

for accommodating the differences with America by treaty; and for the better effectuating so desirable a purpose, to agree to a cessation of all hostilities; at the same time to assure his majesty of the determination of his commons to co-operate with him in every measure that could contribute to the re-establishment of peace, and the drawing such lines as should afford sufficient security to the terms of pacification."

Lord George Cavendish rose to second lord Granby's motion.— He did this, he said, with the greater readiness, as he trusted it would be universally allowed that the proposition came from the purest and most liberal motives; and as the young nobleman by whom it was offered was so circumstanced in point of fortune, family, and dignity, that it was impossible for any cause to affect the state in general, without having a similar effect with respect to him in particular; he therefore hoped the motion would be considered by the house with a more serious degree of attention. He then went into the conduct of the war during the three last campaigns, and from the little effect which coercion has produced, as well as from the ties of humanity and relative duties, deduced the expediency of adopting the measures recommended in the motion.

Governor Johnstone followed him, beginning upon the same ground, but adverting in a very sensible manner to the speech of Sir Gilbert Elliott. He reprobated the general and violent censure thrown out by that young member on those gentlemen who had maintained opinions different from his, for several years before he came into parliament, and who at this day, found no reason to alter those opinions. He professed himself one of those gentlemen whom the young member had branded with the appellation of a faction, and, to justify his sentiments, offered a variety of reasons chiefly deduced from facts. He spoke strenuously of the merit of admiral Howe as a commander, not only from his conduct in the present war, but from his own personal knowledge of him. The difficulties he must have met in his passage from New York to the Bk were numerous and immense; yet he understood this gallant officer, equipped as a common sailor, with a jacket and trowsers, went himself into the boats, and with the plumb in his hands, conducted a large fleet up Chesapeake Bay, through shoals and obstructions, which it was thought by able officers were impracticable to get over. But he denied that any real advantage had been acquired by these great achievements; he denied that our trade was in a flourishing state. We had lost the Mediterranean trade; the African trade; and even our home trade was invaded; for very lately a number of French bottoms had been employed to carry our own goods from the river Thames; and as the young member must certainly be a man of learning, he ought to have known that a rise in the interest of money, is a certain sign of the decay of trade.

Mr. Alderman Wilkes, after some general observations on the little effect of our prowess hitherto in arms, and the expediency of an immediate treaty, adverted to the proclamation of General Burgoyne; in which, notwithstanding the professions of christianity, with which it sets out, there is a spirit of cruelty displayed, which is a disgrace to humanity. He threatens there to let loose the indians upon his opponents. What is the use?—What the usual conduct of savages in war? To commit every species of devastation, and immolate to their insatiate fury man, woman, and child.

Mr. Alderman Bull spoke for some time in favour of the amendment.

Sir Philip Jennings Clerk. I shall heartily concur in the first part of the proposed address, which is to convey our dutiful congratulations to the king, on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the birth of another princess; an event which I do most sincerely rejoice at; but have constantly opposed the American war from the commencement of it, as thinking it might and ought to have been avoided, and for other reasons which I have frequently offered in this house, and which are too well justified by events, which have happened in the prosecution of it; it will not be wondered at, that I should now refuse to give my assent to those other parts of this address, which are to convey assurances to the throne, of our intentions to furnish means of prolonging and continuing the war.

I do most heartily adopt the amendment made by the noble lord. It is of a conciliating nature, tending to put an end to this unfortunate quarrel, which has brought this country to the eve of its ruin, and which, if persevered in, must end in its destruction. A motion of a nature similar to this, was made by a noble earl in the other house, in the early part of these troubles. That noble earl, (the greatest minister, and the ablest statesman this country ever boasted of) wishing to save this country a second time from impending ruin, stepped forth in its distress, and produced a plan of a bill, which would at once have prevented all the calamities which since that time have befallen us. It forewarned you at that time of all the distresses and dangers which have since happened. Unhappily for this country, little credit was given to his predictions; his plan of accommodation was re-

jected, not because it was disapproved, but there is too much reason to think, that a jealousy of that great man's abilities deprived us of the benefit of his preferred services. His plan, so dissimilar to that of gentlemen in administration, could not be accepted without depriving them of their places. A reason which I fear, will protract this war as long as any honest man has a guinea left in his pocket, or a man, woman, or child left alive, if we continue to furnish ministers with means to destroy them.— A great price indeed for their service!

Had that noble earl's plan been accepted, we would be considered as their friends, not their murderers, and should now probably be in quiet possession of our colonies. The people of that country would be now looking up to us for protection. Then by a revival of trade, and their assistance, we should be in a situation not to cringe to any foreign power, but to demand, if necessary, that justice by the sword, which we are now obliged to implore by memorials and petitions.

The question was now loudly called for, and the speaker was about to put it, when

Mr. Serjeant Aclair stood up, and said, he had one argument to offer on the present question, which had not been offered by any gentleman who had spoken before him. He was astonished that, on the first day of the session, when parliament, particularly under such critical circumstances as the present, should expect every information that ministry were able to furnish, in order to justify the house in pledging itself to supply government, not one man in administration had deigned to stand up to give parliament the smallest ray of light on the present state of affairs. It was unknown how we stood with respect to France and Spain; and it was strongly suspected that Portugal had acceded to the B. urban compact. These were circumstances that should have some influence on our measures, and whatever knowledge government had of those matters, ought of course to be laid before the house; and the withholding such information, if any they had, was a sufficient reason for the house to postpone the address till they should be better instructed on those material subjects.

Lord North upon this rose to apologize for that silence for which the ministry had been reprehended. He appealed to the oldest members, whether it was customary for ministers to stand up to comment upon the king's speech in the first day of the session. If any material case required explanation, he would have been most ready to give it all the light in his power; but he acknowledged himself totally in the dark with regard to the present state of our campaign in America. He defended General Burgoyne's proclamation. He insisted there was nothing of cruelty intended by it. The general had taken every possible method to prevent the cruel ravages of the indians. He urged the necessity of gaining them to us, from the attempts made by the Congress to conciliate their interest to that side. To employ them there on, with the care and attention used by our general to prevent their customary ravages and cruelty, was one of the most effectual means of reducing the enemy. With regard to foreign powers, France and Spain held out the language of friendship, and he believed they were sincere. It was not their interest now to quarrel with us. It was a new case, and America grown a separate empire, would of course cause such a revolution in the political system of the world, as must stagger the resolution of our most enterprising enemies. *Remainder in our next.*

WILLIAMSBURG, March 13.

VESSELS are almost daily arriving from France and the West Indies, with salt and dry goods. Considering the very large quantity of that article now in the country, and what may reasonably be expected to be made amongst ourselves in the course of the summer, there can hardly remain a doubt of its being soon restored to its original value. This week, with other goods, it fell for twenty four shillings; and by itself it has been offered at thirty shillings, to take a large quantity.

Last week upwards of ninety runaway negroes (consisting of men, women, and children) were shipped off in a transport, fitted out by Capt. Onslow of the British ship of war the St. Alban's, for the West Indies, there to be sold for the benefit of his august masters. This gentleman openly avows his being instructed to carry on the scandalous and ignoble traffick, calculated by those wiseacres, it seems, with a view to distress us, but vastly more oppressing to a set of miserable beings, carried away from a tolerable degree of ease, and plenty, to spend the small remnant of their days in sorrow and wretchedness.

We learn that General Howe has pushed about 1500 of his troops from Philadelphia, it is thought on a foraging scheme, for it seems both horses and men in that capital begin to look confounded lean, from their late spare diet.

NEW BERN, April 3.

NO mail from the Northward last week. A report prevails, that a smart skirmish has lately happened in the Jerseys, between a party of the British troops, and a part of General