

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

LONDON, November 20.

Remainder of the debates in the house of commons.

MR. LURKE replied to his Lordship, and expressed great concern, that the matters urged by so many respectable members as had spoke before him, should be treated so lightly, and took a very proper opportunity of complimenting the several honourable persons we have already mentioned, and recited the haughtiness of the minister in terms of the most pointed satire.— If the shortness of time did not prevent us, we should be happy to give the detail of a speech, which, in the course of two hours, commanded the attention, excited the laughter, and sometimes drew tears from the sympathizing few who were not hardened by prejudice in the sentiments of any party. We shall omit all those changes of ridicule which were rung by his ingenuity upon the defence which Lord North made in answer to the charge against General Burgoyne's proclamation. We are obliged to pass over his unanswerable proofs of the futility, not to say the injury, of our conquests in the colonies, and touch only on that pathetic supplication which he made to the house, to seize the present happy moment to attempt an accommodation, when neither elated with insolent victory, nor debased with abject defeat, we could with honour to ourselves make such proposals to our colonies as they could, without dishonour, accept. He apostrophized with a degree of honest enthusiasm, upon the noble spirit of men, who, if they had not been rebels, he could have been lavish in praising; of women who, reduced by the ruin of civil discord to the most horrible situation of distress and poverty, had constancy, generosity, and public spirit, to strip the blankets, in a freezing season, from themselves and their infants, to send to the camp, and preserve that army which they had sent out to fight for their liberties. And shall Britons, said he, overlook such virtue? and will they persist in oppressing it; shall we give them no alternative but unconditional submission? A three years war has not terrified them, distressed as they are, from their great purpose. Let us try the power of lenity over these generous bosoms.—To follow him all through, we must have omitted the rest of the debate, and to do him justice would be impossible.

The house seemed usually disposed to concord; would to Heaven! we might be soon able to announce "a consummation so devoutly to be wished as their coalition."

Mr. Charles Fox was remarkably severe on Lord George Germaine. He reminded him of certain circumstances, which we do not chuse to repeat, and attributed to his administration, the most capital mistakes of government, for the last two years.

Lord George Germaine defended himself with temper and ingenuity, said he had been invited into office, and hinted to Mr. Fox that his fortune was such, that the profits of a place could not be any great object to him.

Colonel Barre showed the necessity of sending out full powers to the commissioners, of presenting the Olive branch to the Americans, before they become utterly irreconcilable to Great-Britain; he complained that his letters were opened by the orders of the ministers, and that no officer from America dared to speak to him, as he was looked on as a proscribed person.

Mr. Temple Luttrell said a good deal about an address to the King, that he would be graciously pleased to empower his commissioners to treat with the provincials; but as the house made a good deal of noise, it was impossible to collect the particulars of his speech.

Lord North made a short reply to Col. Barre, and then the question being put, there appeared, for the address, 243; Against it, 88; Majority, 255. The house broke up at half past twelve, and adjourned till to morrow.

IN CONGRESS, December 19, 1777.

WHEREAS Sir William Howe, commander in chief of his Britannic Majesty's forces, has required, that provisions

should be sent in for the subsistence of the American prisoners in his possession, and for the purchase of such necessaries, as they may stand in need of, and has prohibited the circulation of the money struck by the authority of these States, within such parts of the country, as are, at present, subjected to his power, whereby great difficulties have occurred in relieving the distresses of the American prisoners: And whereas large sums of continental bills of credit have been counterfeited and issued by the agents, emissaries and abettors of Sir William Howe.

Resolved, That the accounts of all provisions and other necessaries, which already have been, or which hereafter may be supplied by the public to prisoners in the power of these States, shall be discharged, either by receiving from the British commissary of prisoners or any of his agents, provisions or other necessaries equal in quality and kind to what have been supplied, or the amount thereof, in gold and silver at the rate of four shillings and six pence sterling for every dollar of the currency of these States; and that all these accounts be liquidated and discharged, previous to the release of any prisoners, to whom provisions or other necessaries shall have been supplied.

January 21. The board of war reported, that, having conferred with Mr. Elias Boudinot commissary of prisoners on the 21st of December, and carefully examined the evidence produced by him, they esteem it their duty to state to Congress the following facts relating to the American prisoners, in the power of the enemy.

That as far as can be collected from the testimony of prisoners and inhabitants, who have left the enemy, there are about 900 privates and 800 officers in the city of New-York, and about 500 privates and 50 officers, in the city of Philadelphia.

That the privates in New-York have been crowded all summer in sugar-houses, and the officers boarded on Long-Island, except about 30, who have been confined in the provost-guard and in the most loathsome goals.

That, since the beginning of October, all these prisoners, both officers and privates, have been confined in prison-ships, or the provost.

That the privates in the city of Philadelphia have been kept in the two public goals and the officers in the State-house.

That from the best evidence, which the nature of the subject will admit of, it appears, that the general allowance of provisions, at the most, does not exceed four ounces of meat and the same quantity of bread (sometimes so damaged as not to be eatable) per man per day, and often much less, although the professed allowance is from eight to ten ounces; and that the prisoners have been treated in general (officers not excepted) with a cruelty scarce to be paralleled, and with the most studied and illiberal insult.

That it has been a common practice with the enemy, on a prisoner being first captured, to keep him three, four and even five days without a morsel of provisions of any kind, and then to tempt him to enlist with the new levies in order to save his life.

That there are numerous instances of prisoners of war perishing in all the agonies of hunger, from their severe treatment.

That being generally stripped of what clothes they have when taken, they have suffered greatly for want thereof during their confinement.

That, in the beginning of last summer, bills of exchange to the amount of £. 600 sterling, purchased of David Franks, British commissary of prisoners, residing within the jurisdiction of these States, were sent into New-York for the relief of the prisoners; that every obstacle was thrown in the way to prevent the negotiation of these bills, and after a delay of two months, they were returned to Mr. Boudinot, the American commissary of prisoners.

That the American commissary of prisoners had permission to send in provisions from Hudson's and Rariton rivers into New-York, and to purchase cloathing there for about two months past; but on this condition, that the sloop carrying the provisions stop