

## M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, March 9, 1748.

From the BOSTON GAZETTE, January 19, 1748.

*The Prevalence of LUXURY; with a Burgo-Master's excellent Admonition against it.*

HE erect Figure of a Man hath given the Hint to our Poets to say many fine Things in Honour of the Species: But if GOD made Man upright, he hath prostituted his noble Talents to vile and sordid Purposes. Tho' we sinn'd with the Serpent, we do not grovel on our Bellies like him; our erect Figure we still retain, and every Man's Eye, almost, is lifted up; not to Heaven indeed; that seems to be out of our Thoughts, as well as our Reach, but in Emulation of that Fellow Creature, whom Fortune hath placed in the next Stage above us, and it we can not attain to the same Level, we endeavour to cheat the World into such an Opinion of us, as we are conscious hath no Foundation.

IT is remarkable, that in this almost universal Vying with one another, the Contest is almost principally confined either to Wealth, Grandeur, or some other worldly Circumstance; who hath the most finish'd Head, or enlarged Heart, is rarely a Matter of Dispute; and our very Ambition is low, sensual, and favouring of the Dust from whence we were taken.

AT this Time, the Furniture and Expences of every Tradesman now, equal those of the Merchant formerly; those of the Merchant, surpass those of the first Rate Gentlemen; those of the Gentlemen, the old Lords; &c.

ALL other Nations have each their favourite Luxury; as the Italian his pompous Palace, the Frenchman his fine Suit, the Pole his splendid Equipage, the German his capacious Cellar, the Spaniard his Bead-Roll of Titles, &c. But our Taste is universal; and there is scarce a little Clerk among us, who doth not think himself the Outcast of Providence, if not enabled by his Salary, Fees, &c. to out-live the rich Man in the Gospel.

WITH so many Outlets for Expence, 'tis no Wonder that we are become as poor as we are prodigal; nor ought it to be wonder'd at, that the public Debts annually increase; since exclusive of what is yearly sunk, every Miser who has quarter'd himself upon the Public, by throwing out his Fortune at Interest at Ten per Cent per Annum, forms a little Reservoir of his own, which never sees the Light any more, unless in some very extraordinary Case; which is to him what the Seed Time is to the Farmer; who, tho' he scatters abroad his Grain, is sure to receive it back with Usury.

THESE are the Evils. Where shall we look for the Cure? Not from Laws; none can be so framed as to reach them; and such a Remedy would be worse than the Disease. How then? From the Leaders of the Herd; from better Examples; from more Countenance shewn to the Understanding, and less to the Appetite; from an Affection manifested to Virtue, and a delicate Sense of honest Fame. Monkeys are not more faithful Mimicks than Men; and wherever the Great ump, the Herd will be sure to follow.

SO long ago as the Reign of King James II, an eminent Burgo-master of Amsterdam, having observed the Degeneracy which began to shew itself among the Dutch, and the Excesses which were the Issue of Wealth and Idleness, took this Method to shew his Countrymen the Folly and Danger of their Prodigalities,

for Variety and Delicacy, would be worthy both of him and them. But how great was their Disappointment and Mortification, when they saw the first Course upon the Board, consisting of Apples boil'd in Butter-milk, Stock-fish with Turnips and Carrots, with Red-Herrings, a Lettuce Salad; and for Drink, Small Beer.—The Host invited his Guests to fall to; the Ladies pleaded Want of Appetite; the Men look'd like the young Prophets, when they cry'd out, *Death was in the Pot*; and, 'til the Table was cleared, scarce a Word was spoke: But then there appeared under every Plate a Scroll of Verses, signifying, That such was the Fare of their Forefathers, when their City began first to thrive, and the States to have a Name among the Nations.

THE second Course was then served up, which consisted of Butcher's Meat of every sort, roast and boil'd; but all unadorned with the Arts of Cookery, and without any other Sauce than what a good Stomach was to supply; English Beer and French Wine were likewise added to the side-board: And when the Table was cleared, certain other Verses presented themselves, by which the Guests were informed; That, with Regard to the Wants of Nature, these were Luxuries; that it was the Office of Reason to regulate both the Taste and the Appetite; that by living thus they would leave both their Wealth and their Temperance to their Heirs, who being used to such excellent Examples, would bluish to be thought degenerate by their Children.

THE Table was then spread with all manner of Fish and Fowl, relished with the most poignant Sauces; which were served up in Plate, accompanied with Wines of the finest Growth of the Rhine, of Moselle, Champaign, and Burgundy; and followed with a poetical Memorial importing, That all beyond is enough was too much; that all beyond Nourishment was Luxury; and that all beyond Decency was Extravagance; that Intemperance had a smiling Aspect but a dreadful Retinue, consisting of the whole Assemblage of Diseases: that Death had been their Cook, and that he had infused a slow Poison in every Sauce.

THE last Scroll seem'd to strike a momentary Damp on the Spirits of the Guests; which was soon forgot on the Appearance of a most magnificent Desert, to which not only all Europe, but both the Indies contributed, follow'd by the Wines of Tokay, the Water of Barbadoes, and every other Delicacy that Wealth without Bound could purchase. After which the Hand Writing again denounced; That Luxury is to Property what a Plague is to Health; that 'tis equally contagious and destructive; that it is the Disease of which the noblest Monarchies, and most flourishing States, have died; that when it became epidemical in a Country depending on Commerce; like theirs, a Dissolution must inevitably follow; in consequence of which, the rich and renowned City of Amsterdam would again be reduced to a fishing Village, and their Posterity become as poor as their Ancestors were, without their Continuance, Industry, or Virtue.

THE wife, reasonable, and excellent Admonitions of this notable Burgo-master, 'tis more than probable, had just as much Effect at Amsterdam, as the Repetition of them here will have in Boston. The Rigour of them was, perhaps, ridiculed by a few, the Truth acknowledged by the Majority; and the Application neglected by all. So powerful is Reason in the Field, how insignificant are the Fruits of her Victories! I will, however, take the Liberty to enforce what I have said, with a short Allegory

HE whole Magistracy (consisting of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses) undertook to keep the City in a more temperate and virtuous manner, and to provide for the Liberty of the People.