

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

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, October 9, 1751.

The Conclusion of the Proposals, for Uniting the Kingdoms of GREAT-BRITAIN and IRELAND, which was begun in Gazette N<sup>o</sup>. 335.

**W**E might here congratulate the *Irish* upon one Duty, which, it is hoped, may effectually put a Stop to their ruinous Trade with *France*, and amount almost to a Prohibition of *French* Wines. Their Lands will soon be better employed, than in grazing Cattle for foreign Exportation; or whatever they shall think proper to feed for that Purpose, besides what may be necessary for our own Colonies, *Jamaica*, and the *Leeward* Islands, the *French* will be obliged to purchase at their own Price. Whereas at present they not only send their Beef and Butter and Money, but, it is to be feared, even their Wool, for a most destructive Commodity. Such Trade is not merely unprofitable. It is pernicious in a moral, as well as mercantile Sense. Wines, in large Quantities, are not a simple Commodity. They bring with them every Excess of Luxury, Riot, and Diseases. And altho' the Gentlemen of *Ireland* will lose many jovial Hours of Mirth and Good Humour, yet we think too highly of their Patriotism to doubt, that they will cheerfully resign them to the Good of their Country.

But however the Duties of Import and Export may be rated, the Land-tax, the most formidable of all others, will be laid according to the present Valuation of Land; consequently the raised Rents, which may be justly expected from an Union, will never be liable to be taxed. Yet as no public Benefit, however great, should be purchased, without absolute Necessity, by doing Injury to private Persons, there is one particular Distress, which deserves to be considered. There are some Estates in *Ireland*, which are let upon Leases of Lives, renewable for ever; consequently, whatever Advantages the Tenants may gain by an Union, the Landlord will be obliged to pay the Land-tax, without being able to raise the Income of his Estate.

Among other Schemes to redress such Grievances, the following may merit some Regard. The Crown-Rents, and Quit Rents, which these Estates already pay, and which are, in Truth a Land-tax, altho' under another Name, may be remitted. But such Distresses, as this are inconsiderable. It is mentioned only to shew, with how much Equity this great Scheme may be executed.

It was not intended in this Paper to propose any Plan of Equalities upon which an Union might be formed. They may, without Difficulty, be fairly and equitably stated. The Writer intended only to shew how desirable, how equally advantageous such a Measure may be to both Nations. Let him, however, be forgiven, if he presume, tho' with all due Modesty, to offer his Sentiments upon a very delicate Part of his Subject, that of bringing the Lords of *Ireland* into the *British* Parliament. When the Number shall be fixed, which can only be done by a Scale of Equalities formed on a Proportion of Taxes, let them not be elected every Parliament, as the Peers of *Scotland* are. If his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to consent to it, let the Honour of sitting in the *British* House of Peers, with all other Privileges of the Peerage, be granted for Life to the Persons first chosen in their own Country, whether they be chosen there by Ballot or Election. When any of them dies, let another be appointed in the same Manner. Thus all Inconveniencies of frequent Elections, Disputes, Quarrels, Animosities will be, in a great measure, avoided. The Peers of *Ireland* will be more united with those of *Great Britain*

they will come over independent of the Caprice, Resentments and Inconstancy of their Electors; they will bring with them those unbiassed, uninfluenced Sentiments, as are worthy of a *British* Parliament.

But indeed there is little Apprehension, that they will bring with them any other Sentiments of Loyalty and Liberty, than those upon which a limited Monarchy is founded. There is, in general, this Difference between the Subjects of the two Kingdoms, that the Protestants of *Ireland* are more clear and unmixed in their Zeal for the present Government. Their Loyalty to their Prince, and their Love of their Country, are yet untainted with that unhappy Distinction between Court and Country. I had almost said, that unmeaning Distinction. A Prince, who knows our Constitution, if not irritated by an unnecessary, malignant Opposition to his Measures, and the People, if not inflamed by the bad Arts of a few designing, ambitious, turbulent Spirits, will easily distinguish, and naturally pursue the public Good. Their Interests are truly inseparable. They should not be supposed capable of being divided, and ought not to be distinguished away by Party or by Factions. At least, it is a Contradiction to the Principles of Patriotism, certainly to those of Liberty, to enlist in a Party against the Court; to think it a Breach of Engagements ever to imagine it right in its Measures, or give a Vote in its Favour. As if his Majesty were the only Person in his Dominions, incapable of knowing his own Interests, and his Ministers were always most infallibly either weak or wicked. May we not hope, that the Gentlemen of *Ireland*, who shall be chosen into either House of Parliament, as they will come disengaged and unbiassed, will have some Influence in preventing the fatal Consequences of these unhappy Divisions; this unnecessary Spirit of Opposition.

Let us now acknowledge, that there is one Difficulty, in the Execution of this great Plan, which yet seems insuperable: For if no private, single Person should be injured for the sake of whatever Advantages to the Public, it is with infinite Concern we mention a most venerable Body of Men, the Right Reverend the Lords Bishops, of *Ireland*, as likely to suffer most essentially by an Union, and without any possible Equivalent to be paid them. Even the public Good must suffer with them. To their Eloquence in the House of Lords of *Ireland*; to their Wisdom, that Nation is in a great measure indebted for all the salutary Laws made there. They would, undoubtedly, bring with them, into a *British* House of Peers, the same Wisdom, the same Eloquence and Integrity; but it were an Outrage to their sacred Character, to propose bringing them so far from the better Business of their holy Function, as it would be Cruelty to expose them to Voyages and Journeys, hazardous and expunging. I doubt not, that in a just Contempt of the Vanities of this World, they will gladly resign these troublesome Offices of Greatness, which their Obedience to the Law alone could oblige them to accept, and hereafter place their true Dignity in adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by the Influence of their Example; and Practising.

Other Difficulties may probably arise in forming, and forming in executing a Plan of such Extent; But when we consider, in how short a Time the Union with *Scotland* was brought to Perfection, in Opposition to a natural Dislike to it, an ancient Antipathy between the Kingdoms; a total Difference of Laws, Religion, Customs, and Manners, we should not be discouraged from attempting a Scheme, in which none of these Difficulties appear; which promises such Advantages to both Nations, and so much greater than either can enjoy in a separate State.