

EAST INDIA INTELLIGENCE.

Address to Mr. Hastings, from the Military Officers in India.

By the Swallow packet we are informed, that soon after the departure of Mr. Hastings from Bengal the Officers of the army signed the following address, which has now been transmitted to him, by Colonels Morgan, Pearce and Watson.

To WARREN HASTINGS, Esq.

Fort William, August 5, 1785.

“ S I R,

“ Soon after your departure it was resolved at a meeting of officers at the Presidency, that an Address to you, as Governor General, should be signed and forwarded by the first safe conveyance, and the officers were pleased to make choice of us to send forth copies for signatures, to receive them when signed, and to send them to you afterwards.

We beg leave to assure you, that we receive the greatest happiness from having been chosen to be the agents of so respectable a body of officers, and hope the share we have had in promoting the wishes of our friends and constituents, will prove acceptable to you.

We are,

With the highest respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient

Humble servants,

JAMES MORGAN,

T. D. PEARCE,

HENRY WATSON.”

To the Hon. WARREN HASTINGS, Esq.
Governor General, &c.

“ We whose names are herewith subscribed officers of the Bengal army, with profound respect, and most perfect esteem, take the liberty of addressing you on your departure from amongst us.

“ Many of us, as citizens, have already signed the General Address, which was projected, prepared, and signed in the short space of thirty hours and presented to you on the morning of your departure, with the signatures of near three hundred of the principal persons of the settlement, to which, large additions have since been made, and are still making.

“ But it was judged that an address from the Officers of the army, in their collective capacity, after you had left the settlement, would more fully demonstrate to yourself, and to all the world, how very dear you were to them as soldiers, and afford them an opportunity of recording the crimes of their officers by a recital of the events which produced it.

“ We all know, Sir, either by having seen it, or by having heard it from those who were on the spot, that you have been very near thirteen years at the head of this settlement; that you came to the Chair as Governor, immediately after the most dreadful calamity

that ever befell a people, and found the country much depopulated, the treasury empty, and a most enormous debt contracted; that the plans which you so judiciously laid when Governor, were afterwards carried into execution by the Governor General and Council, of which you have hitherto been the head and effected a discharge of the debt, filled the Treasury with cash, and restored life and vigour to the country. That during this period the government was convulsed by jarring interests and unusual positions, but nevertheless you maintained your post, with dignity to the State, with honour to yourself, and confusion to the enemies of our country. That the natives taking advantage of what they supposed a divided Government, entered into a confederacy to destroy the influence of the English in India, and to set up that of the French, who secretly promoted the union, and afterwards joined in league with them. That all these efforts were baffled and India preserved by the vigour of your government, from which an expedition, planned by yourself was sent forth, and an army under General Goddard traversed regions unknown, from the East, to the West of India, and in spite of the disasters which befell those who were to co-operate, reached the coasts of Surat, and conquered Provinces from the powers at war with our nation. It is also well known that in the midst of this scene of trouble, the French and Spaniards, and afterwards the Dutch, joined to attack us, and aided by the late Hyder Ally, who before the Dutch war invaded the Carnatic, defeated the English in both, and reduced to his obedience the whole of that country, Except Madras, and Vellore, and a few paltry forts in the neighbourhood of the presidency. That when all men considered the state of the Carnatic to be desperate, you rose to rescue them from impending ruin, and though Bengal was threatened with invasion, nobly resolving to meet the enemy at a distance, you sent out two detachments, which gave strength and vigour to the army under Sir Eyre Coxe, thereby saved the British possessions in that part of India, and reduced the enemy to conclude an honourable peace, without the smallest loss of territory; and lastly, that the armies serving at a distance were paid, clothed and armed by the exertions, and resources of your government.—Thus, Sir, under your administration have the united efforts of our numerous and powerful enemies been frustrated, and India, by the conquests they made, from the European powers, has afforded the means of redeeming what the nation lost in every other part of the globe.

“ We therefore intreat you to accept this just, and grateful tribute of our praises and of

our warmest thanks, for having opened the paths which led to glory, and afforded the Bengal army the means of acquiring honour, and being serviceable to the State at large.

"Permit us now, Sir, to express our feelings on your departure. Time, and the contemplation of your illustrious actions, created an esteem which is deeply rooted in our hearts, and our sorrow at losing the man whom we considered as the father of the settlement is, as it ought to be, great and poignant; we must therefore seek for consolation in our hopes that you are going to receive those honours and rewards which are due to superior merit, and with the united voice we pray that such may be the event." Signed by

T. D. Pearce, Colonel Commandant of Artillery.

Henry Watson, Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Engineer, in Bengal.

William Blair, Colonel Commandant of the first brigade.

James Morgan, Colonel Commandant of the second brigade.

Samuel Hampton, Colonel, commanding the troops in Fort William.

And by 14 Lieutenant Colonels, 28 Majors, 79 Captains, and 429 subalterns and staff officers.—Total 555 officers.

This spontaneous mark of affection, from so numerous and respectable a body of officers in Bengal, after the departure of Mr. Hastings; the very handsome compliment that was paid to him in London, by his Majesty's officers who had served in India during the war; the acknowledgments of the British inhabitants in Calcutta; the letters that have been written since his departure by Madagee Sindia, the Vizier, the Nizam, and by every power in alliance with the Company, most fully prove that Mr. Hastings was very highly esteemed by all ranks and degrees of men throughout India. Seldom, indeed we believe we may say it has never happened before, that a man, after resigning the government of a mighty Empire, has received such strong and unequivocal proofs of personal regard, and affectionate attachment, as Mr. Hastings has from his own countrymen, and from all ranks; amongst the natives of Indostan.

WEST INDIA and AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

WEST INDIA.

Kingston Jamaica Oct. 15.

THE French have made the ports of Tobago free, in order to obstruct the trade of Grenada, and crush its rising intercourse with the Spanish main and Trinidad. The same Court has also made the ports of Martinico free, in order to drain Dominica of its only probable means of supporting the few merchants who have resolution to keep their stations in that colony, having proved so fatal to the original adventurers.

A Gentleman recently arrived in this island from Virginia says, that, during his stay there, directions had arrived from France, fixing such a low price for tobacco as the Planters could not accept; but that the British and Irish merchants being willing to pay for it liberally, bought it up at their pleasure, and sent a ship full freighted for Great Britain, at a time when several French vessels lay waiting with scarcely any hopes of a lading. The American and French stores, in the principal towns of that province, were French manufacture for traffic, but missed of the *bon marche*, while our countrymen with the greatest rapidity disposed of all kinds of British goods.

Very alarming accounts are received from the Windward parishes of the damage done to the planting interest by the late torrents of rain, which have not been exceeded, for violence and duration, in the memory of the oldest man living: the young sugar canes, in particular, have suffered incredible mischief.

Kingston, Nov. 29. The Americans complain bitterly of the treatment they experience when their vessels happen to enter any of the West India Islands through mistake or distress; but some of them have lately been so roughly handled by their good friends the French, that had they their choice of evils, they seem inclined to give the preference to the British.

The mischief done to the French and Spanish islands by the hurricane last year is not likely to be repaired for several years to come. A gentleman from Kingston, who has lately visited them says, that several estates are quite demolished, and the unfortunate proprietors without the means of restoring them.

Feb. 5. Advice is received by the Thyne Pacquet, which arrived yesterday from Jamaica, that before they had quite repaired the damage done by the hurricane, they had been visited by another affliction, by a deluge of rain, which has caused such floods, that on several estates a considerable part of the soil has been washed away, and the canes have been greatly injured all over the island, consequently the ensuing crop will be very short; many estates do not expect even to make half the number of hogheads they generally do, which, with the very great charge of repairing the mischief caused by the last hurricane, has very much distressed the planters, and occasioned trade to drag on heavily, the storekeepers not choosing to trust to the amount they have heretofore done, and the merchants in Europe being, as they say, already too far in their advances.