

VIRGINIA

GAZETTE.



With the freshest ADVICES,

FOREIGN and DOMESTICK.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in London to his friend in America, dated Jan. 1766.

FOR some days, previous to the meeting of Parliament, a report had been circulated that the Ministry had changed their minds with regard to the Stamp Act, and instead of repealing were bent upon enforcing it; if this report did not take its original amongst the favourites of a certain Northern Nobleman, it was much indebted to them for its progress, which was so great as to affect the stocks. The King's speech, on the meeting of the Parliament on the 14th, gave some colour to the suggestion; but when the Gentlemen had spoken who moved for the address, and seconded it, nothing could be clearer than that the Ministry had persisted in their intentions to promote the repeal. The friends of the Gentlemen lately in power applauded the King's speech, and approved of the proposed address, which, as usual, had pursued the speech exactly; but they took great offence at the tenderness of the expression that the two first Gentlemen had made use of concerning America. Mr. Nugent particularly insisted that the honour of the kingdom was concerned to compel the execution of the Stamp Act, until the right was acknowledged, and the repeal solicited as a favour. He computed the expense of the troops now employed in America for their defence, as he called it, to amount to ninepence in the pound of the land tax to this kingdom, while the produce of the Stamp Act would not raise a shilling a head on the inhabitants of America; but that a pepper corn, in acknowledgment of the right, was of more value than millions without it. He failed not to expatiate on the extreme ingratitude of the colonies, and concluded with charging the Ministers with encouraging petitions to the Parliament, and instructions to members from the trading and manufacturing towns, against the Stamp Act. Mr. PITT, who, according to the before mentioned report, was not to have attended the house any more, but to have been created an Earl, was the next speaker. Every friend to his country rejoiced to see him where he was, and to see him in such perfect health. As he always begins very low, and every body was in agitation on his first rising, I could not bear his introduction, until he said, "I came to town but yesterday. Until I heard read in this House, I was a stranger to the honour of his Majesty's speech, and the proposed address. Unconnected, unconsulted, I have not the means of information. I am fearful of offending through inadvertence, and therefore beg to be indulged with a second reading of the proposed address." The address being read, Mr. PITT went on; he commended the King's speech, and approved of the address in answer, every Gentleman being left by it at perfect liberty to take such a part concerning America as he might afterwards see fit. One word only he could not approve of. It was a word that does not belong to the notice that the Ministry have given to Parliament of the troubles in America. In a matter of such importance, the communication ought to have been immediate. I speak without respect to parties; I stand up in this place single and unconnected. As to the late Ministry (turning himself to Mr. Grenville, who sat within one of him) every capital measure they have taken has been entirely wrong. To the present Gentlemen, to those at least whom I have in my eye (looking at the bench where Mr. CONWAY sat with the Lords of the Treasury) I have no objection; I have never been made a sacrifice of by any of them. Their characters are fair, and I am always glad when men of fair characters engage in his Majesty's service; some of them have done the honour to ask my poor opinion before they would engage; this will do me the justice to own that I advised them to engage. But, notwithstanding, I love to be explicit; I cannot give them every confidence. Pardon me, Gentlemen (bowing to the Treasury Bench) confidence is a plant of slow growth in an aged bosom; youth is the season for credulity. Comparing events with each other, reasoning from effects to causes, methinks I plainly discover the traces of an overruling influence over them. There is a clause in the Act of Settlement, that every Minister should sign with his name the advice he gives to his Sovereign; would it were well observed. I have had the honour to serve the Crown; if I could have submitted to influence, I might have continued to serve it; but I would not be responsible for others. I have no local attachments, indifferent whether a man had been rocked in his cradle on this side or on the other side of the Tweed, I fought for merit wherever it was to be found; it was my best that I was the first Minister that looked for it, and found it in the mountains of the North. I called it forth, and drew out into your service a hardy and intrepid race of men. Men who, left by your own jealousy a prey to the artifice of your enemies, had gone nigh to overturn the state in the war before the last. These men, in the last war, were brought to combat at your side; they served with fidelity, as they fought with valour, and conquered for you in every part of the world. Detested be the national objections against them! they are proud, liberal, unmanly. When I ceased to serve his Majesty as a Minister, it was not the country of the man by which I was moved; but the man of that country wanted wisdom, and his principles incompatible with freedom.

"It is a long time, Mr. Speaker, since I attended in Parliament. When the resolution was taken in this House to tax America, I was ill in my bed; when the act passed, I was ill in my bed; if I could have endured to have been carried in my bed, so great was the agitation of my mind for the consequences, I would have solicited some kind hand to have laid me down on this floor, to have barn my testimony against it. It is now an act that has passed. I would speak with decency of every act of this House, but I must beg the indulgence of this House to speak of it with freedom. I hope a day may soon be appointed to consider the state of the nation, with respect to America; I hope that Gentlemen will come to the debate with all the temper and impartiality that his Majesty recommends, and the importance of the subject requires; a subject of greater importance than ever engaged the attention of this House; that subject only

excepted, when, near a century ago, it was the question whether you yourselves were to be bond or free. In the mean time, as I cannot depend upon health for any future day, such is the nature of my infirmity, I will beg to say a few words at present, leaving the justice, the equity, the policy, the expediency of the act, to another time, and will only speak to one point; a point which seems not to have been generally understood, I mean to the right. Some Gentlemen (alluding to Mr. Nugent) seem to have considered it as a point of honour. If Gentlemen consider it in that light, they lose all measure of right and wrong, to follow a delusion, that may lead to destruction. It is my opinion that this Kingdom has no right to lay a tax upon the colonies; at the same time, I assert the authority of this Kingdom over the colonies to be sovereign and supreme, in every circumstance of government or legislation whatever. They are the subjects of this Kingdom, equally entitled with yourselves to all the natural rights of mankind, and the peculiar privileges of Englishmen; equally bound by the laws, and equally participating of its constitution. The Americans are the sons, not the bastards, of England. But, according to the constitution of this free country, taxation is no part of the governing or legislative power; the taxes are a voluntary gift, and granted by the Commons alone. In legislation, the three estates of the realm are alike concerned; but the concurrence of the Peers and the Crown to a tax is only necessary to clothe (or clove) with the form of law, the gift and grant of the Commons alone, possessed of the lands in these days. In ancient days, the Crown, the Barons, and the Clergy, were the three estates; the Barons and the Clergy gave and granted to the Crown; they gave and granted what was their own. At present, since the discovery of America, other circumstances permitting, the Commons become the proprietors of the lands. The Crown has divested itself of its great estates. The Church, God bless it, has but aittance; the property of the Lords, compared with the Commons, is as a drop of water to the ocean. This House represents the Commons, the proprietors of the Lands; and those proprietors virtually represent the rest of the inhabitants; then, therefore, in this House, we give and grant what is our own. But in an American tax, what do we do? We, your Majesty's Commons of Great Britain give and grant to your Majesty, what? Our own property? No; we give and grant to your Majesty the property of the Commons of America. It is an absurdity in terms.

"This distinction between legislation and taxation is essentially necessary to liberty. The Crown, the Peers, are equally legislative powers with the Commons. If taxation be then a part of simple legislation, the Crown, the Peers, have rights in taxation, as well as yourselves; rights which they will claim, which they will exercise, whenever the principle can be supported with power.

"There is an idea in some that the colonies are virtually represented in this House. I would fain know by whom an American is represented here. Is he represented by a Knight of a shire of any county in this Kingdom? Would to God that respectable representation was augmented to a greater number! Or will you tell him he is represented by a representative of a borough, perhaps, which no man ever saw? This has been called, *The rotten part of the constitution*. It cannot now endure out the century; if it does not drop of itself, it must be amputated. But the idea of the virtual representation of America in this House is the most contemptible notion that ever entered into the head of man; it does not deserve a serious refutation.

"The Commons of America, represented in their several Assemblies, have ever been in possession of the exercise of this their constitutional right of giving and granting their own money. They would have been slaves if they had not enjoyed it. At the same time this Kingdom, as the supreme governing and legislative power, has always bound the colonies by her laws, by her regulations, restrictions in trade, in navigation, in manufactures, in every article whatever, except that of taking their money out of their pockets without their consent. Here then I would draw a line.

Quam ultra citraque sequi consilium vestrum.

A considerable pause ensued after Mr. PITT had done speaking. Mr. CONWAY then got up. He said, "He had waited to see whether any answer would be given to what had been advanced by the Right Hon. Gentleman, reserving himself for the reply; but as none had been given, had only to declare that his own sentiments were entirely conformable to the Right Hon. Gentleman's. That they were so conformable, he said, was a circumstance that affects me with the most sensible pleasure, and does me the greatest honour; but two things fall from that Gentleman which gave me pain. Whatever falls from that Gentleman falls from so great a height as to make a deep impression; I must therefore endeavour to remove it. It was objected that the notice given to Parliament of the troubles in America was not early. I can assure the House the first accounts were too vague and imperfect to be worthy the attention of Parliament; it is only of late that they have been precise and full.

"An overruling influence has also been hinted at. I see nothing of it; I feel nothing like it; I disdain it for myself; and, as far as my discernment can reach, for all the rest of his Majesty's Ministers. I did not ride into place upon a staking horse. Now I am in, was I sensible I had done so, I would turn the reins, and ride out again."

Mr. PITT said, in answer to Mr. CONWAY, "The excuse is a valid one, if it is a just one; that must appear from the papers now before the House. The Gentleman has spoken of riding into place, and riding out of place; I corrected his spirit of independence; my advice to him is, not to be ridden."

In this interval, Mr. Grenville had reserved himself. He avoided meddling with the doctrine of taxation being confined to the House of Commons, and being grounded on the free gift of the collective body, through the medium of their representa-

tives; neither did he attempt to defend the virtual representation of America; but began with censuring the Ministry very severely for delaying to give earlier notice to Parliament of the disturbances in America. He said, "They began in July, and now we are in the middle of January. Late they were only occurrences (the word used in the King's speech on the 17th of December) they are now grown to disturbances, to tumults and riots; I doubt they border upon an open rebellion; and if the doctrine I hear to-day be confirmed, I fear they will lose that name, to take that of a revolution; this government over them being dissolved, a revolution will take place in America."

"I cannot understand the difference between external and internal taxes; they are the same in effect, and only differ in the name. That this Kingdom is the sovereign, the supreme legislative power over America, is granted; it cannot be denied; and taxation is a part of that sovereign power; it is one branch of legislation; it is, it has been, exercised over those who are now, who were not represented. It is exercised over the East India Company, the merchants of London, the proprietors of the stocks, and over great manufacturing towns. It was exercised before they sent any representatives to Parliament. I appeal for proof to the preambles of the acts which gave them representatives; the one in the reign of Henry VIII. the other in that of Charles II.

Mr. Grenville then quoted the statutes exactly; desired they might be read; which being done, he resumed his discourse.

"When I proposed to tax America, I asked the House whether any Gentleman would object to the right; I repeatedly asked it, and no man would attempt to deny it. Protection and obedience are reciprocal; Great Britain protects America; America is bound to yield obedience; if not, tell me when the Americans were emancipated. When they want the protection of this Kingdom, they are very ready to seek it; that protection has always been afforded them, in the most full and ample manner; the nation has run itself into an immediate debt to give them that protection; and now they are called upon to contribute a small share towards the publick expense, an expense arising from themselves, they renounce your authority, insult your officers, and break out, I might almost say, into acts of open rebellion.

"The seditious spirit of the colonies owes its birth to the factions in this House. Gentlemen are careless of the consequences of what they say, provided it answers the immediate purposes of opposition. We were told that we trod on tender ground; we were bid to expect disobedience; What was this but telling the Americans to stand out against the law? To encourage their obstinacy with expectations of support from home? Let us only hold out a little longer, they would say, our friends will soon be in power.

"Ungrateful people of America! Bounties have been extended to them. When I had the honour to serve the Crown, while you yourselves were loaded with an enormous debt, you have given bounties on their lumber, their iron, their hemp, and many other articles. You have relaxed in their favour the Act of Navigation, that palladium of the British commerce; and yet I have been abused in all the publick prints as an enemy to the trade of America.

"I have been particularly charged with giving orders and instructions to prevent the Spanish trade, and thereby stopping the channels by which alone North America used to be supplied with cash for remittances to this country. I defy any man to produce any such orders or instructions; I discouraged no trade but what was illicit, what was prohibited by act of Parliament."

Mr. PITT began with prefixing that he did not mean to have gone any further upon the subject on that day; that he had only designed to throw out a few hints, which Gentlemen, who were so confident of the right of this Kingdom to send taxes to America, might consider, perhaps might reflect, in a cooler moment, that the right was at least equivocal. But since the Gentlemen who spoke last had not stop on that ground, but had gone into the whole, into the justice, the equity, the policy, the expediency of the Stamp Act, as well as into the right, he would follow him through the whole field, and combat his arguments on every point.

He was just going on, when Lord Strange got up, and called both the Gentlemen (Mr. PITT and Mr. Grenville) to order; he said they had both departed from the matter before the House, which was the King's speech, and that Mr. PITT was going to speak twice in the same debate, although the House was not in a Committee. Mr. George Onslow answered that they were both in order, as nothing had been said but what was fairly deducible from his Majesty's speech, and appealed to the Speaker. The Speaker decided in Mr. Onslow's favour. Mr. PITT said, "I do not apprehend I am speaking twice. I did expressly reserve a part of my subject, in order to save the time of the House, but I am compelled to proceed in it. I do not speak twice, I only finish what I had designedly left imperfect; but if the House is of a different opinion, far be it from me to indulge a wish of transgressing against order. I am content, if it be your pleasure, to be silent."

Here he paused; the House rejoined with GO ON, GO ON. He proceeded.

GENTLEMEN,
SIR,

"I have been charged with giving birth to sedition in America. They have spoken their sentiments with freedom against this unhappy act. That freedom has become their crime. Sorry I am to hear the liberty of speech in this House imputed as a crime, but the imputation shall not discourage me; it is a liberty I mean to exercise; no Gentleman ought to be afraid of exercising it. It is liberty, by which the Gentleman who calumniates it might himself have profited. He ought to have desisted from his project. The Gentleman tells us America is obstinate; America is almost in open rebellion. I rejoice that America has resisted. Three millions of people, so dead to all

the feelings of liberty, as voluntarily to consent to be slaves, should have been fit instruments to make slaves of the rest. I came not here armed at all points with law cases, and acts of Parliament, with the statute book, doubled down in dogs ears, to defend the cause of liberty. If I had, I would myself have cited the two cases of Chester and Durham; I would have cited them, to have shown that even under arbitrary reigns Parliaments were allowed of taxing the people without their consent, and allowed them representatives. Why did the Gentleman confine himself to Chester and Durham? He might have taken a higher example in Wales; Wales, that never was taxed by Parliament, until it was incorporated. I would not debate a particular point of law with the Gentleman; I know his abilities. I have been obliged to his diligent researches; but for the defence of liberty, on a general principle, upon a constitutional principle, it is ground on which I stand firm; a ground on which I dare to meet any man. The Gentleman tells us of many who are taxed, and are not represented; the India company, merchants, stockholders, manufacturers. Surely many of these are represented in other capacities, as owners of lands, or freemen of boroughs. It is a misfortune that more are not actually represented; but they are all inhabitants, and as such are virtually represented. Many have it in their option to be actually represented; they have connexions with those that elect, and they have influence over them. The Gentleman mentioned the Rockholders; I hope he does not reckon the debts of the nation as part of the national state.

“ Since the accession of King William, Ministers, some of great, others of more moderate abilities, have taken the lead in government. He went through the list of them, bringing it down until he came to himself, giving a short sketch of the characters of each. “ None of these, he went on, ever dreamed of robbing the colonies of their constitutional rights. It was reserved to mark the era of the late Administration; not that there were wanting some, when I had the honour to serve his Majesty, to propose to me to burn my fingers with an American Stamp Act. With the enemy at their backs, with our bayonets at their breasts, in the day of their distress, perhaps the Americans would have submitted to the imposition; but it would have been taking on ungenerous, an unjust advantage.

“ The Gentleman boasts of his bounties to America. Are those bounties intended finally for the benefit of this kingdom? If they are, where is his peculiar merit to America? If they are not, he has misapplied the national treasure. I am no courtier of America; I stand up for this kingdom. I maintain that Parliament has a right to bind, to restrain America; our legislative power over the colonies is sovereign and supreme; if it ceases to be sovereign and supreme, I would advise every Gentleman to sell his land, if he can, and embark for that country. When two countries are connected together, like England and her colonies, without being incorporated, the one must necessarily govern. The greater must rule the lesser, so rule it as not to contradict the fundamental principles common to both. The Gentleman understands not the difference between internal taxes and external; I cannot help it. But there is a plain distinction between taxes levied for the purposes of raising a revenue and duties imposed for the regulation of trade, for the accommodation of the subject; although, in the consequences, some revenue might immediately arise from the latter. The Gentleman asks when were the colonies emancipated? I desire to know when were they made slaves? But I will not upon words. While I had the honour of serving his Majesty, I availed myself of the means of information which I derived from my office; I speak therefore from knowledge; my materials were good; I was at pains to collect, to digest, to consider them; and I will be bold to affirm that the profits to Great Britain from the trade of the colonies, through all its branches, is two millions a year; this is the fund that carried you triumphantly through the last war. Threecore years ago, estates that were at two thousand pounds a year rent are now at three thousand; those estates then sold from fifteen to eighteen years purchase; the same may now be sold at thirty. You owe this to America; this is the price that America pays you for her protection. And shall a miserable financier come with a boast that he can cunningly slip a pepper corn into the Exchequer to the loss of millions to the nation? I dare not say how much higher these profits may be augmented; but, omitting the immense increase of people by natural population in the northern colonies, and the emigrations from every part of Europe, I am convinced the whole commercial system of America may be altered to advantage. You have prohibited where you ought to have encouraged; you have encouraged where you ought to have prohibited; improper restraints have been laid upon the continent, in favour of the islands; you have but two nations to trade with America; would you had twenty.

Let acts of Parliament, in consequence of treaties, remain; but let not an English Minister become a custom-house officer for Spain, for any foreign power! Much is wrong, much may be amended, for the general good of the whole. Does the Gentleman complain he has been misrepresented in the public prints? It is a common misfortune. In the Spanish affair, in the last war, I was abused in all the news papers, for having advised his Majesty to violate the laws of nations with regard to Spain. The abuse was industriously circulated even in hand bills. If Administration did not propagate the abuse, Administration never contradicted it. I will not say what advice I did give to the King; my advice is in writing, signed by myself, is in possession of the Crown. But I will say what advice I did not give to the King; I did not advise the King to violate any of the laws of nations. As to the report of the Gentleman's preventing, in some way, the trade for bullion with the Spaniards, it was spoke of so confidently that I own I am one of those who did believe it to be true.

“ The Gentleman must not wonder he was not contradicted when, as the Minister, he asserted the rights of Parliament to tax Americans. I know not how it is, but there is a modesty in this House that does not choose to contradict a Minister. I wish Gentlemen would get the better of that modesty; if they do not, perhaps the collective body may begin to abate of its respect for the representative. Lord Bacon has told me that a great question would not fail of being agitated at one time or another; I was willing to agitate that of the German war, my German war, as they called it, at the proper season. Every session I called out, has any body any objections to the German war? Nobody would object to it, one Gentleman only excepted, since removed into the Upper House, by succession to an ancient Barony (meaning Lord Deipencer, formerly Sir Francis Dashwood) he told me he did not like my German war; I honour the man for it, and was sorry when he was turned out of his post.

“ A good deal has been said, without doors, of the power, of the strength of the colonies; it is a topic which ought to be cautiously handled. In a good, on a sound bottom, the force of this country can crush America to atoms. I know the value of your troops; I know the skill of your officers. There is not a company of foot that served in America out of which you may not pick a man of sufficient knowledge and experience to make a Governour of a colony there. But on this ground, on the Stamp Act, when so many here will think it a crying injustice, I am one who will lift up my hand against it. In such a cause, your success may be hazardous. America, if she fell, would

fall like a strong man, would embrace the pillars of state, pull down the constitution along with her. Is this your boasted peace? Not to sheath the sword in the scabbard, but to shield it in the bowels of your countrymen? Will you quarrel with yourselves, now the whole House of Bourbon is united against you? While France disturbs your fisheries at Newfoundland, embarrasses your slave trade to Africa, and withholds from your subjects in Canada their property, stipulated by treaty? While the ransom for the Mahillas is denied by Spain, and its gallant conqueror basely traduced, as a mean plunderer; a Gentleman (meaning Colonel Draper) whose noble and generous spirit would do honour to the proudest Grandee of her country? Say the Americans have not acted in all things with prudence and temper; they have been wronged; they have been driven to madness by injustice. Will you punish them for the madness you have occasioned? Rather let prudence and temper come first from this side; I will undertake for America, that she will follow the example. There are two lines in a ballad of Prior's, so applicable to you and your colonies, I cannot help repeating them;

To her faults a little blind,
To her virtues very kind.

“ Upon the whole, I will beg leave to tell the House what is really my opinion; it is, that the Stamp Act be repealed absolutely, totally, and immediately; that the reason for the repeal be assigned, because it was founded upon an erroneous principle. At the same time, let the sovereign authority of this country over the colonies be asserted, in as strong terms as can be devised; be made to extend to every point of legislation whatever, that we may bind their trade, confine their manufactures, and exercise every power whatever, except that of taking their money out of their pockets without their consent.

“ Mr. Dowdeswell, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, rose up after Mr. PITT. He said, “ It could not be expected he should add any thing to the subject on which Mr. PITT had spoken; it could not now admit a doubt but that the Stamp Act must be repealed. “ He went on to show Mr. Grenville had not hurted the Spanish trade, by giving orders and instructions, but by forbearing to give them, particularly with respect to bullion, which was not prohibited by any law.”

“ Mr. Beckford was the last speaker of any weight. He asserted to Mr. Grenville that he had denied the right of Parliament to send internal taxes to America; he had only allowed the power of Parliament to be omnipotent. He concluded with expressing his perfect agreement in sentiments with his Right Hon. friend (Mr. PITT) excepting in one particular, the restraints on the continent, in favour of the islands, in which he was sure he could convince him he was mistaken.”

I fear I have tired your patience, with this long and circumstantial account. I will only add one observation. You have seen when a large company has been made to feel, all together, an electrical shock, such was the effect on the whole House of Commons, and the galleries, when Mr. PITT pronounced, “ I REJOICE THAT AMERICA HAS RESISTED!”

BOSTON, April 14.

Capt. Tudor, from Curacao, says it was reported there that the Viceroy of Mexico was killed by the Indians in a general massacre of the Spaniards, set on foot by the Jesuits.

We hear from Warwick, that a few days ago the Hon. Brigadier Angles being with a number of men whom he had employed to fell some trees, one of the trees falling sooner than expected struck the Brigadier before he could get out of the way, whereby he was greatly bruised, and had several ribs broke, and also one of his arms in two places.

A letter from Halifax says: “ We have advice from Newfoundland that the French are fortifying St. Peter's; and it is thought that some of the ships in the harbour will proceed there to inquire into the matter.”

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at the Eastward, April 3. “ Poor Mr. King has been attacked by a set of villains, who have broke his windows, damaged his house, and stole notes and other papers to the amount of 700 l. lawful money, and have since sent him very threatening letters, in case he should attempt finding out the authors; and to add to their villainy, have stiled themselves the Sons of Liberty.”

NEW YORK, April 14.

Tuesday last Captain Davis, the money maker, was lodged in our City Hall, being removed from the gaol of Orange county. Last week Captain Smith, bound to St. Kitt's from this port, was drove on the point of Sandy Hook, and it is feared will not be got off.

A ship from Jamaica, for London, Wilson master, put into the Havannah about a month since, in distress; and the schooner Ranger, belonging to Virginia, M'Kenzie master, was cast away near the Moro about the same time.

April 17. A sloop, Captain Emory, arrived since our last; she was the only one of three that escaped seizure by the Spaniards, at Salteruda.

On Friday last the sloop Live Oak, Captain Lawrence, came up in 23 days from the Havannah (having on board 21,000 dollars, private property) by whom we learn that the Spaniards sailed from that place above three months since, to take possession of New Orleans; that a new Governour arrived at the Havannah the day before he sailed from thence; and that a large Dutch ship in the Spanish service was lately cast away on the rocks near the Ponto, and that the vessel and cargo were entirely lost. Capt. Lawrence met very hard weather on this coast, and last Saturday week spoke with a schooner from Santa Croix, bound for Rhode Island; and the same day he fell in with a schooner from North Carolina, bound for Boston, that had lost two boats, and almost every thing off her deck, in a gale of wind.

A brig loaded with coarse salt, is ashore near Jones's gut, on the south side of Long Island, and it is feared every soul on board perished, as three dead bodies, and 7 hats, have been taken up on the beach near where the vessel lies; but as yet, from whence, or where bound, we have not been able to learn.

A sloop, we are told, is cast away on the back of Long Island, supposed from Bermuda, but who we cannot learn. Such disasters have never been known to have happened on the coast as of late. A body has been drove ashore, supposed from the said vessel, whose shirt was marked F. H.

PHILADELPHIA, April 24.

Tuesday last the brig Lark, Captain Roberts, arrived here from Liverpool; and having goods on board, shipped contrary to the agreement entered into by the merchants and traders of this city in November last, the Committee of Merchants immediately met, and agreed to have those goods locked up in stores, until they shall hear of the repeal of the Stamp Act. The goods were shipped by a merchant in Liverpool, on his own proper account.

Captain Stevens, from Antigua, advises that the report of an English man of war having turned pirate was believed there, as they had heard nothing more of her since the first account from Dominica. No stamps are used at Antigua, except to the General's letters, and the bonds at the Naval Office.

From Newbern, in North Carolina, we have advice that the County Courts go on there as usual without stamps, and that it was believed the General Court would do the same, the people of that colony being determined not to make use of stamp paper.

Thursday last Captain Lightburne arrived here from Sandy Point, in St. Christopher's, by whom we learn that on the 28th of February Captain Emory arrived there from Salteruda, and informed that two brigs and four sloops, besides himself, being at that island, taking in their cargoes of salt, they were surprised by two Spanish guarda costas, which they took to be English (as more vessels were expected, and they having the signal) until they came within gunshot, when they hoisted Spanish colours, and fired on them; that he immediately cut his cables, and got off, but the others were all taken.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 9.

Last Monday died, universally regretted, George Lavenport, Esq; Attorney at Law, and Clerk to several of the Committees of the Hon. the House of Burgeses.

Arrived in James river, from Glasgow, the Mally, Captain Bennet; and in York river, from Loucon, the Nautilus, Capt. Ourram, and the Rachel and Mary, Capt. Anderson.

Extract of a letter from an eminent merchant in LONDON to his correspondent in this city, dated March 13, 1766.

THE STAMP ACT IS REPEALED.

“ On a second reading in the House of Lords, upon a division, there were 105 for repealing the act, and 71 against it. The present Ministry seem much in the American interest, and I believe we shall have some advantages in the trade that will give great satisfaction.”

On the 23d of April last was celebrated in Norfolk, at the house of Mr. Runburg, by Jeremy Morgan, Esq; in company with his officers, and other Gentlemen, the memory of St. George; when the following toasts were drunk, under a discharge of guns from the Hornet's tender, then lying off the town.

1. King and Queen, and St. George.
2. Prince of Wales, &c.
3. Duke of York and the navy, &c.
4. To the memory of the Duke of Cumberland, &c.
5. To the glorious and immortal memory of King William.
6. Governour, colony and dominion of Virginia, &c.
7. Lord Colvill and his fleet.
8. May we never want an heir to the throne of the British empire in the house of Hanover.
9. The true Sons of British Liberty.
10. The Duke of Grafton and General Conway.
11. Mr. Pitt.
12. Lord Egmont and the Admiralty.
13. To the memory of General Wolfe.
14. St. Andrew, St. Patrick, St. David, and St. George.
15. To those who dare be honest at the worst of times.
16. May all good men be great men, and none but good men great.
17. May hemp bind those that honour can't.
18. May no scoundrel be in the post of a Gentleman.
19. May the honest heart never know distress.
20. To him and to it, &c. &c.
21. May all bullies be tamed by cool courage.
22. Community, Unity, Navigation, and Trade.

Advertisements.

ON Sunday the 27th of the last month the trustees for the fund for relief of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen, after a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Alexander White, made a collection at the Church doors, amounting to the sum of £. 14-4-9; for which the generous contributors are desired to accept the thanks of the clergy present. At a meeting the next day they agreed to divide the sum of £. 42 among five widows, and several orphan children.

The execution of the following orders, passed a year ago, is deferred until next April; and it is hoped that the persons concerned will want no further warning or indulgence.

Ordered, That the Treasurer publish in some future gazette what arrears are due from the subscribers; That they who are in arrears for two years or more have their names struck out of the list of subscribers, if they fail to discharge them by next April; That whoever hereafter shall omit payment for three years successively shall be looked upon as having withdrawn his subscription, and shall be adjudged to have no further concern with, or interest in, this fund.

The officers for the ensuing year are the Reverend the Commissary, Mess. Warrington, Horrocks, Skyring, Davenport, and Price, Trustees; the Reverend Mr. James Maury Fontaine Preacher, and John Camm Treasurer.

WILLIAM RIND, Printer,

TAKES this opportunity of

informing the publick that he is now settled in Williamsburg, and has furnished himself with all the materials necessary for carrying on the PRINTING BUSINESS; he therefore begs the favour of those Gentlemen with whom he has left subscription papers, to return the lists of those who have already signed, as he proposes to begin the publication of a NEWS PAPER on Friday next, which will be regularly continued, if he meets with a sufficient number of subscribers to encourage his undertaking.

PRINCE GEORGE, April 29, 1766.

THE Subscriber intends for

South Carolina soon.

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ISHAM BROWDER.

NORFOLK, May 7, 1766.

THE subscriber takes this method of acquainting the publick that he continues to do business in the commission way, and sells any goods sent him either by private or publick sale. He also returns his sincere acknowledgments to those Gentlemen who have favoured him with their commands, and hopes that his care, and the moderation of his charges, will recommend him to the continuance of their favours.

THOMAS HEPBURN.