

Baltimore County, Feb. 18, 1754.
EAS BENJAMIN
 K L I N, Esq; of Philadelphia,
 me his Attorney in Fact, for the
 of this Province, for manifesting his
 is therefore to require all Persons
 on this Side of the Bay, to make
 of their respective Debts, else they
 ible, from
 Their humble Servant,
William Young.

able to LAW,
 is hereby given, That
 at the Plantation of *Henry Owing*,
 County, taken up as Strays, the three
 ures, viz.
 Mare, branded on one of her Ear.

ny Mare, branded on her near Ear,
 as some Saddle Spots on each Side
 long Switch Tail, and is a natural
 n Bay Mare, branded on both her
 a Horse Shoe, and has had fece
 of her right Ear.
 or Owners may have them again,
 perty, and paying Charges.

E is hereby given, That
 scribe will give constant Attendance
 in Annapolis, on every Wednesday
 before the Tenth of April Inst to
 Money from the Inhabitants of the
 due from them for Public Levies, or
 Account, to
 Their humble Servant,
athan Hammond, Sheriff
 of Anne Arundel County.

CTORS, who are not
 d with Books and Notes for the pre-
 y be supplied with any Quantities of
Jonas Green.

ME of a small LOTTERY;
 the Sum of 490 Pieces of Eight, for
 public Wharf at Baltimore-Town.

Pieces of Eight.	Total.
of 100 are	200
of 50 are	150
of 30 are	90
of 20 are	120
of 15 are	150
of 10 are	200
of 5 are	250
of 3 are	1836
drawn	7
drawn	7
	3010

ickets at 2 Pieces of Eight, are 3500

For the public Wharf 490
 rome there is not one Blank and a
 Nothing more wanting than a public
 e Town, where the Trade is greatly
 in a few Years, it is not to be doubt-
 e will readily Adventure in this Lot-
 e Well-wishers to the Prosperity of the
 rovince.
 he Tickets being already engaged, the
 Lottery will be full in a very short
 ich public Notice will be given, and
 of Drawing.
 the Prizes will be published in the
 Gazette, as soon as the Drawing is

ving Persons are appointed Managers,
 be under Oath, for the true Perfec-
 of Trust, viz. Messrs. *John Strover*,
John Moore, *Charles Coxall*, *Wil-*
Nicholas Rogers, *John Ridge*, *N.*
William Lux, and *Brian Phipps*, Jun.
 be had of any of the Managers, and
 T-OFFICE, in Annapolis.

Office in Charles-street;
 PUBLICATIONS of a moderate
 Price per Week after for Con-

[Numb. 466.]

THE
MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, April 11, 1754.

From the GENERAL EVENING POST.
 The FREE ENQUIRER.
 NUMBER XIX.

To T. TRUEMAN, Esq;
 S I R,

AS I am a hearty Well-wisher to your Paper, I have been of late considering whether I have any Thing in my Power to contribute towards it. I have thought, that, probably, you would not scruple to admit from Time to Time something of the Philosophical Kind, as that may be the Means of agreeably diversifying your Readers Entertainment. Whether what I now send you of this Kind is worth your Acceptance and Publication, I submit entirely to your Judgment. The Subject of it is COMETS; and perhaps, to some of your Readers, the following Thoughts concerning them may not be quite unacceptable.

The Time approaches, when the Thoughts and Attention of Mankind will be generally turned to the Subject of those amazing Phenomena, by the Expectation of one, whose Return and Appearance that great Astronomer, Dr. HALLEY, has shewn we have Reason to look for in a very short Time.

That COMETS are permanent and durable Bodies, and not, as was formerly believed, Meteors in the Air, and casual and temporary Collections of Vapour, or other perishing Materials; that they observe the Sun as the Center and Regulator of their Motions, describe regular Curves, and are governed by the same general Law of Gravitation with the rest of the Planetary System; these are Principles now established on such Evidence as all, who understand it, must own to be unquestionable.

Who can without Amazement think of those stupendous Bodies, hurled, like a more dreadful Kind of Thunder-Bolts, by the Arm of Omnipotence; brandishing their fiery Trains, which sweep half the æthereal Regions; the various Directions and Planes of their Motions; the Distances to which they fly; the incredible Rapidity with which in one Part of their Orbits some of them move, and Slowness in another; and the Desolation they threaten to any Planets that may happen to lie too near their Way? I have now chiefly in my View the COMET of 1680, called the NEWTONIAN COMET, whose Tail extended through a Space almost as long as from hence to the Sun, and which is well known to describe a very excentric Ellipse, thought to revolve in 575 Years, and, by Sir ISAAC NEWTON's Calculation, was heated, when nearest to the Sun, Two Thousand Times more than Iron when just going to melt.

It may deserve to be particularly mentioned, that this COMET affords us an Instance of the swiftest and slowest of all Planetary Motions that we have any Knowledge of. When in its Perihelion, or least Distance from the Sun, it moved at the Rate of One Million Fifty Seven Thousand Miles in an Hour, or Three Hundred Miles in the Time we can pronounce one, two, three; but, by the Time it has ascended to its greatest Distance, it will be so much retarded, that it will move only Forty-five Miles in an Hour, or about Twenty two Yards in the Time in which before it moved Three Hundred Miles. At the Distance of the Earth from the Sun it moved at the Rate of Eighty two Thousand one Hundred Miles in an Hour, which is also the Velocity of every COMET (supposed to describe a Parabola), at this Distance. It is to this COMET that, with most Propriety, we can apply the following Lines:

Hadst thou not seen the COMET's flaming Flight!
To illustrious Strangers, passing, Terror bids
On gazing Nations, from his fiery Train;
Of Length enormous, takes his ample round
Thro' Depths of Æther; casts unnumber'd Worlds
Of more than solar Glory; doubts with
Heaven's mighty Capts; and then revisits Earth;
From the long Travels of a Thousand Years!

The COMET expected in 1758 will in its Perihelion get within the Orbit of Venus; and it seems possible, that, in some of its future Revolutions, it may come near enough to the Earth to have considerable Effects upon it.

A very great Writer on these Subjects observes, that COMETS give us a Proof that the World can not have existed from Eternity: For so much of their Substance is continually going off by their Tails, that, had they been revolving from Eternity, they must long ago have been entirely exhausted. But there is little Occasion to have Recourse to COMETS to be convinced of this Truth. It may be more worth our Notice, that their moving in such different Planes, and Orbits so excentric, thro' all Parts of the Heavens, and in all Directions, while the Planets move always in one Direction, and nearly in circular Orbits, and the same Plane; demonstrates, that the present Constitution of the World is not derived from Necessity, but must be ascribed to the voluntary Appointment of an intelligent and free Cause.

What the particular Nature, Use, and Design of COMETS are, and whether they all of them describe Curves which return into themselves, and thus perform constant and stated Revolutions round the Sun, it is far from easy to determine. I am almost disposed to look upon them as containing rather the Rudiments and Materials of future habitable Worlds, than as already actually such. Why may they not be Bodies that formerly, like our Earth, moved in Orbits nearly circular, and were the Receptacles of various Tribes of Creatures; and may be again restored and renovated, formed into a different State and Order, and made the Seats of a new Succession of Inhabitants, being at present in a Kind of intermediate and chaotic State?

'Tis certain, this is very agreeable to what we see of the Course of Nature, and State of Things; since most material Substances, that we are acquainted with, pass through a great many different States, and exist in a Variety of different Forms; and very frequently these Changes regularly follow and produce one another; the Destruction of one Form giving Birth to another through numberless Successions, with a seeming Suspension of Form and Workmanship taking Place for a while between. Why may not something analogous to this prevail among the greater Bodies of the Universe, as well as the smaller?

By all that we can observe of COMETS, they seem to be in a strange State of Confusion, and more fitly to be denominated Chaos's than inhabited Worlds. They bear little Resemblance in any Respect to those Bodies which, we cannot doubt, are designed and fitted up for the Reception and Residence of living Beings.

Would it be unreasonable to imagine farther, that this Earth, and even all its fellow Planets, may have been originally in this very State of COMETS, and may again, in their several successive Periods, be returned into it, and their Places taken up by other Bodies, now COMETS?

We have, surely, no Reason to suppose that any of the Planets will, or can, continue always in their present State and Orbits, or that the Ends of their Being, disposed and constituted as they now are, can be such as will never be attained. They are therefore to undergo a Change, and that Change, for the same Reason, to be succeeded by another, and so on.

That our Earth, in particular, was once a COMET, and that the *Mosaic* Account of the Creation is only an Account of its Reduction from that State to its present habitable Form, seems very reasonable to suppose. How well does the Description given of its State antecedent to this we now behold, answer to the State of a COMET (*Gen. 1. 3*) *And the Earth was without Form, and Void, and Darkness was on the Face of the Deep*—*Revelation*; and universal Tradition, likewise inform us that an *End* will hereafter be put to its present Form; and a general Dissolution

of it happen. Perhaps this may be again converting it into its pristine cometic State. These Words of ST. JOHN, *Rev. xx* where he gives an Account of the End of the World and the general Judgment, very naturally express this, and cannot, perhaps, with equal Propriety, be applied to any other Notion: *And I saw a great white Throne, and him that sat upon it, from whose Face the Earth and the Heaven (that is, our aerial Heaven or Atmosphere) fled away, and there was found no Place for them.*

The Path of the NEWTONIAN COMET, in its Descent to the Sun, lies directly in the Way of the Earth, and if, in some of its future Returns, we suppose it to come so near the Earth, as to impinge upon it, the possible Consequence may, according to the known Laws of Nature, prove the turning the COMET itself out of its present cometary State and Motion, into those of a Planet; and by impelling the Earth toward the Sun, the setting it on Fire, and changing its Motion into that of a COMET.

What I have said may possibly be rendered somewhat more credible, by adding, that the great Bodies of the Universe, while in this intermediate State of Dissolution and Ruin, may answer many very important Purposes: Such as, by passing near the several Planets, causing, in different Circumstances, Conflagrations in some, Deluges in others, or any other Changes and Effects, that may be fit, and which the Ends of Providence may require; especially, it may be presumed that much of the Matter of their Tails (which it is not certain that they retain long after quitting the Planetary Regions) being necessarily left behind, will be attracted to the Planets, and mixing with their Fluids and Atmospheres; may be the appointed Means of recruiting them when wasted and impaired, of supplying them with the necessary vivifying Spirit, or in some other Way, inconceivable to us, of influencing their Nature and Qualities, and producing Alterations in them that may be of the greatest Consequence.

But, after all, I do not chuse to say, that even to the seeming disorderly State of COMETS, and the inconceivable Extremities of Heat and Cold through which they pass, some Kind of Inhabitants may not be adapted. Some of those tremendous Bodies, perhaps, may be Stages of Punishment to vicious Beings. *Some of them*, I say; for I would hope that there are not many such dreadful Scenes of Misery necessary under the Divine Government. I would hope, that in the Variety of the Universe there are not many such fallen, degenerate Orders of Beings, as we, who inhabit this Globe. Shall I add, (what is indeed foreign to my present Purpose) that supposing the Case of our Species to be in this Respect singularly unhappy, it may likewise be inferred, that singular Methods of Treatment, and extraordinary Interpositions; may have been the more proper. But I only drop this Query as *passant*.
 I am, &c.

LEGHORN, November 25:

THE Master of a Vessel just arrived from the Coast of Africa, reports, that Capt. Prepaux, a Frenchman, who was taken about the End of last Month by an Algerine Xebeque and carried to Algiers, has been very barbarously used by the Commander of that Xebeque. The rapacious Pyrate having found only 1000 Piasters in a Chest, made use of the most violent Methods to oblige Capt. Prepaux to discover the rest of his Treasure, which had been concealed in the Hold of the Ship, and consisted of 7000 Piasters. The unhappy Frenchman being arrived at Algiers, and brought before the Dey, was sentenced to be hanged, on Pretence, true or false, that he had refused to exhibit his Passport to the Corsair: However, at the Instances of a Turk, the Sentence was changed to 1200 Blows on the Soles of his Feet, 100 of which were