

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1767.

WILLIAM WHETCROFT, GOLDSMITH, JEWELLER, and LAPIDARY, Has opened Shop, opposite Dr. HENRY STEVENSON'S, in Gay-Street, BALTIMORE-TOWN.

WHERE Ladies and Gentlemen may depend that constant Attendance will be given, and the greatest Expedition observed in any Orders they shall be pleased to favour him with. As he has provided proper Persons, which in the several Branches are calculated to give Content, so he will engage they cannot procure, on the Continent, any Articles in that Way, on better Terms than those which are manufactured by him. He keeps the Work he tells in Repair, gratis, and gives the best Prices for Old GOLD, SILVER, SILVER-LACE, and BALTIMORE-STONE.

WILLIAM KNAPP, WATCHMAKER, in ANNAPOLIS,

LEGS Leave to acquaint the Gentlemen of Baltimore, that any Commands in the WATCHMAN, delivered at the above Shop, shall be carefully executed, and speedily returned to said Shop; as he has now for that Purpose, established such an Intercourse between Baltimore and this Place, that will admit of no Disappointment.

Elk-Ridge Landing, November 17, 1767.

THE Subscriber, pursuant to the Acceptance of his Proposal, at opening his Store, expects that all those who were pleased to favour him with their Custom, will, without Compulsion, comply with the Terms proposed: And that none may have the least excuse, because of the scarcity of Money, he will take Wheat, Rye, Oats, Corn, Flax-seed, or any other merchantable Commodity, at the Current Price; and every Delinquent, who will not comply with these Terms, or come and settle his Account, by giving his Bond or Note, may expect to be used as the Rigour of the Law directs.

SAMUEL DORSEY, Junr.

BALTIMORE-TOWN, Nov. 9, 1767.

ATTENDANCE will be constantly given at my Store in Baltimore-Town, from this Time, until the First Day of January next, in order to settle and adjust all Accounts due from, and to, the Estates of EDWARD DORSEY, Esq; and Miss HARRIETTA MARIA DORSEY, his Daughter, late of the City of Annapolis, deceased. And whereas the Administrators on the said Estates, hath, by repeated Advertisements in this GAZETTE, requested all those indebted to the said Estates, to make immediate Payment, which has hitherto been neglected. I hereby give Notice, That immediately after the First Day of January next, the necessary Steps of Law will be taken by us, in order to compel every Person, without Distinction, that are any Ways indebted to said Estates, to make Payment of their respective Debts, to JOHN RIDGELY, Administrator.

FREDERICK County, Nov. 22, 1767.

ALL Persons who have any Claims or Demands against the late Mr. Thomas Norris, of Frederick County, deceased, or against Mr. William Norris, as his Son and Heir at Law, also lately deceased, or against the said William Norris, in his own Right, are desired to communicate the same to Mrs. Catherine Norris, Widow of the aforesaid William Norris, living near Mr. Gary Truck's, on Little Pipe-Creek, Frederick County. As Mr. Thomas Norris died possessed of a considerable Real Estate, Part of which, was sold by William Norris, his Son and Heir at Law, and applied towards Payment of his Debts; and the said William Norris having left an Infant, about 18 Months old, the Creditors are desired to signify their Consent, to an Application to the General Assembly of this Province, for a Law, to enable some Person to sell the Lands of the aforesaid Thomas Norris, for the Payment of his Debts, as it is supposed there will be sufficiency arising from the Sale, to pay all Debts, and leave something to the Heir at Law.

CATHERINE NORRIS.

Anne-Arundel County, November 24, 1767.

RAN away last Night, from the Subscriber, living near Patuxent Ferry, an English Convict Servant Man, named BARTHOLOMEW CROSS, about 30 Years of Age, a tall slender Fellow, sandy Complexion, and has a scald Head: Had on when he went away, a brown Devonshire Jacket, a Nankeen ditto under it, old white Shirt, a new Pair of brown Half-thick Breeches, with one Pocket, a Pair of black and white Stockings, footed with white Yarn, an old Pair of English Shoes, two old Felt Hats sewed together round the Edge with blue Yarn, and a new worsted Cap: Whoever takes up said Servant and brings him to the Subscriber, or secures him so as he may be had again, shall have a Reward of TWENTY SHILLINGS if taken in the County, and FORTY SHILLINGS if out of the County, besides what the Law allows, paid by CHRISTOPHER GARDENER.

He broke Queen-Anne's Jail sometime in September last, and went by the Name of Richard Adwell.

PRINTING-OFFICE: Where all PERSECUTIONS, of a moderate Length, Long Ones in Proportion to their Pains of BLANKS, viz. COMMON and proper BONDS annexed; BILLS of LANE performed in the neatest and

LETTERS from a FARMER in PENNSYLVANIA, to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies.

LETTER II.

BELOVED COUNTRYMEN, HERE is another Act of Parliament, which seems to me as destructive to the Liberty of these Colonies, as that inserted in my last Letter; that is, the Act for granting the Duties on Paper and Glass, &c. It appears to me to be unconstitutional. The Parliament unquestionably possesses a legal Authority to regulate the Trade of Great-Britain and all its Colonies. Such an Authority is essential to the Relation between a Mother-Country and its Colonies, and necessary for the Common Good of all. He who considers these Provinces, as States distinct from the British Empire, has very slender Notions of Justice, or of their Interests. We are but Parts of a Whole, and therefore there must exist a Power somewhere, to preside, and preserve the Connexion in due Order. This Power is lodged in the Parliament; and we are as much dependant on Great-Britain, as a perfectly free People can be on another.

I have looked over every Statute relating to these Colonies, from their first Settlement to this Time; and I find every one of them founded on this Principle, till the Stamp-Act Administration. All before, are

For the satisfaction of the reader, recitals from former acts of parliament, relating to these colonies, are added. By comparing these with the modern acts, he will perceive their great difference, in expression and intention.

The 12th Charles II. chap. 18, which forms the Foundation of the Law relating to our trade, by enacting, that certain productions of the colonies shall be carried to England only, and that no goods shall be imported from the Plantations out in ships belonging to England, Ireland, Wales, Berwick, or the Plantations, &c. begins thus, "For the increase of shipping, and encouragement of the navigation of this nation, wherein, under the good providence and protection of GOD, the wealth, safety, and strength of this kingdom is so much concerned, &c."

The 15th Charles II. chap. 7, enforcing the same regulation, assigns these reasons for it: "In regard his Majesty's plantations beyond the seas are inhabited and peopled by his subjects of this his kingdom of England; for the maintaining a greater correspondence and kindness between them, and keeping them in a firmer dependance upon it, and rendering them yet more beneficial and advantageous unto it, in the further employment and increase of English shipping and seamen, vent of English woolsen, and other manufactures and commodities, rendering the navigation to and from the same more safe and cheap, and making this kingdom a staple not only of the commodities of those plantations, but also of the commodities of other countries and places, for the supplying of them; and it being the usage of other nations to keep their plantations trade to themselves, &c."

The 25th Charles II. chap. 7, made expressly "for the better securing the plantation trade," which imposes duties on certain commodities exported from one colony to another, mentions this last for imposing them, "Whereas by one act, passed in the 12th year of your Majesty's reign, entitled, An act for encouragement of shipping and navigation, and by several other laws passed since that time, it is permitted to ship, &c. sugars, tobacco, &c. of the growth, &c. of any of your Majesty's plantations, in America, &c. from the places of their growth, &c. to any other of your Majesty's plantations in those parts, &c. and that, without paying of custom for the same, either as the loading or unloading of the said commodities, by means whereof the trade and navigation in those commodities, from one plantation to another, is greatly increased; and the inhabitants of divers of those colonies, not contenting themselves with being supplied with those commodities for their own use, free from all customs (while the subjects of this your kingdom of England, have paid great customs and impositions for what of them hath been sent here) but contrary to the express letter of the aforesaid laws, have brought into divers parts of Europe, great quantities thereof, and do also vend great quantities thereof to the shipping of other nations, who bring them into divers parts of Europe, to the great hurt and diminution of your Majesty's customs, and of the trade and navigation of this your kingdom; for the prevention thereof, &c."

The 7th and 8th William III. chap. 22, entitled, "An act for preventing frauds, and regulating abuses in the plantation trade," recites, that, "Notwithstanding divers acts, &c. great abuses are daily committed, to the prejudice of the English navigation, and the loss of a great part of the plantation trade, to this kingdom, by the artifice and cunning of ill-disposed persons; FOR REMEDY WHEREOF, &c. And whereas in some of his Majesty's American plantations, a doubt or misconception has arisen upon the before-mentioned acts, made in the 25th year of the reign of king Charles II. whereby certain duties are laid upon the commodities therein enumerated (which by law may be transported from one plantation to another, for the supplying of each others wants) as if the same were, by the payment of those duties in one plantation, discharged from giving the securities intended by the aforesaid acts made in the 12th, 22d, and 23d years of the reign of king Charles II. and consequently be at liberty to go to any foreign market in Europe, &c."

The 6th Anne, chap. 37, reciting the "Advancement of trade, &c. and encouragement of ships of war, &c.

calculated to preserve or promote a mutually beneficial Intercourse between the several constituent Parts of the Empire; and though many of them imposed Duties on Trade, yet those Duties were always imposed with Design to restrain the Commerce of one Part, that was injurious to another, and thus to promote the general Welfare. The raising a Revenue thereby was never intended. Thus, the King, by his Judges in his Courts of Justice, imposes Fines, which altogether amount to a considerable Sum, and contribute to the Support of Government: But this is merely a Consequence arising from Restrictions, which only meant to keep Peace and prevent Confusion; and surely a Man would argue very loosely, who should conclude from hence, that the King has a Right to levy Money, in general, upon his Subjects. Never did the British Parliament, till the Period above-mentioned, think of imposing Duties in America, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING A REVENUE. Mr. Grenville's Sagacity first introduced this Language, in the Preamble to the Fourth of George III. Chap. 15th, which has these Words:—"And whereas it is just and necessary, that a REVENUE be RAISED, IN YOUR MAJESTY'S SAID DOMINIONS, IN AMERICA, for defraying the Expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the same: We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, THE COMMONS OF GREAT-BRITAIN, in Parliament assembled, being desirous to make some Provision, in the present Session of Parliament, TOWARDS RAISING THE SAID REVENUE, IN AMERICA, have resolved to GIVE and GRANT unto your Majesty, the several Rates and Duties herein after-mentioned, &c."

A few Months after came the Stamp-Act, which reciting this, proceeds in the same strange Mode of Expression, thus—"And whereas it is just and necessary, that Provision be made FOR RAISING A FURTHER REVENUE WITHIN YOUR MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS, IN AMERICA, towards defraying the said Expenses, we your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, THE COMMONS OF GREAT-BRITAIN, &c. GIVE and GRANT, &c." as before.

The last Act granting Duties upon Paper, &c. carefully purfues these modern Precedents. The Preamble is this: "Whereas it is expedient THAT A REVENUE SHOULD BE RAISED IN YOUR MAJESTY'S DOMINIONS, IN AMERICA, for making a more certain and adequate Provision for defraying the Charge of the Administration of Justice, and the Support of Civil Government, in such Provinces, where it shall be found necessary; and towards the further defraying the Expenses of defending, protecting, and securing the said Dominions, we your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, THE COMMONS OF GREAT-BRITAIN, &c. GIVE and GRANT, &c." as before.

Here we may observe an Authority expressly claimed to impose Duties on these Colonies, not for the Regulation of Trade; not for the Reservation or Promotion of a mutually beneficial Intercourse between the several constituent Parts of the Empire, heretofore the sole Objects of Parliamentary Institutions; but for the single Purpose of levying Money upon us.

This I call an Innovation; and a most dangerous Innovation. It may perhaps be objected, that Great-Britain has a Right to lay what Duties she pleases upon

grants to the captors the property of all prizes carried into America, subject to such customs and duties, &c. as if the same had been first imported into any part of Great-Britain, and from thence exported, &c."

This was a gift to persons acting under commissions from the crown, and therefore it was reasonable that the terms prescribed should be complied with,—more especially as the payment of such duties was intended to give a preference to the productions of the British colonies over those of other colonies. However, being found inconvenient to the colonies, about four years afterwards, this act was, for that reason, so far repealed, that by another act, "all PRIZE GOODS imported into any part of Great-Britain, from any of the plantations," were made, liable "to such duties only in Great-Britain, as in case they had been of the growth and produce of the plantations, &c."

The 6th George II. chap. 13, which imposes duties on foreign rum, sugar and molasses, imported into the colonies, shews the reasons thus—"Whereas the welfare and prosperity of your Majesty's sugar colonies in America, are of the greatest consequence and importance to the trade, navigation, and strength of this kingdom; and whereas the planters of the said sugar colonies, have of late years, fallen under such great discouragements, that they are unable to improve or carry on the sugar trade, upon an equal footing with the foreign sugar colonies, without some advantage and relief be given to them from Great-Britain: FOR REMEDY WHEREOF, AND FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF YOUR MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS, &c."

The 29th George II. chap. 26, and the 1st George III. chap. 9, which contains the 6th George II. chap. 13, declare, "That the said act hath by experience been found useful and beneficial, &c."—[These are all the most considerable statutes relating to the commerce of the colonies; and it is thought to be utterly unnecessary to add any observations to these extracts, to prove that they were all intended solely, as regulations of trade.]

"It is worthy observation, how quickly subsidies granted in forms useful and unaccountable, (though heavy) are borne; such a power hath use and custom; on the other side, what discontentment and disturbances subsidies formed on new moulds do raise, (SUCH AN INBRED HATED NOVELTY DOETH HATCH) is evident by examples of former times." Lord Coke's 3 Institute, p. 33.

her Exports, and it makes no Difference to us, whether they are paid here or there. To this I answer—These Colonies require many Things for their Use, which the Laws of Great-Britain prohibit them from getting any where, but from her. Such are Paper and Glass.

That we may legally be bound to pay any general Duties on these Commodities, relative to the Regulation of Trade, is granted; but we being obliged, by her Laws, to take them from Great-Britain, any special Duties imposed on their Exportation to us ONLY, with Intention to raise a Revenue from us ONLY, are as much Taxes upon us, as those imposed by the Stamp-Act.

What is the Difference in Substance and Right, whether the same Sum is raised upon us by the Rates mentioned in the Stamp-Act, on the Use of the Paper, or by these Duties on the Importation of it? It is nothing but the Edition of a former Book, with a new Title Page.

Suppose the Duties were made payable in Great-Britain?

It signifies nothing to us, whether they are to be paid here or there. Had the Stamp-Act directed, that all the Paper should be landed at Florida, and the Duties paid there, before it was brought to the British Colonies, would the Act have raised less Money upon us, or have been less destructive of our Rights? By no Means. For, as we were under a Necessity of using the Paper, we should have been under a Necessity of paying the Duties. Thus, in the present Case, a like Necessity will subject us, if this Act continues in Force, to the Payment of the Duties now imposed.

Why was the Stamp-Act so pernicious to Freedom? It did not enact that every Man in the Colonies should buy a certain Quantity of Paper—No! It only directed, that no Instrument of Writing should be valid in Law, if not made on Stamp Paper, &c.

The Makers of that Act knew full well, that the Confusions that would arise upon the Disuse of Writings, would COMPEL the Colonies to use the Stamp Paper, and therefore to pay the Taxes imposed. For this Reason, the Stamp-Act was said to be a Law that WOULD EXECUTE ITSELF. For the very same Reason, the last Act of Parliament, if it is granted to have any Force here, "will execute itself," and will be attended with the very same Consequences to American Liberty.

Some Persons perhaps may say, this Act lays us under no Necessity to pay the Duties imposed, because we may ourselves manufacture the Articles on which they are laid—whereas by the Stamp-Act no Instrument of Writing could be good, unless made on British Paper, and that too stamped.

Such an Objection amounts to no more than this; that the Injury resulting to these Colonies, from the total Disuse of British Paper and Glass, will not be so afflicting as that which would have resulted from the total Disuse of Writing among them; for, by that Means, even the Stamp-Act might have been evaded. Why then was it universally detested by them as Slavery itself? Because it presented, to these devoted Provinces, nothing but a Choice of Calamities, each of which, was unworthy of Freemen to bear. But, is no Injury a Violation of Right, but the greatest Injury? If the eluding the Payment of the Duties, imposed by the Stamp-Act, would have subjected us to a more dreadful Inconvenience, than the eluding the Payment of those imposed by the late Act; does it therefore follow that the last is no Violation of our Rights, though it is calculated for the same Purpose the other was, that is, to raise Money upon us without our Consent?

This would be making Right to consist not in an Exemption from Injury, but from a certain Degree of Injury.

But the Objectors may further say, That we shall sustain no Injury at all by the Disuse of British Paper and Glass. We might not, if we could make as much as we want. But, can any Man, acquainted with America, believe this possible? I am told there are but Two or Three Glass-Houses on this Continent, and but very few Paper-Mills; and suppose more should be erected, a long Course of Years must elapse before they can be brought to Perfection. This Continent is a Country of Planters, Farmers, and Fishermen; not of Manufacturers. The Difficulty of establishing particular Manufactures in such a Country, are almost insuperable. For one Manufacture is connected with others, in such a Manner, that it may be said to be impossible to establish One or Two, without establishing several others. The Experience of many Nations may convince us of this Truth.

Inexpressible therefore must be our Distresses in evading the late Acts, by the Disuse of British Paper and Glass. Nor will this be the Extent of our Misfortunes, if we admit the Legality of that Act.

Some people, whose minds seem incapable of uniting two ideas, think that Great-Britain, has the same right to impose duties on the exports to these colonies, as on those to Spain and Portugal, &c.—Such persons attend so much to the idea of exportation, that they entirely drop sight of the connection between the mother-country and her colonies.

If Great-Britain had always claimed and exercised an authority to compel Spain and Portugal to import manufactures from her only, the cases would be parallel: But, as she has never pretended to such a right, they are at liberty to get them where they please; and if they chuse to take them from her, rather than from other nations, they voluntarily consent to pay the duties imposed on them.