



MARYLAND  
 HISTORY  
 The

# Maryland Gazette

Samuel Thomas



From Tuesday December 24, to Tuesday December 31, 1728.

(Numb. LXVIII)

*Hic tibi erunt Artes; pacisque imponere morem.  
 Parcere Subjellis, & debellare superbos.*

Virg.

SIR,



As the Powers of Europe are solemnly assembled to settle the Peace, and adjust the Rights of all the contending Princes, it may not be thought unseasonable to offer some modest Conjectures on this Affair: Possible it may influence a better Enquiry; and the least Attention in this Case will afford us a Prospect sufficiently delightful, and far, very far from Precarious.

The **BALLANCE** of Europe has been generally agreed to be an Equality of Power in the Hands of the Emperor and France; and 'tis certain that those are the only Monarchs who can possibly bid fair for Universal Empire: 'Tis therefore the Interest of all the Princes, their Neighbours, to keep them within such Bounds as are natural and safe. It has long been the Labour of Great-Britain to secure those Limits; and we may with Justice and Reason assert, that those Powers at this Time are equal; and their Neighbours consequently free.

Great-Britain has been said to hold this Useful Ballance, to regulate the Scales whenever they became unequal; and thereby to preserve the general Peace and Freedom.

If then we preserve this Ballance by our present Negotiations at *Soissons*; we acquit our selves with all the Wisdom our Neighbours expect, and with all the Justice our People require.

The Crown of France has the Mediation in this present Congress; and from thence some malevolent Persons have been bold to insinuate, that our Glory is departed, and our Influence on the Ballance is lost: Yet we cannot but observe the principal Powers (*i. e.* the Emperor and France) are equal in all Respects; neither encroaches, neither complains: How then can the Ballance be lost? Have they quarrel'd, and have we been incapable to establish their Peace? Have they united in order to swallow us up? Or how have we departed from our Glory in this great Concern.

The only Points in Question at present are the *Ostend* Company, and the Losses sustain'd by our Trading Interest, in the late Rupture; for it can never be thought *Gibraltar* will be tryed for at a Congress, when it could not be taken by a Siege; this would be such *Low Game* as no Prince of Spirit would stoop to, and all the World must laugh at; nor will the Powers conven'd pretend to give up a Fortress by Arbitration, that is not to be come at by Fire or Sword.

The Company of *Ostend* is the Bone of Contention between Britain and the Emperor, which it cannot be thought the Maritime Powers will ever suffer to proceed in Trade; nor is it to be feared the Imperialists will ever pursue that Project, unless they might do it without such a dangerous Hazzard. France and Holland are but ill affected to its Establishment, the Latter being its Invererate Enemy, and the Former jealous of its Growth. The Emperor himself seems to decline all Thoughts of it, by having suspended the Trade, and dividing great Part of the Capital; by having turn'd his

Eyes to his Ports in the *Adriatick* Sea, and other Proceeding of the like Kind. Shall we then, after all this, be taught to fear the Congress will hurt us in this Point, and establish a Commerce thus abandon'd by its best and most sanguine Friends?

If *Gibraltar* be out of this Question (and it would be most extravagant to think it a Point in Debate) the Losses of our Merchants and the *S. S.* Company, will be the only Affairs to determine. Affairs that are not of such Importance as to embroil us, or keep us long in Suspence: 'tis just that we should first refer these to an amicable Mediation, and if that should fail us, we may then recur to Arms: But the Crown of Spain is not in any Condition to withstand us when we come to Blows, and will hardly ever hazard such a dangerous Issue; it will cost them so much Blood and Treasure, as must over-balance all our Demands; and the Spanish Ministry must be lost to all just Politicks, if they incur an Expence so heavy, and which may so well be avoided.

Our penetrating Politicians have been very clamorous in relation to the Danish Company at *Altena*; but did they consider the Condition of Denmark, they would almost have as little Reason to fear the Effects of a Company in *Lapland*: The Danes have little Money to trade with, nor will they trust what they have in their own Country, as the Banks of *Amsterdam* and *Hamburg* can witness. Will any one therefore venture their Effects under the dreadful Protection of such an Arbitrary and Necessitous Government, or can this retard the happy Issue of a Congress at a Time when Peace is so much desired?

The Truth is, such Conventions meet rather for Ceremony than Business; and if the Parties concern'd are not agreed in the chief Points before they open the Treaty, it seldom comes to any good Conclusion. If that of *Cambray* be consider'd, it will be found an Instance of the Truth: It would inculcate, for the Points contended there, respected meer Trifles; the Imperialists and Spaniards disputed about Titles of Ceremony, Orders of Knighthood, &c. and having little Desire or Occasion to agree, they quarrel'd out of mere Humour, and Dislike of each other. They therefore met with no Preparation of Amity, and went on with no Design to conclude a Friendship; but after all, they shew'd the World a Treaty was easily made, when 'twas mutually desired.

For my part, did I observe long and warm Debates in this Affair, I should imagine real Difficulties subsisting; but as the Case stands, I take it, the Points in Issue will be soon adjusted, and a Treaty shortly concluded, yet we must allow for the Forms of Proceeding. And indeed if we reflect on the Congress of *Nimeguen*, that which King *William* held at the *Hague*, and the great Convention at *Utrecht*, we shall find they were all long and tedious, when we consider how few Days were employ'd in Business, and how many were allow'd for the Forms essential to good Courtiers.

I know how many reflect that this Quarrel with the Emperor had never happen'd, if *Bremen* and *Verden* had been out of the Case; but we have been absurd in a great Assembly, that his late Majesty might have had the desired Inveture would he have paid the Fees demanded. I know likewise that others assert, we might have found all the Powers of Europe applying to us, if we had not concerted Measures so early