

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1781.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.



THE public are under obligations to any citizen for information, or advice, and the American merits the approbation of the friends to the revolution, for his endeavours to excite them to a sense of their duty, and to warn them of their danger. At this day there is not a man of sense and virtue in America, who does not believe, that Great-Britain was the aggressor, and that the commenced the present war to compel our submission to her most wicked and unnatural claim of unbounded supremacy, and to deprive us of our liberties, and property; and that our resistance was just, prudent, and necessary. It is now obvious to every man, that it was the original design of the British tyrant and his ministers, by their repeated grievances and insults, to force us to take up arms, with the avaricious expectation of confiscating our property, under the very frivolous and wicked pretence of rebellion; and that their next object was to compel us to a declaration of independence, without which they knew we could not obtain the assistance of any European power, that they might exercise over us the rights of conquest, which they had no doubt of obtaining from their great number of national troops, and foreign mercenaries, and in consequence thereof, abolish our ancient government and laws, and erect a power in the conqueror to govern by his will, and to dispose of our property, or lives, at his pleasure. It is apparent to the impartial world, that our reason and judgment, not our passions or love of novelty, determined us to risk the dangers and events of war. The insidious arts and practices of the generals, commissioners, and agents of Great-Britain, to seduce and to divide our people; and her perfidy and inhumanity, are too deeply impressed in the mind of every American, ever to be forgotten, or forgiven. Her insolence and cruelty in the hour of success, and her meanness and treachery in adversity, cannot find a parallel in the annals of mankind. Amongst the innumerable instances of her barbarities, her savage cruelty, contrary to the feelings of human nature, of forcing our prisoners to enter into her service, and to fight against their country and relations, would justify every American in bearing an immortal hatred to the whole kingdom; the virtuous nations of the world ought to combine against, and wage war with such a people, until the whole race were extirpated the earth, as a lesson to mankind, and to deter them, by the horrid consequences, from the impious attempt to destroy the rights and liberties of their fellow creatures. The sun, since the creation, hath not beheld a more ambitious, proud, restless, wicked, malicious, and cruel people, than the British nation. The testimony of Europe, and her own history, incontrovertibly proves the fact; to permit such a people to govern us, would betray a stupid insensibility, and entail the complicated miseries of slavery on us and our posterity; the American, who would consent to drink of the bitter cup of slavery, and who would consent to be a father of slaves, is unworthy of manhood, and the daughters of America ought to expel him the continent. If the American landed, in his first address, by reminding us of our injuries, and the consequences of conquest, to awake our passions, and to rouse our indignation against our British enemies, it was unnecessary. Slaves may render the body callous to stripes, but the souls of freemen receive fresh resentment, and flourish, from every repetition of an injury or insult, which encreases to a radical hatred never to be extinguished, until even revenge becomes a virtue. Our minds cannot possibly be more embittered against the people of Britain, we sincerely detest, and most cordially detest the whole nation, we only wish to know the means of defending ourselves, and of retaliating their unmanly, unchristian, and inhuman conduct. The second address of the American contains many observations which I approve; I shall therefore abstract, and draw them concisely to a point, that their truth or falsity may be discovered, by the meanest capacity, and I shall take the liberty to make such additions, or remarks; as occur to me. The first assertion of the American is, that we have now more ability to continue the war for six years longer, than we had for the six which are past; and he states a number of facts to prove the truth of this position. 1. That our new government has been established almost five years. 2. That the numbers of our fighting men have not

decreased since the war; and that we have now above 30,000 enrolled militia. 3. That we have above 1500 regulars, under brave and experienced officers. 4. That our alliance with France guarantees our independence. 5. That our taxes in five years amounted to only £. 2 1 7 1/2 specie. 6. That the property in the state is above the value of 16 millions of pounds of specie. 7. That our continental and state debt, for a six years war, does not exceed £. 1,270,000 real money; the annual interest whereof, at six per cent. will amount to £. 76,200. And 8. That our soil is burthened with the most plentiful crops of grain, which will furnish a plenty of flour, and raise large quantities of pork and beef, for the support of our army. These facts appear to me to be true, and the conclusion warranted, that we are well able to prosecute the war; and that it would be folly in the extreme to recede. Reason and necessity urged us to take up arms, and we must persevere, or infamy, ruin, and slavery, will necessarily be our portion. The next position of the American is this, that we must tax ourselves liberally, and support the credit of the late emission; and he adduces several reasons in support of this opinion. 1. That there is not sufficient quantities of gold and silver in the state, either to defray the expences of the war, and our government, or to carry on trade. The first is self-evident; and it is apparent that, without large sums of paper money, our trade must decline; what may be necessary for commerce is only a matter of opinion. 2. That we cannot raise, annually, by taxes, sums equal to the current expences of the war. Every man, from the evidence of his senses, testifies to the truth of this assertion. 3. That we cannot obtain recruits, or procure supplies of provisions, cloathing, &c. by any other mode, except force, but on credit, that is, with paper money; and therefore that we are under an indispensable necessity of supporting the credit of the late emission. The citizens of this state, in general, have long since been convinced of the necessity of paying taxes, and they will cheerfully contribute as far as their circumstances will permit. The legislature have been more tender of laying taxes, than our affairs or good policy required; and thence originated the expedient of seizing provisions and cloathing, and giving certificates in payment, which nothing but urgent and apparent necessity could excuse; because the exercise of such a power violated the rights of property, and the grievance was partial; the public demands were not supplied, and the articles wanted were procured at much more than their real value. The imposition of taxes in a depreciating currency was a deception on government, and its citizens, and operated as a bribe, not only to depreciate the currency, but to delay the payment of taxes; and has therefore been justly exploded. The good subject, who exerted himself, and punctually discharged his taxes, paid double or treble the sum exacted from the indolent, the sharper, or the dissipated. The propriety of laying taxes in a money, which does not fluctuate, is apparent; and from the impossibility of procuring gold or silver, the liberty of paying in produce was necessary; but this extends only to farmers and planters; who have a surplus after providing for their families; and numbers of our merchants, inhabitants of towns, and the poorer class in the country, can receive no benefit from it. The alternative operates as a specific tax, and so far as it procures bread, pork, and beef, for our army, it is useful, and even preferable to a payment in money, as it secures those necessities, and saves expence to the public; but money, or its representative, is also necessary to enable those, who do not raise those articles, to pay their taxes; and to defray our civil list, and the other expences of government; and to pay our officers and soldiers, and to procure them cloathing and other necessities. The reasons urged by the American to induce us to associate to maintain the credit of the late emission, are cogent and satisfactory; our first object ought to be to raise recruits to fill up our quota; our second, to pay and to supply them with food and cloathing; and our third, to support our government, and enforce obedience to its laws. If the state had money to offer a liberal bounty, in a few months our battalions could be filled; the advantages whereof to the common cause and the state are obvious; every motive public or private unites to determine us to receive our own notes of credit at par. Can any one, who objects or declines to

associate, point out any other mode, by which we can pay a bounty, or purchase provisions and other supplies? Can he suggest any reasonable objection to the plan of the emission? Common sense teaches every one, that unless the credit of the present money is supported, all hope of giving a permanent value to any paper money, issued on any funds, ever so small in quantity, or to be redeemed in the shortest period, must cease; and the consequences are evident, we must either take by force what is necessary to prosecute the war, or submit and be slaves. The first will certainly be adopted; every idea of submission is inadmissible; no extremity can force us to an act so repugnant to our honour and our safety; a small exertion of public spirit, and confidence in each other, and the public bodies we create and can remove at pleasure, will secure and hasten peace and independence; an indifference to the public, and the measures proposed by our representatives, will only prolong the calamities and miseries of war. Great-Britain continues hostilities from two causes only, the deranged state of our finances, and the want of money, or its substitute, paper credit; and the disunion and parties which unhappily prevail too much in America. Every war in Europe for the last century has been a war of finance; the deepest parties always procured the longest sword. If each of the United States would raise its quota, and maintain its credit, Great-Britain would soon be compelled to make peace; it is entirely owing to ourselves, that the war has continued so long. That this state can do her part, is evident from her numbers, resources, and debt. Those who have been unfriendly, or lukewarm, must now see that it is their real interest to join their brethren, for no man of reflection can wish that this state should be the seat of war, or that he or his posterity should live in a conquered country. The association ought to be considered as a test, and every man who agrees should be esteemed a friend, and every one who refuses, an enemy to the revolution. I agree with the American, that no man, who neglects or refuses to associate, ought to be appointed to any office in the state, because he, who will not support the government, ought not to draw any support or profit from it. If our executive would give their countenance and support to the advocates and friends of government, and our paper money, it would have a powerful influence. The people, in general, have long felt and lamented the effects of a depreciating currency, and I am confident a very great majority are desirous of supporting the credit of the new emission, and that it only remains to collect the sense of the inhabitants of each town and county. I would therefore propose, that the lieutenant of each county direct the battalions to be called out, on different days (or if this cannot be done that the delegates appoint places of meeting) and let the delegates, and others in whom the people repose a confidence, attend, and explain the subscription and association; let the men of property and influence subscribe and associate generously, and here can be no doubt but the common people will follow the example. A committee of prudent active men, to observe the conduct of associators, will complete the business. In this county above £. 20,000 has been subscribed and associated. It is said that the traders and inhabitants of Baltimore-town, except a few, have declined to receive the new emission; for their reputation this report cannot be credited; our greatest loss cannot do us a more effectual injury; if all the inhabitants of that town would join lord Cornwallis, they would do us less harm. On the virtue of the landed interest Maryland must rely, and if the farmers and planters will do their duty, Baltimore-town, and any other refractory place, will and must receive our new money. Our affairs will neither admit excuses or delays; our all is at stake, and caprice or disaffection must yield to steady and patriotic exertions. If any part of the political body becomes corrupt, proper and severe remedies must be applied. RUSTICUS. Prince-George's county, August 4, 1781.

BOSTON, July 12.

FROM an authority which cannot be doubted, we understand, that the belligerent powers have chosen Vienna as the seat of pacification, owing to its being convenient, high and cool. The houses are said to be six stories deep, and the ceilings

is at the plantation of John Perrie at the mouth of Swanfon's creek, in the county, taken up as a stray mare, about 24 hands high, with a white face, a split in her near fore foot, a white side close by the shoulder has a large white spot, she has no perceivable brand about 10 or 11 years old, trots, paces, &c. The owner may have her again on duty and paying charges.

St. Mary's county, July 16, 1781. I have been put into my custody as runaway, a man who says his name is JAMES, and belongs to Joseph Howard, who lives in Snowdens iron works, appears to be 30 years old, 5 feet 3 inches high, born in the county, has a small hole in the left ear, his left arm is much shorter than his right, had on and with him, one white linen shirt, two jackets of country cloth, one pair of tow trousers, a pair of old castor hats; he brought with him a bay mare about 12 hands high, with a white tail with white hairs about the middle hairs in her forehead, no brand on the mare, the mare is lame and blind, that I am apprehensive she will die, a negro woman in custody, who says Molly Smoot of Charles county, calls T, appears to be about 25 years old, appears to have lost her senses, she has the names of persons who live in the county, from which I have reason to believe she belongs to some person in that county who is desired to pay charges and take her home.

ACHARIAH FORREST, Sheriff. preservation and sale of forfeited property, Annapolis, July 2, 1781. An act of the general assembly will be made public for gold and silver, that valuable and advantageously act of land called WHETSTONE, lying in Baltimore-town; it will be sold in small and convenient lots, the proceeds to their situation, and the proceeds of the purchasers. One half of the proceeds to be paid within ten days, and the remainder on the day of sale. If the purchaser shall not be made at the time, he may be at the option of the commissioner to avoid the sale. If the second payment is not made in time, the purchaser to pay interest from the day of failure. No sale to be made until the whole sum is paid. The sale to begin on the Tuesday in August next. JO. BAXTER, clk.

preservation and sale of forfeited property, Annapolis, July 4, 1781. An act of the general assembly will be made public on Wednesday the 15th of August next, and lots in Port-Tobacco, late the property of John Glasford and co. formerly of John Mundell; also the houses and property of the said John Glasford, late of Patuxent, formerly occupied by G. The money to be paid down, by the purchasers, if not, they may give bond to pay one third of the sum by the 1st of September 1782, another third by the 1st of September 1783, and the remaining part by the 1st of September 1784, in specie, or in credit to be emitted in pursuance of the late session, at their actual value. The sale to be at Port-Tobacco. JO. BAXTER, clk.

Annopolis, June 9, 1781. I give public notice, that the subscribers to petition the general assembly at their next sitting, to enable him to purchase for fourteen hundred acres of land in the county, and a house and farm in said county, being parsonage of Nathan Hagar, late of the county of St. Mary's. DANIEL HEESTER, jun.

over intends to petition the next assembly of this state, for an act to record a deed, and make it valid; acknowledged according to the law; it was executed by Mr. Hagar, in the beginning of the year, was no civil magistrate acting in the name of the government just then formed. NATHANIEL RAMSEY.

WILLIAMS, Charles-Street.