

STRICTURES ON SIR WILLIAM HOWE'S MISCHIANZA, OR TRIUMPH, UPON HIS LEAVING AMERICA UNCONQUERED. With Extracts, containing the principal part of a Letter to that Gentleman, published in the American Crisis, in order to show how far the King's enemies think him deserving of public honours.

N. B. A flattering account of this Mischianza was published in the General's own Philadelphia Gazette, and copied into the Morning Post the 13th of July last; and a larger one by a still more flattering panegyrist may be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for August last.



F Sir William Howe had thought fit quietly to resign his command, and been content to enjoy in privacy the fortune he had acquired, till the nation had in some measure digested the disgraces and losses we had suffered under his command in America, or till the dangers and calamities which, in consequence of them, threaten us here at home were passed over, he might not then perhaps have been disturbed in his retirement.

But at a time when the British empire in America is sunk, and when thousands and thousands of good subjects in both countries are ruined by its fall; at a time when, with the loss of our Colonies, the empire here in Britain itself is shaken and endangered; at such a time of public calamity, when every good Englishman is trembling for the commonwealth; at such a time for a General to take to himself ovations and triumphs, greater than the Duke of Marlborough, or any English Commander ever thought of; to suffer himself to be crowned with laurels, and to have triumphal arches erected to his honour, is such an insult offered to our understandings as cannot but raise in the mind of every man of sense the highest degree of astonishment and indignation.

I do not at present bring any charge, or enquire where we ought to fix the blame; but this we are sure of, that, during the whole of General Howe's command, our attempts to subdue the rebellion have been every where unsuccessful, the British arms have been continually disgraced, and the British empire in America is lost.

'Tis a Washington therefore, and not a Howe, that is triumphant; yet the victor General is content to enjoy his success in modest silence, while the vanquished, instead of hiding his head in obscurity, most preposterously covers it with laurels.

It is no unusual artifice for a Governor, when leaving his command, to get his creatures and dependants to set on foot an address of thanks; and from a little West-India island, which none but its own planters know any thing about, this may pass here in England as a proof of his good behaviour: But could a Commander in Chief, in a war of so much importance, after the nation had been put to the expence of so many millions to no purpose, and when so many thousands of good subjects are ruined by the miscarriage of it, could he think that we should take all sense of the public calamities, because he expresses no feelings for them? Did he think we should imagine that America was still ours, because he shewed no shame, but had a triumph made for him upon the loss of it? or that a three years series of perpetual disgraces would not be seen through all his ovations and triumphal arches?

How much soever it may be in a General's power to represent his army as greater, or less, to suit any present occasion, yet one thing, at least, is certain, that General Howe was furnished with a force abundantly sufficient to have quelled the rebellion. Both friends and foes agree in this, that from the year 1776 he never met Mr. Washington but with an army superior in number, as well as in goodness, to that of the enemy, which was opposed to him: Yet in the course of three campaigns he never thought proper to fight Mr. Washington but once, and then did not chuse to pursue the victory which his troops had gained for him. Either, therefore, the British troops must have been the greatest of all poltroons, who were unable to contend with an inferior number of new-raised, half-clothed, and half-armed American militia, or else there must have been an extreme deficiency in our generalship: whichever of these may have been the case, what ground can either of them afford for a triumph? Or upon what foundation could a General, who had seen the British arms suffer innumerable disgraces under his command, who had suffered himself to be ignominiously driven out of Boston, and who, after having been beaten at Trenton and at Prince-Town, was still more ingloriously driven out of the Jerseys; whose troops, by bravely beating in the Rebel outposts, had often pointed out to him the way to victory, while he never chose to follow it, but invariably allowed the Americans to march off unmolested and unpursued; who had suffered himself to be surprized at German-Town, and had seen his army thereby brought to the brink of destruction, from which it was rescued by the single bravery and good conduct of General Mifflin, who had been baffled and defeated in all his attempts, and out-generalled even by a man that was now, after three years com-

mand, found himself much less able to suppress the rebellion, than he was the day he landed on Staten Island: Upon what pretence, I say, could this gentleman suffer himself to be crowned with laurels, which he never won? or encourage the dedicating a triumphal arch with plumes and military trophies to his honour, without his having once had the honour of a conquest?

A General with so extensive and unconquered a command cannot want flatterers enough among his numerous dependants, who may have been promoted by his favour, or possibly enriched by his connivance.

But when so very extraordinary a method has been taken to persuade us of the high estimation in which he is held for his military abilities, it is a piece of justice due to the publick to produce the opinion which the rest of the Americans entertain, so very different from that which is here given of him.

The very high encomiums upon General Howe, which for months together after his appointment were printing in the newspapers, had raised in the minds of the Americans the greatest opinion of his military abilities, and upon the arrival of the troops in 1776, had rendered him an object of reverence to the King's friends there, and of terror to his enemies. The very strong prepossessions which the loyalists had imbibed in his favour, would not suffer them to suppose that he did not see the advantages which he then had over the rebels, and the many opportunities for crushing the rebellion which presented themselves in the course of that campaign. They found, however, that he suffered every one of them to pass away unimproved. If they could see these advantages, it could not be supposed but that a General of such consummate skill must see much more of them, and know much better than they how to make use of them, if he had chose it; hence they almost all concluded, that he must have received secret orders not to hurt the Americans; and with many of them this suspicion is not eradicated to this day. But whatever may have been their sentiments about the cause of his not conquering, scarce a man of them had a doubt but that he might have done it.

By the end of the year 1776, this high reputation, which the General had brought over with him, was wearing out. Many of the Americans became better informed; and the more discerning part judged, that if he had such orders, he could not but have mentioned them; and from his silence concluded, that he had none.

The instant they conceived that his conduct proceeded from himself, and was the effect of his own choice, and not of his orders, they found themselves at no loss in forming their judgment. The wretched use he had made of his supposed superiority of generalship, and of his real superiority of force, gradually opened mens' eyes, and cured them of all their prejudices in his favour. The friends of government with indignation saw that he did nothing; and they in charity, perhaps, might silently wish to think what its enemies there openly say, that he knew nothing.

These high encomiums on the General had been the puffs of their own allies here in England, and therefore among the Rebels this deception lasted the longer, but having once got over it, they were the first to renounce it, and Rebels and Royalists both at length concurred in the same opinion. The words of a letter addressed to him by the Americans are, "the character of Sir William Howe has undergone some extraordinary revolutions since his arrival in America; it is now fixed and known, and we have nothing to hope from your candour, or to fear from your capacity." The loyal part of the Americans equally feel this revolution in their sentiments, and after having seen the Rebel army nine times successively permitted to go off with impunity and unpursued; they would perhaps only wish to transpose the expressions, and say, that they had nothing to hope from his capacity, and every thing to fear from what is here called his candour.

Should the reader wish to see the grounds of this change of sentiment in the minds of these loyalists, he will find them in a very excellent letter signed Lucius, in the Morning Chronicle of the 11th of January last, and in four others signed Matter of Fact, printed in the Public Advertiser of the 25th of May, and the 5th, 11th, and 13th of June last. They are manifestly written by a very intelligent eye-witness, who was present with the army, and acquainted with all its proceedings; they are such as ought to be read by every good Englishman, who wishes to understand the subject; and, with a supplemental one in the Morning Post of the 15th of July, are well worth reprinting, now that gentlemen are come to town, who never see the daily papers while they are in the country.

But as the good opinion of the King's loyal subjects in America seems not to have made a principal object of this gentleman's concern, it may carry more conviction perhaps to produce the opinion which the King's enemies entertain of him, and give the sentiments of the Rebels themselves, who, as the reader will see, acknowledge, that through the whole of the campaign of 1776 Mr. Howe's army consisted of nearly double the number of that which Mr. Washington

* Even in the admission tickets, the General's crest was enriched with military trophies.

opposed to him; that America was the young and unskilled, whereas he was, in high reputation, and his military knowledge was then supposed to be complete; that his troops had arrived in full numbers, and in full spirits: he was then, they say, formidable, and, in effect, own that he had only to begin to make an end of them; that their fate was suspended by a thread, and that they were saved, as it were, by miracle. After all these acknowledgments of his mercy, the General might have hoped, that these men, who had been so often spared by him, and constantly suffered to withdraw themselves whither they pleased from every dangerous situation, would at least have treated him with respect. But as men who have broke through their oaths, and cast off their allegiance, naturally throw away with it their gratitude, and every other sense of obligation; the return which they make to the General, who they in effect acknowledge might so often have cruised them, is to treat him with every kind of indignity, and to speak of him in terms of the utmost scorn and contempt.

The American Crisis is a work which has been published in numbers, and has come out upon particular occasions, when it has been judged necessary to rouse and animate the revolvers in their resistance against this country. It professes to be written by the author of Common Sense. Some have given it to Dr. Franklin, others to Mr. Adams. It is now known to be written under the patronage of the Congress, and the instructions of their capital and best-informed leaders.

The fifth number was published in March last, when the Congress were in expectation of some conciliatory offers being brought to them from Great Britain, and were apprehensive that their people might be weary of the war and induced to accept them.

The arguments used to prevent this are: That although at first the British arms were formidable, and General Howe might then have easily subdued them, yet now they have found him out, that they had nothing to fear from his capacity, and that Mr. Washington has constantly out-general'd him. That if in the year 1776, when he was in his strongest state, and they in their weakest, he did not then take the way to conquer, they had nothing to fear from him now, when their force was greater, and when his was rather less, and his credit none at all.

That by giving them three years training he had taught them their business, and they were now able to meet their enemy upon any ground, and therefore had no need to treat.

This first part is called a letter to General Sir William Howe. The other two parts are an address to the Americans to hold out, and a plan for maintaining a standing army, superior to any force which shall be brought against them. Great part of the book is too full of the most virulent invective against the King, the Parliament, and the English nation, to bear reprinting, but will abundantly satisfy the reader, that it can be the work of no one, but a most strenuous advocate for American Independence, and a man full of the most rancorous malice against this Country.

A confederate here in England, if he please, may reprint the whole book, which would fill forty or fifty pages. I shall only give some extracts from the first part of it, to shew the opinion which our enemies have of the General's conduct, and how little they must think him deserving of this publick triumph.

The title is the American Crisis, Number 5, Addressed to General Sir William Howe. By the author of Common Sense. Lancaster printed, Hartford re-printed, And sold by Watford and Goodwin near the Great Bridge, 1778.

MORNING CHRONICLE.
LONDON, APRIL 8, 1779.

Yesterday there was a Levee at Saint James's, at which were present the Dukes of Argyll and Montagu; Lord Primate of Ireland; Lords Weymouth and Edgcombe; Marquis of Lothian; Sir Charles Thompson, Generals Morris and Amherst; Capts. Fielding and Walsingham, Foreign Ministers, &c. The Levee was over at half past two o'clock, after which the Lords Amherst and Weymouth held separate conferences with the King till four, when his Majesty returned to the Queen's-house.

It is expected her Majesty will not attend at the Drawing-room at St. James's before this day se'nnight.

When all the troops destined for embarkation, have left this country, there will not be eight compleat regiments of foot left behind.

The duties on East India goods must encrease considerably, as the loss of the French East-India trade, will in a great measure prevent the smuggling in that branch, the supplies being cut off.

Advice is received, that several French privateers are cruising off the Madeira islands, and have taken several vessels, two of them from New-York, which touched there in order to take in a cargo of wine.

The Rev. Joseph Palmer is promoted by the Lord Bishop of Ferns, to be Chancellor of Ferns and Rector Killcoran, in Ireland, in the room of Eytton Butts, Dean of Cloyne, deceased.

In consequence of a bye-law of the East-India Company, which forbids the giving away any of the Company's money in presents, or otherwise, without seven days notice, yesterday was held a General Court, such notice having been given, of some presents intended to be made to several Directors, the Governor of Madras, General Munro, and Sir Edward Vernon.

When the Court was met, and the clerk had informed the Proprietors of the reason of their being called together, General Smith moved, that the first resolution, which gives the thanks of the Court, and a piece of plate, value 500l. to Sir George Wombwell, the chairman, should be put: some debates ensued about the sum to be laid out, others not thinking it sufficient, but Sir George, in a very handsome speech, assured the proprietors of his entire satisfaction in the present, and it was carried unanimously.

General Smith also moved the next resolve (and indeed every one that followed) that the thanks and a piece of plate, value 300l. be given to Sir William James, the Deputy Chairman. A motion was made to add one hundred more to it; but Sir William modestly thanked the proprietors for their first intention, and begged the amendment might be withdrawn. This resolve was carried unanimously, as well as the first motion.

The next motion was, for the like thanks to the late Deputy Chairman, (Mr. Devaynes) who was one of the secret committee in the managing of the affair of the attack on Pondicherry, which was also carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Governor of Madras came on next; but a proprietor moved for an amendment of a piece of plate, like the chairman's. As the Governor of Madras, last war, was not so complimented, it was thought better by his friends to take the unanimous vote of thanks, than push for the compliment of plate, and perhaps have the mortification of being disappointed; the thanks of the Court were therefore voted unanimously.

A sword of the value of 750l. with the thanks of the Court, was moved to be presented to General Munro; there was some debate on this head, but as the like had been presented to Sir Eyre Cootte when he took Pondicherry last war, it was voted accordingly, as was the like thanks, and a sword of like value to Sir Edward Vernon, Commander in Chief of the fleet.

A motion was attempted to be made for a vote of thanks to all the officers in the army before Pondicherry, under General M: but it not being properly before the Court, it was not taken notice of.

A compensation to Mr. Baldwin, at Cairo, for his diligence in sending the express from thence, which contained the orders from the Company to Madras to commence hostilities, and other news, was moved for; but the Chairman informed the Court that Mr. Baldwin had already been presented with 500l. for his diligence in forwarding the express, and that he had made an exorbitant demand for sending intelligence to India, which the Directors had not settled.

The resolve of the last Court, concerning Captains Mears and Bull, for not registering goods in India, contrary to a law of the East-India Company, was carried unanimously in the affirmative, and there the business ended.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Young, a midshipman on board his Majesty's ship the Fly-ship, dated at sea, within 23 leagues of New-York, Feb. 28.

"I have the pleasure to inform you, that on the 15th inst. Captain Briggins, of the Chester armed ship of 20 guns, made a signal to chase a ship in the south west; soon after which we discovered her to be an enemy, the wind then at E. N. E. At two in the afternoon it fell quite calm, when we hoisted out our boats, and towed our ship towards the enemy: At nine at night, we were very near her, when a night breeze sprung up from the southward, which the chase having the first of, enabled her to keep her distance. At half past eleven saw the Chester fire a shot at her chase, and very soon a smart firing began on both sides: in twenty minutes after we came up and supported our consort, and a warm engagement then ensued, which continued upwards of five glasses, when our adversary struck, having lost in the action upwards of 70 of her crew. She proved to be the Apollon, a French man of war of 50 guns, commanded by one Kelly, an Irishman, who ran seven of his men through during the conflict, because they would not stand to their quarters, and who behaved with the greatest bravery; our loss is very considerable, as is that of the Chester. We have now the Frenchman in tow, her masts being shot away, and the vessel very leaky."

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, dated April 6.

"Arrived the Fairy sloop of war with the Downs fleet under convoy; Southampton, Cavel; Jane and Eleanor, Redman; and Preston, Chambers, from London; Speedwell, Brown, from Dover; Neptune, Coulson; Burton, Arnaud; and Hopewell, Gilmore, from Newcastle; Nancy, Smith; Betty, Wood, and Ann and Mary, Oliver, from Sunderland.

"Sailed the Vrow Barbara and Henrianna, Smith, for Rotterdam; Three Englishmen, Wiggins; Trial, Quinnell; Betty, Cully; Forrester, Sives; John, Parsons; Le Conome, Ford; Sultana, Norman; London, Johnson; Two Brothers,