

inforce obedience to all the late laws. For this purpose we understand that three regiments of foot, one of dragoons, seven hundred marines, six sloop of war, and two frigates, are now under orders for r rca.

We think it proper to inform you that your cause was well defended by a considerable number of good and wise men in both Houses of Parliament, though far from being a majority: And that many of the commercial and manufacturing parts of the nation, concerned in the American trade, have presented, or as we understand, are preparing to present petitions to parliament declaring their great concern for the present unhappy controversies with America, and praying expressly, or in effect, for healing measures, as the proper means of preserving their commerce now greatly suffering or endangered. But the treatment the petitions already presented have hitherto received is such, as, in our opinion, can afford you no reliance on the present relief through their means.

As soon as we learnt that the Petition of the Congress was before the House of Commons, we thought it our duty to support it, if we might be permitted so to do, as there was no other opportunity for the numerous inhabitants of the Colonies to be heard in defence of their rights: Accordingly we joined in a petition for that purpose. Sir George Saville kindly undertook to present it. But on previously opening the purport of it, as the order is, a debate arose on the propriety of receiving it, and on a division it was rejected by a great majority.

The following extract of a letter from General Gage to Lord Dartmouth, as laid before Parliament, we think it our duty to transmit, viz.

"Dec. 15, 1774. Your Lordship's idea of disarming