

1776.

New
batteries
opened.

the night of the 2d of March, from whence a severe cannonade and bombardment was carried on against the town, and repeated on the ensuing nights. Whilst the attention of the army was occupied by the firing of houses and other mischiefs incident to this new attack, they beheld with inexpressible surprize, on the morning of the 5th, some considerable works appear on the other side of the town, upon the heights of Dorchester Point, which had been erected in the preceding night, and from whence a 24 pound and a bomb battery, were soon after opened. Some of our officers have acknowledged, that the expedition with which these works were thrown up, with their sudden and unexpected appearance, recalled to their minds those wonderful stories of enchantment and invisible agency, which are so frequent in the Eastern Romances.

The

troops have returned to their respective countries; and that they (the Hessian troops) should be under no controul of either King or parliament; for the express words of the treaty are, "that *they* shall remain under the command of their general, "to whom His Most Serene Highness has entrusted the same."

The debates on these affairs were long and animated in both houses, particularly with the Lords, where the Duke of Richmond moved for an address, of a considerable length, to his Majesty, in which, (besides several pointed observations relative to the treaties at large) he took a full and comprehensive view of American affairs in general, and demonstratively shewed from various laborious and accurate calculations, that the use of 17,300 mercenaries for the present year, would not, taking in all contingencies, cost the nation less than one million and an half ster. an expence, he maintained, not to be paralleled in the history of mankind, for the service of an equal number of men; therefore moved that his Majesty would be graciously pleased to countermand the march of the troops of Hesse, Hanau, and Brunswick; and likewise give directions for an immediate suspension of hostilities in America, in order to lay a foundation for a happy and permanent reconciliation between the divided parts of this distracted empire. This motion was, however, rejected by the usual majority, of about 100 to 32, including proxies, but was attended with an unusual protest, reciting the terms of the address at large.