

to be preferred to this house, and
in the Maryland Gazette,
J. DUCKETT, cl. bo. del.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1779.

To the GOOD PEOPLE of IRELAND.



THE misery and distress which your ill-fated country has been so frequently exposed to, and has so often experienced, by such a combination of rapine, treachery, and violence, as would have disgraced the name of government, in the most arbitrary country in the world, has most sincerely affected your friends in America, and has engaged the most serious attention of congress; the ministry of Britain have seen the extreme meanness and folly of the attempt to establish a supreme authority in parliament, as their venal scribblers had endeavoured to define it, exempt from question and controul, appeal or restriction; but it is evident to all the world, that such doctrine is incompatible with every idea of a civil constitution; for all compacts, bills of right, nay, the solemn obligation of their king to govern according to the statutes in parliament agreed on, and the laws and customs of the same, would have been all nugatory trumpery, were such a supremacy admitted; for this supreme authority having no rule or law to direct its operations or limit its power, it must necessarily become arbitrary and absolute; for ceasing to be a government by force, and it will appear fully evident that this unnatural war, in which we have been unavoidably engaged, has been begun and supported for no other purpose than to establish this supreme or arbitrary power, for they are individually the same; nor is it in the power of sophistry to draw a line of separation; the flimsy and contradictory speech of lord North, introductory to his conciliatory motion, furnishes the fullest conviction on this point. He says, "before the war broke out he offered a conciliatory proposition. The ground upon which he made it was, that it was just the colonies should contribute to the support of government." And almost in the same breath he says, "he thought it necessary to shew the colonies we were not fighting for taxation, for he never thought taxation would be beneficial to us." He farther says, "he never proposed any tax; his maxim was to say nothing about America; neither to propose or repeal laws, neither to advance nor recede, but to remain in total silence." His lordship, I hope, will excuse me, if I presume to look beyond the acknowledged indulgence of his disposition, to explain this stupor of a first minister, and the case is very obvious; for as soon as their five regiments should have completed the conquest of America, it should be, with the lives and properties of its inhabitants, at the mercy of the conqueror's sword. The very names of assemblies, conventions, or charters, those odious appendages of democratical power, should be finished, and the tyrant's fiat should henceforth become the law of the land, and hence sprung the torpedo that benumbed the minister's faculties.

His lordship says, his proposition was misinterpreted or misunderstood, and was rendered suspicious by a supposition of a variety of cases; the congress treated it as unreasonable and insidious, and rejected it. War began, and his intention was from the beginning, at the moment of victory, to propose the same proposition in terms obviating all the misrepresentations and misunderstandings concerning it. Here it is confessed, that this wise and virtuous administration, at every hazard, and at a certain expence, has almost annihilated public credit, have been looking for victory which has never come, and I trust never will come; and which, if it did, must have been accomplished by the murder of fellow-citizens, sooner than clear their own propositions of their ambiguity and suspicion. And what deprives them of the colour of excuse for the horrid barbarities of the war, the city of London, in the most respectful language, petitioned the throne to declare clearly and explicitly before the war commenced, what they withheld to have done on the part of America; but all to no purpose; they would not, they dare not declare their true object. The solemn appeal was made, and for the honour of virtue, the comfort of human nature, and the terror of oppression, it will be indelibly recorded in the historic page, that a few virtuous citizens could effectually resist the most vigorous efforts of the most powerful tyranny, and thereby establish the freedom of the western world for ever. To arrive at power, Gustavus-like, by a bold effort of courage, proves the existence of one virtue; at the same time that we detest the treachery, but to sacrifice the public treasure, to devote every effort of rapacious taxation, and the fruits of an ever-growing excise, to this idol of madness and folly, to establish a system of venality, by which the price of every man's integrity and abilities was to be determined; to stipulate the precise condition for which he shall treacherously betray the interest of his country; and violate every obligation of private friendship and public virtue, to beat down every sense of honour and principle; to destroy the very bond and frame of civil society, to make the pillage of property the means to accomplish the plunder of liberty, and to drive the people into all the miseries of a civil war, in the pursuit of this dream of power, are instances of such determined depravity as are not to be described even in the language of a country where new villainy adds to the catalogue of crimes almost every day. The perfect similarity of the declaratory act of supremacy, and that relating to your country, viz. that Ireland should be subordinate to and depend on the imperial crown of Great-Britain, is very obvious; but this declaration *ex parte* can avail nothing; at the same time that it furnishes the most incontestible and decisive proofs that no such subordination or dependence was ever understood before, or there would have been no necessity for such an act.

The navigation act, which had been framed for the sole purpose of securing to the British subjects all the advantages to be derived from the commerce of their own settlements, has by subsequent acts been framed into the most odious and impolitic monopoly that could be devised; creating local distinctions and commercial schisms, giving privilege to one set of subjects to the injury of others, and operating on all the indicted provinces as an oppressive tax, comprehending all the taxes of Britain, however variously modified or compounded. And we wish to have it for ever fixed on your minds, that by a monopoly of trade every pretence to internal taxation is given up; for were you even without a constitution of your own, and as dependent as usurpation has endeavoured to make you, the monopoly of your trade is more than a full and equitable compensation for all other taxes, and it will not appear paradoxical to futurity, that the rise and fall of the British empire have been owing to this act, and the engine by which the wise politician, who framed it, designed to wind up and connect the British interest all over the world, we have seen employed as the wheel on which British liberty and grandeur have disgracefully expired.

The anticipation of public revenue has fixed the crisis of Britain, the labour of their people for all succeeding generations being engaged to pay the interests of their public debts. I cannot suppose it an unfair deduction to say they are all born in a state of slavery, for an obligation to work for any other purpose than one's own advantage, is truly the condition of a slave, and every new tax adds a link to the chain. But even in this gloomy picture there is a dawn of hope, all bodies are capable of refraction to a certain degree, beyond which it is impossible to expand them ever to little without absolute destruction. It is evident to all the world, that the nerves of public credit in England are on the rack of excision, and the dreadful explosion must follow of course; and can it be supposed that the system of weakness and folly, that has so long usurped the name of constitution, can survive the shock; and their people may yet hope to see a vigorous young one grow out of the ruins of the old.

I have it in my commission to repeat to you, my good friends, the cordial concern that congress takes in every thing that relates to the happiness of Ireland; they are sensibly affected by the load of oppressive pensions on your establishments, the arbitrary and illegal exactions of public money by king's letters, the proud dissipation, by sinecure appointment, with large salaries, and the very arbitrary and oppressive restrictions on your trade and manufactures, which are beyond example in the history of the world, and can only be equalled by that illiberal spirit which directs it, and which has shewn itself so abundantly in petitions from all parts of your islands, and in the debates in their house of commons, when you have been lately amused with the vain hope of an extension of your trade, and which were conducted with such temper and language as might be supposed to suit their copper coloured allies in America, but must fix a stain on the character of a civilized nation for ever.

When I had the pleasure of residing in your capital some years ago, it gave me pain to observe such a debility and morbid languor in every department of your government, as would have disgraced anarchy itself; the laws are too weak to execute themselves, and vice and violence often reign with impunity; and even the military with you seem to claim an exemption from all civil restraint of jurisdiction, and individuals are forced to trust to themselves for that security and protection which the government of the country can no longer afford them. We congratulate you however on the bright prospect which the western hemisphere has afforded to you, and the oppressed of every nation, and we trust that the liberation of your country has been effected in America, and that you never will be called on for those painful, though necessary exertions, which the sacred love of liberty inspires, and which have enabled us to establish our freedom for ever.

We hope the political Quixottes of Great-Britain will no longer be able to disturb the peace and happiness of mankind, and which Providence has permitted, perhaps to shew the monstrous abuse of power; yet lost to all public virtue as they are, we wish they may turn from their wickedness and live; and we doubt not the noble efforts of America will meet the full approbation of every virtuous Briton, when they shall be able to distinguish between the mad pursuits of government and the true interest of their people. But as for you, our true and good friends of Ireland, we most cordially commend to you to continue peaceable and quiet in every possible situation of your affairs, and endeavour, every mutual good will, to supply the defects of administration. But if the government, whom you at this time acknowledge, does not, in conformity to her own true interest, take off and remove every restraint on your trade, commerce and manufactures, I am charged to assure you, that means will be found to establish your freedom in this respect, in the fullest and amplest manner. And as it is the ardent wish of America to permit, a more, as far as her other engagements will permit, a reciprocal commercial interest with you; I am to assure you; they will seek every means to establish and extend it; and it has given the most sensible pleasure to have those instructions committed to my care, as I have ever retained the most perfect good will and esteem for the people of Ireland.

And am,
With every sentiment of respect,
Their obedient and humble servant,
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.
Versailles, October 4, 1778.

CHARLESTOWN, South-Carolina, July 20.

Copy of a letter from an officer of rank in the British army, dated Port Royal Island, July 2, 1779.

"IN my last letter to you, I gave you the particulars of a bold effort made by the rebels, the 26th of June, to storm our entrenchments at Stono. In this, I have little news to convey, nothing material having happened since, unless I was to give a detail of the miserable situation of the army from the heat of this climate. I fear, my friend, the royal cause will suffer material injury, in that we had not a sufficient number of troops to take Charlestown by storm, the evening we marched before the walls of it; and the delay till winter will be attended with immense difficulties. If it be not strongly fortified, the siege of it will prove hard and tedious, as the rebels have store of artillery, and will, no doubt, have their public cellars well stored with meat, drink and firing, for many months; so that it we shall assault it, we shall be once more fain to quit it with shame; and the affairs of Europe and America are so various that it will be impossible for us to have an army sufficient to reduce it.

"Our commanders seem to lay much stress on holding possession of the country, corrupting the negroes, plundering the inhabitants, and turning their possessions: "Seeing their estates destroyed, say they, the people will not have patience to bear the war, and a love for themselves will make them desert their cause, however convinced of its justice." This mode of warfare I ever held base and ignominious; and the command of the country, without the possession of Charlestown is, in my poor opinion, but of small account; and if their government has but worth and valour, and a genius for resources equal to what this rich colony affords, it will master all these difficulties. His cruelty, this destruction and waste, will rather warm the people, and make them resolute. I am of opinion, that the damage all done, and the mischief over, the people seeing no help for it, will stick rather to their new government, which will then be more bound to their patriotism, as their property is ruined in its defence.

"Much also has been hoped for from the malcontents or loyalists; so far from yielding us any assistance, that few only apply for protection from plundering parties, and do no other service than steal their neighbours' horses, cattle, and other necessaries for the army and give intelligence of the movements and designs of the rebels, notwithstanding the most solemn oaths and vows of fidelity to them! I have read much of the history of civil wars, but never heard of such an amphibious, worthless race of men. In all other countries, the malcontents of the people take one side or other, and could never yet behold, with indifference, public calamities. In our civil wars of former days in Scotland, that native warmth of our temper, the *Scotorum Jerusalem ingenium*, which could never admit neutrality, now no longer exists in our countrymen, which nothing but the strange fatality attending the royal cause can account for. But however useless these Tories (as the rebels call them) are to us, and contemptible in themselves, if the new governments knew how to take advantage of times and circumstances, their faint opposition, so far from injuring the rebels, it would be as a ladder for them to rise higher, nay they might find, I think, faith and profit in them, had they wisdom and sound policy. I could quote examples, where those who were held suspected in the beginning of a similar war, have, from a strange pliability and changeableness of mens nature, changed sides, and done more worthy services, than many who stepped forward in the beginning. 'Tis from all these and many other reasons, that I much doubt the success of his Majesty's arms the ensuing campaign against the Carolinas.

"Taking a conquest even for granted, I think it were much better to grant them independence, and secure their trade. In case of a subduction, I would tell you, my friends, that a new rebellion will be the inevitable consequence; for the people harassed as they are, with the fatigues and heat of the war, will not immediately feel the anguish of the wound their reputation and feelings must suffer, when they grow cool, and find themselves stigmatized by the world, and perhaps treated by government as actual rebels. The pride and spirit of an ordinary man could never bear the unspeakable shame and infamy of so ignominious a situation; and the experience of other countries seems to prove, that the single consideration of national character, will prompt them to incur all the miseries of war. It is not impossible but that the Tories themselves may hereafter think themselves and posterity involved in the dishonour of being conquered from a state of rebellion; and to much are the ways of men past finding out, that they may be the first to rouse to arms.

"The bills of exchange drawn by capt. Campbell, I hear have been protested; I beg you will recover the money, or I shall lose it inevitably. After my sincerest respects to your lady, Miss Betty, and my friend the colonel, I remain, Sir, your friend, and most obedient humble servant."

BOSTON, August 5.

Tuesday last arrived here a French frigate of 32 guns from France, in which came passengers his excellency the CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE, plenipotentiary from his Most Christian Majesty to the United States, with his secretary, &c. as also the honourable John Adams, Esq; late a commissioner from these States to the court of France. His excellency and Mr Adams, on General Hancock's wharf, about five o'clock the same afternoon, where they were received by a committee from the honourable council of this State, who were waiting with carriages for their reception; they were conducted to

OFFICE, July 26; 1779.
The board have received information from General Bland, commanding at the near Charlottesville in Virginia, that many of whom leave the post in this enemy; all officers in the States are therefore directed to be and apprehending deserters from officers in the respective States may be found, are earnestly assistance in securing them; and assistance will do essential service to us into custody all British deserters, and delivering them to a practice of administering violence to deserters from the common supplying them with passes, so prevalent, and productive of consequences, by affording them a safe escaping to places in the possession of those magistrates and other officers have been induced to receive such in consequence thereof, are discontinued a practice to injure those passes have been obtained to facilitate their escape to the end of them are notwithstanding stated as deserters. They are coarse linen coats or coats, and carry their regimental coats in the convention of Saratoga consist 24th, 47th and 62d regiments, 33d regiment, Lord Balcarri's battery, British; and of the Brunel's of Reidefeld, Barner, Rhetz, Hessian artillery and battalion of The regiments and corps are numbers and devices on the uniforms may tend to discover officers.
By order of the board,
P. SCULL, secretary.
Several states are desired to insert their papers.
Sold, at the OLD Printing Office in Annapolis (price TWELVE DOLLARS BILLINGS for a single one)

THE
Y L A N D
N A K K
AR of our LORD 1780.

CONTAINING,
ECONOMICAL calculations, which are
of ANNAPOLIS, Days for
in this State, as settled by law
showing the value of any sum
of interest in pounds and dollars,
several instructive and entertain-
ing.

the law directs, in the plantation
bill, living in Montgomery coun-
TY, about three or four years
variable brand, between thirteen
high. The owner may have her
property and paying charges.

PUBLIC VENDUE, on
a day of this instant, August, at
in Annapolis, for ready con-
state money, or continental or
offices certificates,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
chairs, tables, feather-beds and bed-
steads neatly framed and glazed, as
china, and kitchen furniture, &c.
with their children, and a negro
at 10 o'clock and continue till

JAMES DICK.
August 1, 1779.
reby given, that part of the in-
county intend to petition to the
their next session, to pass an ad-
straight road from the bridge at the
end of the straight road laid out
the commissioners of Newcastle
line, of which all persons con-
take notice.

the liberty to inform all per-
the estate of his mother, the late
Green, that unless they speedily
respective accounts, compulsory
in every instance; and in a par-
quests those sheriffs under the laws
indebted, to pay the several sums
chargeable, or their office bonds
all persons having claims on said
take them known to
F. GREEN, adm.

by the subscriber,
of the ancient TUESDAY
in parchment; several of the
never will deliver them to him, at
forty dollars for their trouble.
FREDERICK GREEN.

GREEN, at the