

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.

[Concluded from our last]

ANOTHER honourable gentleman (Thomas Gilbert, Esquire, member for Litchfield) complains, "that every thing respecting the public is in a great degree neglected, and that some of our most important concerns are scarcely regarded." He has accordingly, with much good sense, held out to the house the idea of a committee to examine into the expenditure of the public money during this war. I agree with him, that nothing is now secure, or indeed properly taken care of,—except the protestant succession. His proposal meets my full and warm approbation. Another committee, however, seems to me still more immediately necessary, a committee to enquire into the nature and causes of the failure of the Canadian expedition, for we cannot hide the nation's fear. I am sorry to be informed that the house is to be prorogued at Easter, for I fear we cannot in this session undertake both these important concerns. The enquiry into the Canadian expedition, the loss of a British army, and the horrid cruelties committed on our fellow subjects, is of the first importance, both to vindicate the honour of our sovereign, and the humanity of the nation. I am shocked, Sir, at the false rumours daily spread, and the foul reproaches cast on the common father of his people. It is repeatedly circulated in print, Sir, that on the 17th of October, after Burgoyne's capitulation, in which Gates demonstrated a refined delicacy of honour, unparalleled in European armies, the British general was received with respect, and dined with the American hero, that nothing unkind was said to him, except asking how he could find in his heart to burn the poor country people's houses where he passed, and that he answered, it was the King's orders. From all the letters of Burgoyne it has been repeatedly asserted, that the project of the Canadian expedition originated from the closet of the King, and the office of the American secretary; and that the employing the savages against our fellow subjects, was among the primary ideas adopted on that occasion.—The American secretary, in a letter to general Carlton, dated Whitehall, March 26, 1777, says, "as this plan cannot be advantageously executed without the assistance of Canadians and Indians, his majesty strongly recommends it to your care to furnish both expeditions with good and sufficient bodies of those men. And I am happy in knowing your influence among them is so great that there can be no room to apprehend you will find it difficult to fulfill his majesty's intentions." In the "thoughts for conducting the war from the side of Canada, by General Burgoyne," which were approved by the King, Burgoyne desires 1000 or more savages. Col. Butler was directed to distribute the King's bounty money among such of the savages as would join the army, and, after the delivery of the presents, he asks for 40111. York currency, before he left Niagara. Burgoyne's barbarous proclamation appears now to be only a consequence of his sanguinary instructions.

General Gates's letters have informed the world with what savage ferocity and cruelty the Indians carried on a war, to which they were so strongly invited. An Indian campaign is known to

be productive of every species of torture, to which the human frame is subject. In the last campaign scarcely fewer women and children in some parts where the war raged with the greatest fury, expired under the tomahawk and scalping knife, than were killed by the sword and bayonet among those who bore arms.—Col. Butler's letter to Sir Guy Carleton, of July 28th, says, many of the prisoners were, conformable to the Indian custom, afterwards killed." Has the secretary at war yet thanked the savages in the king's name for their alacrity? I have not had time fully to examine the numerous papers on our table, and therefore I am ignorant whether we have any letter from his lordship similar to that from the war office, of the 11th of May, 1768, "that having had the honour of mentioning to the King the behaviour of the detachment from the several tribes of Indians, which have lately been employed in the scalping and tomahawking his American subjects, he has great pleasure in informing the general, that his majesty highly approves of the conduct both of the Indian chiefs and the men, and means that his royal approbation should be communicated to them through the General. Employing Indians in such a service gives him (the humane secretary at war) pain, but it is necessary. He hopes they will continue to perform their duty with alacrity. Every possible regard shall be shewn to their zeal, and they shall have the protection of the law, and his office, under every disagreeable circumstance."

Mr. Burgoyne held himself out as an active agent on this occasion, not by the slightest mention of any supposed military talents, but by such an abject flattery of the American secretary, as I hope no other man in Europe could commit. He declares in a letter to Lord George Germaine, dated from Hertford street, Jan. 1, 1777, "I humbly laid myself at his majesty's feet for such active employment as he might think me worthy of.—This was the substance of my audience on my part. I undertook it, and I now report it to your Lordship, in the hope of your patronage in this pursuit; a hope, my Lord, founded not only upon a just sense of the honour your Lordship's friendship must reflect upon me, but also upon a feeling that I deserve it, in as much as a solid respect, and sincere personal attachment can constitute such a claim." In his letter of June 22, 1777, he seems to have fully entered into the ideas of his principal; for he says, "that he met the Indians yesterday in Congress, and gave them a war feast according to their custom," of which war feast we know the most solemn ceremony to be drinking human blood out of the skulls of their enemies. In the same conference he consents to the mangling of the dead, for, says he, "allowing the Indians to take the scalps of the dead." Surely, Sir, an enquiry into those horrors, and the failure of an expedition, which has not only disgraced our arms, but obscured the name of Englishmen, and fixed a foul stain on our national character, is still more worthy of our enquiry than the waste of public treasure, although we are, I fear, if the war continues, too near the brink of a general bankruptcy.

I observe, Sir, that gentlemen have this day been very fond of giving advice to the ministers. I am not fond at any time of giving advice, but I will for once follow the example. My advice then, Sir, to administration is, to supplicate his majesty to order an immediate cessation of arms in North America, and to re-