

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the latest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, April 30, 1761.

Baltimore-Town, February 20, 1761. LET upon Ground Rent for 99 YEARS, renewable for Ever, THIRTEEN LOTS of GROUND, in the Addition to Baltimore-Town, on the East of the Falls, and back of the Subscriber's Milling-House. On some of the Lots are Houses which will be Sold as may be agreed for: Lots are about 60 Feet in Front, and 100 deep. Also, Eighty Lots of Ground, which be laid out on the Point, just below his House, adjoining the Town, pleasantly situated, and bounded on the Water, 60 Feet in Front, and 100 back, with proper Streets allowed, to be Let on Ground Rent for 99 Years, renewable for Ever, or the Subscriber will sell any of the above in Fee Simple. For Terms apply to BRIAN PHILPOT.

WHEREAS the Act of Assembly of this Province, made and passed in 1733, for raising and making current Ninety Thousand Pounds, is now Expiring; The Commissioners of the Loan Office therefore think it their Duty, to inform all who have any Bonds in that Office, to come and discharge the same; otherwise they will be void against the Law directs.

Signed per Order, ROBERT COUDEN, Cl. P. C. Offic.

Winchester, in Virginia, October 1760. Permission of his Honour the GOVERNOR, A SCHEME of a LOTTERY, FOR Raising the Sum of Four Hundred Pounds, for Building a MARKET-HOUSE in the Town of WINCHESTER.

Table with 3 columns: Ticket number, Amount (£), and Total raised. Includes entries for 1 Ticket of £100, 2 Ditto 50, 3 Ditto 25, 6 Ditto 10, 16 Ditto 5, 20 Ditto 3, 40 Ditto 2, 795 Ditto 1, 883 Prizes, and 2617 Blanks. Total sum raised 400.

3500 Tickets at 10s. £. 1750

THE above is not Three Blanks to a Prize. The Drawing to begin the First Day of next, at the Court-House in Winchester.

List of Prizes to be published in the Virginia Maryland Gazette, and the Money to be paid on as the Drawing is finished, without any Retention.

The Managers are, George Mercer, James Craig, Andrew Wadrow, John Greenfield, Robert Rutherford, Charles Smith, William Ramsay, Thomas Rard, John Hite, James Keith, James Wood, James Lemen, Jacob Hite, and Charles Bradford, are to give Bond, and be upon Oath, for the due Discharge of this Trust.

Tickets may be had from any of the Managers, Messieurs Carlyle and Dalton in Alexandria, William Scott in Frederickburg, or the Printers in Williamsburg; from Messieurs Symonds in Marlborough, Mr. John Cary in Frederickburg in Maryland, or at the Printing-Office in this.

Land, Fairfax County, in Virginia, October 1761. be LET, and Entered on immediately, A VERY choice TRACT of LAND, containing several Thousand Acres, belonging to CHARLES, Earl of TANKERVILLE, formerly known by the Name of John Colwell's Kitterock, lying on Patowmack River, and chiefly bounded by Kitterock Creek, in the County of Stafford, and Colony of Virginia.

Any Person may know the Terms, by applying to the Subscriber at Leesburg, in the said County. Attendance will be given, by JOHN PATTERSON, Agent.

WHEREAS there is a Vacancy for a Master in Somerset County School: Any Person who is Qualified, upon applying to the Visitors, will be given such Encouragement as the Law directs to Free-Schools will support them in.

Signed by Order, ARNOLD ELZEY, Register.

PRINTING, at the PRINTING-Office may be supplied with this length are taken in and inserted in Proportion for long Ones.

Cambridge, in New-England, March 31, 1761.

TRANSIT of Venus over the Sun being, beyond comparison, the most curious and uncommon appearance the heavens afford, as well as of the greatest consequence, has for a long time been a principal object of the consideration of Astronomers; and it is no wonder if a general curiosity should be excited among other persons, by the near approach of so rare a phenomenon. So very rare indeed it is, as to have happened but once, since the revival of the antient Ptolemaean, which is the true Astronomy, by Ptolemy, about 240 years ago. Before that period, they pass'd unobserved, if not unthought of. The only one that has been since, was in the year 1639, on the 24th of November O. S. This was observed by a young English astronomer, whose name was Horrox, and his friend, in Lancashire, for about half an hour; till the too early setting of the Sun put an end to their observations. These two were the only persons from the beginning of the world, that had the good fortune to behold this curious spectacle. In the long interval since elapsed, of above 120 years, it has never happened once; so that the Transit next following that of 1639 is this of the 6th of June 1761; which was predicted by the great Kepler so long ago as the year 1604. On that day, the planet Venus, which now makes so brilliant an appearance every evening in the west, will be totally deprived of her borrowed lustre; and, for the second time since the creation, will be seen traversing the face of the Sun, in the form of a spot, perfectly round and perfectly black; making a peculiar sort of solar eclipse, by covering a small part of the Sun's luminous disk. The diameter of the planet will be 2/3 part of the Sun's diameter, and she will pass 9 min. 44 sec. to the southward of the Sun's center, or almost 1/2 part of the Sun's diameter, within his southern edge; spending near 7 hours in the passage. Upon this occasion, thousands will be employed in gazing on a sight, which neither they nor their fathers had seen; every telescope in Europe will be turned to the Sun; and the most skillful astronomers there, busy in making their observations with all possible accuracy.

Such observations will not be confined to Europe: they will be carried on in Asia and Africa with the same attention. For it ought to be particularly mention'd, as it will for ever be remember'd, to the honour of some of the greatest Princes of the present age, that amidst the tumults of war they have listen'd to the still voice of the Sciences, and have sent into the remotest countries of the South and East, proper persons to make the important observations. Important they may well be called, since (besides other purposes not so needful to be enlarg'd on at this time) those made in distant parts of the earth, when compared together, will solve one of the most noble and difficult problems in astronomy,—that of finding the distance of the Sun from the Earth. They will determine this distance, not in the way of probable conjecture, but of mathematical demonstration; and that to a degree of exactness far superior to what has ever yet been attained to, or ever can be in any other method. The methods heretofore used for this purpose by astronomers were strictly true in speculation, but not so proper for practice; the observations required in them being such as could not be made with near the exactness as the present observations may be. At the same time, the distance of Venus and of all the other planets will be discovered;—and of all the comets too. And when their true distances are once known, the real magnitudes of all these bodies will be likewise determined. Which points well settled, will elucidate some others that will give us a deeper insight into the wonderful works of GOD.

It were greatly to be wish'd, that America also might bear a part in so laudable an undertaking;—an undertaking not calculated to serve the separate views of any particular party, but the common interest of the civilized world; and in the benefit of which the whole Republic of letters, in every nation and in every age, will equally partake. For the more observers there are, and the more distant their stations, the more firmly and accurately will the conclusion be established. But unfortunately for us, this most desirable spectacle, which will be presented to all the other continent, will be concealed from the greatest part of our western world, by happening when it is night with us. This may be seen by the following calculation, carefully made from the best astronomical tables that have ever been published;—those of the celebrated Dr. Halley; which, if not perfectly exact, are yet probably very near the truth: According to which the times of this Transit, as reckon'd under our meridian, will be as follow,

Table with 2 columns: Event and Time (D. h. m.). Venus first touches the Sun, 1761. June 5 9 21. Her center enters, 33. She is wholly within, 45. Middle, or Venus nearest the Sun's center, 40. Venus begins to pass off the Sun, 36. Her center passes off, 48. She wholly leaves the Sun, 16 00.

Hence it appears, that under our meridian and near it, the whole of the Transit will be in the night. In New-England, it will begin about 2 h. after Sun-set on the 5th of June, and end half an hour before Sun-rise on the 6th. And as our meridian runs thro' the length of America, the Transit will be invisible to almost the whole of this continent. The beginning may indeed be seen a little before Sun-set, in the most north-westerly parts, about California; and the end, a little after Sun-rise in the most north-easterly parts, about Newfoundland. At Halifax, it will be intirely over just as the Sun is rising. At Louisburg, the last interior contact, when Venus begins to pass off, will be but one minute after Sun-rise; and this is the nearest place to New-England, where Venus's leaving the Sun can be observed. Both the beginning and end cannot be seen in any Part of America, but what is in 60 d. or upwards of north latitude. But it may justly be doubted, whether in the places now specified, where the Transit will be visible, there be any persons qualified to observe it.

The foregoing general calculation may be reduced to any other place, by allowing the difference of meridians. But in adapting this calculation to particular places, regard must be had to the parallax of Venus; that is, to the difference of her place on the Sun, when view'd from different parts of the earth. The effect of this parallax will be, that in some parts of the earth the whole Transit will be of a shorter; in others of a longer continuance, than according to the foregoing calculation. And where only the beginning or end is visible, they will happen sooner in some places, and later in others, on this account. And it is by comparing these differences together, that the Sun's distance will be determin'd. It would be endless to particularize here: Two or three instances of this diversity may serve as a specimen.

In Lat. 32 N. & Long. 21 E. from hence, the time of Venus's leaving the rising Sun will not be alter'd by parallax; but will be the same as in the foregoing calculation, allowing only for the difference of meridians. To the southward of this, the time of this phasis will be later; to the northward, earlier. So that in Lat. 47 S. it will be 8 m. 26 s. later on this account; but at Louisburg, 2 m. 31 s. sooner. If this emersion could be observed in the setting Sun in 49 N. Lat. and under a meridian 7 1/2 h. W. from hence, it would happen 8 m. 39 s. sooner, on account of parallax.

The difference therefore between this observation of the end, and that just mention'd in S. Lat. would be 17 m. 5 s. more than what is due to the difference of their meridians: and this is the greatest difference that can take place. The differences for any assign'd places may be found likewise by computation.

These conclusions are drawn from the supposition that Venus's parallax is precisely of that quantity, which it has of late years been generally supposed to be: Other suppositions of the quantity of this parallax would lead to other conclusions as to these differences of time. And conversly, when it shall be found by the observations now to be made, what these differences of time actually are, we shall from thence collect what the just quantity of this parallax is; by which means, the hitherto immeasurable distances of the heavenly bodies will at length be nicely ascertain'd. J. WINTHROP.

WILLIAMSBURG, April 10.

This Day the Business of the General Assembly being finish'd, his Honour the Governor gave his Assent to such Bills as were ready, and then made the following SPEECH:

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

I AM arriv'd at a Day the most disagreeable to me of any one since I have been intrusted by his Majesty with the Administration of your Affairs: As you have shown yourselves on all Occasions dutiful Subjects, by your Loyalty and Attachment to your Sovereign and his Government, I consider you as my Friends; as Friends, grieve to part with you. I should not justly acquit myself of the Duty I owe to his Majesty, were I to omit thanking you, before I dismiss you, for the Readiness and Alacrity with which you have engaged in the Measures recommended to you to assist his Majesty's Arms, in the Recovery of that Country which the French had usurp'd; and on my own Part I can with Truth assure you, that the many Marks of Affection and Respect you have shown me, the Confidence you have placed in me, and the strong Proofs you have given me of your Approbation of my Conduct, has made an Impression on my Mind which nothing can efface, as long as it shall please the Almighty to continue to me the Blessings of Life and Memory.

The Constitution of the Council is such as secures to me the meeting you, Gentlemen, who compose it, in the same Capacity the ensuing Assembly: This gives me the greatest Satisfaction, as I have so often experienced your Ability and Zeal to serve his Majesty, and your Integrity and Candour in conducting every Measure to promote his Interest, and the general Good of this Colony. But,

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

My Assurances of meeting you again as Particulars are not so certain as I could wish they were, for I can never expect, or even desire, to meet an Assembly composed of Gentlemen more acceptable to myself; who have happily found the Means of joining your Duty to his Majesty to your Care for the Interest of the Colony, which can never be separated but to the Disadvantage of both. In this Light, I hope your Constituents will see your Conduct; approve the whole Tenour of it; and show their Approbation by the Choice which the Circumstances of the Times will give them an Opportunity to make.

Gentlemen of the Council and of the House of Burgesses,

All that remains for me to do, is to put an End to this Assembly, which I do with great Unwillingness; but it is requisite you should be now dissolved, and you are dissolved accordingly.