that punishment they have so justly merited. Let them not make pretence, that they acted with the concurrence, and for the benefit of the people. Nothing can be farther from the truth.— It is true the cries of poverty are but seldom heard, and scarcely ever attended to. Every one strives to avoid the unhappy wretch, who, by exposing his own indigence, seems to lay claim to the bounty of his more opulent neighbour. Thus the starving manufacturer, and discarded artisan, though they complain, unpitied and unheard, perhaps pressed into the service as soldiers and mariners, their clamours are effectually silenced, and a period put to their misfortunes by a sudden death.

Other means are made use of to silence the clamours of other men. The merchant who receives a lucrative contract from government, by which the public are defrauded, as in the case of the rum contract, of more than half the money expended, will make but feeble complaints of the losses he has sustained in other branches of trade.

In like manner the man of landed property, who, from his acquiescence with the measures of government, expects a bribe or salary from them in return; or the landed man, who is so absurd as to imagine, that by taxing America, if ever such a scheme could be accomplished, his own burthens would be lightened, is very well satisfied, under this mistaken idea, that A-

merica should be enslaved; though, I say, these base minded men, who are actuated by such grovelling and narrow principles, will suffer administration to do as they please, let their measures be ever so detestable; yet, the bulk of the nation ought to be, and I am fully persuaded, if the sense of the people could be fairly collected, the bulk of the nation are against these absurd and iniquitous measures.

Now, although unfortunately we cannot at this moment remedy the mischiefs that have been committed in America, or recover any dominion over that extensive continent, we may prevent the further increase of the evil, by instantly terminating the war.

A firm union and confederacy, founded on commercial views, may still be formed; and such an union, was it to take place, would perhaps be more beneficial to this country, than if we were established in our former claims of superiority and unbounded controul.

Let us look a little to the present state of things in that country, and consider briefly the prospect we have before us.

The Congress of America, who, if the fairest and most unequivocal mode of representation can convey the sense of the people, stand in the place of the whole continent, and speaking the sentiments of the people by whom they were deputed, they have declared that country free and independent. They have published to the world, in the most solemn manner, this their determination, with the reasons which induced them to dissolve the bands of union with their mother state.

This was done last year, at the instant when General Howe, with an army the most formidable America ever saw, appeared before New-York. This declaration has been joyfully received by the continent at large. Each province has in detail given its assent, and established with the utmost wisdom and deliberation, its own internal mode of government.

Thus thirteen republicks, each differing in form, but agreeing in substance, being all built on the firm basis of civil liberty and equal freedom, are, in an instant, irrevocably established. Deprived of the benefits of our law, are they to blame if they establish laws of their own? Persecuted by us, and invaded with fire and sword, would not acquiescence, under such accumulated insults and injuries, have been criminal? The rights of freemen called them to arms, and to arms they have appealed. Driven to independency, can we be surprized that they have received, as a donation from us, that superiority which we were too haughty to hold any longer upon reasonable conditions? A federal union of the justest nature connects the whole, and forms them into one collective body. Their strength and power in this manner united, seems to be equal to the declaration they have made; and the ridicule of an immense continent continuing to be governed by an island at four thousand miles distant, is too apparent to escape the utmost derision and contempt.

The absolute success of their arms in the first campaign, and the delay and disturbance they gave to our collected force in the second, when in reality we effected nothing, but received considerable losses, are to me sufficient indications of their abilities to preserve their liberties, and maintain independence; and yet at this moment we are entering upon a third campaign, with fewer advantages than ever! Our troops diminished and disheartened, perishing as well by the severity of the climate, as by the sword of the enemy; and further, as it is strongly apprehended, at variance with each other. Foreign mercenaries, and more mercenary Englishmen, in open disagreement. The commanders, instead of appeasing these tumults, fomenting the general discord, and maintaining among themselves party disputes and private cabals.

The Americans, on the contrary, more firmly united than ever, more determined in their views, and better prepared for their defence, a stricter discipline established among the soldiery; and in addition to all this, they now receive an open and avowed assistance from the court of France. Poverty, ruin and defeat, seem to be the natural consequences of our continuing