

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE, Numb. 437

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, September 20, 1753.

From The SOUTH CAROLINA GAZETTE, dated the 30th of July, 1753.

SIR,

A FEW Weeks ago I had a Letter from a Friend in the Country, pressing me for some Account of ELECTRICITY, of the Structure of the Leyden Bottle, of the Use and Effect of sharp Points when opposed either to the Prime Conductor or Electrified Clouds, and particularly for an Account of the Electrical Kite, &c. Not being equal to this Task imposed by my enquiring Friend, I lent him the Letters of the modest and ingenious Mr. FRANKLIN to Mr. COLLINGSWORTH, F. R. S. and the same well authenticated Relation of the Kite, which was lately published in one of your Papers, with the Names of some of the Persons present at Dr. LINNÆUS's Experiment; and to these, with a few Remarks of my own, I referred him for Information: And withal told him, that many sharp Points were now erect in Charles-Town, and that hitherto (as far as I could learn) they had not been productive of any noxious Effects; on the contrary, that altho', of late, the lowering Sky and heavy Clouds have threaten'd much Thunder and Lightning, yet, excepting once, we have had no near, and consequently no dangerous, Effusion of Lightning.—With regard to that Flash which lately splin'd the Mast of a Schooner at Mr. Motte's Wharf, I informed him, that it darted from a Cloud (not a very large one) which came towards the Town from the N. E. in which Direction we had no sharp Point communicating with Earth or Water, whereby to attract and carry off its Fluid.—Had the Motion of the Cloud been from N. or N. W. possibly Mr. Wragg's or Dr. Linnæus's sharp Points would have robbed the Cloud of its Charge, and prevented Execution on the Mast.—I observed, that as this Cloud was not a very large one, its Atmosphere was probably not so extensive, as in any extreme Part thereof to be within the Sphere of Attraction of any of those Points.—Hence I accounted, by Conjecture, for that one Stroke of Lightning, and remark'd that this single Instance, so circumstanced, instead of furnishing an Argument against the Power and Efficacy of sharp Points, is rather a demonstrative Proof that more are wanting, especially in the circumjacent Parts of the Town.—That if the Iron Spindle on the Top mast of the Schooner had terminated in a sharp Point, communicating with the Water by Iron or Brass Wire, it is more than probable, that the Mast would have thereby been preserved from Damage; and that the Cloud would have gently discharged its Lightning, without any Crack, or Explosion.—I concluded my Letter by observing, that many of our Acquaintance were strong Anti Electricians; and that some of them from a religious Principle, had censured the erecting of sharp Points as a presumptuous meddling with Heaven's Artillery; and that instead of drawing down Safety, they wish'd it might not be a means of drawing down the divine Displeasure.—To this Letter my Friend savoured me with an Answer; but as probably his Animadversions, as well as my own, upon this new Subject, are too weak to be exposed, I must for the present keep them at home: Only Sir, I shall inform you, that my Friend is enraptured with Mr. FRANKLIN, is persuaded into a strong belief of that Gentleman's Electrical Tenets, and is convinced, by his Experiments, of the Truth and Ingenuity of his Hypothesis.—He concludes his Letter in these Words.—“The Author of my Being has been pleas'd to afford me a certain Portion of Reason and Intelligence, and has implanted in my Nature a strong and active Principle of Self-Love or Preservation. Having now, by the Help of my Reason, so investigated the Truth of this new Hypothesis of Mr. FRANKLIN, that I am satisfied of the Causes of Thunder and Lightning; how the flashing Clouds strike Terror and frequently pour Destruction upon us, and by what means thro' the divine Blessing

we may be relieved from this awful Danger, can I hesitate a Moment, in gratifying my inherent desire of Preservation, by erecting the salutary Points? Presumptuous, it can never be, unless the Points are used in Defiance of Omnipotence: A Thought too big with Impiety to be harboured in the most abandoned Breast; a Thought which no one can entertain, who is not equally sunk in Ignorance and Depravity. I apply sharp Points as a Remedy, against a partial, a natural Evil, as I would apply an Antidote against Poison; and when, by a rational Enquiry, I become persuaded of the Virtues of both, that the one is as likely to prevent, as the other is to remove, the Evil; not to tear the Point, would be equally irrational and Improvident, as not to apply the Antidote. Those Anti Electricians which you speak of, and who pretend to be actuated in their Censure by a religious Principle, would do well to consider, that the Fruit of Religion is Charity; that Charity, which inclines the Mind rather to suspect its own Lack of Penetration, to blame the Remissness of its own Researches after Truth, than judge unfavourable of the Conduct of others, especially in Matters doubtful or intricate: And I leave it to their own Reflection, whether a rational Enquirer after, and Embasser of the Truth, or he, who wilfully remains in Ignorance or obstinately resists Conviction, and breaks the Bounds of Charity, is most likely to incur the divine Displeasure. Let us, my Friend, raise our sharp Points: Let us at the same Time bless God, for the new and wonderful Discovery, so beneficial to the Inhabitants of this and every warm Climate; and while Nature puts on her sable Dress, when Lightnings flash and Thunders roll, and Earth and Air is trembling with the Shock, let the renewed Goodness of God excite our highest Praise, and point our Souls in grateful Adoration to the great Preserver of Men.

Yours, &c. BENEVOLUS.

BARBADOES, May 8.

WHEREAS, some malicious Persons have reported, that the surprizing Account of the Death of a Shark, by the Hands of a common Sailor, mentioned in the Natural History of Barbadoes, Page 313, 314. was a Fact that wanted further Confirmation.

“About the latter End of QUEEN ANNE's Reign, Captain John Beams, Master of a Vessel, called the York-Mer-bant, arrived in Carlisle Bay, in Barbadoes, from England: Part of her Cargo consisted of Coals; as soon as these were unloaded, some of the Sailors ventur'd to wash in the Sea: Soon after, the rest that were on Board, saw a large Shark, swimming towards those in the Water; and immediately gave them Notice of their threatened Danger: Upon this they swam towards their Boat, and all reach'd it,—one excepted; him, (tho' very near the Boat) the Shark overtook, and grasping him by the Small of the Back, cut him asunder, swallowing the lower half of him; the Remainder, the Sailors took up, and carried with them to the Vessel.—A Friend and Comrade of the Deceased, who was on Board, saw the dreadful Spectacle with Horror and Indignation: As it is natural for such ravenous Fish to return, if they leave any Part of their Prey: The above mentioned Friend of the Deceased expected it, and was observ'd, eagerly to whet a large, sharp pointed Dutch Knife, rashly vowing that he would either be entomb'd with his Friend, or, by conquering, kill the Shark. The Shark soon returned, and the too daring Sailor contrary to all Persuasions, leap'd overboard, and hasten'd to meet him; and, diving, caught the Shark below the upper Fins, and continued to give him repeated Stabs in the Belly.—The Shark, thus depriv'd of all Power of hurting him, except by often plunging under Water, and as often appearing bloody upon the Surface,

the Sailor still keeping his Hold of him; 'til at length, the Shark near expiring, made towards the Shore, and his Conqueror with him; there he cut him in Pieces, and taking the swallowed Part of his Friend's Body on Board, he put the sever'd Carcass into a Coffin and gave it a decent Burial.”

I, the under written, had the above Relation, from Mr. John Freck, an Inhabitant of St. James's Parish, in this Island, who was then on Board Capt. Beams, receiving some Coals from him, and was Eye and Ear Witness of the Facts above related.

And, lest such an Instance of Intrepidity, tho' rash, might be buried in Oblivion, I related it, as above, to the Revd. Mr. GRIFFITH HUGHES.

I Do, hereby, certify that, the several Parts of the above Narrative, relating to the Shark, in the Natural History of Barbadoes, mentioned by the Revd. Mr. GRIFFITH HUGHES, I had from Mr. John Freck, born in Bristol, and was an Eye Witness to this Fact, being then on Board at the Time. HILLARY ROWE.

HAGUE, May 22.

AN Affair has lately happened in the Province of Overysel, which shews that there are still some Patriots left, who will not submit to the Caprices of the Cabal, which would influence her Royal Highness to take Steps contrary to the Constitution, and the Rights of their respective States. The Burghers of the little Town of Steenwick, having lodged some Complaints against their Magistrates, before the States of the Province, their Noble Mightinesses appointed a Commission to go and inform themselves upon the Spot, of the Grounds of these Complaints. This Application of the Burghers to the States of the Province; instead of the Prince's Governante, was very proper, and likewise customary; but the Cabal, finding it would not turn out as they would have it, insinuated to her Royal Highness, that it was a Proceeding contrary to the Right and Authority of the Stadtholdership; though by the Bye, the Stadtholder in this, and all other Provinces, is nothing more than the first Minister of the States, and has no farther Authority in their Assembly than to give his Advice. Her Royal Highness not being acquainted with this, wrote a Letter concerning the Affair in October last to the Deputies of the Province, who reported it to the Assembly, which they accordingly did soon after, and were of Opinion, “That in order to clear up the Affair, it would be proper to lay before her Royal Highness the Report of the Commission which was sent to Steenwick, together with all the Letters and Papers concerning it; and with these a Letter to her Royal Highness, to assure her that the States of the Province, in appointing the said Commission to enquire into the Grounds of the Complaints made by the Inhabitants, had not the least Intention to infringe upon the Authority of the Stadtholder, of which they hoped her Royal Highness would be perfectly convinced, after having duly examined the said Report, and the Papers annexed to it; and that with regard to any Step which the Regency of Steenwick might have taken in this, contrary to the Regulations of his late Serene Highness of glorious Memory, they were desirous that her Royal Highness should give such Orders, as she in her great Wisdom should think fit.”

Now it is to be observed, that in the Letter above mentioned, which her Royal Highness wrote to the Deputies, the Right which the States claim of receiving the Complaints of the Inhabitants, and redressing them; is contested, and made a Matter of doubt, which no Member of the State can give up, if he has any regard to his Oath or his Duty, because it would strike at the Foundation of the Government, and overthrow the Regulations which they have sworn to observe. The Opinion of the Commissaries, and the Letter sent with it to the Princess

at the Plantation Ward Key, in St. Mary's ever since May last, taken bearing Heifer; she has some part of her Face, and Breast under her Belly, her two hind Tail white, and is unmarked. ve her again, on proving his Charge.

the Subscriber, on in Annapolis, A WINE by the RUM, and MELASSES, // towards SUGAR by the BEER by the Hamp- good Turkey and West India e. at very cheap Rates. Samuel Middleton.

BICKNELL, ER, in ANNAPOLIS, gives Notice to a who want to have any SAILS os, Snows, Brigs, Schooners, ay depend on having as good as cheap, and as well fitted, Europe; having already done Satisfaction of his Employers, Ship, two Brigantines, one er, for Mr. Galloway; two e, for Dr. Stewart; one Ship, oop, for Mr. Roberts; one dgey and Mr. Sligh; and a r Mr. Creagh, and many o- ntion. His Price for Work d. Sterling, or equal to that he Job, as he can agree. He ottoms, if the Employer finds f he finds it, at 20s. And epend on being served with

the Servant, William Bicknell, Servant Man from London, and Seines or Nets.

IMPORTED, JOHN WHITE, from Lon- OLD by the Subscriber, at APOLIS, at very little Profit Retale, for Bills of Exchange, Money, or Tobacco, E Assortment of Eu- India GOODS, Sail Cloth of all Sizes from half a hun- ed, Cables, running Rigging, ne, all Kinds of Lines, and so several Parcels of Cutlery, boat 16 l. prime Cost. Stephen West.

AS Madam Margate ceased, by her last Will, did pounds Sterling to such of her ern Shore as Richard Bennett, direct; and in Case he should not thereof, then to such of ould direct; and as Mr. Ben- whom the said Money should unknown to me who of her most necessitous Condition; to desire her said Relations to apolis, in the second Week of emily, in order that I may of the said Money, as near as to the Intent of the Testatrix. Edward Lloyd.

AS there is a Va- Master in Queen Anne's County professing himself a Member land, and capable of teaching atics, Arithmetic, and good to the Visitors of said School, ch Encouragement as the Law hols will support them in. Order, than Wright, Reg.

in Charles-street; ENTS of a moderate Week after for Con-