

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, April 21, 1757.

The WORLD.

HERE was an ancient Sect of Philosophers, the Disciples of Pythagoras, who held, that the Souls of Men and all other Animals existed in a State of perpetual Transmigration; and that, when by Death they were dislodged from one corporeal Habitation, they were immediately reinstated in another, happier or more miserable, according to their Behaviour in the former: So that when any Person made his Exit from the Stage of this World, he was supposed only to retire behind the scenes to be new dressed, and to have had a new part assigned him, more or less agreeable, in Proportion to the Merit of his Performance in the last.

This Doctrine of Transmigration, I must own, was always a very favourite Tenet of mine, and always appeared to me one of the most rational Guesses of the human Mind into a future State. I shall here therefore endeavour to shew the great Probability of its Truth from the following Considerations. First, from its Justice; secondly, from its Utility; and lastly, from the Difficulties we lie under to account for the Sufferings of many innocent Creatures without it.

First then, the Justice of this System exceeds that of all others; because, by it the great Law of Retaliation may be more strictly adhered to: or by Means of this Metamorphosis, Men may suffer in one Life the very same Injuries which they have inflicted in another; and that too in the very same Persons, by a Change only of Situation. Thus, for Instance, the cruel Tyrant who in one Life has sported with the Miseries of his slaves, may in the next feel all the Miseries of slavery under a Master as unmerciful as himself. The relentless and unjust Judge may be imprisoned, condemned and hanged in his Turn. Divines may be compelled by Fire and Faggot to believe the Creeds and Articles they have composed for the Edification of others; and Soldiers may be plundered and ravished, in the Persons of defenceless Peasants and innocent Virgins. The lawyer reviving in the Character of a Client may be tormented with Delay, Expence, Uncertainty, and Disappointment; and the Physician, who in one Life had taken exorbitant Fees, may be obliged to take Physic in another. All those who under the honourable Denomination of Sportsmen have entertained themselves with the Miseries and Destruction of innocent Animals, may be terrified and murdered in the Shapes of Hares, Partridges and Woodcocks; and all those who under the more illustrious Title of Heroes have delighted in the Devastation of their own Species, may be massacred by each other in the Forms of invincible Game-Cocks, and pertinacious Bull-Dogs. As for Statesmen, Ministers, and all great Men devoted to great Business, they, however guilty, cannot be more properly, nor more severely punished, than by being obliged to reassume their former Characters, and to live the very same Lives over again.

In the next Place, the Utility of this System is equal to its Justice, and happily coincides with it: For by Means of this Transmigration, all the necessary Inconveniences, and all the burthensome Offices of Life being imposed on those only, who by their Misbehaviour in a former State have deserved them, become at once just Punishments to them, and at the same Time Benefits to Society; and so all those, who have injured the Public in one Life by their Vices, are obliged in another to make Reparation by their Sufferings. Thus the Tyrant, who by his Power has oppressed his Country in the Situation of a Prince, in that of a Slave may be compelled to do it some Service by his Labour. The Highwayman who has stopped and plundered Travellers, may expedite and assist them in the Shape of a Post-Horse. The metaphorical Peck, who has terrified sober Citizens by his Ex-

plots, converted into a real one, may make them some Compensation by his Haunches; and mighty Conquerors, who have laid waste the World by their Swords, may be obliged, by a small Alteration in Sex and Situation, to contribute to its re-peopling, by the Qualms of Breeding, and the Pains of Child-Birth.

For my own Part, I verily believe this to be the Case. I make no Doubt but that Louis XIV. is now chained to an Oar in the Gallies of France, and that Hernando Cortez is digging Gold in the Mines of Peru or Mexico. That Turpin the Highwayman is several Times a Day spurred backwards and forwards between London and Epping; and that Lord * * *, and Sir Harry * * *, are now actually Roasting for a City Feast. I Question not but that Alexander the Great, and Julius Caesar, have died many Times in Child-Bed since their Appearance in those illustrious and depopulating Characters; that Charles XII. is at this Instant a Curate's Wife in some remote Village, with a numerous and increasing Family; and that Kouli Khan is now whipped from Parish to Parish, in the Person of a big-bellied Beggar-Woman, with two Children in her Arms and three at her Back.

Lastly, the Probability of this System appears from the Difficulty of accounting for the Sufferings of many innocent Creatures without it; for if we look round us, we cannot but observe a great and wretched Variety of this Kind; numberless Animals subjected by their own Natures to many Miseries, and by our Cruelties to many more; incapable of Crimes, and consequently incapable of deserving them; called into Being, as far as we can discover, only to be miserable for the Service or Diversion of others less meritorious than themselves; without any Possibility of preventing, deserving, or receiving Recompence for their unhappy Lot, if their whole Existence is comprehended in the narrow and wretched Circle of their present Life. But the Theory here inculcated removes all these Difficulties, and reconciles these seemingly unjust Dispensations with the strictest Justice: It informs us, that these their Sufferings may be by no Means undeserved, but the just Punishments of their former Misbehaviour in a State, where, by Means of their very Vices, they may have escaped them. It teaches us, that the pursued and persecuted Fox was once probably some crafty and rapacious Minister, who had purchased by his ill-acquired Wealth that Safety which he cannot now procure by his Flight: That the Bull, baited with all the Cruelties that human Ingenuity or human Malevolence can invent, was once some relentless Tyrant, who had inflicted all the Tortures which he now endures: That the poor Bird, blinded, imprisoned, and at last starved to Death in a Cage, may have been some unfor-giving Creditor; and the widowed Turtle, pining away Life for the Loss of her Mate, some fashionable Wife rejoicing at the Death of her Husband, which her own Ill-usage had occasioned.

Never can the delicious Repast of roasted Lobsters excite my Appetite, whilst the Ideas of the Tortures in which those innocent Creatures have expired, present themselves to my Imagination. But when I consider that they must have once probably been Spaniards at Mexico, or Dutchmen at Amboyna, I fall too, both with a good Stomach and a good Conscience, and please myself with the Thoughts, that I am thus offering up a Sacrifice acceptable to the Manes of many Millions of massacred Indians. Never can I repose myself with Satisfaction in a Post-Chaise, whilst I look upon the starved, foundered, ulcerated, and excoriated Animals who draw it as mere Horses, condemned to such exquisite and unmerited Torments for my Convenience; but when I reflect, that they once must undoubtedly have existed in the Characters of Turnkeys of Newgate, or Fathers of the holy Inquisition, I gallop on with as much

Ease as Expedition; and am perfectly satisfied, that in pursuing my Journey I am but the Executioner of the strictest Justice.

I very well know that these Sentiments will be treated as ludicrous by many of my Readers, and looked upon only as the Productions of an exuberant Imagination; but I know likewise, that this is owing to ill-grounded Pride, and false Notions of the Dignity of human Nature; for they are in themselves just and serious, and carry with them the strongest Probability of their Truth: So strong is it, that I cannot but hope it will have some good Effect on the Conduct of those polite People, who are too sagacious, learned and courageous to be kept in Awe by the Threats of Hell and Damnation; and I exhort every fine Lady to consider how wretched will be her Condition, if after twenty or thirty Years spent at Cards, in elegant Rooms kept warm by good Fires and soft Carpets, she should at last be obliged to change Places with one of her Coach-Horses; and every fine Gentleman to reflect how much more wretched would be his, if after waiving his Estate, his Health and his Life in Extravagance, Indolence and Luxury, he should again revive in the Situation of one of his Creditors.



LONDON, February 5.

On the Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT, Esq; now one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

OH thou, ordain'd at length by pitting Fate, To save from Ruin a declining State; At whose Command our Passions rise and fall, Obedient to the Magic of thy Call: Attend the Bard, who scorns the venal Lauds Which servile Flatt'ry, spurious Greatness pays; Above Temptation, and unaw'd by Pow'r, Pleas'd with his present Lot, nor wishes more, Save that kind Heav'n wou'd give his warm Desire, What Kings can't grant, nor Courtiers oft require, From each low View of selfish Faction free, To think, to speak, to live, O PITT, like thee.

'Tis very reasonable to expect, that public Affairs will now be conducted with that Fidelity and Vigour necessary to regain the Character of a British Ministry. The above may be looked upon as the Sentiments of the judicious Part of the Nation, on the present Prime Minister.

Letter from on board the Torbay at Portsmouth, December 15.

"We are now return'd into this Harbour from our Cruize, during which we have pick'd up three or four small Ships, laden with Wine, &c. but what will, I hope, crown our Work, and be of the greatest Service to our Country, is the taking a French Ship bound from Rochelle to Louisburg with Provisions, Stores, &c. She is a fine Ship, and the only one, as the Captain tells us, that ever the French King was on board of; she mounts 36 Guns, and I can assure you behaved very well. We fell in with her in the Evening, and came within Gun-shot at Ten at Night, when she continued firing as fast as she could load till after Midnight. We hailed them, and told them it would be wasting Powder and Shot, as well as their Men's Lives, as we were a King's Ship of 74 Guns; to which they returned an Answer little better than, Kiss my A---. We return'd the Compliment with a Broadside, which so chastised her Insolence that she soon struck, and we have brought her safe into Port.

Extract of a Letter from a Merchant at Dale, in Millford-Haven, to the Owners of the Mary Snow, late Richmond for Virginia, dated the 13th of December.

"Yesterday put into this Port your Vessel, which was taken by the Le Roche Privateer, of 22 Nine-Pounders,

Annopolis, March 31, 1757. WHEREAS I the Subscriber, did some Time ago, in the Heat of my Passion, by ten Advertisements, charge my beloved Wife, with having Eloped from me, and thereby mentioned all Persons against Trusting her on any account; But being now well convinced of her Continency, and that her Stay abroad was occasioned by necessary Business, and that she has my Interest and Welfare (which are inseparable from my own) very much at Heart, Do hereby acknowledge myself very sorry for my Rash Proceeding, and intirely revoke the same, hoping she will be reinstated in her former Credit; as to Contentions and Misunderstandings between said Loving Wife and myself are now at an End, and there is a happy Reconciliation between us. This is therefore to give Notice to all our former Friends and Customers, as well as others, That the same good and cheap Entertainment, Accommodations, and kind Usage, which was ever to be met with at our House in the Dock in Annopolis, may still be there, with, at the Sign of the Planter and Slave on one Side, and Boatswain and Call on the other; From Their humble Servants, SAMUEL GAITHER, ANNE GAITHER.

B. We have good Boats and Hands to carry Passengers, either a-cross, or up or down Bay, at reasonable Rates, and have not had Small-Pox in the Family.

WHEREAS I find it absolutely out of my Power to comply with the pressing Demands of some of my Creditors, without doing the Prejudice of Others of more Lenity andbearance, do therefore judge it most equitable to discharge my old Affairs on an Average, for that Purpose am willing to give up (upon such Conditions) my Effects of every Kind, into such Hands as shall be approved of by my principal Creditors, to be by them converted into Cash, and away among my Creditors. All I desire, is, so much be left in my Hands as any judicious interested Person shall judge barely sufficient to enable me, with Frugality and Industry, to support my Family. As I hope this Proposal will not be rejected by any of my Creditors, I request they as soon as possible, signify their Approbation by a few Lines, directed to me in Queen-Anne's Church, Maryland, that Trustees may be appointed, and the Effects delivered up and disposed of without further Loss of Time.

WILLIAM DAMES.

THE Subscriber intending for London the ensuing Summer, requests all Persons indebted to him to come and make Payment, or settle their Accounts by Note, or Bond: And those who have any just Demands against him, are desired to send and receive Payment of the same. JAMES WARDROP.

TO BE SOLD by the SUBSCRIBER, A TRACT of LAND, situate about 3 Miles from Annopolis, on the North Side of the Bay, containing 673 Acres, having a fine Branch of Water thro' it for near a Mile, very fit for Mead-land, and about 200 of it good Wood Land. There is on the Plantation a good Dwelling-House, on a rising Ground, with four Rooms on a Floor, a Barn, Stable, Smoke House, Hen House, a very good Garden, paved Yard, and a good Well; and a very good Orchard: The Tract is indisputable. The Purchaser may have Time for Payment of the Purchase-Money, on giving Security, and is desired to send and receive Payment of the same. JOHN CAMPBELL.

B. The Purchaser may likewise be supplied with Stock of all Kinds, and Plantation Utensils. The House is likewise to be Sold by said Campbell a House situate in Annopolis, near to Severn Ferry, where the Purchaser may live, with a good Cellar, Kitchen, House, Stable, Hen House, and Garden.

JOHN BENNETT, in ANNAPOLIS, sells all Sorts of manufactured TOBACCO, in great or large Quantities.

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