

T H E
M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E

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From the REMEMBRANCER.

EPICURISM ruinous to the State.

❀❀❀ O be fantastical, in a fine lady is privilege, in a
❀ T ❀ great lady prerogative; and so very rarely is either
❀❀❀ of them waved, that when grandeur or beauty
makes it's approaches, we expect a suitable equipage of airs and whims, and receive the fair idol with all the courtesy of England.

BUT, tho' custom and false gallantry have left the ladies in possession of a right to be ridiculous, what shall be urged in defence of any male creature, who not only adopts every effeminate foible, but glories in them; and affects to despise and ridicule the rough unpolish'd creature, who has sense and spirit enough to persist in the manly port of his forefathers?

SHOULD it be asked by any villager, who had never been out of the hundred where he was born (and none but such could ask the question), if we really had any such Epicurians amongst us, I would, if possible, persuade him to take a step to town for information; would lead him to the Park, the Play, the Opera, the C—, and the Parade; in all which places I would entertain him with a view of the scholars, gentlemen, senators and heroes of the age.

SHOULD I farther tell him, that the fate of his country was in the hands of such things as these; that they were to be the props of the present age, the fathers of the next, and perhaps the examples of many more: Would not this very peasant, knotted as he grew, blush with shame, tremble with fear, and glow with rage, at so dire a prospect?

THE politics of our great state pilots have, in this one fatal particular, become the politics of the nation. — Every gay young fellow now a days glories in being half *Christian*, half *Epicurian*; in taking no thought for tomorrow, and pursuing pleasures as his *summum bonum*. — Hence, let our m— miners sap the constitution below; let the progress they make from day to day be pointed out ever so plainly, still they dress, dance, wench, and fiddle on, as if no way concerned in the general ruin. — Hence, let nations league against us, let war burst upon us with all it's terrors, let the forceress *Peace* beset us with all her enchantments, — still they dress, dance, wench, and fiddle on; alike trusting *mercenaries* to save them, and permitting *mercenaries* to undo them.

IN storms at sea, every passenger rouses himself, and no hand is found too delicate to lend assistance; because all are embarked in the same bottom. The commonwealth is likewise a huge bark; and when endanger'd, if every man had the eyes of *Argus*, and the hands of *Briareus*, he ought to employ them all for the general preservation.

BUT we have observed a quite opposite conduct; and, provided our mess was served, and our cowl full, have on all occasions shewn an utter indifference, whether the ship sunk or swam.

He that has a command, for example, attends more to the profits and perquisites, than the duties, of his post: And he that has none, believes he has no duty to attend at all.

A WAR is the storm of a state; and from what quarter soever it blows, it ought to be esteemed a very serious interval by every body on board.

BUT when we were beset by two wars at once, I appeal to every man's own observation, whether History affords us any parallel instance of a people so thoughtless, and so secure. Did we so much as dream of any reform of manners? Did we address ourselves to reduce any one article of expence? Did we, as individuals, think it incumbent on us to make the least preparation against either of those storms, which at last rose to such a height as required all our strength and address to weather? On the contrary, did we not wallow, as before, in riot? Did we not continue the slaves of luxury? Were not ostentation and prodigality the great business of our lives? Did we not esteem every moment lost that was diverted from these favourite pursuits, and every monitor impertinent, who endeavoured to rouse us from that fatal lethargy?

PEACE, on the other hand, is that halcyon calm, in which it is supposed a matter of indifference, if not a claim of right, to throw up all concern for the public, and to give a loose to every kind of sensuality, even under the very eye of *Cæsar* himself: But when the bark is leaky, the rigging rotten, the stores exhausted, the mariner mutinous and corrupt, the officers careless and unskilful, and the very pilots studious of nothing but to run away with the ship; when such is the state of the commonwealth, even in peace itself, a life of frolick and extravagance, supineness and insensibility, is a life of iramoy.

'Tis still my sincere opinion, that no nation in *Europe* has better instincts; or in other words, is more disposed by Nature to act up to the noblest examples, than our own: Thus, among our youth, I mean such as are not debauch'd at the very threshold of life, we generally find the dawning of whatsoever contributes to elevate and ennoble human nature. But as soon as they grow intimate with the world, and observe that every individual sails in a separate bottom, with interest for their pilot, and pleasure for the only port to which they are all bound; when they find selfish maxims every where propagated, and whatever tends purely and simply to the good of society, exposed, ridicul'd, and condemn'd as little better than downright *Quixotism*; and what ought to be punished with *Bedlam*, they have not firmness enough to oppose their own sense to that of the age; but as they cannot turn the tide, give way to it, pursue the same gay voyage with the rest, and provided they steer their own bars in safety, laugh at the wreck of others.

THIS, I must own, is but a melancholy picture; but to our great misfortune, 'tis taken from the life. As therefore the present state of our public affairs is likely to be attended with very serious consequences, it is not only seasonable but necessary to give this timely warning; and call upon the patriot in particular, if there are any yet remaining who have a right to answer to that venerable name, to make good his title to it, by devoting some part of his Time to, and placing some part of his pleasure in, the service of his country.

To be of consequence to the public, a man should be amiable in private life; and whoever would publish the faults of a minister, should qualify himself to prosecute by amending his own. *Cromwell*, in his family as well as the Field, resembled a *Spartan*; having no vices of his own, he was authorised to give no quarter to those of others. Whoever therefore, whether friend or foe to those in power, would be thought to consult the welfare of *Great-Britain*, let them endeavour in earnest to put a stop to the licentious manners of the times; let them correct, if possible, the extravagance of youth, and the venality of age: 'Tis from these two fatal Springs the venom flows that has already more than half ruined our constitution; and unless these are purified, we can never hope for a thorough cure.

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