

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

PHILADELPHIA.

THE contemptible figure which the British King and ministry have cut in the present war cannot be better shewn than in the following proclamation, which has been lately published at New York by Carlisle, Clinton and Eden. Those gentlemen seem to consider their master's commission as a sort of a pass to go a begging with; for if any thing can justly be called begging, this last performance of their's deserves that name. It is in the true stile of "God bless your Honours bestow your charity for the Lord's sake." Poor Devils! why don't they get home and mend their hardware and broadcloth, and not pester us with scribbling letters and petitionary proclamations.

But those geniuses have another business in hand besides begging, and that is lying. Last winter their newspapers were stuffed with every falsehood they could invent respecting the friendly and pacific disposition of France towards Britain, and we were told a thousand times over by the ministry and Gen. Howe that France would give us no assistance: But as the lie of that day is over and France has actually joined us, those same mean and pitiful mortals have changed their note, and are now as busy in abusing France as they before were in crying her up and abusing us. But the poor devils will abuse any body now their hand is in, and it is hoped the good people of France and America will consider them as men out of their senses, and treat them accordingly.

M A N I F E S T O

A N D

P R O C L A M A T I O N.

To the members of the Congress, the members of the general Assemblies or Conventions of the several Colonies, Plantations and Provinces of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Three Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and all others, free inhabitants of the said Colonies, of every rank and denomination.

BY the Earl of CARLISLE, Sir HENRY CLINTON, and WM. EDEN, Esq; commissioners appointed by his Majesty, in pursuance of an act of Parliament, made and passed in the 18th year of his Majesty's reign, to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners to treat, consult and agree upon the means of quieting the disorders now subsisting in certain of the Colonies, Plantations and Provinces in North America.

HAVING amply and repeatedly made known to the Congress, and having also proclaimed to the inhabitants of North America in general, the benevolent overtures of Great Britain towards a re-union and coalition with her colonies, we do not think it consistent either with the duty we owe to our country, or with a just regard to the characters we bear, to persist in holding out offers which in our estimation required only to be known to be most gratefully accepted; and we have accordingly, excepting only the commander in chief, who will be detained by military duties, resolved to return to England a few weeks after the date of this Manifesto and Proclamation.

Previous however to this decisive step, we are led by a just anxiety for the great objects of our mission to enlarge on some points which may not have been sufficiently understood, to recapitulate to our fellow-subjects the blessings which we are empowered to confer, and to warn them of the continued train of evils to which they are at present blindly and obstinately exposing themselves.

To the members of the Congress then, we again declare that we are ready to concur in all satisfactory and just arrangements for securing to them and their respective constituents, the re-establishment of peace, with the exemption from any imposition of

taxes by the parliament of Great Britain, and the irrevocable enjoyment of every privilege consistent with that union of interests and force on which our mutual prosperity and the safety of our common religion and liberty depend. We again assert that the members of the Congress were not authorized by their constitution either to reject our offers without the previous consideration and consent of the several assemblies and conventions their constituents, or to refer us to pretended foreign treaties which they know are delusively framed in the first instance, and which have never yet been ratified by the people of this continent. And we once more remind the members of the Congress that they are responsible to their countrymen, to the world, and to God, for the continuance of this war, and for all the miseries with which it must be attended.

To the General Assemblies and Conventions of the different colonies, plantations and provinces, above-mentioned, we now separately make the offers which we originally transmitted to the Congress; and we hereby call upon and urge them to meet expressly for the purpose of considering whether every motive, political as well as moral, should not decide their resolution to embrace the occasion of cementing a free and firm coalition with Great Britain. It has not been, nor is it, our wish, to seek the objects which we are commissioned to pursue by fomenting popular divisions and partial cabals; we think such conduct would be ill suited to the generous nature of the offers made, and unbecoming the dignity of the King and the state which makes them. But it is both our wish and our duty to encourage and support any men or bodies of men in their return of loyalty to our sovereign and of affection to our fellow subjects.

To all others, free inhabitants of this once happy empire, we also address ourselves. Such of them as are actually in arms, of whatsoever rank or description, will do well to recollect, that the grievances, whether real or supposed, which led them into this rebellion, have been for ever removed, and that the just occasion is arrived for their returning to the class of peaceful citizens.— But if the honours of a military life are become their object, let them seek those honours under the banners of their rightful sovereign, and in fighting the battles of the United British empire against our late mutual and natural enemy.

To those whose profession it is to exercise the functions of religion on this continent, it cannot surely be unknown, that the foreign power with which the Congress is endeavouring to connect them, has ever been averse to toleration and inveterately opposed to the interests and freedom of the places of worship which they serve; and that Great Britain, from whom they are for the present separated, must both from the principles of her constitution and of protestantism be at all times the best guardian of religious liberty, and most disposed to promote and extend it.

To all those who can estimate the blessings of peace and its influence over agriculture, arts and commerce, who can feel a due anxiety for the education and establishment of their children, or who can place a just value on domestic security, we think it sufficient to observe, that they are made by their leaders to continue involved in all the calamities of war, without having either a just object to pursue, or a subsisting grievance which may not instantly be redressed.

But if there be any persons who, divested of mistaken resentments, and uninfluenced by selfish interests, really think that it is for the benefit of the colonies to separate themselves from Great Britain, and that so separated they will find a constitution more mild, more free, and better calculated for their prosperity than that which they heretofore enjoyed, and which we are empowered and disposed to renew and improve; with such persons we will not dispute a position which seems to be sufficiently contradicted by the experience they have had. But we think it right to leave