

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A Y 23, 1782.

To the CITIZENS of AMERICA.

FROM Rivington's royal gazette and late English prints we collect, that the ministry, under whose auspices the war with America was originated, and has since been conducted, are driven from the helm of administration, which is put into the hands of the leaders of the late minority; that the British parliament have voted, that "an offensive war in America, for the purpose of subduing the *revolted colonies*, by force, is impracticable, inasmuch as it takes from their exertions some part of that strength, which ought to be employed against their European enemies," and in consequence of this opinion, have passed an act "to enable his Britannic majesty to make peace, or conclude a truce with the revolted colonies;" that Sir Guy Carleton, commissioner for making war or peace in North-America, is arrived at New-York. These advices have opened a wide field for speculation, and although the text is as plain as any in holy writ, it has given rise to a variety of comments. It is of some consequence, that the errors of individuals, in forming an opinion upon these events, should be corrected; but it is of the last importance, that the public judgment should be well informed, and made up from the clearest evidence the nature of the case will admit. A circle of coffee-house politicians may give into the notion, that our enemy is disposed to offer us such terms, as we can with honour and safety accept, and their example not be productive of extensive bad consequences; but should a public body of any description advocate the doctrine, and sanction the delusive tale of peace, there is no knowing where the evil would stop. If then it is so essential to the interests of America, that a true judgment should be formed on this subject, it becomes the indispensable duty of every American to throw whatever lights upon it his reason and information may suggest. Impressed with this idea, I shall venture to offer a few observations to the consideration of my fellow-citizens, and I sincerely wish, that my ability to investigate this matter was equal to my inclination to serve them.

The experience of a six year's war, has taught America, that the British nation, as well as ministry, are so firmly wedded to the scheme of reducing her to unconditional submission, that nothing short of inability to prosecute it, can divorce them from their favourite object. To accomplish their plan of subjugation, they have made use of means, which the uncivilized Arab would blush to practise, and have pursued a mode of warfare, which fixes a stain on the character of human nature. Devastation and plunder, violence and intrigue, cruelty and meanness, have alternately marked their operations in the field, and given a tone to the decisions of their cabinet. In the moment of victory, they have dictated to America with all the insufferable insolence of eastern despotism, and have never used the mild language of moderation, but when they have lost an army, or offered the olive branch, but when overwhelmed with misfortune and disgrace. A disposition, thus wrote in characters of blood, and so uniformly wicked and inveterate, cannot easily alter its nature. The transition from extreme vice to virtue, in states as well as individuals, is slow, and progressive. The sincere reformation of a hardened sinner is a work of time; it requires a long and painful struggle to get rid of the confirmed habits contracted in a career of vice, and a flood of repentant tears wash out the crimson hue, and turn the bias of the soul. A nation, who has designedly strayed as wide from the high road of honour, justice, and humanity, as Great-Britain, seldom or ever recovers the path; but led on by ambition, obstinacy, or false pride, perseveres in the mistaken route, until it terminates in her political perdition. That the British nation has committed crimes of the blackest die against America, and that her malignant disposition to reduce us to unconditional submission, has been fully betrayed by her conduct in every stage of the war, no person will be hardy enough to deny. I ask you, what evidence will amount to a satisfactory proof of her sincere contrition? The answer is plain. She must withdraw her armies from the continent, open a negotiation with our commissioners in Europe, in conjunction with those of our friends and allies, and clearly evince, that the sole object of this negotiation is to conclude a fair, honourable, and general peace, founded on the explicit acknowledgment of the sovereignty and independence of America. No terms, short of these, can be accepted on our part, without a violation of the faith of treaties, and the sacred obligations of honour and gratitude, or proffered by Great-Britain, without adding the finishing deformity to her national character, and offering an insult to this country, which she ought never to forgive. As the line of conduct pursued by the late, and continued by the present ministry, bears no resemblance to this, would it not be the extreme of folly in us, to believe that the national temper is changed, or that the present administration will ever give up the idea of reducing us to a state of dependence, unless compelled to it by the most dire necessity. They have declared an offensive war in Ame-

rica for the purpose of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience by force, *impracticable*, but have not suggested its *injustice*; nay, they confess that policy alone influences them, and that they reject an offensive war in America, "because it takes from their exertions part of that strength, which ought to be employed against their European enemies." Can there be stronger evidence, that the late events have flowed from necessity, than this explicit declaration. Does it not put the intentions of the British cabinet in the clearest point of view? America must be blind indeed, if with such a clue, she cannot unravel the insidious designs of her enemies.

The dismissal of the late ministry, was not produced by the obnoxiousness but by the fatality of their measures. They were sacrificed to the goddess of fortune, and not to the offended deity of justice. Their sentiments, in the last moments of their political existence, were the same with those of the present administration; that the mode of the war must be changed; that an offensive war on the continent was impracticable, because it diverted so much of their force to us, as to render them unable to cope with our friends in Europe. The new ministry have therefore only taken possession of that ground, which the old had reconnoitred, and would have been compelled and declared they intended to occupy. Their object is to obtain a peace and commerce with America on dependent principles, and if possible to draw her from her alliance with France, and it is not improbable but that they will be so infatuated as to try the arts of intrigue and corruption to engage her in an offensive alliance against France. That they do not mean to admit the independence of the United States, is evident. The earl of Shelburne, the duke of Richmond, general Conway, and Mr. Burke, all reprobate the idea. The *mode*, not the *object* of the war, is to be changed. If they can conclude a separate peace, or truce, with us, the land forces employed on our continent, will be appropriated to the defence of their islands, and the treasury expended for their support, applied to increase their naval strength, and to enable them to conquer America in Europe. To convince ourselves that these are the objects of the new administration, we need only read the late proceedings of parliament, and the act "to enable his Britannic majesty to make peace or conclude a truce with the *revolted colonies*." If really desirous of peace, why have they not discontinued an offensive *naval* as well as *land* war? Will it make any difference to America, whether she is plundered on the sea or the continent? The reason is plain. The inability of our enemy is not so great in the one case as the other. The very title of the bill implies a claim over us, as being part of the British empire, and insults us with the appellation of *REVOLTED colonies*. The bill itself, by empowering to treat with the assemblies of the states, and with individuals, betrays its object. It can be no other than to deceive and divide the people, and to insult congress, to which body, or their ministers applications of this nature can only be made, with decency and propriety. The only cause of the war with France and America is our independence; this being admitted, peace follows. Britain knows, that agreeable to our alliance with France, we can accede to no peace unless this independence be expressly or tacitly admitted. If the means fairly, why not take the plain road to this desirable object, and instead of sending over Sir Guy Carleton on a fruitless expedition, why not apply to France and our ministers in Europe? The mode of conducting the war, the late proceedings of parliament, and the sentiments of the leaders of the present administration amount to the fullest proof, that neither the British nation, or ministry, have changed their conduct towards America through principle; that any offers short of unconditional submission will flow from necessity, and that their pacific professions are insidious and insincere.

There is no spectacle in human nature so dignified and interesting, as a brave people, contending in the sacred cause of freedom and their country; their character is above the reach of fortune; nothing but a general apostasy can fully it; their senators, when condemned to suffer on the scaffold, are decreed a triumph, and their armies reap more laurels from a field of defeat, than Alexander's legions gathered in the conquest of a world. In this *disinterested* point of view, America was exalted by her opposition to the unconstitutional claims of Great-Britain. Unprovided with the common means of defence, she dared to provoke the resentment, and defy the revenge of a nation, whose victories and power could only be excelled by her insolence and ambition. The splendour of the undertaking drew upon her the eyes of all the nations of the earth; the brave and virtuous among mankind became interested in her fortunes, and from those who envied her rising glories, she extorted the tribute of admiration. Now irresistible, they are the motives for persevering in that line of *firmness* and *address*, which was taken up at the commencement of the contest, which has brought us so happily to its present stage, and which, if adhered to, must crown it with the most brilliant success! On your conduct at this important crisis,

my fellow-citizens, depends your credit with mankind, your national importance, and the liberty and happiness of yourselves and posterity. Act like men determined to be free, and you have as little to fear from the insidious arts of your enemies as from their arms. Preferring annihilation to chains, you embarked in a glorious though hazardous voyage, resolved to anchor in the haven of freedom and independence, or perish in the attempt. Shall we suffer the bark, freighted with all our treasure, after having buffeted the waves and outlived the storm; to founder in a calm, and that too within sight of her destined port? The nerves of every American must vibrate with horror at the thought! Instead of amusing ourselves with the delusive tale of peace, and listening to the frenzied song of reconciliation, let us call forth all our powers, let us redouble our exertions, to expel the enemy from our country. It is infamous to negotiate with Great-Britain upon any terms short of absolute independence, on the principles of our connection with, and obligations to France, and it is a dangerous deception to indulge the idea of peace, whilst she holds one inch of American soil.

B R U T U S.

May 19, 1782.

C H A T H A M, May 8.

SIR Henry Clinton and general Kniphausen sail this week, in the Pearl frigate, for Europe. Last week Sir Henry Clinton, in general orders, suspended all hostilities on the part of the British. They are to act only on the defensive. It is reported, that all their cruizers are called in, and that a number of vessels they have lately taken will be restored to their former owners.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, May 15.

Last Saturday the brig Holker, capt. Kean, arrived here from Martinique. We have no further accounts by this vessel, of the late engagement in the West-Indies; but a flag which arrived on Sunday, from Providence, which she left the 1st of May, confirms the account already published, with the additional circumstances of admiral Rodney having been killed, and the count de Grasse wounded in the said engagement.

A gentleman who arrived here last evening from Elizabeth-town, brought with him a hand bill, published in New-York on Sunday, the 12th instant. We have many reasons to doubt the authenticity of the intelligence it contains, but at present shall only observe, that the letter taken from the Antigua gazette has no signature to it, and that the royal gazette extraordinary, of the 12th inst. was not published by authority.

Royal gazette extraordinary, New-York, May 12, 1782.

From the Antigua gazette.

It is not in language to express the heartfelt joy with which we communicate to our loyal countrymen the contents of a letter received by the editor, just as this paper was going to press; they happily render useless a paragraph which had been composed on the subject of the reports of the last two or three days—but let us not detain our readers any longer from the glad tidings!

St. John's, in Antigua, April 16, 1782.

I am happy in acquainting you that admiral Rodney has gained a complete victory over the French fleet, consisting of 32 sail of the line; the Ville de Paris, of 110 guns, on board of which is Mont de Grasse, is amongst the number taken; he was the two first days after his capture with Sir George, but by his own request is now on board his former ship; she had 470 killed and wounded. I have been on board her; she is larger than any of our three deckers in the fleet, carries 42 pounders on her lower deck, 24's on her middle, and 18's on her upper deck; the Ardent of 64 is also taken, as are likewise the Hector and Glorieux, of 74 guns each. The Cesar, of 74, after being taken, was set on fire by accident; and there was a ship sunk in the action, supposed to be the Zodiaque or the Diadem. It was in fact a noble action. It began at 8 A. M. on the 12th inst. and was not over till 6 P. M. There were 27 chests of money on board admiral de Grasse. They were bound to join the Spaniards, and attack Jamaica, whither, I presume, our fleet will go. Our fleet have repaired their damages, which were chiefly in their rigging, and we have not half the killed and wounded in our whole fleet, as there was on board the Ville de Paris.

Yesterday the Andromeda frigate sailed for England. There were two actions, one on the 9th, wherein capt. Baine, of the Alfred, was killed; and in the victorious one, on the 12th, capt. Blair, of the Anson, was killed; lord Robert Manners lost his leg and broke his arm, and capt. Savage, of the Hercules, has a wound in his foot, and his jaw locked. There were 400 souls on board the Cesar when she blew up. Lord Robert is gone to England.

N. B. The Ville de Paris had on board 1300 men, and struck to admiral Hood, in the Barfleur. Each of the other ships had 150 soldiers on board. The Cesar blew up after striking to the Centaur, and had also 150 soldiers on board.