

under to Stockholm, she will not be embarrassed by being drawn into treaties which are negotiating on all hands, and 'tis for that reason M. Van Hared has been told he may put off his journey for some time, perhaps it may not take place at all, if it be true that count Bentinck will be absent five or six months. But this is a secret which will not immediately, with any certainty, be unravell'd. Notwithstanding all the pains taken by the prince stadholder, he cannot as yet restore the condition of the republic to that power and figure they were in both before and since the peace of Utrecht.

The deposed magistrates continue to have great influence over the public affairs, in the government of which are many of their relations, friends, and creatures, to whom they were great benefactors during the time they were in power. They have weight enough either to divide the assembly of the States of particular provinces, or that of the States general: by which they are so much embroiled, that many things which have been near a twelvemonth under consideration remain undetermined.

The provinces were delinquent in the payment of their respective quotas into the public treasury, at the time of the elevation of his serene highness to the stadholdership, and they continue still to be in arrear, so that the council of State is unable to supply the military chest, inasmuch that there are fifteen or eighteen months pay due to many of the regiments. 'Tis impossible, under our present circumstances, even to think of repairing the fortifications, much less to fill the magazines with necessary provisions and stores.

### A Short ESSAY ON GAMING.

WE shall not here consider the actions of men, as they are the children of divine providence, but only take a cursory view of the power and activity of human reason, in the quick apprehension and laying hold of proper opportunities, in order to discover how far outward circumstances may conduce to the raising a man's fortune: In the framing of which, we must take care to provide proper materials, before we begin to erect the structure. If we do not first prove the goodness and intrinsic worth of our design, upon the touchstone of wisdom and prudence; if we do not conceive honest intentions and noble ends; all our endeavours will be vain and fruitless; we shall only build a *Babel* of confusion, a lasting monument of our own ignorance and insincerity! For there is as much difference between action and meditation, as between dreams and things really perform'd; the one has only the appearance of sense communicated to their understanding; the other has the knowledge of every particular, by the guide of experience. Hence, therefore, it is evident, that to act without present foresight, or premeditation, is to throw ourselves entirely upon chance; and, as it were, to jump into the river with our eyes open, regardless of the eventual danger, and not so much as looking out to see if any boat lies near, to come to our assistance!

Now, among all the follies and vices of the age we live in, there is not one which shews the want of this discretion so much, to venture our sustentance upon the turn of a card, or the chance of a dye; which, it is next to an impossibility to foresee, without being guilty of fraud, or delusion, and running a hazard of a goal, or of the pillory. Nor is there any practice more detrimental to society, more prejudicial to trade and business, or productive of more pernicious consequences, as the *itch of gaming*; for, how can it be imagin'd, that a person who is infected with this malady, should have the least regard for the welfare of the community, when his heart is set upon plunder, his eyes is blinded by the insatiate lust of vice, and all his thoughts and desires terminate in that one aim? This goads him on to corrupt the innocent, to thieve the unwary, to forsake his word, and absolutely to disavow conscience; hoping, by these fatal means, to be able to rick the pockets of his companions, to enrich himself with the spoils, and to indulge his sensual appetites.

You are not ignorant, that some who have run headlong in his error, are apt to plead, in abatement of their own guilt, vain hopes of advancing their fortune, or making a short cut to the abundance of riches; but, like the man in the fable, searching at the shadow, they have lost the substance. A more prudent had they been, to have comprehended this immature access of wealth, and to have

and condemned to exile or the gibbet, they have received the just reward of their villainy.

In short, a gaming table is the school of iniquity, where all the vices of the age are taught and practis'd; the temple of *Lucifer*, in which immorality and profaneness, drunkenness and debauchery, cheating and lying, rapine and murder, have their place of residence; nor can any man enter, without great danger of infection. But, what is still worse, the distemper is of such a malignant nature, that whoever has the misfortune to catch it, remains incurable, for there is not one in a thousand that ever recovers. Age and experience, time and reflection, have in some cases reform'd numbers, and purg'd them aside from their favourite vices. The debauchee, who has been emancipated in the servites of *Bacchus* and *Venus*, is very apt, on retrospection to censure his past conduct, and will often retire to repent of his folly; but the *gambler's* years, increase his malady, age adds to his avarice, and though often illud and deluded, he continues to follow the *jack, godd's, fortune*; till his hands and eyes fail him, or death puts an end to his pursuit.

### ADVICE TO TIPPLERS.

REPENTING. Fools have oft complain'd  
That drinking *Vintners* make *lean* *Quest*.  
As they grow rich, there's nothing surer,  
Than that your *Toper* grows the poorer.  
Therefore when they are saucy grown,  
Complain not, for the fault's your own.  
'Tis nonsense at their *Prigs* to grumble,  
Since you, with ease, may make them humble.  
Spend sparingly, and you'll soon find  
Your lives more happy, them more kind.

### L O N D O N.

August 16. Last Thursday in the afternoon, at three gentlemen and two ladies were standing at the hospital gate to look at the fair; a well dress'd man came up, crying out he had been robb'd, and immediately rais'd a pretended quarrel with a person for suffering the thief to escape. In the fray some villains made shift to pick a gentleman's pocket of a silver watch, and to cut away the pocket of one of the ladies, wherein was a green purse with five guineas and some silver. One of them was immediately taken, but upon a whistle given, a posse of them, to the number of twenty or more, came up, rescued the prisoner, knock'd down several persons, and went off with huzza's in triumph, the person who pretended to be robb'd going off at their head.

### A N N A P O L I S.

We are inform'd, that a Special Commission is appointed for the Tryal of a Woman, now in *Charles County* Goal, for breaking open and robbing the Store of *Mr. William Styx*, in the said County.

Custom-House, ANNAPOLIS, Entered,  
Schooner Sparrow, Tobias Davis, from Salem;  
Schooner Friends Adventure, Mark Parton, from Bolton.  
Clear'd for Departure,  
Brigantine Patty and Molly, William Jones, for Bolton;  
Sloop Sea Flower, Jonathan Miller, for St. Christopher's.

### ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Smith's Business, lately carried on by Mr. *Saxton* at *Howard*, at the Shop near the *Indian King*, in the City of *Annapolis*, is now carried on by me the Subscriber at the Shop above said, where People may have their Work readily and well do'd.

I have also an excellent Wheelwright, who serves his Time in *London*, and is as compleat a Workman as any in *America*. Any Person having occasion for any Thing relating to the above Trades, may be supplied therewith. I propose, to take Corn for Work, at Two Shillings the Bushel, to be delivered to me in the said City.

For *BARBADOS* directly,  
The Schooner RUSSELL, JOHN M. ...

For freight or Passage apply to Mr. ...  
And any Gentlemen wanting Freight from *Barbadoes* to ...  
and on per voyage work, may be had in full View.