

[Numb. 501.]

THE
MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, December 12, 1754.

Mr. GREEN,

YOU have inclosed the late Earl of Peterborough's Translation of one of the Speeches of Demosthenes, who was a sincere Lover of his Country, a great Statesman, the most perfect Orator of his own Age, and, perhaps, the greatest that ever lived, to the Athenians his Countrymen; occasioned by Philip, King of Macedon, declaring War against the City Olynthus, a Neighbour and new Ally of Athens, but otherwise a State independent of it. The Orator undertakes the Cause of the Olynthians, and pleads strongly for sending Succours to them; and shows that the Safety of Athens was included in that of Olynthus; that so long as the Olynthians were safe, Philip could never invade Attica; but that if Olynthus should fall a Sacrifice to Philip, the Way to Attica would then be open to him. And had he met with the deserved Success among his Countrymen, and the other independent States of Greece, in his Endeavours towards an Union amongst themselves, the better to exert their utmost Efforts for the Preservation of their Liberties against the daily Encroachments of that artful and powerful Neighbour upon these States separately, Greece in general, and Athens in particular, had not lost their Liberties, nor fallen a Prey to his Treachery and boundless Ambition, as they very soon afterwards did.

It may not, perhaps, be displeasing to some of your Readers to know how this great Man spoke upwards of 2000 Years ago, upon the Dangers of his Country: And tho' much of the Spirit of the Original must necessarily have evaporated in translating from the Greek into English, yet, as under this Disadvantage, it still retains a very great Strength and sound Sense, it may not, even in this Dress, be undeserving their Perusal and Consideration.

Yours, &c. A. B.

The first OLYNTHIAN.

I AM persuaded, O Men of Athens, nothing can be more agreeable to your Desires, at this Time, than the Proposal of some Expedient, which may secure a happy Event to the public Affairs now under Deliberation. They therefore who are ready to give their Opinions upon this Occasion, may expect a favourable Hearing, whether they lay before you such Thoughts as are well weighed and digested, or such as offer themselves upon the Spot, and arise from the Course of your Debates: For nothing is more likely to direct to a right Choice, than the exposing to your View, Variety of Prospects, and offering many Expedients to your Consideration.

The present Opportunity, Athenians, calls upon you, and tells you, this is the Time effectually to provide for the Safety of your Allies, if you have any Regard to your own Safety. But so far am I from knowing whether you incline to follow the Advice, that I doubt whether you are disposed to hear it as you ought; but this I know, it will not be sufficient that you resolve upon a War (to avoid those Mistakes, which have already cost you so dear), tho' you arm with the utmost Diligence for the Relief of the Olynthians; you must, at the same Time, take this farther Care, that they be speedily acquainted with your Resolutions and Preparations, and that the Presence of your Embassadors may give them Courage from the Expectation of your Succours. I fear, if this be neglected, the cunning King of Macedon, so well instructed in all the Arts of managing Opportunities, he who knows so well when to recede, and when to push his Advantages, and whose Threats alone are to be depended upon; this Prince, I fear, may impute as a Crime to your Allies, the very Measures you take for their Relief, because they are so disproportionate and slow; and by turning himself every Way, and into every Shape, he may frustrate the Hopes you entertain from the present lucky Posture of Affairs.

However, this Encouragement you have, Athenians, That the very Power of your Enemy, which

appears so formidable, gives you a Prospect of Success. It must be confessed to be no small Advantage to Philip, towards his Conquests, that he can impart or conceal his Secrets as he thinks fit, that he can unite in himself the Sovereign and the General, and, at the same Time, be the sole Disposer of his Treasures; and that he can give Life and Vigour by his Presence to all his military Operations. This enables him, I confess, to form and put in Execution those speedy and just Measures, which secure Success to great Enterprises: But then these Advantages, which make it so easy for him to conquer, are the strongest Obstacles to the Treaty, which he would willingly conclude with the Olynthians; they leave no Room in the Hearts of the People for that Trust and Confidence, which he would only make use of to betray them. They see plainly, they do not take up Arms for the Sake of Glory, or to save some Part of their Dominions; but are convinced, the War is necessary to prevent the total Ruin of their Country, and the eternal Loss of Liberty. They are not ignorant, how he rewarded those, who treacherously opened to him the Gates of Amphipolis and Pydna. In a Word, what can give more just Suspensions to a Commonwealth, than the too near Neighbourhood of a potent Monarchy?

These Considerations, and many others, justify me, O Men of Athens, when I take upon me to tell you, now or never you must turn your Thoughts entirely to War; now you must rouse your Spirits; now you must sacrifice, with Pleasure, Part of your Estates to secure the Rest: In short, you must be wanting to yourselves in nothing that may be requisite to the common Safety. Have you any Reason, or the least Pretence, to be excused from so doing? What have you more earnestly desired, than a Difference, betwixt Philip and the Olynthians? What, by the general Voice of the People, ought to have been purchased at any Rate, That, Fortune alone hath brought about, and given a Turn to Affairs highly to your Advantage. For, if they had engaged in a War, by your Persuasions, against the common Enemy; if they had only espoused your Interest; an Animosity, inspired by others, might, perhaps, have cooled, and they might have been less resolute in a Quarrel, they would not have looked upon as their own. But now, when united to you by a self-interested Revenge against Philip, when confederated with you by a Resentment, which the bloody Injuries, received from him, have created, and must continue, what fear is there they should ever go back? No, this Alliance must be cemented for ever by their Apprehensions, and by their Resentments. Let us make use then of this Advantage, so long desired; and speedily lay hold of these happy Moments, made precious by the Loss of so many Opportunities.

Can that Day be remembered with sufficient Regret, when, entirely forgetting your own Interest, after the Eubœan Expedition, you rejected the Offers of Hircax and Stratoles, Embassadors from Amphipolis? who, from the Place from whence I speak, used their utmost Solicitations, only in order to put their City into your Hands: Nevertheless, you were deaf and inexorable. Then you might have been Masters of Amphipolis, if you would have been as kind to yourselves as to the Eubœans, and as warm in your own Interest as you had been in theirs: Then, only by accepting the offered Advantage, you might have prevented all those Mischiefs, which have followed your Refusal. In what a fatal Tranquillity did you remain, when you received the News of the Sieges of Pydna, Potidea, Methone, and Pagasa, and other Places which I omit naming, to avoid the odious Recital! You are now sufficiently punished by the Consequences of your Insensibility; for, had you sent speedy Relief to the first of those Places, when besieged, as the common Rules of Prudence and Policy required, at this Day you would have found Philip more gentle and complying; but, by perpetually neglecting the Present, and vainly hoping that Time

would adjust Matters, and bring them to a better Issue, you have raised that Prince to such a Pitch of Glory, you have established him in that high Degree of Power, that no King of Macedon could ever hope to have arrived at. And yet you need not despair, if you have Courage enough to make use of the present Opportunity, the Olynthians offer you, which restores the Probability of those Advantages, you have so often neglected. Who can pretend not to see the particular Protection of the Gods in Blessings so often offered? And if we make a just Estimate of the repeated Favours of Heaven, what Soul but must be touched with the highest Gratitude? For, to what can we impute our Losses, but to the little Concern we have shewed to prevent them, while a superior Power, never ceasing to protect us, does yet point out a short and secure Way of repairing all our former Mistakes, by accepting the Alliances which are now proposed, and has given us this farther Opportunity of providing for our Safety, and retrieving our Reputation, after having so long deferred our Ruin?

But we may compare the right Use of favourable Conjunctions to the proper Use of Riches. As the frugal Man, who knows both how to enjoy and to secure his Wealth, is sensible of the Favours of Fortune, while the wasteful Prodigal loses at once his Gratitude and Estate; so those, who neglect and do not improve the favourable Opportunities offered by the Gods, forget the Acknowledgments that are due to them, and the same Imprudence, which makes them unfortunate, makes them ungrateful; for, commonly, in the Minds of Men, the last Accident qualifies all the rest, and impresses the Character of Misfortune, or Happiness, upon the whole.

It is Time, Athenians, to reform our false Way of reasoning, and our more extravagant Way of acting: Let us preserve what remains, to prevent an eternal Stain upon our Reputation. Nor is our Interest less at Stake: If you dismiss those who now solicit you, as you did the Embassadors from Amphipolis, if you suffer the Olynthians to be ruined, you assist your greatest Enemy, and put it in his Power to carry his successful Arms wherever he pleases. What Barrier shall secure you from the Conquerer of Olynthus? Will none of you, Athenians, look back to his inconsiderable Rise? Will none of you consider the rapid and surprising Progress of his Arms? first Amphipolis is taken; then Pydna; he next surprizes Potidea; then makes himself Master of Methone; from thence he falls upon Thebaly; Phera, Magnesia, Pagasa, own his Power; and Thrace is the next Object of his Ambition: There he seizes and breaks Scepters at his Will; and out of the Ruins of Governments overthrow, and Kingdoms divided, he erects new Monarchies at Pleasure. At last, a Disease gives some small Stop to his Progress; but hardly is he restored to Health, when his natural Disposition prevails; and, without the least Intermision to his Arms, he attacks the Olynthians with the utmost Fury. I shall say nothing of his Attempts against the Pœonians, the Illyrians, and against Arymbas. It may be asked, perhaps, why I have mentioned so many of them, and to what Purpose this disagreeable Recital of his Exploits? It is to convince you, to make you sensible, if possible, both how remote you have been in suffering these Encroachments upon your Neighbours, and how restless and enterprising an Enemy you have to deal with, who, great as he is, is still aiming to be greater, and can set no Bounds to his Ambition.

Consider in Time, what must be the last fatal Scenes of the bloody Tragedy, if, while he acts the Part of an indefatigable Conqueror, you remain the patient and gentle Spectators of his unbounded Violence. Are any of our Citizens so weak-sighted, as not to see the War is hastening to them? It must be a voluntary Blindness in those, who will not perceive, that the Calamities, the Olynthians now endure, are the very same that they are preparing for themselves. I fear, Athenians, you will, at last, meet

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