

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE, [Numb. 549.]

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, November 13, 1755.

From the London Gazetteer or Daily Advertiser.

Considerations upon the present State of the Commerce, Taxes, Armaments, Navy, and Cash; also upon the National Debts, Public Credit, National Faith, and other Affairs of Great-Britain and France.

Olektor hac Specula.

SIR,

IN all Probability the Temple of Janus will be soon opened, the imprison'd Gods rous'd, and the Furies let out. A tripple Alliance has been formed; the Spear, the Shield, and the Trident, are united; Mars, Minerva and Neptune have ascended our Fleet to attend the Genius of Britain, and roll its Thunder, its Terror, its Vengeance, through the Orb; to recover its long ravish'd Territories, and chastize Gallic perfidy.

At such a Conjunction it may be some Amusement, afford some Instruction, and be of some Use to your Readers and my Country, to take a short Survey of the present Posture of the English and French Affairs: This may tend to rouse our just Indignation, animate our Endeavours, spirit our Resolutions, support our public Credit, reclaim our apostate Sons, and to open our Hearts and Purfes freely and cheerfully to assist our Administration in the glorious Plan they have formed to recover our Rights, extend our Commerce, to scourge the pragmatistical Insolence and barbarous Rancour of the common Plagues of Mankind, and Disturbers of the Peace of the Universe. The Ghosts of slaughtered Britons and their mangled Babes, murdered in cold Blood, wandering on the Shores of the Ohio and Kennebec, call out for Vengeance on their barbarous Assassins: Justice, Honour, Interest, a noble Revenge, all claim our most strenuous Efforts and cheerful Contributions towards the Execution of our judicious Plans, and driving the Plagues of Mankind out of the American World, as they have shewn no Inclination to live at Peace in it.

These are the Sentiments which arise in my Breast; thus, Sir, I feel myself warm'd with Zeal for the public Good, and fired by public Resentment.

But when I reflect that France has Twenty Millions of People, Frugal, Industrious, and Ingenious; a fertile Country of 120 Millions of Acres, abounding in Corn, Wool, Silk, Iron, Hemp, Flax, Cattle, Salt, and Fruits; and enjoying a Monopoly of the finest Wines and Brandies in the World, coveted by all the Gentry in Europe: When I consider that it has a splendid and pompous Court of an elegant Taste, that gives the Lead in Fashions to all its Neighbourhood, and the consequent Advantages it has in Manufactures: When I consider that it employs near 40,000 Sailors in the Cod, Herring and other Fisheries, at the Isle of Cape-Breton and elsewhere; as likewise the vast Trade it has in Indigo and Sugars; and its prodigious Export of Cloth to Turkey, Spain, Italy, &c. and what ours is dwindled to, in the Levant especially: When I consider that the Price of Labour in France, even in the Neighbourhood of the Capital, is but Six-Pence a Day, Sterling; in the Provinces but from Three-Pence to Four-Pence in General; and that the Price of Wheat in Paris has been lately on an Average, for Ten Years together, but Two-Shillings and Two-Pence a Bushel; that Flesh in the Provinces is cheap; and that upon the Whole, a Manufacturer in France can earn but Six-Pence a Day, and yet live as well on that Six-Pence, exclusive of Taxes, as a Manufacturer in England can for a Shilling a Day: When I reflect on the great Superiority the French must acquire over the English in all the Markets in the World, both with Regard to their Produce and Manufactures, by this Cheapness of Labour and Commodities: When I consider the Family Connection, &c. between France and Spain, how much it is the Interest of the last to Traffic with the first, and that of about Five Millions Sterling which the Spaniards annually import in Plate from the West-Indies, the greatest Part centers in France: When I reflect that France, in the Year 1727, was possessed of 42 Millions Sterling in Cash, and has coined 54 Millions Sterling since that Time, which it is probable is all at present in the Kingdom: I say when I consider all these Things, I almost tremble for the Fate of my Country, its Religion, its Liberty, its Trade, its Manufactures, its Commerce.

Let any reasonable Merchant reflect, how it is possible for a Nation to cope with a Country in Trade, when its Labour and its Produce are double the Price of what they are in the Country, that is in Competition with it, in all the Ports in the World. This is a Matter that merits the highest Regard and the most speedy Remedy: And this is the true State of Commerce with respect to England and France at this present Time. The Case, then, is come to a Crisis, England must either destroy the Commerce of France, or France will ruin the Commerce of England, monopolize the Trade of Europe, and aim, at least, to extend its Dominions and Tyranny from the Pillars of Hercules to the Baltic Sea; which the President of the Parliament of Paris, in 1662, told Lewis XIV. they expected soon under his Auspices, and from his Wisdom and the Specimens they had received of the Success of his Arms.

Thus far we have seen the melancholy Side of the Question, let us next contemplate the brighter.

Notwithstanding France has all these Advantages, all this Trade, Commerce and Treasure; yet from her former Con-

duct and bad Policy, and the Nature of her Government, her natural Strength and Vigour are cramped and shackled. What Man is such a Fool as to lend his Money to a Government, where a Dash of a Minister's Pen shall annihilate Millions, ruin Thousands of Families, and sink all National Debts in an Instant? Their Courts of Liquidation, their Chambers of Justice, or rather of Iniquity, their Visas in Pleasure, obliged the Proprietors to take One-Fifth of their Pleasure, or lose all. And to such a Height of Cruelty and Injustice Things were carried, and so little Care was taken to pay the Interest of the Monies borrowed by the State, that the Securities on the Hotel de Ville fell Fifty per Cent. and the Utensils Bills Ninety per Cent. and from whence the Proprietors of 1000 l. due from the Government received but 100 l. at 4 per Cent. for 1000 l. lent to the State at a high Interest: Such enormous Oppressions and Frauds did the Creditors of the public suffer! As this has been the Case, who but Madmen would trust such a Government again?

I have been informed, that the French themselves, at this present Juncture, have so bad an Opinion of the present Posture of their Affairs, and so little Faith and Confidence in their Government Securities, that they offer them every where at a high Discount: But as the French Ministry has lately made such Dupes and Bubbles of the public Creditors; and as Government Security is so very precarious in France, and one would imagine that no one would (at least that no Man in his Senses would) run the Hazard of purchasing their Securities even at Fifty per Cent. Discount. If we have any such apostate Sons, and ignorant Fools, I have one Confolation attending the Reflection, which is, That they will meet with the deserved Fate of such a VISA and Chamber of Justice as were erected in the Year 1715.

What hath been may be again; and we have seen the Time when 100 l. of French Government Securities have been worth but 10 l. A Man must then be infatuated, to trust such a perfidious Government again; a Government, that has no more Regard to Justice towards its own Subjects and Creditors, than it has to its Treaties and solemn Stipulations with its neighbouring States.

Thus, though France has great natural Advantages, a considerable and profitable Commerce, and a great stock of Money, yet its faithless, its perfidious Government, cramp its natural Force and Vigour; and, like a Porpega, benumbs its Power and Faculties, when the greatest Necessity calls for their Exertion.

It is impossible that their national Cash should have all the Influence it is capable of, as the State has given such recent Examples of Cruelty to its public Creditors. If a burnt Child dreads the Fire, surely sad Experience must make Men diffident and cautious. But as our Fleets will obstruct their Commerce, in all Probability their Money will be transported to other States for Security, and in order to make a Profit of it by Interest; and tis very probable, that through the Hands of neutral Powers, large Sums of French Property may be lent to us, by which we may be enabled to carry on more vigorously our Naval Armaments, and extend our foreign Commerce.

But the Want of public Credit is not the only Misfortune and Imbecility France labours under: Its Debts are great, its national Interest high, its Revenues anticipated, its Expences large, its Resources exhausted, its Taxes oppressive, and its Stock of Commodities small. What Resources can be expected in a State where an Artizan, who earns 20 l. per Annum by his Labour, in Time of Peace, pays 5 l. or 6 l. per Annum in Taxes and Gabelles to defray the common Expences of the State? Its Commerce can afford no Assistance, since a Trader who has but 1000 l. in Commerce, pays not less than 200 l. a Year to the State in Times of Peace.

On the other Hand, the English Peasant does not pay above 14 s. or 15 s. in Taxes, where the French pays four or five Pounds; the English Artizan does not pay above 20 s. or 30 s. where the French pay seven or eight Pounds; nor in common does an English Trader with 4 or 5000 l. in Stock, pay above 10 s. where a Frenchman would be obliged to pay 200 l. It is easy, from hence, to perceive the different Resources of the two Nations, exclusive of the Consideration, that 3-4ths of all the Estates in this Kingdom are not affixed 1-4th of their Value to the Land-Tax. The Gabelle of Salt only in France lies as heavy on the common People as all the Excises and Customs do in England, unless the English Poor throw away their Money in purchasing infernal Liquors, destructive to Health.

ANTIGALLICUS.

- See Hanway's Travels.
† Voyez Ouvrages Politiques de Mr. l'Abbe de St. Pierre, Tom. X.
|| Voyez les Elements de Commerce par Mr. Debonnaire.
‡ Voyez Lettres et Negociations entre Jean de Wit, &c.
+ Voyez Reflexions Politiques, par Mr. Dutot, Tom. I.
In a despotic State, Things are not the Representative of Money: Tyranny and Distrust make every one bury their Money. L'Esprit des Loix, Tom. II. P. 76. Gen. Ed.
++ Voyez, Dextime Royale, par Mr. Vauban.

WILLIAMSBURG, October 31.

On Tuesday last the General Assembly of this Colony met here, when his Honour the Governor was pleased to open the Session with the following SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Council, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

I SHOULD gladly have spared you the Trouble of meeting at this Season, after so many Fatigues in your Country's Service, and so short a Recess, but the Urgency of our Affairs made a Session unavoidable.

The great Terror of our back Inhabitants, arising partly from the horrid Barbarities of our brutal Enemies, and partly from the Misbehaviour of many among our own People, has almost made the Frontier Settlements desolate; and will probably extend the Evil very fast, unless timely prevented by your Interposition.

Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

Last Assembly you were pleased to vote Forty Thousand Pounds, for the Protection of our Country, and conducting the necessary Expedition; in Consequence thereof, I have granted Commissions, and ordered the raising of a Thousand Men, to be incorporated into a Regiment under the Command of Col. George Washington: You then enacted two Acts, the one a Militia Law, the other against Invasions, &c. but these Laws are very deficient for conducting the Forces in the Pay of the Country, in a proper Manner. I therefore recommend to you, to put the Forces now raised, under the Military Law, as the Troops in his Majesty's immediate Pay are subjected to: Without this, the Money you have voted, and the Intention proposed, by raising these Forces, will prove abortive, unless the Commanding Officer be enabled to keep them under strict Discipline, and in a proper Submission to their Officers; I therefore intreat that you will form such a Law as will answer the Design of raising the Forces.

I think it necessary to acquaint you, that repeated Complaints have been made me, of the great Obstructions given to the Service, by many of the Magistrates and other civil Officers, some of whom have even given Protection to those who have shamefully deserted with their Arms and Cloathing; and others, with an unparalleled and most criminal Undutifulness to their Country, have discouraged, and prevented the enlisting Men, tho' you to protect themselves: I therefore recommend to you to make an Act that may effectually deter such unworthy and corrupt Members of the Society, from doing further Injury to the public Welfare, and may encourage the detecting and taking up of Deserters; without such a Law, I conceive, the Money voted, and my Endeavours in raising Men, will prove ineffectual.

Gentlemen,

I also observe the Reward given by the Act "For preventing and repelling the hostile Incursions of Indians at Enmity with the Inhabitants of this Colony, and giving an Encouragement of Ten Pounds for the Scalps of Indian Enemies," is confined to our People; I am of Opinion if this Act was enlarged and extended, by giving our friendly Indians some proper Encouragement to scalp our Enemies, it would be of great Service; for if you please to observe, our Enemies, the French, give an Encouragement to their Indians for scalping our Fellow-Subjects, I therefore desire you will take this into your mature Consideration.

Gentlemen,

I am also to acquaint you, That I have received a Letter from General Shirley dated the Ninth Day of September last; in which he proposes a Meeting of Commissioners from all the Colonies, as far to the Southward as this Colony, to meet at New-York next Month to consult on the most proper Measures to be taken for the general Interest of the common Cause, next Spring. As I conceive this may