

The publishing of the following Letter, from a Merchant in Lisbon, to his Friend in England, which gives an Account of some Particulars, not before publish'd here, of the late terrible EARTHQUAKE in Portugal, we imagine can need no Apology.

DEAR SIR,
I presume to imagine it will not a little gratify your Curiosity to receive, from an Eye-Witness thereof, some Account of the late dreadful EARTHQUAKE, which laid the Capital of Portugal in Ruins; and of the FIRE which thereupon broke out in several Parts of them at once, and (assisted by some wicked Incendiaries for the Sake of Plunder) burning furiously for five successive Days, reduced that whole Metropolis to Ashes; rendering it such a Spectacle of Terror and Amazement, as well as of Desolation to Beholders, as perhaps has not been equalled from the Foundation of the World! Of these, my Friend, I shall endeavour to give you a true Description: Relying on the Veracity of my Narrative to atone for all Imperfections of Style and Method: Particulars, that a Mind and Heart agitated as mine have been, must be supposed little capable of attending to, and therefore I only pretend to give you a simple Account of Things just as they happened, without any other Circumstance to recommend it to your serious Perusal, than the Importance of the Subject, and the Veracity of the Relation.

It may, perhaps, be necessary previously to inform you, that the City of Lisbon, which was situated on the Northern Shore of the River Tagus, about six Leagues from the Sea, stood upon very uneven Ground, and also that its Streets and Buildings in general, were extremely irregular. A Valley between two high Hills, all covered thick with Edifices, is the general Description of the Place. The Valley which runs North and South, was undoubtedly the Seat of the ancient City: On the Side next the River of which stood the King's Palace, with a large open Square to the Eastward of it, separated by some low Buildings, a small Fort and a Wall, from the principal Key of the City, and a much frequented sandy Beach: On the other Side of the Valley was another extensive Square called Ross, in which there was held a daily Market, and a weekly Fair: And there was the Inquisition situated, the Church and Convent of St. Dominick, the Hospital, and other public as well as private Buildings. The principal Streets of the City were between these two Squares, and the Middle of them might be reckoned the Centre of it. On the Summit of the Hill to the Eastern Side, was situated the Castle of St. George, or Lisbon, with a spacious Platform before it, surrounded by a parapet Wall which was planted thick with Cannon. And the whole Hill except Part of the Western Side of it was covered thick with Buildings, the Streets and Lanes of which, were most remarkably narrow. On the Hill to the Westward were many stately Buildings, particularly the Palace of Braganza, and in this Part of the Town the Streets were in general wider, the Buildings better, and the Prospects pleasanter than in either of the others. There were scattered about the various Parts of the City, many spacious Convents and princely Palaces of the Nobility: And of Churches and Chapels an innumerable Quantity, not extremely beautiful in their Architecture, but immensely rich in interior Ornaments. I shall not enlarge on the other public or private Parts of that City which is now no more; having, I hope, given you an Idea of its Situation sufficient for my present Purpose. The Number of Souls it contained, I have heard rationally computed at about Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand.

It may be proper, likewise, here to inform you, that various have been the Opinions of People concerning the Time of Duration of the two violent Shocks of the Earthquake, and the Interval that was between them; which I, and many others, have estimated at a Quarter of an Hour, measuring it in our Imaginations by what we employed ourselves about from the Beginning to the Ending of that tremendous Visitation; during the Operations of which, as it pleased God to preserve my Mind in intire Composure, and its full Firmness, I shall inform you of what past with me, and that perhaps will give you a tolerable Idea of the EARTHQUAKE and at the same time enable you to judge of the Time of its Duration.

I lived in a House not far from the Centre of the City, at a small Eminence on the foot of the Hill, towards the Eastern Side of it. Our House was four Stories high, reckoning the ground Story for one, the two uppermost of which, as is usual in that City, served for the Accommodation of our Family, the lower ones being allotted for the uses of Business, Stabling, &c. In the third Story was my Bed-chamber, and one of the two outermost next the Street of seven Rooms that were upon that Floor. There was I sitting on the first Day of the present Month, about ten of the Clock in the Morning, (the Weather being serene, and the Sky without a Cloud in it) when I felt the House begin gently to shake; which gradually increased with a rushing Noise, like the Sound of heavy Carriages, driving hard at some Distance, and such I at first imagined the Cause of the Noise and Shaking I heard and felt. But both of them gradually increasing, and observing the Pictures in my Room to flap against the Walls, I started up, and immediately perceived it was an EARTHQUAKE; and having never been sensible of the Shaking of one before, I stood a good while very composedly remarking its Operations; till from waving and shaking, I thought the Room began to reel, which made me run towards an inward one; more to the Centre of the House; but the Motion was then so extremely violent, that I with Difficulty kept upon my Feet. Every part of the House cracked about me, the Tiles rattled on the Top of it; the Walls rent on every side; the Doors of a pretty large Book-case that stood in my Room, and which were locked, burst open, and the Books fell from the Shelves within it, but not till after I was got into the Room adjoining; and I heard, with Terror, the falling of Houses round about, and the Screams and Cries of People from every Quarter. At length, all beginning to settle into Stillness again, I went into three or four Rooms of the Floor I was upon, to look for Servants, but finding none, concluded, with good reason, they had all left the House. So returning to my Room, I determined to change my Cloaths (for I was in a Night-Gown, Cap, and Slippers,) and go out also. I had dress'd my Legs, and was putting on my Coat and

Waistcoat, (having first put up my Books in their Case and locked the Doors of it) when I felt the second Shock begin: So I snatched up my Hat, and taking my Wig from a Sconce, ran down one pair of Stairs and half way another, when I stoop'd short, on hearing Tiles and large Stones falling from the Top of our own House and another, into a small Yard I must pass through. This made me reflect, that by flying from one falling House, I ran the risk of being buried under the Ruins of many others in the narrow Streets I must be obliged to pass before I could get to any Place of greater Safety, so I determined to remain where I was, which was on a winding Stone Staircase, each step of which was an entire Stone, of about the length of a Yard and an half; and this place I chose preferable to any other on the Consideration, that if the House fell, the Stones over my Head would put an immediate end to my Life, and prevent the more miserable Fate of being buried alive under Ruins. Here while I remained, the Steps I stood upon as well as those over my Head, lifted to a most shocking Degree, and I expected every Moment to be crushed to Death. Here, while I continued, I heard, from some part of the Yard below me, a mournful Voice groaning, and calling out for Help, with considerable intervening Pauses, at least for a dozen Times before the shaking of the House, and the falling of Stones would permit my endeavour to offer any Assistance. Which when I found an Opportunity for doing, I did, and discovered the Person in Distress was our own House-keeper, who in the first Shock, had endeavoured to run out of our House, with a Man Servant, but were met at the Street door by the Wall of a House falling from the opposite side of the Way, which wounded them both, but particularly the poor Woman, and half buried them in its Rubbish.

Now putting all these Particulars of Observation and Employment together, I leave you to judge if they could be well comprised within less Time than a quarter of an Hour: And, indeed, from comparing my Calculation with those of some others, I find my Opinion confirmed concerning the Time the two Shocks of the Earthquake and the Interval betwixt them lasted. There has also been another Dispute here about the exact Time in which the first Tremor began. Some thinking it was before, others after ten of the Clock; but the greatest Number pronounce the Clock had not struck. And in Confirmation of their Opinion, I have seen a Letter from Cadix, that mentioned the Shock's being felt there at fifty-seven Minutes after Nine: And as it was much less considerable there, it may, I think, be reasonably concluded to have happened something earlier at Lisbon.

[The Remainder to be in our next.]

WILLIAMSBURG, May 7.

We have the Pleasure to acquaint the Public, that a great Number of the principal Gentlemen of this Colony have voluntarily associated themselves under the Command of the Honourable Peyton Randolph, Esq; at their own Expence, to march to the Frontiers of this Colony, for relieving their distressed Fellow Subjects, and chastising the Insolence, and revenging the Cruelties of the French, and their barbarous Allies; and for these Purposes have agreed to meet at Frederickburg, the 20th of this Instant, with such a Number of Men as each of them has undertaken to employ and maintain in this Service, dressed in short plain blue Frocks with cross Pockets, short white Nankens, or brown Holland Waistcoats, and Breeches of the same, and plain Hats; armed each with a Firelock, a Brace of Pistols, and a cutting Sword, and furnished with one Pound of Powder, and four Pounds of Ball; each Associator who goes paying immediately to the commanding Officer three Pounds, and the same Sum for every Man he carries with him, and those who do not go, ten Pounds for every Man they send.

This Association began on Saturday last, and a great Number of young Gentlemen in and about Williamsburg, have already engaged themselves, in this Service, and as it is not doubted the same public Spirit will prevail thro' the whole Country, it is expected the Appearance of the Associators at Frederickburg will be very numerous.

Every Gentleman in this Colony has now an Opportunity of manifesting his Zeal for the Good of his Country, by entering into, or contributing according to his Abilities towards this laudable Undertaking: And whoever but seriously reflects on the unhappy Situation of our Countrymen on the Frontiers, will need no other Inducement to exert himself to the utmost on this Occasion.

*Nunc tunc auxilio, nunc defensoribus illis
Tempus eget.* VIRO.

Last Saturday his Honour the Governor was pleased to give his Assent to the following Bills, viz.

- An Act for raising the Sum of Twenty Five Thousand Pounds, for the better Protection of the Inhabitants on the Frontiers of this Colony, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.
- An Act for appointing a Treasurer.
- An Act to revive and amend an Act, intituled, An Act for inspecting Pork, Beef, Flour, Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine.
- An Act for disarming Papists, and reputed Papists, refusing to take the Oaths to the Government.
- An Act for appointing Trustees to lease out certain Lands and Slaves; and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

An Act to enable the Nottoway Indians to sell certain Lands, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

An Act for adding certain Lands therein mentioned to the City of Williamsburg.

On Wednesday the General Assembly having gone thro' the public Business, His Honour the Governor likewise gave his Assent to the following Acts.

An Act for amending the several Acts for making Provision against Invasions and Insurrections, and for amending and explaining an Act passed this present Session of Assembly, intituled, An Act for raising the Sum of Twenty Five Thousand Pounds, for the better Protection of the Inhabitants on the Frontiers of this Colony, and for other Purposes therein mentioned. (By this Act the further Sum of Thirty Thousand Pounds is raised for the Support and Pay of the Militia ordered out to the Frontiers.)

An Act for granting Protection to certain Persons, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

An Act for continuing and amending an Act, intituled, An Act for the Relief of the Proprietors of the Tobacco burnt at Bolling's Point Warehouse, in the County of Dinwiddie, and for the Relief of the Proprietors of Tobacco burnt in Coan and Deep-Creek Warehouses. (The Sum of Twelve Thousand Pounds is raised for these Purposes.)

An Act for appointing a public Ferry, and for discontinuing a former one.

An Act for paying the Burgesses Wages for this present Session of Assembly:

And then made the following SPEECH.

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

I THANK you for the several Votes of Supply granted this Session, for Protection of our Frontiers, and defeating the mischievous unjust Invasions, Robberies, and Murders, of the cruel Enemy, and I hope it will have the desired Effect.

Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses,

I cannot help expressing my Reſentment at the great Indignity offered the Supream Court of this Colony by sending your Mace-Bearer within the Bar, and taking away such of the Ministers of that Court, as were Members of your House, and thereby obstructing, in some Measure, the Course of Justice, which is an unprecedented Step; yet must all be sensible that the Prosperity and Reputation of a Country, depends as much upon a due and orderly Administration of Justice, as upon the Power of enacting Laws; these, however wisely formed, will be always ineffectual and useless, unless properly carried into Execution.

Gentlemen, I recommend to you when you go to your respective Counties, to use your Influence in having the Militia properly collected together, exercised, and ready on a Call, for the Protection of our Country in these perilous Times.

I wish you an agreeable Receipt, and I think proper to prorogue you to the second Thursday in October, and you are accordingly prorogued to that Time.

Yesterday Morning died at his House in Gloucester County, the Hon. Lewis Burwell, Esq; President of his Majesty's Council of this Colony.

This Week the Honourable Peter Randolph and William Byrd, Esquires, Commissioners to treat with the Catawba and Cherokee Indian Nations, and the other Gentlemen who went out with them, returned in good Health to this City, by the Way of Charles-Town; which Place they left about three Weeks ago, and inform us that Governor Glen, with an independent Company of 60 Men and 50 Provincials, with an Engineer, and all Materials for building a Fort, Provisions, &c. were set off for the Cherokee Country.

By an Express this Week from Winchester, we are informed, that the Communication between that Place and Fort Cumberland is now open, a Messenger having lately arrived, acquainting that the Garrison was well, and under no Apprehensions of any Attack.

An Express which left Winchester last Tuesday, came to Town this Evening, and brings Advice, That Col. Washington was just setting off for Fort Cumberland, two Hundred of the Fairfax Militia being arrived at Winchester. He met on his Way down, 100 of the Militia from Prince William, 200 from Caroline, under the Command of Col. Baylor; and above 200 from Spotsylvania, under the Command of Col. Spotswood, all on their March for Winchester.

ANNAPOLIS.

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By his Excellency HORATIO SPOTSWOOD, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of MARYLAND.

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS our Order to awaken a due Sense of our dependence upon him, does often towards us, give Warning of our manifold Sins and Wickedness, and Reforming Repentance, and Reforming and a close and strict Observation of his Holy Ordinances, and a strict Obedience to his Holy Commands, may avoid that Vengeance which is due to our Offences: AND whereas the Earth, have of late given Signs of his Almighty Arm in Cities, the Destruction of inexpressible Calamities, of some powerful States, whereas we of this Particulary in this Province, some late Warnings of Earthquakes, and are both our Religion and Liberty of a perfidious, merciless, which ought to excite in hearty Endeavour to reform strict Conformity to our gain his Favour, that those Evils which at threaten us.

I HAVE therefore thought of his Lordship's Court Wednesday the 16th Day apart, and observed thro' a Day for a General and Prayer to the Divine Judgments we, from our have most justly deserved, to perpetuate the Enjoyment Liberties amongst us, to Prosperity of our most Mother-Country, and to implore the Almighty Protection of the Fleets and Armies of Service; and I do hereby several Ministers of the vince, to compose Prayer to the Occasion, to be used respective Churches, and my Proclamation in their in the Time of Divine Service preceding that Day: A charge and require the sever vince, to make this my their respective Counties, they will answer to the o Given at the City of Day of May, in the Ship's Dominion, A H

J. Ross, Cl. Con.

On Tuesday last died, at his South River, after a few Days wards of 50 Years, Major H who was formerly, and for many Magistrates; and since, was Represent his County, in which Justice, Moderation, and Integrity him Living, and Lament his rous Family to regret the Loss Last Week died in Frederick who was many Years an In Clerk of the Provincial Court, about a Year since, and retir'd, Wednesday last Week, the Wind, in Baltimore County, ten Miles distant from Baltimore wherein were two Men, one crush'd to Death; and the other Duchart, was so broke and br

T O B E PART of a Tract of Garden Enlarged, b that Mr. Henry Wright taining 500 Acres, more For Title and Terms

ALL Persons indebted Edward Beatty, deceased, are desired to respective Accounts; oth to be sued for them. An just Demands on the said bringing in their Account THOMAS BE