

A P P E N D I X.

Passy, 2d April, 1782.

“ I HAVE received the letter your Excellency did me the honor of writing to me, relating to Messrs. Agnew, father and son, and Capt. Parker, Englishmen prisoners, taken in America, and brought to France.—I know nothing of those persons, or of the circumstances that might induce the Delegates of Virginia to desire their detention, no account of them from that State being come to my hands, nor have I received any orders or instructions from the Congress concerning them. I therefore cannot properly make any opposition to their being permitted to reside at Caen on their parole of honor, or to their being exchanged in pursuance of the cartel, as his Majesty in his wisdom shall think proper. I am, sir, &c.

“ Signed, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

“ From this Letter we readily concluded that every obstacle was removed; and in consequence the Duke of Harcourt wrote to M. de Castries requesting our exchange, that we might, as British officers, benefit ourselves of the cartel established between the two nations for that express purpose.

“ The Duke has shewn me the answer of M. de Castries to this last letter, and from which it appears determined to keep us in France. He tells him, “ *Qu’il ne lui est pas possible d’y condescendre, parceque M. de la Luzerne a mandé à M. de Rochambault que le Congrès desiroit qu’ils ne fussent pas échangés, comme étant des Torries dangereux dans le Sud, où ils seroient trop bien leur Patrie.*”

“ Such is our situation at present, my dear Colonel; nor have we a hope of relief, but in our country, and your kind endeavours; if we are not demanded, here we remain during the war! Heavens! what a succession of melancholy vicissitudes! I have an aged parent at New York, who, totally dependant on the endeavours of her husband and an only son, perhaps, from a genteel affluence, at this moment is reduced to want! Oh God! what do I say? perhaps she is no more! Such are the misfortunes attendant on civil war; and shall we, my dear Colonel, who have sacrificed all but a natural and unalienable allegiance, shall we not find friends who dare reclaim us? who dare insist on our exchange? For what is there a cartel between the two nations? Are we not British officers? Are we not French prisoners? I ever apprehended that the meanest servant was entitled to the protection of the state he served; and shall France, at the instance
instance