

of similar nature and importance; and furnished those who heard it, with materials, for instructing their neighbours in the state of our finance; but the same information might have been received, without the least parade, from our worthy treasurer. If a variety of checks is necessary to insure the faithful administration of laws, and if this principle pervades every part of the constitution, and the laws enacted since the revolution, it is a maxim, and the legislature should not direct reports of this kind to be submitted to the consideration of the public; every man might then be furnished with the means of examining the conduct of its servants. That it is necessary to deceive, or keep the people from a knowledge of their affairs, is a detestable maxim in a free state, and no occasion, except in the operations of war, can require that mystery, which results only from weak minds, and contemptible hearts.

Among those, who undertake the conduct of public affairs, how few endeavour to qualify themselves by their own observation and reflection! Acting from first impressions, and giving way to the impulse of every passion, and caprice, they derive little advantage from wisdom, and the trial of one year might have ascertained the proper duties of an intendant, and how far the present intendant is qualified for the office. The house of delegates were at first pleased with his report, and concurred with the opinion of the senate, that the office should be continued. A bill brought in for the very purpose was rejected, and leave denied to bring in another. The senate then prepared a bill, and, as sometimes, about the close of the session, had given a new turn to opinions, it was, at length, carried in the house of delegates. The shame arising from a review of this business, may possibly inspire gentlemen with a resolution to study, and find out true principles, before they decide on any subject of national concern.

My objections to the conduct of the intendant since the last session are of a very serious nature. By the supply bill for the present year, the taxes are appropriated to answer many pressing demands, and every man concerned in the collection might be expected to strain every nerve, to accomplish it in time. If he is not fully impressed with an idea of the importance of retaining public credit, the feelings of humanity might prompt him to the most animated exertions for the relief of individuals, reduced almost to the most abject indigence, by a fond reliance on the justice and faith of their country. What has been the conduct of the intendant on this trying occasion? In his late progress through the state, wherever he passed, did he not inculcate the necessity "of easing off the taxes?" And what has been the result? The collectors, who have been taught to consider themselves amenable to the intendant alone, remitted their exertions, the people made no preparation at all, and a fair trial has not been had of the practicability of levying the tax agreeably to the law. They must be blindly devoted to the intendant indeed, who will contend, that a man has discharged his trust, by doing every thing in his power to obstruct the business he was chosen to superintend.

To administer a small, though grateful, supply to our part of that gallant injured band, to whose services America is indebted for its existence, as a nation, the legislature directed a sale of lands and specifics. It would encourage common sense, when the sale was directed to comply with an immediate demand, to give any other construction to the law than this—that the intendant shall act with all convenient diligence and dispatch—a letter from the West Indies declares, that peace is concluded, and an article in the treaty provides for the restitution of British property—this, beyond doubt, requires the sale of the lands to be postponed—the ostensible reasons are pitiful indeed—that surveys could not be completed, and that lands will sell better some time hence. By an immediate sale of specifics, the state would sustain the loss of thousands—peace opens the flattering prospect of a high price for every species of country produce; and besides, if the intendant is precipitate in disposing of the public flour and tobacco, he fixes the market price, to the great damage of the farmers and planters—with ineffable odium I have attended to these arguments, drawn from public good, and public necessity—no consideration at all is due to those unhappy people, from whom the price of their time, labour, and property, is cruelly withheld—they may dispose of the wretched remnant of their effects at half value, or if these means of subsistence are already exhausted, they may humbly supplicate the intendant, and out of his private funds he may possibly afford them relief.

Supposing for a moment it were necessary for some authority, in the recess of the assembly, to interfere, and dispense with the law, to whom should we naturally look for an exercise of the power? The intendant is enjoined to consult with the governor and council; but he never asked their opinion—they repeatedly urged a compliance with the law; but confiding in the plenitude of his power, he disregards every argument and remonstrance which they can offer.

After all I have said, I would by no means impeach the integrity of the intendant—I charge him not with embezzlement—I do not believe that any part of the public money has found a way to his private coffers—his errors may be fairly imputed to an excessive love of popular applause; and to this motive I must ascribe another of his measures, which wears a far worse aspect than any thing I have yet mentioned.

The five shillings specie tax is directed by the law to be paid to the treasurer, who is to pay it over to the continental receiver, for the use of congress. The intendant, during the sitting of the assembly, by virtue of his power of directing the collectors in the execution of their office, obliges them to deliver it to him, and he appropriates it to discharge the journal of accounts; he lodges it with the treasurer, together with a list of names, belonging only to members of the assembly. I have too high an opinion of that respectable body, to suppose they will sanctify the measure by receiving it, when they are told of the fund, from whence it is illegally derived. This state has hitherto escaped the baneful influence of bribery and corruption; and I hope every thing that has the least tendency that way may excite the indignation it deserves. Let not the strict attention of the intendant to accommodate members of the legislature conciliate their favour so far as to prevent an enquiry into his conduct—there are several bills under consideration, which are evidently calculated to throw a veil on the errors of his administration,

and there is great danger, that the justice, dignity, and welfare of the state, will be sacrificed to the honour of the intendant.

I am sensible I can derive no benefit from the undertaking I have thus far proceeded in—I am fully apprised of the dangerous ground on which I tread; but should these strictures meet with universal censure, the consciousness of having acted the part of a virtuous citizen, will afford a consolation, superior to the unmerited applause of a popular assembly, or the fulsome adulation of a crowd of dependants.

A N E X A M I N E R.

Annapolis, May 27, 1783.

L O N D O N, March 18.

H O U S E O F C O M M O N S, March 15, 1783.

T O B A C C O T R A D E.

SIR Herbert Macworth gave notice, that he would on Monday next make a motion with regard to the tobacco laws. Sir Herbert said, the new situation of America made it necessary, that something should be immediately done upon the subject. That the preamble to one of the most operative acts, relative to the importation of tobacco from Virginia, stated, that the necessities of that colony called for encouragement to its staple produce on the part of this country; Virginia, therefore, no longer being dependent on Great-Britain, Sir Herbert said, he thought some law, to allow the cultivation and growth of tobacco at home, highly necessary.

Lord Surrey said, perhaps the honourable baronet was not aware, that an act had passed last year, laying such penalties on the cultivation and growth of tobacco, in that part of Great-Britain called Scotland, as had in fact amounted to a total prohibition. His lordship further declared, that he thought the agitating any question relative to tobacco, pending the negotiation of a commercial treaty with the United States of America, extremely improper.

Sir Herbert said, he was aware of the difficulty started by his honourable friend, but still he thought the subject important, and that it could not be brought forward too soon. When it was before the house, they would dispose of it, as their wisdom and prudence should direct.

D U B L I N, March 11.

There never happened an event more providentially for this country than the present peace, which took place at the moment that the distress of the manufacturers, and of all the poor in general, was arrived to a crisis of calamity as great as in the spring, 1779, with this addition of the high price of all the necessaries of life to render it insupportable. What a sudden and happy change has succeeded? Every hand is set to work, and all the song of cheerful industry is heard in all parts of the city, instead of that heart piercing cry of sorrow, and murmurs of distress. Our traders animated with a truly patriotic ardour, boldly launch their property on the sea of commercial adventure, determined in every possible manner to explore the channels through which the fabrics of their country may find their way.

Through by the last advices from Bourdeaux we learn, that there are actually fifty vessels taking in goods there for America, yet our merchants need not be alarmed thereat, for the articles shipping there are not the same as what are going from hence, except trifling quantities, the French exports thither consisting chiefly of wine, brandy, paper, silk stockings, coaks, brimstone, saltpetre, earthen ware, glass, vinegar, upholstery, cambricks, canvas, sailcloth, superfine woollens, and East-India goods.

There are well founded expectations that the vessels now loading here for America will come to a good market, especially as no vessels with assorted cargoes can fail from the ports of Britain to those of the United States until the prohibitory acts are repealed; which acts being of the British legislature do not affect this kingdom.

The meeting of our parliament next month, is a measure of the most absolute necessity, on account of the necessary alteration of the trade laws, particularly in the plantation laws, which enact, that no produce of America shall be landed in this kingdom, but from British vessels; thus no vessel belonging to the United States of America, can legally discharge her cargo here. Repeated applications have been made to the ministry in London to call a meeting of our parliament, to which they have hitherto given no answer, but a mortifying silence.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, May 20.

The last advices from Amsterdam, (dated March 18) inform, that, although the preliminary articles of a peace between Great-Britain and that republic were not signed, yet the negotiators had so far accomplished the objects of their commission, as to admit little or no doubt of that event shortly taking place. It was said, indeed, that nothing remained to be done, but the ceremonial of that interesting business.

The ship Hartford, captain Folger, left the Downs the 3d of April, and brings accounts from London of the 1st, when no new administration had been fixed upon by his Britannic Majesty. The bill for opening an intercourse with the United States had not passed either house of parliament; nor can we give any satisfactory information concerning the definitive treaty of peace.

The chevalier John Paul Jones came passenger in the brig Prince Alberti, from Cape François. His celebrated commander, we understand, was preparing an elegant ship of war at Porto Bello; but the accounts of peace having arrived, closed, for the present, his military career, in which he hath, in the most eminent degree, frequently distinguished himself during the war.

P i n e y - W o o d s, May 14, 1783.

A L L those that are indebted to the estate of Joshua Watts, deceased, by bond, note, or book account, are desired to make immediate payment, or otherwise they may depend on being sued; and those that have any demands against the said estate, are desired to bring their accounts in legally proved, that they may be adjusted by their most humble servant,

S A M U E L W A T T S, executor of Joshua.

To be run for, on Thursday the 12th of June next, over the turf at capt. Peter Clarke's tavern, in Calvert county,

A S U B S C R I P T I O N P U R S E O F F O R T Y P O U N D S, free for any horse, mare, or gelding, heats three miles; the best two in three, carrying weight for age; aged to carry 126 pounds; and fall according to the rules of racing. The horses to be entered with the aforesaid Clarke at one shilling in the pound, non-subscribers to pay double entrance. Three horses to start or no race.

Next day will be run for, a P U R S E O F T W E N T Y P O U N D S, free as before, the winning horse the preceding day excepted, the best two in three two mile heats, weight for size; fourteen hands to carry 126 pounds, and rise or fall seven pounds for every inch. Entrance as above. Proper judges will be appointed to decide any disputes that may arise.

P E T E R C L A R K E.

W A N T E D,

F I V E or six hundred acres of good land, situated on navigable water, and within twenty miles of the city of Annapolis. Any person, having an inclination to dispose of such a tract of land, may meet with a purchaser, by applying to the undersigned.

T A K E N up as a stray, by Joseph Wheat, living in Montgomery county, near the court-house, a bright bay mare, about eleven years old, paces naturally, has a small star in her forehead, no perceivable brand. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

Annapolis, May 22, 1783.

A L L persons indebted to Mr. John Ball, late of this city, deceased, are requested to discharge their accounts immediately, and such as have any claims against his estate, are desired to send their accounts legally proved, that they may be settled.

S A R A H B A L L, administratrix.

January 1, 1783.

To be SOLD, or LEASED on reasonable terms, A V A L U A B L E P L A N T A T I O N, near the head of Stoney-creek, whereon there is an exceeding good and new dwelling house, and many other convenient and necessary out-houses, in good order, near the dwelling, which stands on the main road between Severn-ferry and Baltimore; would well suit a private gentleman's family, or any inclinable to go into a public way of business, and is situated within half a mile of two merchant-mills. The soil is good, well timbered, and there is excellent water very near the dwelling. For further particulars enquire of the subscriber in Annapolis.

N I C H O L A S M A C C U B B I N, son of Joseph. N. B. The plantation contains 500 acres, and is situated very conveniently near the water.

N O T I C E is hereby given, that a petition will be preferred to the next session of assembly, for an act to record and give effect to a deed of bargain and sale from James Rayley, and Benjamin Newnam and Mary his wife, to John Moore of Queen-Anne's county.

N O T I C E is hereby given, that a petition will be presented to the next session of the general assembly, for an act to enable the administrators of Frederick Foreman, late of Queen-Anne's county, to sell part of a tract of land called Lloya's Freshes, for the payment of his debts.

T A K E N up by Joshua Clarke, living in Prince-George's county, near Queen-Anne, a black gelding, about fourteen hands high, one ear sore, shod all round, has a remarkable short tail, appears to be about nine years old, no perceivable brand. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges.

A L L persons indebted to the estate of Mr. Allen Bowie, jun. late of Prince-George's county, deceased, are requested to discharge their accounts immediately, and such as have claims are desired to send in their accounts legally proved, that they may be settled by

F I E L D E R B O W I E, } executors.
J O H N F R A Z E R B O W I E, }

A L L persons indebted to Mr. John Parran, jun. late of Calvert county, deceased, are requested to discharge their accounts immediately, and such as have any claims against his estate, are desired to send in their accounts legally proved, that they may be settled by

J O H N C H E S L E Y, jun. administrator.