

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, F E B R U A R Y 11, 1768.

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

L E T T E R VIII.

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

IN my Opinion, a dangerous Example is set in the last Act relating to these Colonies. The Power of Parliament to levy Money upon us, for raising a Revenue, is therein avowed and exerted. Regarding the Act on this single Principle, I must again repeat, and I think it my Duty to repeat, that to me it appears to be unconstitutional.

No Man who considers the Conduct of Parliament, since the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, and the Disposition of many People at home, can doubt, that the chief Object of Attention there, is, to use Mr. Grenville's Expression, "providing that the DEFENDANCE and OBEEDIENCE of the Colonies be ASSERTED and MAINTAINED."

Under the Influence of this Notion, instantly on repealing the Stamp-Act, an Act passed, declaring the Power of Parliament to bind these Colonies in all Cases whatsoever. This however was only planting a barren Tree, that cast a Shade indeed over the Colonies, but yielded no Fruit. It being determined to enforce the Authority on which the Stamp-Act was founded; the Parliament having never renounced the Right, as Mr. Pitt advised them to do; and it being thought proper to disguise that Authority, in such a Manner, as not again to alarm the Colonies; some little Time was required to find a Method by which both these Points should be united. At last the Ingenuity of Mr. Grenville, and his Party, accomplished the Matter, as it was thought, in "an Act for granting certain Duties in the British Colonies, and Plantations in America; for allowing Drawbacks, &c." which is the Title of the Act laying Duties on Paper, &c.

The Parliament having several Times before imposed Duties to be paid in America, IT WAS EXPECTED, NO DOUBT, THAT THE REPETITION OF SUCH A MEASURE WOULD BE PASSED OVER AS AN USUAL THING. But, to have done this, without expressly asserting and maintaining the Power of Parliament, to take our Money without our Consent, and to apply it as they please, would not have been sufficiently declarative of its Supremacy, nor sufficiently depreffive of American Freedom.

Therefore it is, that in this memorable Act, we find it expressly "provided," that Money should be levied upon us, without our Consent, for PURPOSES, that render it, if possible, more dreadful than the Stamp-Act.

That Act, alarming as it was, declared, the Money thereby to be raised, should be applied "towards the defraying the Expences of defending, protecting, and securing the British Colonies and Plantations in America;" and it is evident, from the whole Act, that by the Word "British," were intended Colonies and Plantations settled by British People, and not generally, those subject to the British Crown. That Act therefore seemed to have something gentle and kind in its Intention; and to aim only at our own Welfare: But the Act now objected to, imposes Duties upon the British Colonies, "to defray the Expences of defending, protecting, and securing his Majesty's DOMINIONS in America."

What a Change of Words! What an incomputable Addition to the Expences intended by the Stamp-Act! "His Majesty's DOMINIONS" comprehend not only the British Colonies, but also the conquered Provinces of Canada and Florida, and the British Garrisons of Nova-Scotia; for these do not deserve the Name of Colonies.

What Justice is there in making us pay for "defending, protecting, and securing" THESE PLACES? What Benefit can we, or have we ever derived from them? None of them was conquered for us; nor will "be defended, protected, or secured" for us.

In Fact, however advantageous the subduing or keeping any of these Countries may be to Great-Britain, the Acquisition is greatly injurious to these Colonies. Our chief Property consists in Lands. These would have been of a much greater Value, if such prodigious Additions had not been made to the British Territories on this Continent. The natural Increase of our own People, if confined within the Colonies, would have raised the Value still higher, and higher every Fifteen or Twenty Years: Besides, we should have lived more compactly together, and have been therefore more able to resist any Enemy. But now the Inhabitants will be thinly scattered over an immense Region, as those who want Settlements, will chuse to make new ones, rather than pay great Prices for old ones.

These are the Consequences to the Colonies, of the hearty Assistance they gave to Great-Britain in the late War—A War undertaken solely for her own Benefit. The Objects of it were, the securing to herself the rich Traffs of Land on the Back of these Colonies, with the Indian Trade, and Nova-Scotia, with the Fishery. These and much more has that Kingdom gained; but the inferior Animals, that hunted with the Lion, have been amply rewarded for all the Sweat and Blood their Loyalty cost them, by the Honour of having sweated and bled in such a Company!

I will not go so far as to say, that Canada and Nova-Scotia are Curbs on New-England; the Chain of Forts through the Back-Woods in the Middle Provinces; and Florida on the rest: But I will venture to say, that if the Products of Canada, Nova-Scotia and Florida, deserve any Consideration, the Two first of them are only Rivals of our Northern Colonies, and the other of our Southern.

It has been said, that without the Conquest of these Countries, the Colonies could not have been "protected, defended and secured." If that is true, it may, with as much Propriety be said, that Great-Britain could not have been "defended, protected and secured," without that Conquest: For the Colonies are Parts of her Empire, which it is as much concern'd as them, to keep out of the Hands of any other Power.

But these Colonies, when they were much weaker, defended themselves before this Conquest was made; and could again do it, against any that might properly be called their Enemies. If France and Spain indeed should attack them, as Members of the British Empire, perhaps they might be distressed; but it would be in a British Quarrel.

The largest Account I have seen of the Number of People in Canada, does not make them exceed Ninety Thousand. Florida can hardly be said to have any Inhabitants. It is computed that there are in our Colonies Three Millions. Our Force therefore must increase with a Disproportion to the Growth of their Strength, that would render us very safe.

This being the State of the Case, I cannot think it just, that these Colonies, labouring under so many Misfortunes, should be loaded with Taxes to maintain Countries, not only not useful, but hurtful to them. The Support of Florida and Canada, cost yearly, it is said, Half a Million Sterling. From hence, we may make some Guess of the Load that is to be laid on us; for, we are not only to "defend, protect, and secure" them, but also to make "an 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."

Not one of the Provinces of Canada, Nova-Scotia, or Florida, has ever defrayed these Expences WITHIN ITSELF. And, if the Duties imposed by the last Statute, are collected, all of them together, according to the best Information I can get, will not pay One Quarter as much as Pennsylvania alone. So that the British Colonies are to be drained of the Rewards of their Labour, to cherish the scorching Lands of Florida, and the icy Rocks of Canada and Nova-Scotia, which never will return to us One Farthing that we send to them.

Great-Britain—I mean the Ministry in Great-Britain, has cantoned Canada and Florida out into five or six Governments, and may form as many more. She now has Fourteen or Fifteen Regiments on this Continent; and may send over as many more. To make "an adequate Provision" FOR ALL THESE EXPENCES, is, no Doubt, to be the Inheritance of the Colonies.

Can any Man believe, that the Duties on Paper, &c. are the last that will be laid for these Purposes? It is in vain to hope, that because it is imprudent to lay Duties on the Exportation of Manufactures from a Mother-Country to Colonies, as it may promote Manufactures among them, that this Consideration will prevent them.

Ambitious, artful Men, have made the Measure popular; and, whatever Injustice or Destruction will attend it, in the Opinion of the Colonists, at Home, it will be thought just and salutary.

The People of Great-Britain will be told, and they have been told, that they are sinking under an immense Debt—that great Part of this Debt has been contracted in defending the Colonies—that they are so ungrateful and undutiful, that they will not contribute one Mite to its Payment—nor even to the Support of the Army now kept up for their

"So credulous, as well as obstinate, are the People in believing every Thing, which flatters their prevailing Passion." Hume's History of England.

"Defence, Protection, and Security"—that they are rolling in Wealth, and are of so bold and republican a Spirit, that they are aiming at Independence—that the only Way to retain them in "Obedience", is to keep a strict Watch over them, and to draw off their Riches in Taxes—and that every Burden laid upon them, is taking off so much from Great-Britain.—These Assertions will be generally believed, and the People will be persuaded, that cannot be too angry with the Colonies; as that Anger will be profitable to themselves.

Qui sentit Commodum sentire debet et Onus.
They who feel the Benefit, ought to feel the Burden.
A. FARMER,

P A D U A, September 16.

WE learn from Venice, that a Courier being arrived there from Admiral Emo, with the last Proposals of the Dey of Algier, the Senate, after continuing a long Time assembled, were divided in Opinion; but that at last, the Party for Peace gained the Ascendant, and it was resolv'd to make up Matters with the Dey, by paying him the 10,000 Sequins.

VIENNA, Oct. 24. A Report prevails, that the Arch-duchess Maria Carolina, who is a Year and some Months younger than the deceased Princess, is destined in Marriage for the King of the Two Sicilies.

COLOGNE, Oct. 30. Just as the Post was going out, we received the melancholly News of the Death of her Serene Highness Louisa Dorothea de Saxe-Meiningen, the reigning Dutchess of Saxe-Gotha, on the 22d Instant, in the 49th Year of her Age.

L O N D O N, October 6.

It is said, that many Persons of Rank and Fortune have lost all Hopes of rising at Court, on Account of the much lamented Death of his late Royal Highness the Duke of York; an Event which has also destroyed the Hopes of many indigent Gentlemen of real Merit, whose Livelihood and future Prospects depended on this generous benevolent Prince, who shewed himself, upon all Occasions, a Friend to modest Merit, in whatever Station he met with it.

Oct. 8. The Lion, Northam, from Rhode-Island to London, was stranded: the first Instant, near Montri-vel, on the French Coast, but as the Weather was favourable, and the Ship new, there was some Hopes of getting her off.

We are told that for some Days past, certain Persons have actually been canvassing among the Livery for their Votes and Interest in favour of John Wilkes, Esq; to represent the City of London, in Parliament.

Oct. 13. We hear from Berlin, that the King of Prussia, in order to encourage the Manufactures of his own Country, has, by a late Edict, prohibited the exporting to Sale of any other but what is made in his Kingdoms; and at the same Time has laid a heavy additional Duty on all foreign Goods.

Oct. 17. The Right Hon. Charles Townsend, Esq; lately deceased, some Years since, built and endowed Two Schools at Raynham in Norfolk, for Boys and Girls, where they were clothed and maintained, and by his Will, we hear he has greatly increased the Endowment, having left some Estates for their Support for ever.

We are informed, that the Reply made by his late Royal Highness the Duke of York to the French King, on his being asked what he thought of the Troops then reviewed, which has been misrepresented in the Papers, was as follows: "I assure your Majesty, that I think they make as good an Appearance as any of the British Troops that were employed in the last War; and, for the Sake of [your Majesty, and of] my Brother, I hope I shall never see them any where else."

They write from Paris, that an ingenious Mechanic of that City, has lately finished a moveable Saloon, of a very extraordinary Nature, which consists of a fine Room of Twenty Feet Square, whose Carving, Gilding, and other Ornaments, vie with any in Europe, and may be taken to Pieces, and packed up with all the Ease imaginable, even to the Marble Chimney Piece, and the Glass Windows.

Oct. 27. Last Saturday's Gazette, contains his Majesty's Order in Council, dated October 23, signifying, That his Majesty having received Information that the Price of Wheat in the Port of London, has been, for Two successive Market Days, above 4s. the Quarter, Winchester Measure; his Majesty therefore prohibits the making, extracting, or distilling of any Kind of Low Wines, or Spirits, from any Wheat, Wheat-Meal, Wheat-Flour, and Wheat-Bran, or any Mixture therewith, until 14 Days after the Commencement of the next Session of Parliament.

A Paper published at Warlaw, concerning the Confederacy of the Peasants, sets forth, That they claim the same Origin as the Noblesse; that they do not pretend to rid themselves of all Service, but require that the Bondage which they groan under be abolished, and their Service restrained to Three Days in the Week; and that, after the Example of the Order of Peasants in Sweden, they insist on being admitted to the Dyest, and enjoying therein the same Privileges, &c.

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