

L. O. N. D. O. N.

A Letter from a Gentleman in Town to his Friend in the Country, occasioned by a late Resignation.

*Cedit & Ripheus, iustissimus ille
Qui fuit in Teucris, & servantissimus aequi.*

My dear SIR,

YOU will by this Time have heard of Lord Bute's Resignation, an Event that has astonished the Publick.

I fancy I cannot more agreeably gratify your Curiosity, than by informing you of the Opinions, or rather Conjectures that are formed on this Occasion. His personal Enemies triumph at his Retreat, and boast that they have driven him from the Administration by their Spirited Opposition; but it does not appear they have much Reason to vaunt, as not a single Person of their Party has been admitted into Government.—The Friends of the late Minister affirm, that his Resignation is in Consequence of a Resolution early taken, and invariably adhered to by this extraordinary Person; who seeing the Nation involved in a consuming War, which, for various Reasons, no Minister but himself would put an End to, thought himself called upon, not only as the Friend of his Sovereign, but as the Friend of his Country, to undertake the difficult and dangerous Task of making Peace: This he happily accomplished, and made a Peace which speaks for itself. In the Prosecution of this great Work, his Life has been often Threatened, and sometimes in Danger, from an exasperated Multitude: His Character has been attacked with a Virulence, till now unknown: His Relations, his Friends, the Place of his Nativity, have been reviled, and every possible Method taken to discredit him with the Publick, and to ruin him with the King, his Master. This Storm he endured, and persevered with invincible Constancy, till the Peace was ratified and approved by Parliament, and the Business of the Session brought to a Conclusion: Then he resigned, leaving the new Ministry, supported by a great Majority in both Houses, and not obstructed by those Prejudices which had been so industriously raised up against him.

It is reported, that his Lordship was determined to the immediate Execution of his Purpose by the declining State of his Health, greatly impaired by the Anxiety and Fatigue of Business. This Opinion of his having early taken a Resolution to retire, is confirmed by the Mildness of his Administration, and his total Neglect of the Libels against him. He has accordingly Retired, without Place or Pension, disdaining to touch those tempting Spoils which lay at his Feet.

Viewed in this Light, the Conduct of the late Minister shines with a Splendor of Generosity and Disinterestedness that must strike every unprejudiced Mind, and even soften the Rage of Prejudice itself. The Minister of the greatest Kingdom in the World, who voluntarily resigns, retires, and becomes a private Man, without Rank, Place, or Revenue, surely presents to Mankind an uncommon Spectacle; AN OBJECT OF VENERATION! And every serious and reflecting Person must necessarily regret, that this noble Lord found his Countrymen in such a Disposition with regard to him, to require so extraordinary an Effort of Magnanimity to do them Service.

The Turbulence of Free States is a common Theme of Declamation, and seems a Defect, in some Degree, inseparable from Liberty. I am afraid, that this Country has now given an Instance of this Disposition, which may lead future Ministers and future Sovereigns to Views of Government very

different from those of the late Minister, and the present King. His Majesty, since his Accession to the Throne, has voluntarily surrendered Part of his Prerogative, and Part of his Revenue, for the Sake of Freedom. He hath set before his Subjects an uniform Example of every private Virtue; and yet, to confess the Truth, Faction has been able to diminish the Popularity due to this excellent Prince.

—Hic Pietatis Honos?
I am unwilling to draw a Conclusion so severe against the Age in which we live, but it seems unavoidable.—The King is too virtuous for his People! Their Ingratitude to him is a Proof, that they neither have in themselves, nor respect in others, those Qualities which distinguish him among Monarchs, and among Men. Perhaps (I am afraid it is more than Perhaps) they would be better Subjects if their Sovereign was not so good; and it is no Prophecy to say of those headlong Times, that some hard ruled King, as Shakespear calls Henry VIII, will one Day arise, and more than Revenge the Wrongs of his Predecessor. Such are the Sentiments that I hear from judicious and quiet Men, who searching into the Character and Conduct of the King, and his late Minister, can find nothing to justify the Violence of Opposition, nothing to excuse that most injurious Jealousy of an Intention to attack Liberty, by establishing a general Excise. For my Part I am fully satisfied, that Liberty is in no Danger but from the Growth of Licentiousness, the Arrogance of Faction, and the Temerity of seditious Men, working on the Passions of their Fellow Subjects.

Whoever considers some late Proceedings of a very publick Nature, can be at no Loss to judge from what Quarter the Constitution is in Danger. A single Corporation erects itself into a Tribunitial Court, condemns the Procedure of Parliament, and gives impetuous Council to the King. The more I contemplate the Temper of the Times, and the sort of Spirit that has prevailed for a Twelve-month past, the more melancholy are my Conclusions. A Patriot King, and a Patriot Minister have been described in the Writings of the Learned, and held up as Objects of Admiration and Desire: I am afraid this Country has beheld them both, and has not known them. What real Cause of Jealousy or Discontent has been given during the late Administration? Has Germany been the Idol of the Sovereign? or the Aggrandizing of his own Family, the Object of the Minister? Have Party Distinctions been kept up, that the Minister might govern by a Party? No: The Opposition itself have been weak enough to exclaim against the wise and benevolent Plan of their Sovereign, who chose to be the King of his People, and not the Leader of a Party.

Amazing! that those very Persons, who, when in Office, were always ready to receive every one who would lift with them, should presume to mutiny against their King, and distress his Administration, because he received into Favour the independent Country Gentlemen of England, renouncing their ancient Prejudices, and avowing Allegiance to their native Prince. These are Facts which admit of no Denial, and lead me still more sincerely to lament the Loss of that Constitutional Minister, who has now resigned: I call him Constitutional, because he was not Forced upon the King by a prevalent Faction, but Chosen by his Master, and therefore liable to the Check and Controul of Parliament, which a Minister is not, who seizes Government at the Head of a Party, and will be supported even in the worst Measures, by the Party whom he leads. But the late Minister, besides being in this remarka-

ble Sense a Constitutional Minister, had some acknowledged Qualities that rendered him the least dangerous to Liberty, of all those who have ever held his Office: He had not been bred in the School of Corruption; his delicate Nature was shocked even at that Degree of it which the Necessity of the State requires. Former Ministers corrupted Individuals, to make them swerve from their Duty; now I am afraid, whoever is Minister, must use some Influence with Men to make them adhere to it. Disinterested and sincere, the Earl of Bute was apt to think too well of Mankind, and to lay a greater Stress upon Principle than this Age admits of. His House was a School of Temperance and Regularity; there were neither Routs nor Revels, nor Rioting, nor Gaming there: No Man can complain, during his Administration, of a Promise broken, or of Hopes given, and not fulfilled. No inferior Person, in any Department where he has served, who does not passionately regret the Loss of so easy, so kind a Superior.—Such is the Minister whom this Country has lost for ever; who, in a most perilous Hour, entered on Administration, and in the Midst of all his Cares and Anxieties for the State, has been traduced and persecuted in a Manner unheard of, and even incredible to Posterity. Amongst other good Qualities not denied him, he is said to possess a firm Belief of Religion; else, he had Reason enough to say with Brutus, "Virtue, I have worshipped thee as a Substance, and I have found thee but an empty Name."

RAN away, on Friday the Thirteenth of 1st May, from the Subscriber living on the Head of Wicomico River, in Charles County, a Mulatto Boy named Jack, between 16 and 17 Years of Age, he Stutters very much, and has short curled black Hair: Had on an Onabrighs Coat, Felt Hat, new Double-Channel Pumps, and a Pair of blue Woman's Stockings, with red Clocks. He rode away a small white Horse, whose Brand is unknown.

Whoever takes up and secures the said Boy, as the Subscriber may get him again, shall receive Five Pounds Reward, and Fifteen Shillings for the Horse, paid by SARAH YATTEL.

THERE is at the Plantation of Jacob Lefly, near South-River Ferry, taken up as a Steep, a White Horse about 12 or 13 Hands high, branded on the near Buttock R B, the Letter R is not very plain, has a standing Mane, some small Spots near his off Flank, and a very fore Back.

The Owner may have him again, on proving his Property, and paying Charges.

RAN away from the Subscriber on the 5th of June last, from Yocomico River, Northumberland County, Virginia, a Servant Man named John Payne, born in Maryland, about 5 Feet 7 Inches high, a thin spare Man, of a black Complexion, and about 25 Years of Age. He had on and with him, a Claret or Pompadour coloured Cloth Coat, black Worsted figured Wove Jacket, fine Cashmere Hat, blue Cloth and Buckskin Breeches, mixed Yarn and black Worsted Stockings, new Check Trowsers, and a new Check Shirt. It is thought he will make for North-Carolina or Pennsylvania.

Whoever apprehends the said Servant, and delivers him to his Master, or secures him so that he may be had again, shall have One Pistole Reward, beside what the Law allows, if taken 10 Miles off; Two Pistoles, if 15 Miles; Three Pistoles, if 20 Miles; Five Pistoles, if 30 Miles; or Six Pistoles, if out of the Province, paid by RICHARD BOWEN.

THERE is at the Plantation of John Watts, Son of Daniel, in Frederick County, A Brindle STEER, mark'd with an Under and an Over Notch in the right Ear, and a Crop and Under Bit in the Left. Also a Py'd COW, with the same Marks.

The Owner or Owners may have them again, on proving Property, and paying Charges.

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[XIXth Year.]
NEW-LONE
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BROTHERS
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