

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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L O N D O N.

HOUSE of COMMONS, May 26.

MR. Alderman Wilkes moved that general Burgoyne should give an account at large of what had happened within his service, as a public man, from the time he went to America till he left that continent.

Sir William Meredith objected to motions criminating the general, who had acted, not like men who here ignobly and ingloriously voted their country to bloodshed and destruction, but had ventured his life and best services.

Mr. Wilkes rising up to explain, said, I lay no charge to the honourable general; I was the echo of the public voice, which says, the Saratoga surrender of a whole British army, was ignominious and disgraceful to the voice of England, and of all Europe; I therefore wish that the honourable general be brought to a fair trial.

Mr. George Grenville wished to revive the committee on the state of the nation, now dissolved, that the Canada papers might lie before them.

Mr. Charles Fox said, that the same papers might be referred to a new committee, which he would prefer, because he hoped the same resolutions would not be passed: He was for a thorough and complete investigation; he was apprehensive that upon certain questions being asked, the spirit of the honourable general would lead him to go into the detail for his own justification, and from his openness and candour, he wished to state the motion so as to take in properly the whole unreserved discussion of these melancholy events. The surrender of the army was, as the worthy Alderman had said, ignominious, whoever might be the occasion of that ignominy, whether the general or the ministry.

Lord Nugent delivered a warm panegyrick on the gallantry of general Burgoyne and his military talents, but at the same time endeavoured to justify Lord George Germaine, and to call to the recollection of the house, that the secretary of state for the colonies, in justifying his own part of the business, had uniformly avoided saying a syllable to prejudice the character of Mr. Burgoyne. He was against the enquiry, particularly from the absence of generals Howe and Carleton, who might be involved in the matter.

Mr. Alderman Wilkes's motion was then read by the speaker, which was to this purport: "That the house go into a committee on the state and present situation of the army which surrendered at Saratoga, and on what conditions general Burgoyne returned to Great-Britain."

An amendment was then moved by Mr. Fox, and seconded by Mr. Powys, to consider all the transactions of the British army under general Burgoyne.

Mr. Powys wished the enquiry had been at first suspended, but the house having before come to certain resolutions against the honourable gentleman now on his defence, it was due to the honourable gentleman, and to his country, though all parties perhaps concerned were not present; but the exculpation of the minister was the accusation of the honourable general. He had wished to have no share in this enquiry; but finding that govern-

ment had, in fact, established a perfectly good conduct on the supposed errors or misbehaviour of the general, he wished to ascertain the truth.

Mr. Cornwall said, that as the question was so put in the former committee, on this transaction of Saratoga, the fault (and a very great and serious one it was) must lie either upon the minister for the colonies, or the general. He thought both blameless and praise worthy. The evil lay in the fatality and incertitude of human affairs, and the chance of war. He thought it likewise improper on account of the concession of the honourable member, from his fairness and honourable sentiments, to enter on this inquiry; yet he thought it improper and unjust to urge the honourable gentleman on a subject so delicate and so important to himself.

Mr. Cornwall thought the court of enquiry of general officers now named, and perhaps a future court martial, would be proper, but the house incompetent to the trial; it never had been done; and instanced former miscarriages, particularly Mathews and Lettock thirty years ago.

General Burgoyne said, he understood the gentlemen who made the motion would propose questions. He intended to end with a motion of his own, to include the whole of these questions; but as the debate seemed to take a different turn, he would be for the amendment. He felt occasion to invoke, in the fullest extent, the candour of the house, for a man whose faculties at all times unequal had been exposed. He stood unconnected and unsupported, neither courting nor fearing party, on the basis of truth and his own honour, to answer Mr. Wilkes upon the Indian alliance, which he had always at best considered as a necessary evil. He determined to go the soldier of the state, not the executioner; upon these principles he had conducted himself, notwithstanding what was alledged by his enemies to the contrary; he had been obliged to run a race with the Congress in securing the alliance of the savages; they courted and tempted them with presents, as well as the British; he had in more instances than one controled the Indians. In this town there is now a Mr. Luc, formerly in the French service, now in the service of Great Britain, who has merit; he wished that gentleman, instead of accusing him (the general) of barbarities, had been called to the bar of this house—He is an ambitious and a fortunate man. Instead of attacking a general unfortunate and unfashionable, he wished the noble lord at the head of American affairs, with whom Mr. Luc was very familiar, would state the substance of Mr. Luc's allegations against him: Discharge the Indians he did, but in fact Mr. Luc and the Indians deserted. He was near putting that man to an ignominious death, especially on account of the massacre of that unhappy lady Miss Ray. He solely penned the proclamation, and to hold out terrors, but not to carry them into execution. The purport of the convention and other questions, he should now answer: Mr. Vyner handed the list of proposed questions, which the general read, and then

Mr. Turner spoke to order—against going into a committee upon this business, much more against the house going on the present state of the matter. Mr. Burgoyne went on by command of the house, and at his own desire, wishing for the committee on the amendment made by Mr. Fox, because he would produce pa-