



THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY



Or, Thomas's Boston Journal.

A Weekly, Political, and Commercial PAPER :--Open to ALL Parties, but Influenced by None.

DO THOU Great LIBERTY INSPIRE our Souls,--And make our Lives in THY Possession happy,--Or, our Deaths glorious in THY just Defence.

Vol. III.]

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1773.

[NUMB. 124.]

FRIDAY, June 11.
BOSTON.

Thursday se'nnight his Excellency the Governor was pleased to send the following message to the House of Representatives.

"Gentlemen of the house of representatives, I AM informed that certain private letters said to have been wrote by me to a gentleman in England lately deceased, were Yesterday laid before your house, and that you have come into a resolution or Vote that they tend to subvert the constitution.

"I have never wrote any public or private letter with such intention, and am not conscious of any letter which can have such an effect. Before you take any further proceedings, I must desire that a transcript of the proceedings of Yesterday be laid before me, and that I may be informed to what letters they refer, in order to my considering what steps are proper for me to take upon the occasion."

T. HUTCHINSON."

To which the house on Saturday returned the following ANSWER.

"May it please your Excellency,

"IN answer to your message of the third of June, the house of representatives have resolved, that the date of certain letters now before them, referred to in the message, together with a transcript of the proceedings thereon, as requested by your Excellency, be laid before you.

"And as your Excellency has been pleased in your message to say, that you have never wrote any public or private letters, with an intention to subvert the constitution, it is the desire of this house, that your Excellency would be pleased to order, that copies be laid before us, of such letters as your Excellency has written of those dates, relating to the public affairs of this province, together with such other letters as your Excellency shall think proper.

SATURDAY, June 12.
BOSTON.

General Gage will soon embark at New-York for England.

A boat with eight persons on board, overfet at Powles-Hook, New-York, last Monday se'nnight, whereby two men and a boy were drowned.

PHILADELPHIA, June 2. We are assured from the best authority, that neither the collector or comptroller of this port have received any advice, with regard to the appointment of E. Richardson, mentioned under the Boston head, from whence it is concluded the above is premature, and the good people of this city may rest easy, as it is presumed, a fellow of so infamous a character will not dare to shew his face here.

NEWPORT, June 7. Friday last being the anniversary of the birth day of our most gracious sovereign, when he entered the 30th year of his age, the union flag was displayed at fort George, and at twelve o'clock a royal salute was fired; at one, salutes were also fired by his Majesty's ship Mercury, and the Swan and Cruiser sloops of war, now in our harbour; the loyal hearts were drunk, and the usual demonstrations of joy shewn in honour of the day.

On this occasion several vessels at the north-end of the town, displayed their colours in honour of the day, upon which Capt. Keeler, senior officer of the port, dispatched his cutter, under the command of one of his petty officers, with positive orders to strike all the pendants, as his Majesty would be justly incensed on being informed through one of his Secretaries of State, that any merchant vessels were permitted to wear improper colours, it being an in-

dignity to the British flag.--Were these sort of folks as punctilious with regard to the laws of humanity, justice and morality, their haughtiness in those other, frivolous matters, would be somewhat less intolerable.

HARTFORD, June 1.

In the House of Representatives of the colony of Connecticut, Friday, 21st May, 1773.

Mr. Speaker, having laid before the house a letter from the Speaker of the house of Burgesses of the colony of Virginia, containing certain resolutions entered into by said house, on the 12th of March last:

"This house taking into consideration the contents of said letter, the above mentioned resolutions, and the reasons on which they are grounded, are of opinion that they are weighty and important in their nature and design, calculated and tending to produce happy and salutary effects in securing and supporting the ancient, legal and constitutional rights of this and the colonies in general, do approve of and adopt the measure.

"AND THEREUPON RESOLVE, That a standing committee of correspondence and enquiry, be appointed, to consist of nine persons, viz. The hon. Ezekiah Silliman, Esq; William Williams, Benjamin Payne, Samuel Holden Pursons, Nathaniel Wales, Silas Deane, Samuel Bishop, Joseph Trumbull and Erastus Wolcott, Esqrs.

"Whole business it shall be, to obtain all such intelligence, and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting the important considerations mentioned and expressed in the aforesaid resolutions, of the patriotic House of Burgesses of the colony of Virginia, and the result of such their proceedings from time to time, to lay before this house.

"Resolved, That the Speaker of this house, do transmit to the Speakers of the different Assemblies, of the British colonies, on this continent, copies of these resolutions, and request that they would come into similar measures, and communicate from time to time, with the said committee, on all matters wherein the common welfare and safety of the colonies are concerned."

MONDAY, June 14.
BOSTON.

Wednesday last his Excellency the Governor was pleased to send the following message to the honourable House of Representatives, viz.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives. BY your committee you have laid before me the dates of six original letters with my signature to them, which have been brought in to your house and read, together with other letters from several other persons. You have also laid before me an extract from the journal of your proceedings, by which it appears you are of opinion, that the tendency and design of the letters thus read was to overthrow the constitution of this government and to introduce arbitrary power into the province.

I find by the dates of the letters with my signature that, if genuine, they must be private letters wrote to a gentleman in London, since deceased; that all, except the last, were wrote many months before I came to the chair; that they were wrote not only with that confidence which is always implied in a friendly correspondence by private letters, but that they are expressly confidential; notwithstanding which, they contain nothing more respecting the constitution of the colonies in general than what is contained in my speeches to the Assembly, and what I have published in a more extensive manner to the world; and there is not one passage in them which was ever intended to respect, or which, as I am well assured the gentleman to whom they were wrote, ever understood to respect, the particular constitution of this government as derived from the charter.

I am at a loss for what purpose you desire the copies of any letters the originals of which you have in your hands. If it is with a view to make them public, the originals are more proper for that purpose than * copies. I think it would be very improper and out of character in me to lay my private letters before you at your request. My public ones I am restrain-

ed from laying before you without express leave from his Majesty. Thus much however I may assure you, that it has not been the tendency and design of them to subvert the constitution of this Government, but rather to preserve it intire, and I have reason to think they have not been altogether ineffectual to that purpose.

T. HUTCHINSON.

Council Chamber, 9th June, 1773.

Last Friday a committee of the honourable House of Representatives waited upon his Excellency the Governor, with the following ANSWER to his SPEECH at the opening of the present session.

May it please your Excellency,

"YOUR speech at the opening of this assembly informs us, that the commissaries appointed by this government and the government of New-York, have amicably agreed upon a boundary line, on the eastern part of New-York, from the south to the north boundary of this province, and that the Governors of the respective provinces have consented thereto. It gives us a very particular satisfaction to find that an end is put to this controversy, at a time when harmony among his Majesty's American colonies is become so important and necessary: We hope this agreement will meet with the royal approbation. In the mean time, we are of opinion that it will tend to the establishment of the peace of each government, and that it will be of utility to the borderers, to have this line run and marked as soon as possible.

As we have the same disposition to do any good office for a neighbouring colony as if the benefit was reciprocal, the house will take into consideration some effectual measure to prevent the counterfeiting the paper currency of Virginia, according to the request of the Governor of that colony, although we are without a paper currency in this province. We consider ourselves bound, as far as may be proper for us, to consult the welfare of every colony: And it will afford us a singular pleasure to have it in our power to contribute to the good of that colony, which has distinguished itself by a generous zeal for the safety and prosperity of all.

The other matters recommended in your Excellency's speech will have their due consideration in this house: And every thing before us that concerns his Majesty's service and the true interest of the people, which are inseparably connected, will have all that attention which the duty we owe to the King and to our constituents shall require."

NEW-YORK, June 7.

Friday last his Excellency General Gage, gave a grand entertainment to a great number of the merchants and military gentlemen of this city, at Hall's tavern: The just sense the inhabitants of this place have of his conduct during a command of ten years in America, is fully evinced by the following ADDRESS.

"To his Excellency the Honourable THOMAS GAGE, General and Commander in Chief, of his Majesty's Forces in North-America, The humble ADDRESS of the corporation of the Chamber of Commerce, of the city of New-York.

"May it please your Excellency,

"WHEN we review your conduct as Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces, and reflect on the happiness derived to this colony, from your eminent justice, from the discipline and good order of the army, and your constant attention to secure to North-America the solid effects of a series of victories so glorious to the British arms;--when to these we unite your engaging manners, and polite and obliging deportment: We feel, Sir, in common with the rest of our fellow citizens, the liveliest sentiments of esteem and respect for a character so truly valuable. These impressions, as they encrease the regret with which we consider the approach of your departure for England; cannot fail of exciting in us a warm desire, thus publicly, to testify the high sense we entertain of your exalted merit.

"We are persuaded, Sir, that as you take with you the deserved applause of the colonies, and the cordial affections of the inhabitants of this city, long honoured by your immediate residence; so your zeal and fidelity in the discharge of a trust, the most important, will re-

commend you to the favour and approbation of our gracious sovereign.

"Permit us, to wish your Excellency, your amiable lady and family, an agreeable passage to your native country; and every degree of felicity, both in public and private life, to justify due to your distinguished virtues.

"By order of the Chamber,

"THEOPHYLACT BACHE, President.

"Chamber of Commerce,

New York, June 4. 1773"

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ANSWER.

"To the gentlemen of the corporation of the Chamber of Commerce, of the city of New-York.

"Gentlemen,

"IT is a circumstance the most flattering to me, that my public and private conduct should meet the approbation of so respectable a body; and I return you my best thanks for your polite and affectionate address.

"I have resided long amongst you, and lived happily with you and your fellow citizens, so it is natural that I should leave you with regret and concern: And I beg you to believe, that I carry with me sentiments the most friendly to the colonies in general, and the warmest wishes for the prosperity and happiness of the inhabitants of New-York.

For the MASSACHUSETTS SPY,
Mr. THOMAS,

SUCH has been the miserably distracted state of our government of late years, that matters of considerable moment to many, have passed, in a manner without notice; the public attention having been fixed on the very being of our free constitution, which has been tottering under the usurpation of power. I cannot boast that our fundamental rights are yet in that happy and secure condition a wise man would wish; but the distress of many worthy unfortunates, urges me to trouble the public with my complaint of our want of a proper provision in favour of insolvent debtors. It has been matter of surprize to every one I have heard mention it, that this province only should remain destitute of so necessary a law as a reasonable Bankrupt-act. I cannot think any member of our present patriotic House of Representatives would oppose such a motion; and undoubtedly his Majesty's Council, would most readily concur in liberating from needless misery persons, who at liberty might improve and enjoy life, but now languish in hopeless confinement.

It is said that no act is harder to be framed in such manner as to answer all the purposes intended, and that should be justly intended by such a law. Doubtless the matter is somewhat perplexing, but the wisdom of the legislative in this enlightened æra, is certainly very respectable; and be the difficulty what it may, the distressed, oppressed and aggrieved, must look up to them for remedy. No action should be without remedy, nor any grievance without means of redress. I cannot persuade myself that in so universally acknowledged a hardship, relief will be much longer deferred, our fathers well knowing that the repeated disappointments of long expectation drive many good members of society to remediless despair!

SYMPATHOS.

On FRIDAY 25th June, inst.

At TEN in the Morning,

Will be sold by PUBLIC VENDOR,

At the house of Mr. William Jones,

Behind the Old Brick Meeting-House,

A VARIETY of household furniture, consisting of a mahogany desk and book case, mahogany tables, leather bottom chairs, looking glasses, chest of draws, one green harateen bed, feather beds, bedsteads and bedding, kitchen furniture, &c. &c.

J. RUSSELL, Auctioneer.

The furniture may be viewed the day before the sale.