

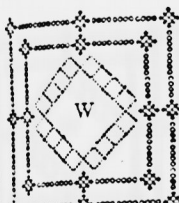
MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1768.

From the BOSTON EVENING-POST, October 3.
Last Wednesday Evening arrived here, Captain DAVIES,
in 7 Weeks from LONDON. By a Gentleman who came
along, we are favoured with the following NORTH-
BRITON.

THE NORTH-BRITON, No. LX.

SATURDAY, August 6, 1768.



WHENEVER I see a rash, headstrong Profligate, and unexperienced Youth, undertake to act the Prime Minister, and to conduct the Affairs of Government, it immediately recalls to my Mind, the Story of Phaeton, who undertook to conduct the Chariot of the Sun; and I cannot help dreading, that the same Circumstance may produce the same Ruin and Combustion in the moral, which the latter produced in the natural World. Such a Prime Minister we have for some Time had; and the Event has been such as might reasonably be expected. The proud Spaniards, laughing at our most importunate Demands of a just Debt: The ambitious Frenchman, conquering Kingdoms, and threatening us with his Vengeance, if we presume to interrupt him: The Irish, by their Acquisition of Ocfennial Parliaments, throwing off, to a certain Degree, their Dependence upon Great-Britain: The English, highly and universally discontented, and exclaiming, with open Mouth, against the Ignorance, the Avarice, and the Tyranny of their Ministers: And the Americans engaged, or upon the Point of engaging, in a general Rebellion against their Mother-Country. Such are a few of the blessed Effects of intrusting the chief Management of our public Affairs to a raw, uninformed, and unprincipled Strippling! Will may I cry out, in the Words of the Preacher, with a little Variation, *Woe be to thee! O Land! when thy Minister is a Child!* And, still more, when he is a worthless, wicked, and abandoned Child; a Covent-Garden Blood, and a Newmarket Jockey. But, not to trouble myself amidst a Multiplicity of Objects, each of which might furnish sufficient Matter for a Variety of North-Britons, I shall confine the Substance of my present Letter to the Affairs of America, as the Storm gathering in that Quarter, is by far the most alarming. The Americans are now fairly driven to Despair; and we are going, it seems, to punish them for the Effects of a Phrenzy of our own raising. The Grievances of the Americans are of Two Sorts; partly civil, and partly religious; and each of these I shall consider separately. I will not say, as is said by some others, that we have no Right to tax the Americans, because the British Legislature hath absolutely determined, that we have a Right to tax the Americans. Two Noblemen, of the first Abilities in the Kingdom, the Lord H-----, and the E----- of Ch-----, have given it as their Opinion, that we have no such Right; and it has frequently been found, that the Opinion of Two Men, or even of One Man, is more agreeable to Reason, to Justice, to Equity, and even to the real Interest of the Nation, than the united Opinion of the whole Legislature. But, whatever may be our Right to tax the Americans, the Expediency of such a Measure, especially at this Juncture, may very reasonably be questioned. The Americans have repeatedly told us,—and we have no just Cause to doubt their Veracity,—that they have no Money to pay Taxes, and hardly even enough to carry on their Trade; as, by the numerous Restrictions laid upon their Commerce, their whole current Specie is remitted to England.

And here I must observe, that, according to the Opinion of the best Politicians, though free Governments are always the most happy for those who partake of their Freedom; yet are they generally the most ruinous and oppressive for their Colonies and Provinces. When a Monarch extends his Dominions, he soon learns to consider his old and his new Subjects as on the same footing; because, in Reality, all his Subjects are to him the same, except the few Friends and Favourites, with whom he is personally acquainted. He does not, therefore, make any Distinction betwixt them in his general Laws; and, at the same Time, is no less careful, to prevent all particular Acts of Oppression, on the one, than on the other. But a free State necessarily makes a great Distinction, and must always do so, 'til Men learn to love their Neighbours as well as themselves. The Governors, in this latter Case, are all Legislators, and will be sure so to contrive Matters, by Restrictions on Trade, and by Taxes, as to draw some private, as well as public Advantage, from their new Dominions. Provincial Governors have also a better Chance, in a Republic, to escape with their Plunder, by Means of Bribery or Interest; and their Fellow-Citizens, who find their own State to be enriched by the Spoils of the Subject-Provinces, will be the more inclined to tolerate such Abuses. Not to mention, that it is a necessary Caution, in a free State, to Change the Governors frequently; which obliges these temporary Tyrants to be more expeditious in their Rapacity, that they may accumulate sufficient Wealth, before they give Place to their Successors.

What cruel Tyrants were the ROMANS over the World, during the Time of their Commonwealth! 'Tis true, they had Laws to prevent Oppression in their Provincial Magistracies: But CICERO informs us, that the ROMANS could not better consult the Interest of

the Provinces, than by repealing these very Laws. For, says he, in that Case, our Magistrates, having entire Impunity, would plunder no more than would satisfy their own Rapaciousness: Whereas, at present, they must also satisfy that of their Judges, and of all the great Men of ROME, whose Protection they stand in Need of. Who can read of the Cruelties and Oppressions of VERRES, without Horror and Astonishment? And who is not filled with Indignation to hear, that after CICERO had exhausted, on that abandoned Criminal, all the Thunders of his divine Eloquence, and had prevailed so far as to get him condemned to the utmost Extent of the Laws; yet that cruel Tyrant lived peaceably, to old Age, in Opulence and Ease; and, Thirty Years afterwards, was put into the Proscription, by MARK ANTHONY, on account of his exorbitant Wealth, where he fell, with CICERO himself, and all the most virtuous Men of ROME?

After the Dissolution of the Commonwealth, the ROMAN Yoke became easier upon the Provinces, as FACTIUS informs us; and it may be observed, that many of the worst Emperors, DOMITIAN, for Instance, were very careful to prevent all Oppression of the Provinces. In TIBERIUS'S Time, GAUL was esteemed richer than ITALY itself: Nor does it appear, during the whole Time of the ROMAN Monarchy, that the Empire became less rich or populous, in any of its Provinces; tho' indeed its Valour and military Discipline were always upon the Decline. The Oppression and Tyranny of the CARTHAGINIANS, over their Subject-States in AFRICA, were carried so far, as we learn from POLYBIUS, that, not contented with exacting from them the Half of all the Product of their Ground, which, of itself, was an intolerable Burden, they also loaded them with many other Taxes. If we pass from ancient to modern Times, we shall find the same Observation hold. The Provinces of absolute Monarchies are generally better treated, than those of Free States. Compare the Pais Conquis of FRANCE, with IRELAND, and you will be convinced of the Truth. CORSICA, was also, 'til very lately, a remarkable Instance to the same Purpose.

It must indeed, be confessed, that, as the English Government is not a pure Republic, the above Reasoning will not exactly apply to the present Case. It is certain, however, that the English Government approaches much nearer to a pure Republic, than it does to an absolute Monarchy; and so far, I am persuaded, the above Reasoning will apply. I know there are some People who suspect, that, as our M----- have been endeavouring, for these Seven Years past, to destroy the republican Part of our Government, they mean to conceal from us their treasonable Design, by shewing that it still exists in its full Force, and produces even more than its natural Effect in our American Colonies. But I believe those reason better, who affirm, that our M----- have, indeed, formed a settled Design to destroy the republican Part of our Government; but that, encouraged, on the one Hand, by their own extensive Power, on the other, by the extreme Weakness of the People, they think it a needless and superfluous Precaution to conceal their Design: They have only, in the present Case, like all arbitrary Ministers, begun at the Extremity of the Empire.

This, indeed, ever has been, and ever will be the Manner, in which all arbitrary or despotic Government is established. It first commences in the more remote Parts of the Kingdom, where the People, few in Number, scattered over the Country, and not collected into large Towns, have little Power, and less Inclination, to make any vigorous Resistance. And having thus got a sure Footing in the more distant Provinces, it advances, by quick and rapid Steps, towards the Capital; where the Citizens, enervated by Sloth, Luxury, Debauchery, and by every other Vice that Wealth can create, fall an easy Prey to their military Legislators. Even, in despotic Governments, the Metropolis commonly enjoys a Degree of Liberty beyond what is to be met with in the more remote Provinces. The Parisians are more free than the Inhabitants of Aix or Toulouse; and the Citizens of Rome, than those of Loreto or Bologna.

It has, I think, been remarked by one of our Correspondents, that the Power of the Crown is now become so great, by the infinite Number of Places it has to dispose of, as to threaten the Liberties of the Nation with speedy Destruction. Increase the Number of these Places, but ever so little, and the Work, I believe, will be fully completed. Our M-----rs, indeed, have stretched this Point as far as they can safely stretch it, at least for the present. And now finding it impossible to provide for their hungry Creatures and Dependents, on this Side the Atlantic, they are resolved, it seems, to provide for them, in America.

The Americans, however, are in no Disposition to receive these courtly Visitants, whose Character they have drawn in as strong and lively Colours, as if they had beheld all their Insolence of Office in Great-Britain. They say, "That their Money cannot be applied to worse Purposes, than to maintain Swarms of Officers and Pensioners, in Idleness and Luxury, whose Example has a Tendency to corrupt their Morals, and whose arbitrary Dispositions will trample on their Rights." They call them Men, "whose imperious Tempers, whose rash, inconsiderate, and weak Behaviour, are well known." They add, that they are continually alarmed with Rumours and Reports of new Importations of Officers and Pensioners, to suck the Life-Blood of the Body-Politic, while it is streaming from the Veins." And, viewing them in this light, but odious Light, is it to be supposed, that they

will patiently bear to see their Land over-run, and their Substance devoured, by such pernicious, such destructive Vermin?

O! but it will be said, all these Officers and Pensioners, and a Thousand Times more, are necessary for the Support of Government. Yes! Yes! It is necessary for the Support of Government, that the Farmers-General in France, and the Tax-gatherers in Spain, should riot on the Spoils of their Fellow-subjects! And it is equally necessary for the Support of Government, that the wretched Peasants of Poland should labour Five Days in the Week for their lordly Masters, and but One for themselves!

I will not say that the Measures, which we have lately pursued, and are still pursuing, in the Management of our American Colonies, are not calculated to promote the Welfare of those Colonies in particular, and of the British Dominions in general; but I am afraid we shall have some Difficulty, in persuading the Americans, that they are calculated to promote the Welfare either of the one or of the other. They will, I apprehend, be apt to suspect, that they are calculated merely to increase the Number of Placemen and Pensioners; and, of consequence, the Power of the Crown, already become too great to be consistent with the Preservation of our national Liberties; and, considering them in this Light, they may be prompted, even from a Principle of Patriotism, to refuse submitting to the Duties imposed upon them.

'Tis certain, however, that they must embrace one Part of this Alternative; they must either submit to these Duties, or they will not. If they do submit to them, 'tis more than probable, that their Resentment of the ill Usage they may think they have met with, will induce them to break off all commercial Connections with Great-Britain; and thus we shall be deprived of the only real Advantage, which a Mother-State can derive from her Colonies. If they do not submit to them, they will either raise a Civil War, the greatest of Evils; or they will oblige the Parliament to repeal an Act, which they have so solemnly passed, and thus render the Government perfectly contemptible.

To such a fine Pass have our wise M-----rs brought the Affairs of the Nation, that their Measures, even in their most favourable Issue, must necessarily be productive of the most fatal Effects! If they act from Design, they ought to be punished as Traitors to their Country; if, from Ignorance, they ought to be dismissed from Places which they are so unable to fill.

I should now come to consider the Religious Grievances of the Americans; but these I must reserve for the subject of another Letter.

LEIGHORN, JULY 25.

ACCORDING to our Letters from Corfica, the Inhabitants of that Island, finding that the French are determined to reduce them by Submission, begin to defend their Liberty vigorously. This they have already given many Proofs of; and lately, when 18 French Polacres endeavoured to land Part of the French Cavalry at San Fiorenzo, they would not suffer them to land, and refused them a Passage to Bastia. Other Letters from Corfica, advise, that there was a sharp Engagement the 14th Instant, between the Corsicans and the French Troops, commanded by the Count de Marboeuf, who attempted to advance into the Country, but were repulsed with the Loss of 500 Men, among whom were a great Number of Officers.

From the UPPER RHINE, August 6. The German News-Writers say, that the King of Poland has sent away Part of his best Effects from Warsaw, and that the Remainder was packed up, ready to go. They likewise insinuate, that his Polish Majesty is determined to quit the Territories of the Republic, 'til the Confederacies are suppressed; and that the Country is covered with dead Bodies, which lie above Ground, and are very offensive.

UTRECHT, August 6. Our Letters from Italy, this Moment received, inform us, that General Paoli is ill at Corte, through Chagrin, occasioned by some of the principal Corsicans, who accuse him of being in Correspondence with the French. They add, that France had requested of the King of Sardinia, a Port in his Territory, to serve as a Magazine or Store-house for the French Troops.

L O N D O N.

August 16. A Letter from Wessell, informs, that the King of Prussia reviewed the Troops in Garrison there, consisting of 4000 effective Men, the 16th Ult. he was so well pleased with their Alertness, that he gave 100 Crowns to each Regiment: They had fired Four Times in a Minute, and the King said, in an Extasy, that he believed his Soldiers could fire Five Times in a Minute, could his Officers give the Word with the same Expedition. This Letter concludes thus: "A Complaint being made to the King, that great Disturbances had been made, at almost every Assembly at Cleves and Wessell, owing to a Dispute between the Ladies of the Chancery of Cleves, and the President of the Chamber of Finances, about the Rank or Pais, his Majesty was besought to decide that Point, which would, for the future, be a Law. Our great King wisely ordered, that the greatest Fool should always have the Rank or Pais of the other, from which Determination we wait an Issue."

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October 20, 1763.

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Johnson, at Annapolis,

GEORGE COOK.

October 14, 1763.

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FRANCIS KING.

S :
M GREEN.