

try, without support, or revenue. I am sure, affords no such protection; nor do I find any thing in province to countenance a doctrine such consequences. You say, the to the established church: It may be said to be Caesar's friend—and what established church is it, that your friendship? The church in at all, was established by the Act, you say, was originally null and void, when and how the church, you established.

I have made to extricate yourselves have but plunged you deeper in the dilemma under the dilemma, that the Clergy of Maryland pay per poll, by *taxation*, *time out of mind*, of all your darling political, and constitutional questions. I join with you in questioning, whether the Supreme Magistrate will accept the *notary*. Without any compliment to him, I may say, he knows better: he can read English, and can see, that it was not offered to him. On this subject of *notary*, on which you are so superabundantly smart, all I desire is, that any impartial man should cast his eye over your queries and mine, to determine which is the more plentifully beset with them; and I appeal to the history of our lives, our characters; and our stations, to show, whether you, or I, are more likely to pay court to the power of translation.

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Priestly pride being a no less common sarcasm against our Order, than priestly implacability, I cannot be so selfish as not to acknowledge, that your letter affords instances of this goodly spirit, enough to flatter the proudest of us all. The important monosyllable, *We*, triumphantly (another of your favourite words) stares us in the face, in almost every sentence; but never more triumphantly, than where you say, *We* and the People in expression, not to be matched, for its humility, by any thing but the celebrated egotism of Wolsey, *I, and my King*. Even, the emphatical appropriation of the words, *the Lawyers*, to yourselves, as though all others were but pettifoggers and scrivener's; if feeble in comparison with it.

For any jibes, or jeers thrown out against myself, I heed them not; my character they cannot hurt; yours they certainly will. But, I must be lost to every honest, every generous feeling, not to resent your slanderous calumny against my brethren. The Clergy, in general of the Church of England have blown up a storm of oppression. Gracious Heaven! This too from Mess. Chase and Peca!

"*Quis tulerit Gracchar de seditione querentes?*"

The temper and moderation of the Clergy in vindicating their rights, have been as remarkable, as the arts you have made use of to inflame and mislead the people, have been unmanly and unfair. If, in any thing, they have been to blame, in my judgment, it has been in timely submitting to the insults which you, and such as you, have of late so often offered to them. I do aver, moreover, on my own knowledge, that, maugre all your harangues and your publications, the Clergy have the sweet concordance of the voice of the men heretofore deemed the most sensible and moderate in the country, as well as of the gentlemen of the Bar, the most eminent for their abilities and candor, with respect to their claims. And, when the present political frenzies are over, as every good man must pray they soon may be, your opinions and your projects will appear, as they are, the misshapen offspring of political perplexity and distress—the creature of a day. But,

to return; general assertions need be refuted only by general negations. I do, therefore, assert, that what you have alleged against the Clergy in general, is untrue; and, I defy you to mention one Clergyman in the province, who, as a Clergyman, has, in the smallest instance, blown up any storm of oppression, or been guilty of any illegal, arbitrary, or oppressive exaction. Dare you say thus much of the Lawyers?

You needed not so vauntingly to have reminded me, that your opinion is *unanswered*. I know that it has not been publicly answered, as well as I know, that it has been sufficiently refuted and exposed. There is, however, one way for you to obtain an answer; and which, having now so fair an occasion, I take the liberty most earnestly to recommend to you. Suits are commenced against some Sheriffs—against Mr. Clapham; in particular. He is willing, and the Clergy are willing, that these suits should come to immediate trial, whether they shall, or not, it seems, rests entirely with you. If, then, you really be the patriots you wish to be thought, approve yourselves such, by concurring in the necessary measures to obtain a speedy, and a decisive determination of this unhappy dispute. It will save this once happy country a world of mischief and confusion; and every friend to order and good government will thank you. But why, Mr. Peca, do you boast that your opinion is *unanswered*; when, not long since, you acknowledged, that were you upon oath to give judgment upon the case, you should be at a loss; how to pronounce. Satisfied as you were, that the Clergy had no legal claim to the 40 per. poll, from the Act of 1702, considered in itself; yet the aiding Acts of Assembly, you alleged, might be strongly argued in support of the claim.—An opinion, whose author is so much at variance with it already, is of little consequence.

Doubtless my brethren of the Clergy will join with me in thanking the Lawyers for their charitable policy in keeping back their sentiments upon the forty per poll Act. Pray, Gentlemen, do you call the giving written opinions, or the printing of such opinions both in prose and verse, *keeping back your sentiments*? But, you are happy in the knack of reconciling contradictions; and I doubt not your ability to reconcile this; as well as the strange contrariety of the *sentiments so kept back*.

You wrong yourselves, as well as me, in supposing, that resentment stimulated me to propose the Queries to you. I will give you the history of the occasion, as plainly, as it shall be truly. The Vestry of my parish met in November, as yours did, to lay the parish levy; one of our number refused to act, alleging his incapacity, from the nullity of the Act of 1702. This, as may well be supposed, occasioned some little stir amongst us. Every body knew, that you took the lead amongst those who denied this Act to be in force; I knew you to be Vestrymen: Was it not then natural for me to enquire, what had been your conduct on this occasion?

And now, Gentlemen, having gone through all that I conceive to be of importance in your letter; far more tediously; indeed, than I could have wished, for which, however, the variety and abundance of matter, you are pleased to cut out for me, must plead my excuse, I listen to release you.—Heretofore, as the *Lecho* only of what others had said, I but charged you with certain offences, *charitably* hoping; that you might have been able to have justified yourselves. Having failed in this; you must excuse me, if now I assume a more decisive tone; if, after a full and fair hearing of your defence; I step into the seat of judgment, and, on the clearest proof, pronounce you guilty (on your own principles, and on those only) "of an high infringement of that great constitutional right, of all others, perhaps, the most inestimable, the taxing the people without their consent;" illegally, arbitrarily, and oppressively.

And acquit yourselves as you can.

I am, Gentlemen, your humble Servants,
JONATHAN BOUCHER.

of electing is on the carpet; in the simplicity of my heart, I swallowed the tale.—Whether the Proclamation be, or be not, a legal act, it becomes not me to say; nor was it ever my aim, to enter into a controversy about it. But, I do aver, that it cannot be more legal, than, on your own principles, your tax on the parishioners of St. Anne's.

In one of the queries, it is said, "Can you hereafter presume to place yourselves in a higher rank of patriotism, than those, &c.?" To this you smartly answer, "Laudable charity! but, we question, whether the Supreme Magistrate will accept of the nose-gay." Now, until you can show, that the plural relative, *those*, refers to the singular, *Supreme Magistrate*, and not to *Members*, as the context and every rule of construction demand, some, perhaps, may think, that men so utterly unacquainted with the first principles of grammar; are but indifferently qualified to monopolize the privilege of *figuring* and *capering* on all legal, political, and constitutional questions. I join with you in questioning, whether the Supreme Magistrate will accept the *notary*. Without any compliment to him, I may say, he knows better: he can read English, and can see, that it was not offered to him. On this subject of *notary*, on which you are so superabundantly smart, all I desire is, that any impartial man should cast his eye over your queries and mine, to determine which is the more plentifully beset with them; and I appeal to the history of our lives, our characters; and our stations, to show, whether you, or I, are more likely to pay court to the power of translation.

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or in foreign employ, while a set of green puppies) and powdered maccaronies, who do not know the name of a rope, are enjoying part, and in full career to the possession of the whole of those rewards, which are only due to long and meritorious service.

L I V E R P O O L, November 13.
Extract of a letter from Chester, November 10.

"On Thursday night last, the 5th instant, the inhabitants of this city were thrown into the utmost consternation by an instantaneous shock, supposed at first to have been occasioned by the violence of an earthquake, as the houses in every quarter of the town were shook to their foundations. Vast multitudes, overwhelmed with surprise, immediately rushed into the streets and lanes, not knowing what to fly for safety, fearful of consequences, which imagination depicted as big with every danger and distress. It was not long, however, before the real cause was known; and a scene of such complicated misery presented itself that can hardly be exceeded by any instance recorded in history. The preceding day a quantity of gunpowder, upwards of eight hundred pounds weight, had been deposited in a warehouse in Water-street, under a building, known by the name of Eaton's Room, in which one Williams, the master of a puppet show, had for some time past exhibited his performance. The company which these idle amusements had drawn together on the fatal evening was very great; (may such another evening never be known any where) and in the midst of their merriment, the powder, by what accident is not known, took fire; and in a moment most of the unhappy people were buried under a prodigious heap of ruins; some were thrown into neighbouring streets; scorched and confused, and a few, but very few, had the good fortune to escape with no other hurt than a slight burn, or a small scratch. The numbers that flocked from all parts to view the place, where distraction had so suddenly fallen upon the heads of many of their fellow citizens, stood amazed at the display of so much horror; but the groans and shrieks of the yet alive miserable sufferers, soon awakened their humanity. Every hand then lent a willing assistance; vast heaps of stone and timber were immediately removed, and the bodies that had any remains of life in them, as fast as they were raised from the ruins, were either carefully conveyed to their friends in the different parts of the city, or to that noble, that truly beneficial establishment, the general Infirmary, where the Physicians and Surgeons; uninfluenced by any other motive than the publick good, have so largely contributed, by their knowledge and assiduity in their several departments; to promote the design of so excellent a charity; stood ready to afford every possible relief to the miserable objects that were presented to them. It is impossible to come at the knowledge of the exact number of those who shared in this shocking calamity; the account on which we can most depend is, that the killed, and those since dead, amount to 23; and those that were much burnt, had contusions, or broken limbs, to 80, most of which are likely to recover. Williams himself, his wife, and three or four of the same family, are of the number of the dead. Several promising youths are alike lost to their parents and the community, but how many heads of families have fallen undistinguished we must leave to the prying eye; and the relieving hand of charity to find out; and we doubt not but her benign influence once exerted, will quickly penetrate the most retired recesses of the wretched, and wipe away the tears of the mourning widow, and the weeping orphan."

FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY.

The following may be depended upon as a genuine extract of the letter from Lord Dartmouth to the Governor of Rhode-Island, dated Whitehall, Sep. 4. 1774.

THE particulars of that atrocious proceeding (referring to the burning the Gaspee schooner) have by the King's command been examined and considered with the greatest attention; and although there are some circumstances attending it, in regard to the robbery and plunder of the vessel, which separately considered, might bring it within the description of an act of piracy; yet in the obvious view of the whole transaction, and taking all the circumstances together, the offence is in the opinion of the law-servants of the crown, who have been consulted upon that question, of a much deeper dye, and is considered in no other light, than as an act of high treason, viz. levying war against the King.

And in order that you may have all proper advice and assistance in a matter of so great importance; his Majesty has thought fit, with the advice of his privy council, to issue his royal commission, under the great seal of Great Britain, nominating yourself, and the chief justices of New York, New Jersey, and the Massachusetts-Bay, together with the judge of the Vice-Admiralty court established at Boston, to be his Majesty's commissioners for enquiring into and making report to his Majesty, of all the circumstances relative to the attacking, plun-