Cattle; but the Proxies went in the Procession no farther than the South Door, where the Mantles were delivered to the Sexton.

The Drums and Trumpets halted at the Foot of the Stairs, the Poor Knights fell off on either Side in the Guard Chamber, the Officers of Arms in the Presence Chamber; the Knights Companions divided on either Side above them; the Sovereign, having the Officers before him, went under the State, where he saluted the Knights by pulling off his Cap and Feather, and then retired till Dinner Time.

When the first Service was placed on the Table, a Procession was made to St. George's-Hall, viz. The Officers of Arms,—the Knights in their Order,—the Officers of the Order,—the Sovereign.

The Officers of the Arms divided at the lower End of the Hall, the Knights above them, the Seniors uppermost, taking off their Caps and Feathers as the Sovereign passed; the Officers of the Order proceeding before the Sovereign to the Haut-pas, and then going behind the Knights.

The Sovereign being under a State, saluted the Knights; and their Royal Highnesses ascending the Haut-pas, went to the Ends of the Table, the Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnabrug on his Majesty's right Hand, and the Duke of Gloucester and Duke of Cumberland on his left.

Grace being said by the Chancellor, the Sovereign sat down, and the Knights put on their Caps, and went to their Places at the Table. The Two Proxies sitting below the Knights.

Towards the latter End of the first Course, a Cup being brought to the Sovereign by the Cup-Bearer, his Majesty commanded Garter to signify to the Knights, that he drank to them. Whereupon the Knights standing up uncovered, all together pledged the Sovereign, the Trumpets sounding; and then sat down, and put on their Caps.

The second Course was then brought in with the usual Ceremony.

Immediately after Garter, attended by all the Officers of Arms, advanced from the lower End of the Hall, with the usual Reverences, to the Haut-pas, and ascending the lowest Steps, and crying *Largess* Thrice, proclaimed the Sovereign's Style in Latin, French and English.

Garter then bowing to the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness stood up, taking off his Cap and Feather; and Garter, crying *Largess* Twice, proclaimed his Style in English.

In like Manner Garter proclaimed the Styles of his Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnabrug, and his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.

The Officers of Arms then retired backwards with the usual Reverences, till they came opposite to the Earl of Albemarle; who standing up uncovered, Garter with one *Largess* proclaimed his Style in English; and then the Styles of the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Grafton, and Earl Bower.

The Banquet was afterwards brought to the Sovereign's Table.

Dinner being ended, the Knights placed themselves on either Side at the upper End of the Hall; and Grace being said by the Chancellor, and the Sovereign having washed, the Knights all together made their Reverences to his Majesty, who put off his Cap and saluted them.

Then the Knights and Officers returned to the Presence Chamber before the Sovereign, in the same Order they came from thence.

July 23. We learn this Moment, from Bucharest and Cronstedt, the important News that the Pacha, encouraged by the Re-taking of Guirgova, having passed the Danube with 60,000 Turks, attacked on the 22d of last Month, between the said Place and Bucharest, Prince Repnin, who had under him only 30 000 Men; that the Engagement was bloody and obstinate; but that after lasting Five Hours, Victory declared in Favour of the Russians. The Turks lost in this Action Three Agas, 1500 Men, and 100 Pieces of Cannon. Five Thousand were made Prisoners, without counting the Trophies taken by the Russian Hunters in the Pursuit; and a Number who were drowned in the Danube.

July 27. His Majesty's Ship the Endeavour, which is lately arrived in the River from the East-Indies, (where she has been with the Three Astronomers on the Transit of Venus, &c.) lost, by the Unhealthfulness of the Climate, 70 of her Hands, though they were picked Men, and had been several Times in the Indies. However, those that survive, will have made their Fortunes by Traffic, having brought home some of the richest Goods made in the East, which they are suffered to dispose of without the Inspection of Custom House Officers. This, our Correspondent says, is allowed them, as a Reward for their hard and dangerous Services, during a Voyage of 3 Years.

We learn by the Endeavour, from the South-Seas, that they discovered a Southern Continent, in the Latitude of the Dutch Spice Islands; that the People were hospitable, ingenuous, and civil, of a Copper Complexion, but handsome and well made Mr. Banks passed some Months amongst them; and, tho' these People were so politely civilized, it is very extraordinary that they have no kind of Worship or Religion amongst them. Two of the Natives came voluntarily with Mr. Banks, but died of the Flux at Batavia. From this Voyage we expect many Discoveries and much Entertainment. They had an excellent Observation of the Transit of Venus; but the ingenious Mr. Green died upon his Return. Upon their Arrival, the Admiralty seized all the Officers Papers. In Consequence of this Discovery more Ships will be destined in search of this new terrestrial Acquisition; and it is to be hoped the Ministry will select Men with Heads, as well as Hearts, to accomplish such a Voyage.

ANNAPOLIS, *October* 3.

On Tuesday last the General Assembly of this Province were to have met here, but a sufficient Number of Members not coming to Town until the Evening, his Excellency the Governor was pleased to prorogue it until Yesterday, when the House met, and unanimously made Choice of the Honourable *Edward Tilghman*, Esq; to be their Speaker, and Mr. *John Duckett* to be their Clerk; of both which his Excellency was pleased to signify his Approbation, and then opened the Session with the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

WHILST engaged in enacting Regulations conducive to the Welfare of the Province, you will, I hope, find the Season convenient to your private Affairs.

The State of the Criminal Law, which I recommended to the Consideration of the late Assembly, permit me again to press, as an Object that deserves your most deliberate Attention.

The Provision hitherto made, for repairing and keeping in order the publick Roads, having proved very ineffectual, let me also beg your peculiar Regard to this Subject. Our Situation for Commerce has many natural Advantages, which will be diminished or improved in Proportion to our Neglect or Care in shortening Distances, and facilitating the Carriage of our native Produce to Market.

Gentlemen of the Lower House,

Nothing could be effected, at the last Session, in Consequence of his Excellency, the late Lord *Botetourt*'s Letter, soliciting a Contribution towards defraying the necessary Expence that would attend the Erection and Maintenance of a Light-House on Cape *Henry*. I have, pursuant to the Address of the late Assembly, directed the Naval Officers to furnish me with an Account of the Tonnage, which I shall order to be laid before you, as also a Letter from the Speaker of the House of Burgesses of *Virginia* to your Speaker, containing, as I am informed, the like Account of the Tonnage of that Province; and I must now request the Establishment of some Fund for a Service in which the Trade of *Maryland* is so much interested.

Gentlemen of both Houses,

Be assured of my most cheerful Concurrence in every Measure tending to promote the real Interests of this Country, and that I shall deem myself happy in Proportion to the Prosperity the People of this Province shall derive from my Administration.

On Monday last *Thomas Jennings*, Esq; was elected Mayor of this City for the ensuing Year.

To the PRINTER of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

SIR,

IT is an old and stale Artifice of most Disputants, when Truth and Argument fail them, to have Recourse to Slander and Defamation. Personal Abuse is but too commonly made Use of to give Life to an expiring Cause, and the less of Reason some have to support their Pretensions, the more of Passion and other ill Arts they employ against their Antagonists. There has seldom appeared, I believe, a more remarkable Instance of the Truth of this Observation than the Reverend Mr. *Neill*'s late Publication. He has, in his *polite* Way, given the Reverend Mr. *Montgomery* and myself the *Lie*; and has treated the Reverend Mr. *Harris* in a barbarous and cruel Manner, and with such gross and scurrilous Language, as must have been offensive, I am persuaded, to the publick Ear. His Behaviour to Mr. *Montgomery* and me is a Specimen of his *good Manners*——His Treatment of Mr. *Harris* is a Sample of the *Goodness* of his *Heart*; but 'tis needless to complain of this——Mr. *Neill* cannot help it, 'tis *Naturæ Vitium*, a Mixture of bad Blood and Humours, as well as the Effect of a bad *Habit*; and a Man must write as he can, or else be silent.

But dismissing at present Matters merely personal, I shall proceed to the Point in Debate between Mr. *Neill* and me.——The Publick, beyond all Question, took it for granted that the Minute, as it stands in Mr. *Neill*'s Letter to Mr. *Harris*, was the genuine Production of the *Eastern Shore* Clergy, and that it was actually signed by me as President, and attested as "a true Copy" from the original Minutes, by Mr. *Montgomery* as Clerk. This Mr. *Montgomery* and I denied, and publickly asserted that Mr. *Neill* had made Use of our Names without our Privity and Consent. Upon this, the Publick, I doubt not, was in full Expectation of seeing us confronted with the Minute signed by Mr. *Montgomery* and me, and that an Appeal would have been made to such as were acquainted with our Hand-writing to prove it genuine and authentick. But no such Matter; Mr. *Neill* has not attempted this.——That he NEVER will attempt it, the following Declaration, under the Hands of several Gentlemen of the first Character among us, is offered as a pretty convincing Argument.

"At the Request of the Reverend Mr. *Gordon*, we have this Day carefully perused a Paper which he produced to us, and which the Reverend Mr. *Barclay*, on being called upon, declared to be the ORIGINAL MINUTES of the Eastern Shore Clergy, convened at his House, (near *Talbot* Court-House) on the Twenty-second Day of *May* 1771, and on the following Day; and DO NOT find any Thing therein respecting the Reverend Mr. *Harris*, or his Letter to the Reverend Mr. *Neill*, published in the MARYLAND GAZETTE, No. 1344.

JOHN LEEDS,
JONATHAN NICOLS,
JAMES DICKINSON,
HENRY HOLLYDAY."

Talbot County, 20th of *August* 1771.

What must be the Assurance of the Man who was capable, without our Privity and Consent, of setting Mr. *Montgomery*'s Name and mine to a Minute that, as appears from the foregoing Declaration, never existed among the *original* Minutes of the Eastern Shore Clergy? This Mr. *Neill* has done. He does, therefore, stand chargeable with taking a very unwarrantable Freedom with us, with misrepresenting his Brethren, and with an Imposition on the Publick.

Sensible that he could neither produce the Minute, nor any Order from the Clergy to transmit a Copy of it to Mr. *Harris*, with the Sanction of Mr. *Montgomery*'s Name and mine, Mr. *Neill* now sculkingly takes Shelter under "verbal Directions" from the President. In his Letter to Mr. HARRIS, he says, "the CLERGY "ordered a Copy of their Opinion to be by him "transmitted to Mr. *Harris*." In his late Publication he tells us—he had "verbal Directions from the "*President*" to communicate it to him (Mr. *Harris*.)

Quantum mutatus ab illo!

Thus he plainly differs from, and contradicts himself, and has fairly discharged the more prudent Part of Mankind, at least, from paying any Regard to his Assertions. But who that saw his Letter to Mr. *Harris*, signed by me as President, and "a true Copy" by Mr. *Montgomery* as Clerk, ever suspected that it would end in a Minute that never existed, and in "verbal Directions" that never were given?——Mr. *Neill* has too mean an Opinion of the Publick, if he hopes to pay or put it off with such Coin.

Mr. *Neill* tells us—That "on the Second Day, when he returned to Mr. *Barclay*'s, which was about Twelve o'Clock, Mr. President acquainted him that the Clergy had re-assumed the Consideration of Mr. *Harris*'s Letter, and had passed the following Vote: "—*It is the unanimous Opinion of the Clergy, that Mr.* "Harris's *Letter favours more of Toddy than Truth, and* "*is plentifully dashed with Forgeries and Falsehoods.* Nem. "Con." By the Way, "a unanimous Vote, *Nem.* "*Con.*" is "a Mode of Composition, I believe, peculiar to Mr. *Neill*."—He goes on to tell us, that, "as the President seemed to acquire a very great "Weight, from the Dignity of his Seat, and carry "every Thing with a dictatorial Authority, the Clergy were silent." Thus, as it should seem, by the "dictatorial Authority" of the President, and the Tameness and Silence of the Clergy, were Mr. *Neill*'s Minutes so far made out. All this is pretty plausible, but happens to labour under one great Defect; and that is, it is not true. It cannot but seem strange and unaccountable that the Clergy, after determining, on the *First* Day of their Meeting, not to take any Notice of Mr. *Harris*'s Letter, should yet, on the *Second* Day, re-assume the Consideration of it, without any one Motive or Argument offered to induce them to depart from their prior Resolution. Is it not probable that, if the President acquainted him with the aforesaid "unanimous Vote, *Nem. Con.*" Mr. *Neill* would have had Recourse to the Minutes, and have copied it from thence; or, if he had not found it there, have desired it might be entered before he sent it in the Name of the Clergy? This he might, with the greatest Ease, have obtained. For who would object to entering "a unanimous Vote, *Nem. Con.*"——Had the Clergy passed any such Vote, Mr. *Neill* had the Matter too much at Heart to have suffered it to remain unentered. Now there appears not any such Entry; and, therefore, 'tis probable that such a Vote never was passed. Besides; what a tame and silly Set of Mortals does he make the Clergy appear to be!——According to Mr. *Neill* they were "silent," and every Thing was carried by the "dictatorial Authority of the President!" Herein Mr. *Neill must* excuse me.——There were, among the Clergy, Gentlemen, who, in Parts and Understanding, were greatly superior to him, and who would have resented and spurned at such overbearing Management. I have not met with one Clergyman that can recollect any Thing of re-assuming the Consideration of Mr. *Harris*'s Letter, or of my acquainting Mr. *Neill* with the aforesaid "unanimous Vote, *Nem. Con.*" For my Part I do not remember a Tittle of it, and do aver it to be false. But not to rest the Matter on my own Assertion, and that it may not appear to be unsupported by any other Evidence, I shall here subjoin a Letter I received from the Reverend Mr. *Brown*, who, as he accompanied Mr. *Neill* to *Talbot* Court House, and came back with him to the Meeting, must be allowed to be a very competent Witness of what passed immediately on his Return. The Letter follows.

"REVEREND SIR,

"You are pleased to desire I would give you an Account of what I remember to have passed at our Meeting, last *May*, relating to Mr. *Harris*'s Letter.

"When I came to Mr. *Barclay*'s, the Evening of the First Day of the Meeting, that Letter was shewn to me, and I was informed, by the Gentlemen then present, that the Meeting had resolved to take no Notice of it. Next Morning Mr. *Neill* and I walked to the Court-House, and returned together. I do not remember to have heard that the Consideration of it was re-assumed, nor that any such Vote was passed, as,——"That *it is the unanimous Opinion of the Clergy, that Mr.* Harris's *Letter favours more of Toddy than Truth, and is plentifully dashed with Forgeries and Falsehoods.*"

I am, Reverend SIR,
Your, &c.
T. BROWN.

Dorset, *Aug.* 28, 1771.

This seems to bode no good to the "unanimous "Vote, *Nem. Con.*" but I shall next, still more effectually to refute Mr. *Neill*'s Assertions and Charges, take Leave to lay before the Publick the following Attestation by several of the Clergy.