

## NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

Mr. WILKES'S SPEECH in the HOUSE of COMMONS, on the third reading of the two Conciliatory Bills respecting America.

[Continued from our last]

**T**HE honorable gentleman (Sir Grey Cooper) Sir, who made you the motion for the third reading of the bill, says, the Americans will see, "that we do not mean to tax them." They have no confidence in any of our professions or promises. The act of parliament of the session, or the Secretary's official letter, they hold in equal contempt. In 1765 there was so great a stagnation of our commerce in consequence of the stamp act, that in the following year that unjust, as well as uncommercial act, was repealed, and all the sources of trade between Great Britain and her colonies were again opened, that flowed in abundance. Notwithstanding this, in the very next year, duties to be paid in America, were imposed on tea, glass, paper, and other articles, which threw the whole empire again into convulsions. America saw that we were not to be confided in during the short period of a single year, and that no tie, even of our own interest, could bind us to any terms of future security for them. It is impossible, without the highest indignation, to reflect from what a height of prosperity we are now fallen into an abyss of misery and ruin. The dispositions of America in 1766 were more friendly and affectionate. The wise measures of the repeal of the stamp act diffused universal joy through the thirteen now revolted colonies. At Philadelphia, in May 1766, they unanimously came to the following generous resolution, "That to demonstrate our zeal to Great Britain, and our gratitude for the repeal of the stamp act, each of us will, on the 4th day of June next, being the birth day of our most gracious sovereign George the Third, dress ourselves in a new suit of the manufactures of England, and give what home spun we have to the poor." What were the unanimous resolutions of the Congress not ten years after, in the very same town?—Our enemies have published them to the world with mockery and triumph. With what perfidy has the province of the Jerseys been treated? When that province returned to its allegiance, was it restored to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and in the same protection and security as if it had never revolted? Or did that province continue under the ban of the empire, as a lucrative job to the friends of the Minister? Yet the Minister, in the King's name, at the opening of the session of Parliament in October 1775, solemnly held out such promises to the Americans. It is impossible the colonists can have any confidence in such Ministers, or their Agents, or Commissioners; and unless men, as well as measures, are changed, no permanent reconciliation can be effected. Our perfidy may indeed possibly be retaliated upon us in a mock treaty, and a delusive negotiation; but no stable, solid peace can be obtained by the authors of their grievances.

The ear of England, Sir, is rankly abused by Ministers, who pretend to assure us of pacific dispositions in the colonies, and a desire to return to their dependence on the parent state, when not the least symptom of such a nature has appeared. Has the Congress, or any one colony, made the least overture to a reconciliation, since their declaration of Independence? Have not the Americans expressed the utmost abhorrence of the ministers, who are

to nominate the Commissioners, instead of a disposition to treat with them? And will they entertain a more favourable idea of their creature? I must declare that I see nothing in the intended negotiation but disgrace and humiliation on our part, after our repeated injuries, and a lucrative job for five bold, hungry, dependents of the Minister. Would to God, Sir, I may be mistaken, and the Commissioners may return to Europe with unenvied wealth and bloodless laurels. Their grateful country will honor them to its latest posterity—their fame will be immortal.

An honorable gentleman, (Mr. Burke) one of the greatest ornaments of this House, says, that he observes great benevolence among us towards the Americans. I heartily wish that I could discover it. Among three sets of gentlemen, which have been mentioned this day, I fear the Americans have very few friends. All the dependents of Administration, the large majority in this House who have voted all the cruel and oppressive acts now to be suspended, have certainly no great benevolence towards the Americans. Those who are accustomed to pace in the trammels of a despotick Minister, and to be obedient to his sovereign nod, naturally abhor the enthusiast for liberty, the uncontrolled spirit of the sons of freedom. I suspect likewise that there is not much good will towards our fellow subjects in the colonies, among the inhabitants in northern parts of our own island. It would be a curious speculation to investigate the cause of the marked hatred of the Scots in general to the Americans. Is it, Sir, that although some small parts of America are almost over-run with Tories, as others are with destructive animals, yet there scarcely ever was found a single Jacobite in all our colonies? Are the Scots in despair, because they have not been able to find any thing in North America congenial with them, they cannot there mingle treason with treason? Is it that believing the present resistance in the colonies to partake of the nature of a true rebellion, they are jealous of such an usurpation of the Americans on their peculiar prerogative? Scotland seems, indeed, the natural foyer of rebellion, as Egypt is of the plague; but, Sir, no monopolies in this commercial country are permitted. Manchester and Liverpool would oppose such a monopoly, and justly claim no small share in it, from their vigorous efforts in favour of the pretender in 1745. It will, Sir, be a new and curious spectacle in 1778, to mark the North pouring forth her hardy sons to quell an American, not to aid a native, rebellion, carefully nursed in her frozen bosom, and afterwards in a tainted part of England, kindly tendered and fostered in its progress to the South. The third set of persons lately mentioned, are the country gentlemen. I respect the character, but I fear many of them are hostile to America and American rights. They are for the most part very steady, not hardened and perplexed with many ideas, and perhaps with few of a liberal nature. A single principle of late appears to govern them. They hoped to throw off from their shoulders on the poor Americans, a considerable part of the enormous burdens, under which they groan, of the debts of their late adopted German and the present American, war. The noble Lord with the blue ribband, had assured them of a solid and substantial revenue from America. On this plan of private economy to them, the minister bargained for their support. Their disappointment, and the sense of his jockeyship, has undoubtedly much chagrined them,—but