

SUPPLEMENT to the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1773.

to be restrained, and not allowed to plunder the people as they please. I confess that the insult to my understanding ruffles my temper, when I hear men harangue about the oppressions committed by others, when I know they themselves oppress, and oppress grievously; and talk about the constitution, when they notoriously infringe so certain a part of it as a clear, positive law.

I know not what Antilon means, when he says, "that this act is become a dead letter, from its illiberal allowance in causes of difficulty in the superior courts;" When an act of assembly is regularly made by the legislature, what order of men, who have not the legislative authority, have a right to say the law is unreasonable, and ought to be disregarded, in order to make profit at the expense of the people? Every lawyer who charges a fee in any action, before it is finished violates a clear, positive law; and so does every lawyer who presumes to ask, take, receive, or demand, in any of the courts, any more than the fees I have mentioned.

PLAIN TRUTH.

TO THE FIRST CITIZEN.

HAVING as much respect for you, as you have any degree of pretension to, I shall take all the notice of your last admirable publication, that the veracity, candour, pertinence, erudition, ingenuity, and magnanimity of the author, or authors of it may seem to deserve, when an argument shall be offered by the INDEPENDENT WHIGS, or any other of the CONFEDERATES, worthy of attention, and entitled to an answer.

ANTILON;

TO WILLIAM PACA, Esq;

SIR, I WILLFULLY to misunderstand, and misrepresent an adversary, are tricks in controversy, that have been practised, time immemorial. It was therefore natural for me to expect them from you: I did so, and you have not disappointed me. But, Sir, it is as convenient to me to be rightly understood, as it is to you, to mistake me. I, therefore, avail myself of the privilege of a fair disputant, to declare, that I have no where pronounced the assigned cause of your doubt, a groundless insinuation: Your affecting to doubt my veracity, I did, justly, pronounce to be an insinuation both groundless and unmannerly; and yet, you are not ashamed to repeat it. What must the world think of your candour, when informed, that you did certainly know my assertion of the fact to be true, even now that you again say, it still wanted confirmation? Be more just to yourself, Mr. Paca, and despise such disingenuous shuffling, and ungentleman-like evasions. Believe me, it would have better become you, along with other exceptional paragraphs, discretely to have blotted this out.

It is with reluctance I find myself constrained to call back the attention of the publick, to a charge of inconsistency brought against you in my last, which you have prudently overlooked. Mess. Chase and Paca considered me as a mere echo on legal topics; Mr. Paca had been told, that I had furnished myself with law books, and had some legal knowledge; and testified, by his conduct, that he believed what he was told. Whence, then, this difference in the accounts of Mess. Chase and Paca in co. and Mr. Paca's proper account? For your sake, I am sorry; I cannot think your vindication of yourself from a supposed charge, of opposing the government, from a disappointment at court, quite so satisfactory, as you seem to do. What would you think of a culprit, who, when arraigned, should content himself with coming into court, with a declaration, that he had a paper in his pocket, that would evince his innocence beyond the possibility of a doubt? Whoever he was that attempted this blot upon your character, I much fear, will hardly think you have yet wiped it out; I fear, moreover, that the world will think with me, that you needlessly stepped out of your way, to vindicate yourself from an imaginary charge, which you have failed in; unkindly, and, I think, ungenerously, leaving your friend and colleague under a strong implied suspicion of being indefensible. "You feed upon opinions, errors, dreams, and make them truths." Be assured, I am not of that choleric temperament you imagine; and, through the medium of your own jaundiced eyes alone, you could

see in me this furious spirit of anger, you so pathetically deplore. In this controversy with you, I have studiously avoided being satirical; it will be time enough for me to begin this, if I possess the talent; when I find you likely to baffle me in argument; nor have I, otherwise, exposed and ridiculed you, than by tempting you to write. If what you have written against me, escapes contempt, you may, Sir, safely bid defiance to me.

"That Jemmy Twitcher should impeach me, I own surprises me." Of all men, I thought, you would have been the last to accuse any man of having the itch of scribbling strong upon him. My suspicions do not outrun those of several other people, in thinking, that, even in these scribbling days, few are more infected than yourself. I add, Sir, without the least design of being sarcastical, that it has been the lot of but few, with no greater abilities than yours, to have it in their power to do so much mischief by scribbling.

I am weary and ashamed of this frivolous controversy, which is degenerating into a mere contest of saying smart things, and personal altercation. Let us, I pray you, return to the original point in debate, which was not unimportant, nor unworthy the attention of the publick. On this condition, I forgive your repeated efforts to draw me off into bye-matters, losing sight of the main subject. I mean not, Sir, to be so unreasonable, as rigidly to restrict you to the question concerning vestries; you may exhibit your talents in occasional flourishes on the matter of episcopacy; if I recriminate, it shall only be in quietly requesting you to vindicate yourselves from the imputations brought against you in a late piece, signed, A Client. You still may preach to me, to hasten to part with my gentlemanly erudition, splendid accomplishments, and polished manners; you still may wish me, after your own example, immaculate purity, a badge of honour, which, when worn by a Maryland parson, might have the good tendency to bury that proverb in oblivion. What proverb, my good Sir! And how, I would fain ask, may I wear this badge of honour—may I plume myself in wearing it as a cap, or as a plume, or both? I promise too, to give you full liberty to vent your spite, in calling me names, even worse names than those of priest or parson. I know, this last word, in its true and original meaning, carries no reproach with it; you know, that, in vulgar acceptance, it is supposed to be expressive of contempt. I fancy, you would betray some peevishness, were I, in return, to call you knave, or villain, or even pettifogger; terms, which your law books may tell you, in their literal and primary import, were unapproachable.

When you will be pleased to explain what you mean by stopping the career of the forty per poll, I may perhaps give you my opinion on the merits of yours. I ask pardon, if I mistake your meaning; but, I suppose you to allude to the late trial in Charles. From the state of the case in the Gazette of the 4th instant, one would have supposed your opinion might have contributed to stop the career of the forty per poll act, if that expression means, to nullify it. But, the fair and impartial state, in the last paper, gives you see, a different account of the matter. And, I appeal to the publick, if so unfair a representation of a plain matter of fact, was not to offer a gross insult to the court, in which the verdict was obtained; if the sattering a presumption of the act's being oppressive and illegal, on the jury-men, whom it did not concern to consider in their verdict, be not, unwarrantably, in some measure to prejudice a cause now depending in the provincial court. The world will suspect a cause, in which they see so much finess and stratagem employed: of this sort, I judge the irregular publication of your opinion, in the publick prints—the endeavours that have been made use of to render unpopular the gentlemen, who have undertaken the cause of the clergy; so unworthy of men, country-born (how little, and how mean was this reflection) and your sudden, and unexpected attendance on this trial; on the issue of which, probably, you supposed so much of your popularity to depend. Whether the act of 1701-2 be, or be not in force, that old common arbitrator, Time, will, one day, shew; and my most earnest wish, on this occasion, is, that you would concur in letting it be shewn speedily.

I can the better bear the cruelty of your forgetting me, in this coming hour of your exaltation, when I recollect that, were you to remember me; it, probably, would not be with that benevolence which scripture teaches even to an enemy. A man may easily pardon the being forgotten by one, who has the infirmity to forget himself. All I am in pain about is, lest those who are to honour you with this publick character, should not chuse to forget what has happened between you, and, Sir,

your humble servant, JONATHAN BOUCHER.

12th of March, 1773.

LONDON, December 21.

By the report from the secret committee, it appears, that a certain great company have now in their warehouses no less than 16,000,000 pounds of tea; a quantity more than sufficient to answer the sale of three succeeding years. It likewise appears, that the value of the company's estates in the city of London, that is, the India-house, and the different warehouses, as estimated by a surveyor, expressly employed for that purpose, amount to about 24,000 l. It is now beyond question, that the whole amount of the company's neat stock, after paying all their debts, will fall short half a million, unless government should agree to give them a compensation for their territorial revenues, or

reimburse them for the vast sums laid out on the fortifications in Bengal. Should the former be the case, the proprietors will not divide twenty per cent. even on the original stock, which would not amount to twelve per cent. according to the current price.

WILLIAMSBURG, March 4.

This Day the General Assembly met at the Capitol, agreeable to the Governor's Proclamation, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following Speech.

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.

IT was far from my intention, when we parted last, to have put you to the Expence and Trouble of meeting again here so soon; but I am persuaded you will see the Necessity of it when I inform you that all the Emissions of your Paper Currency, now in Circulation, are forged, and that in so masterly a Manner as to make it almost impossible for those the most knowing in such Matters to distinguish the good from the bad. Seeing that the Credit of the Country is so deeply affected by it, I thought it my Duty to assemble you immediately, that you might pursue such Measures as you shall think proper to restore it, if possible, to its former Credit. And I do most sincerely congratulate you, both on its being discovered so soon, and that the Authors of coining your Gold and Silver, as well as forging and passing your Paper Money, are in so fair a Way of receiving that Punishment which is due to their Crimes, as well those in a neighbouring Province as them in this Colony.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses, Having nothing in Command from His Majesty to trouble you with at present, I hope you will proceed immediately, with the Coolness and Candour that is becoming so respectable a Body, to the Business on which you are now assembled.

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses.

I do assure you that I shall be exceedingly happy to concur with you in enacting any Laws that it may be thought will contribute to the Mutual Advantage of this and our Mother Country, whose Interests, I hope, we shall ever think inseparable.

ANNAPOLIS, MARCH 18.

The pieces signed PATUXENT and LERICUS PHILLOGERAETHOBOLUS are received, and will be inserted next week.

NOW FOR SALE,

THE Houses and Lots in which I lately dwelt, situated on the Court-House Circle in the City of Annapolis; they are all well inclosed with Rails and Pales. the Houses are mostly new and in very good Repair; they will be sold for a long Credit if required; the Terms may be known by applying to

REUBEN MERIWETHER.

N. B. This House and Lots are so advantageously situated, and so well known, that I think a minute Description of them needless.

March 5, 1773.

ALL Persons who have any just Claims against the Estate of Richard Sappington, lately deceased, are desired to bring them in legally proved, that they may be settled; and those who are indebted to the said Estate are desired to pay their Accounts immediately, to

JOHN & RICHARD SAPPINGTON, Executors, and MARGARET SAPPINGTON, Executrix.

TO BE SOLD,

THE Dwelling Houses and Lots belonging to the late John Morton Jordan, Esq; deceased, situated on the Bank of Severn River in the City of Annapolis. Any Person inclinable to purchase the said Houses and Lots, may know the Terms by applying to

their most obedient humble Servant, REUBEN MERIWETHER, Admr.

To be sold, on Monday the 22d Instant, at the House of Mr. William Minor, in Queen-Anne's County,

A PARCEL of fine, healthy, likely young Slaves, consisting of Men, Women, Boys and Girls; among which are several excellent Cook Wenches; and most of the Slaves Country born. They will be sold, for either Cash, Bills of Exchange, or short Credit, giving Bond with Interest, and Security, if required.

JAMES HUTCHINGS, jun.

THE Subscriber takes this Method to acquaint the Publick and his kind Customers, that he has removed to his Corner Brick-House on Corn-hill and Cross-streets, not above 100 Yards from where he formerly lived; where he keeps wet and dry Goods for Sale, and takes in private Lodgers as usual. Any Gentlemen who please to favour him with their Company, may depend on good Entertainment, and their Horses well taken Care of, by their very humble Servant,

JOHN BREWER, sen.