

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

IN CONGRESS, August 31, 1778.

APAPER signed "Adam Ferguson, secretary to his majesty's commission," dated at New-York, August 26, 1778, accompanied with a declaration by George Johnstone, Esq; and a declaration by the Earl of Carlisle, Sir Henry Clinton, and William Eden, Esq; and also a requisition respecting the troops lately serving under Lieut. General Burgoyne, were read, and are as follows:

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, 1778.

HIS Majesty's commissioners direct Dr. Ferguson to transmit to the President of the American Congress, for the information of the Congress, the declaration of this day by George Johnstone, Esq; and the declaration of the same date by the Earl of Carlisle, Sir Henry Clinton, and William Eden, Esq; and also the requisition respecting the troops lately serving under Lieut. Gen. Burgoyne, signed by the Earl of Carlisle, Sir Henry Clinton, and William Eden, Esq.

ADAM FERGUSON,
Secretary to his Majesty's commission.

NEW YORK, Aug. 26, 1778.

GEORGE JOHNSTONE, one of the commissioners appointed by his Majesty to carry into execution the gracious purposes of his Majesty and his Parliament for quieting the disorders now subsisting in North America, and for maintaining the people of these provinces in the clear and perfect enjoyment of their liberties and rights, having seen a declaration of the American Congress, signed by Henry Laurens, their President, dated the 11th of August, to which, for certain assumed rights therein specified, is subjoined the following resolution: "That it is incompatible with the honour of Congress to hold any manner of correspondence or intercourse with the said George Johnstone, Esq; especially to negotiate with him upon affairs in which the cause of liberty and virtue is interested.

The said George Johnstone, for himself, says, that he is far from considering the said resolution of the Congress as offensive to him; that he rather receives it as a mark of distinction, to which he is by no means entitled, either by his exertions in the cause in which he is employed, or by his abilities for improving any future circumstances that may occur towards fulfilling the purposes of the commission under which he is appointed.

That he shall be happy to find, when this exception as to him shall be removed, that the Congress are inclined to retract their former declaration, and to negotiate with others upon terms equally conducive to the happiness of both countries. At the same time, he is inclined to believe that the said resolution of Congress has been issued upon similar motives with those resolutions respecting the cartouch boxes of Gen. Burgoyne's army, and calculated as an excuse to a deluded people for not sending an explicit answer to a plain requisition that was made to the Congress from his Majesty's commissioners with regard to the unfortunate soldiers who are detained at Boston under every indignity, contrary to the public faith of a solemn convention signed at Saratoga, and also to serve as a pretext to the unhappy constituents of the Congress, who are suffering under the various calamities of war, or disappointing the good effects of the commission which the real friends of America had so long requested by the most solemn petitions, resolutions, and public declarations, and which so ma-

ny of the inhabitants of this continent now desire to see carried into full effect.

As the great purpose Mr. Johnstone had in view in coming to North America was to promote a reconciliation between Great Britain and her colonies, with a full determination to do nothing that could have a tendency to prevent it, in order therefore to defeat the purposes intended by this resolution of Congress, the subscriber George Johnstone thinks proper to decline acting as a commissioner, or otherwise interfering in any message, answer, agreement, negotiation, matter, or thing, that may regard the said Congress, which he does with so much the more pleasure, as he is perfectly satisfied the business will be left in more able and sufficient hands, reserving to himself the liberty, if he should judge proper, of publishing, before he leaves North America, a justification of his conduct against the aspersions thrown on his character.

When the Congress were contending for essential privileges necessary to the preservation of their liberty, under solemn declarations that their resistance was calculated merely to obtain redress upon those points, Mr. Johnstone should have been sorry to have incurred their censure, though unheard in his defence, and upon a chain of evidence so totally inconclusive as to him.

At present, when the Congress can remain deaf to the cries of so many of their fellow subjects who are suffering by the miseries of this war, and, from motives of private ambition, can so farfully the principles upon which their first resistance was made as to bow to a French ambassador, and league with the ancient enemy of both our countries, from whose hostile designs Great Britain has so often rescued the inhabitants of North America, and this for the avowed purpose of reducing the power of the parent state, after all their just claims are gratified, and thereby injuring their nearest and dearest friends and relations, forgetting all the principles of virtue and liberty that ought to regulate the conduct of men in society, Mr. Johnstone is not anxious about the good opinion of such a body, notwithstanding the regard he shall always bear to many of the individuals who compose it, from a just allowance to be made for men acting under the heats incident to civil commotions, and from a certain knowledge they did entertain, and a persuasion that they now entertain, different sentiments.

With respect to the people of America at large, the subscriber sincerely wishes to avoid every subject of offence which designing men may possibly intend to create by exciting angry passions in return to personal provocations, and thereby defeat any effects of goodwill towards Mr. Johnstone which the remembrance of former good offices he has rendered them might occasion.

GEORGE JOHNSTONE.

DECLARATION.

WHEREAS the Earl of Carlisle, Sir Henry Clinton, Knight of the Bath, and William Eden, Esq; three of his Majesty's commissioners, appointed with sufficient powers to treat, consult, and agree upon the means of quieting disorders now subsisting in certain of the colonies, plantations, and provinces of North America, have received a declaration of the American Congress, dated the 11th instant, which relates to a gentleman with whom they have the honour to be joined in commission, and is meant to affect him as a commissioner, they hereby think proper, on their part, solemnly to declare, that they had not any knowledge, ei-