

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1784.

To the ROMAN CATHOLICS of the state of MARYLAND; especially those of St. Mary's county.

Friends, countrymen, and fellow-christians,

HIS threefold relation, under which I consider you, comprises every motive for this public address. As friends, I wish to see you respectable as countrymen, liberal as fellow-christians, humane and charitable. It is not my intent to write myself into importance, or wipe off from my character any malicious aspersions. I feel no ambition for the former; and the latter can create no sentiments but of pity or contempt. The self-approving mind is seldom solicitous for its own reputation. It is easy under the assurance that the sensible part of mankind; or, at any rate, the great searcher of hearts will at one time or another give innocency an hearing. But to a man of sensibility it must be distressing to find some of his nearest and dearest connexions loading him with groundless slander and unmerited reproach, and thus accumulating disgrace upon themselves from a circumstance, that admitted the most liberal exertions. Some of the reports in circulation concerning me, have reached my ears. Pity unfeigned with resentment was the only sentiment, I experienced. Groundless slander ever recoils with double force upon its authors. But in this instance I derived no comfort from the idea. I should be sorry to see my character raised upon the ruins of theirs, whom from my infancy I have cherished with the warmest affection. This, however, must unavoidably be the case, if events should exhibit the folly of suspicion; or the falsehood of scandal. Let me, therefore, as a friend, intreat you to be cautious. If you regard me as an enemy, consider that you put it in my power to render you ridiculous, if not contemptible. The bare recital of some stupid calumnies would effectuate the first; a lie of honour and virtue would occasion the second. Should any among you be so ignorantly zealous, or so deplorably instructed, or so absurdly complimentary, as to conceive the depreciation of my character essential to the support of their belief, let me advise such to retail their scandal in whispers, and not to be too clamorous, till facts begin to speak for themselves. Remember, that from positive and open calumny there is no retreat but into the bottom of infamy. Cautions of this nature, I hope, will be necessary to those only, who from the obscurity of their birth and situation, or the want of useful knowledge are apt to regard the clamour of abuse for the conviction of argument. If, however, unfortunately, they be applicable to some others, whom education should exalt above the prejudices of the multitude, we have then only to lament the baneful tendency of religious differences, which in the eighteenth century can alienate persons of real worth, information and experience, from a man nearly allied to them in blood, pleading for nothing but the common birth-right of mortals, and most desirous of perpetuating his early friendships. When I sent a short address last spring to the Roman Catholics at Worcester, I could scarcely imagine, that the same ferment, which I foresaw and predicted there, would burst into so violent a flame among my friends in America. I was willing to allow my country the palm of liberality. From the late total and happy political revolution, and the noble part which the Roman Catholics of my acquaintance bore in it, it was natural to look for a partial revolution in some of their opinions. I sometimes flattered myself, that I should be let off tolerably easy from the profession of some speculative tenets, to which I could not be reconciled, and which have not the remotest influence upon the social virtues of the heart. How far my hopes have been realized I am at a loss to determine. Some few I have been informed, refuse to join in the general cry, and think it ungenerous to hunt down a character, merely because its owner does not think as they do. To these I am impatient to make my gratitude known. For their own sakes, for the sake of their society, and our common country, I intreat them to be bold in avowing their friendship, till some immoral or dishonourable action shall induce them to withhold it. From the private concerns of an individual an occasion now offers of rendering their services to society at large. Perhaps the flames of christian candour and forbearance once carefully nourished, may spread with rapidity, and communicate to botoms, which the cold damps of bigotry had chilled with intolerance. Perhaps when the first effusions of defamation are drained off, reason may assume an influence, to which she has hitherto been a stranger between the sterile shores of the Patuxent, and the southern banks of the great Patowmack. Should this ever be the case, I shall deem it an happy circumstance of my life to have fallen a victim at the shrine of true zeal and prejudice. The respectability arising to my native country from the dismissal of me, and the adoption of liberal sentiments, will make past loads of abuse lie easy on my shoulders, or totally remove them. Fixed with delight upon the progress of heavenly charity, the mind will overlook the busy dealers in calumny; as the eye, when ranging over the great works of the creation, neglects the dirty insect that labours in a dunghill. Considered as fellow-christians, I shall lay but little to you on the great and essential duty of charity. You all know, or ought to know that it is a most excellent gift, the very bond of peace, and of all virtues without which whatsoever liveth is counted dead before God; that where calumny, rash judgment and re-

viling are, there charity cannot be; that no zeal for religion can justify a violation of charity, because charity is the soul and essence of religion—because charity is greater than faith. I need not remind you, moreover, that he who arraigns the hidden sentiments of his brother, or traces his innocent actions to a corrupted source, impiously utters the prerogative of God, and will one day rue the blasphemous folly of aspiring to become an assessor with the Almighty. Let me therefore intreat you to be silent in my regard, till some manifest transgression shall authorize you to speak; a transgression, I mean, against any express law of God, of honour, or my country—for as to any other authority I utterly disclaim it. If any should apologize for the rancour of their zeal from a notion that a reprobate can be no object of charity, a pamphlet now in the press will soon remove this plea; as, I am informed, it allows salvation to those, who may think proper to dissent from the orthodoxy of Newtown. How this spirit of liberality will be relished by some of the reverend gentleman's friends I pretend not to foresee; but this I know, that so amiable a subject will receive additional charms from the pen of so amiable a writer. In a short time, perhaps, I shall be obliged to declare more at large my esteem and respect for this gentleman's character; at present I will conclude with this hearty prayer, that his ideas of christian toleration may be transfused into all his communion, and render them as respectable as he is in the eyes of their fellow-citizens.

CHARLES WHARTON.

D U B L I N, August 9.

THE insulence of certain paragraph-makers is truly amazing; who endeavour to throw the scandalous imputation of raising the flames of sedition and kindle a civil war on the body of our citizens not of Dublin only, but all parts of the kingdom, for the harmless and constitutional mode of addressing the crown on grievances loudly complained of by every man in Ireland who is not a possessor or humble expectant of some favour from the castle. It is the resolutions of our true Irishmen be construed into sedition, and their addresses into rebellion against the state; and if in consequence of such perverseness of their rulers, a civil war should eventually take place, who are to blame? A great man owes me a certain sum. I address him in humble terms, that he will please to order his agent to pay me. He answers, that I am impertinent, and that if I should tease him any more on the subject, a breach of the peace will ensue. I arrest him. He strikes, and I return the blow. Which of us have occasioned a breach of the peace?

A well informed correspondent acquaints us, that a considerable number of those locusts of our trade and manufactures, called riders, are now in Dublin, from various parts of England, but especially Manchester, whose monopolists alarmed at the progress of the cotton looms, and the perfection to which that branch has arrived in this kingdom, have instructed their plenipotentiaries to make any proposals that can tend to discountenance that rising manufacture amongst us. The tarring and feathering have ceased; it is an amazing assurance in those fellows to tempt their fate, by soliciting orders in any part of Ireland at this peculiar crisis, when the public mind is inflamed against every thing British, and when any foreigner, but especially an Englishman, who could be caught in any act that had the smallest tendency to violate our non importation agreement, must expect to suffer the severest punishment that an enraged populace could inflict.

It is but common charity to acquaint those riders of the imminent risk that may await their stay in a metropolis, where every manufacturer is their natural enemy, and where no independent Irishman can possibly be their friend.

August 24. We hear that a Mr. Johnston, of Aughacashill, in the county of Leitrim, will give every proper encouragement to any individual, or company of gentlemen, who may be desirous to establish manufactures of iron, copper, or lead, on his grounds, where there is an inexhaustible quantity of the richest ores, and the finest water falls in Ireland for mills of any construction. On one river may be erected an hundred mills one above another. He has lately discovered the best vein of coals hitherto found out in that country, and on the same premises he has freestone, blocks and flags of the largest size, and best quality, with ore, pipe and fire clay, in abundance. His situation is within two miles of the source of the Shannon, which is an extensive navigable lake, and lies convenient to several roads leading to Dublin and Sligo.

now embrace the opportunity to remedy the grievance; by furthering an essential reformation, or let them ever afterwards turmoil in slavery, unpitied and despised, nor dare to utter a moan of exclamation against their oppressors—But it is hoped there are no such characters within the nation, so blind to their own happiness and liberty, as not to embrace this auspicious moment for their deliverance from bondage, and speak out with spirit their desires of reformation.

Sept. 2. Last Monday night, a ceremony was performed on the Comb, of burning in effigy, a certain traitor to the rights of Ireland, called Judas Jack, and Noly, an infamous justice of the peace. The business was conducted with the greatest solemnity, and without the smallest disturbance. The effigies were hung first for a good while, then a large bonfire was made, and Judas Jack, after one of the multitude making an oration of his manifold enormities, committed to the flames, amidst the exclamations of thousands. That of Noly's was served in the same manner, reciting the beauties of his character, by his late intiguation of massacre, and stratagems for blood money, which ended with three huzzas. When the effigies were entirely consumed to ashes, to the full satisfaction of the numbers, they retired most peaceably and in sobriety to their respective abodes.

Sept. 3. We are informed, from respectable authority, that a large reinforcement is intended for the already overgrown army of this kingdom—it is stated to very high as 5000 men; but for the number we will not vouch. We are also assured that two encampments are proposed—one in the vicinity of Dublin, and the other in the north.

Never was there formed so alarming a conspiracy against the liberties of any nation as exists against ours. Open violence—underhand manœuvre, and the most flagrant corruption are united, and incessantly employed to awe the bold to disunite the public spirited, and to corrupt the venal in every part of the kingdom. It therefore behoves the real friends of liberty to come forward, at this awful crisis and unite themselves to stop the career of despotism, which otherwise bids fair to overwhelm every thing dear to man, in a chaos of slavery.

Sept. 4. A gentleman who had been present at the meeting of the county of Meath, says, aristocracy exerted all their evil influence there to pervert the noble efforts of the freeholders for the emancipation of their country. For that purpose, Mornington Bective, &c. &c. were indefatigable. The meeting even caused the pert first-mentioned nobleman to quit his country and the fishing of that blue riband at St. James's, and speed here to oppose the cause of virtue.

Five peers and a gentleman high in office attended at the Irish meeting. It is no wonder, that a parliamentary reform should be adjudged unnecessary, and indeed highly improper, by the leaders of an aristocracy, whose influence solely depends upon the present imperfect mode of representation—inherited men will certainly oppose it, and it must be acknowledged, on this occasion, the ministerial barge was well trimmed.

Sept. 6. Of the many bad administrations we read of, we scarce can find one that did not at some time, or on some particular occasion, do a popular act; but the present diabolic one is determined that no historian, save the venal hirelings, who are obliged to praise that they may eat, shall have it in their power to say any thing else, but that from the beginning to the end, it was a tissue of villainy—Rome mourned the day of the execrable Nero—Ireland will long mourn those of Rutland; cruelties were practised then, and so are they at present; spies, informers and prosecutions were encouraged, and are they not so now? the city of Rome was obnoxious to the tyrant then, and is Dublin now in favour? yet Nero was once a good prince, and Nero had some virtues; Rutland has—

The tyranny of the British governors of Massachusetts Bay in North America—Hutchinson and Oliver, drove 13 provinces into resistance; on the 4th of July, 1776, their delegates in congress declared them free and independent states; and, on the third of September, 1783, Great-Britain was forced to acknowledge the same.

So sensible are the men of Ireland of the necessity of learning the use of arms, that no less than three new corps are now formed in this city. Yesterday one of them, the Dublin legion, for the first time, appeared in public, marched through the city with the goldsmith's corps and Irish brigade from the royal exchange to Ranelagh where they fired 18 rounds, and went through the different military evolutions with an adroitness equal to the most experienced troops. May Ireland, thus daily increase in strength, and Heaven propitious, secure success to the virtuous struggles of a deserving people, against all the machinations of a venal and apostate crew.

Sept. 8. It is past the telling, what congratulations, smiles, shakes by the hand, and other exulting demonstrations of joy, no daily pass among the satraps and their lick-spittles, since they have successfully played off the bigotry of an old dotard, against the parliamentary reform, in one of our counties. Huzza! they cry, the day is ours, we have got Old Vinegar with us!

The tyranny of the duke of Alva, the Spanish governor of the Netherlands, becoming insupportable, seven provinces took arms and declared themselves by an act of union, independent state. On the 23d of January, 1579; and after a war of 26 years, Spain, then the