

themselves to appear to be deceived. They permitted you to flounder on in the ocean of your follies and your crimes. You and your brethren, I find, are directed to play the same game here, to call our allies faithless, to tell a hundred incoherent fictions about our treaties, the substance of which you confess yourselves at this moment ignorant of. And what is the very complication of absurdity, you pretend to tell Congress the manner in which the negotiations were carried on, when Mr. Deane, the principal negotiator on their part, is on the spot to give information. For shame! For shame! Is it for these reasons that Congress treat you with such utter contempt.

There is but one way left to sink you still lower; and, thank God, you have found it out. You are about to publish! O my lord! my lord! you are indeed in a mighty pitiful condition.— You have tried fleets and armies, and proclamations, and now you threaten us with newspapers. Go on; exhaust all your artillery. But know, that those who have withstood your flattery, and refused your bribes, despise your menaces. Farewell. When you come with better principles, and on a better errand, we shall be glad to meet you. Till that moment

I am your lordship's most obedient

And most humble servant,

AN AMERICAN.

PHILADELPHIA, August 11.

LAST Thursday being the day appointed by Congress for the audience of the sieur Gerard, minister plenipotentiary from his most christian majesty, that minister received audience accordingly. In pursuance of the ceremonial established by Congress, the honourable Richard Henry Lee, Esq; one of the delegates from Virginia, and the honourable Samuel Adams, Esq; one of the delegates from Massachusetts Bay, in a coach and six provided by Congress, waited upon the minister at his house. In a few minutes, the minister and the two delegates entered the coach, Mr. Lee placing himself at the minister's left hand on the back seat, Mr. Adams occupying the front seat. The minister's chariot being behind, received his secretary. The carriages being arrived at the statehouse in this city, the two members of Congress, placing themselves at the minister's left hand, a little before one o'clock introduced him to his chair in the Congress chamber, the president and Congress sitting. The chair was placed fronting the president. The minister being seated, he gave his credentials into the hands of his secretary, who advanced and delivered them to the president. The secretary of Congress then read and translated them; which being done, Mr. Lee announced the minister to the president and Congress, when the president, the Congress, and the minister, rose together. He bowed to the president and the Congress; they bowed to him. Whereupon the whole seated themselves. In a moment, the minister rose and made a speech to the Congress, they sitting. The speech being finished, the minister sat down, and giving a copy of his speech to his secretary, he presented it to the president.— The president and the Congress then rose, and the president pronounced their answer to the speech, the minister standing. The answer being ended, the whole were again seated, and the president giving a copy of the answer to the secretary of Congress, he presented it to the minister. The president, the Congress, and the minister, then again rose together. The minister bowed to the president, who returned the salute, and then to the Congress, who also bowed in return. And the minister having again bowed to the president, and received his bow, he withdrew, and was attended home in the same manner in which he had been conducted to the audience.

Within the bar of the house the Congress formed a semicircle on each side of the president and the minister, the president sitting at one extremity of the circle, at a table upon a platform elevated two steps, and the minister sitting at the opposite extremity of the circle, in an arm chair, upon the same level with the Congress. The door of the Congress chamber being thrown open below the bar, about 200 gentlemen were admitted to the audience, among whom were the vice president of the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, the supreme executive council, the speaker and members of the house of assembly, several foreigners of distinction, and officers of the army.

Thus has a new and noble fight been exhibited in this new world, the representatives of the united states of America solemnly giving public audience to a minister plenipotentiary from the most powerful prince in Europe. Four years ago such an event, at so near a day, was not in the view even of imagination. But it is the Almighty who raiseth up; he hath stationed America among the powers of the earth, and clothed her in robes of sovereignty.

The audience being over, the Congress and the minister, at a proper hour, repaired to an entertainment by Congress given to the minister; at which were present, by invitation, several foreigners of distinction, and gentlemen of public character. The entertainment was conducted with a decorum suited to the occasion, and gave the most perfect satisfaction to the whole company.

IN CONGRESS, Aug. 6, 1778.

According to order, the honourable the sieur Gerard being introduced to an audience by the two members for that purpose appointed, and being seated in his chair, his secretary delivered to the president a letter from his most christian majesty, which was read in the words following:

*Very dear, great friends and allies,*

THE treaties which we have signed with you, in consequence of the proposals your commissioners made to us in your behalf, are a certain assurance of our affection for the united states in general, and for each of them in particular, as well as of the interest we take, and constantly shall take, in their happiness and prosperity. It is to convince you more particularly of this that we have nominated the sieur Gerard, secretary of our council of state, to reside among you in the quality of our minister plenipotentiary. He is the better acquainted with our sentiments toward you, and the more capable of testifying the same to you, as he was entrusted on our part to negotiate with your commissioners, and signed with'm the treaties which cement our union. We pray you to give full credit to all he shall communicate to you from us, more especially when he shall assure you of our affection and constant friendship for you. We pray God, very dear, great friends and allies, to have you in his holy keeping. Your good friend and ally,

(Signed)

L O U I S.

GRAVIER DE VERGENNES.

VERSALLES, March 28, 1778.

(directed)

*To our very dear, great friends, the president and members of the general Congress of North America.*

The minister was then announced to the president and the house; whereupon he arose and addressed Congress in a speech, which, when he had finished, his secretary delivered the same, in writing, to the president, as follows:

*Gentlemen,*

THE connection formed by the king, my master, with the united states of America, is so agreeable to him that he could no longer delay sending me to reside among you for the purpose of cementing it. It will give his majesty great satisfaction to learn that the sentiments which have shone forth on this occasion justify that confidence with which he hath been inspired by the zeal and character of the commissioners of the united states in France, the wisdom and fortitude which have directed the resolutions of Congress, and the courage and perseverance of the people they represent; a confidence which you know, gentlemen, has been the basis of that truly amicable and disinterested system on which he hath treated with the united states.

It is not his majesty's fault that the engagements he hath entered into did not establish your independence and repose without the further effusion of blood, and without aggravating the calamities of mankind, whose happiness it is his highest ambition to promote and secure. But since the hostile measures and designs of the common enemy have given to engagements purely eventual an immediate, positive, permanent, and indissoluble force, it is the opinion of the king, my master, that the allies should turn their whole attention to fulfil those engagements in the manner most useful to the common cause, and best calculated to obtain that peace which is the object of the alliance.

It is upon this principle his majesty hath hastened to send you a