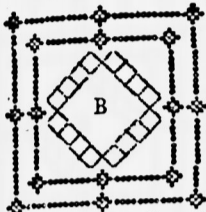


# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1770.

TRIESTE, May 30.



Y Letters from Navarin in the Morea, of the 4th Instant, we learn, that the Ottomans have actually set Fire to the Magazines of Oil in Coron, and reduced the whole City to Ashes. The Inhabitants who escaped took Refuge in Navarin, which Count d'Orlow has made a Place of Arms.

HAMBURG, June 3. The second Russian Squadron, destined for the Mediterranean, waits only for a fair Wind to sail from Cronstadt. This Squadron is to touch at the Mouth of the Humber, to take in Provisions and other Necessaries, for which Purpose English Pilots are already retained. [This confirms the Account already given from another Quarter.]

L O N D O N .

From the LONDON CHRONICLE of May 29, 1770.

TO THE P R I N T E R .

S I R,  
WHILE Parliament was sitting, it would neither have been safe, nor perhaps quite regular, to offer any Opinion to the Publick, upon the Justice or Wisdom of their Proceedings. To pronounce fairly upon their Conduct, it was necessary to wait, until we could consider, in one View, the Beginning, the Progress, and the Conclusion of their Deliberations. The Cause of the Publick was undertaken and supported by Men, from whose Abilities and united Authority, to say nothing of the advantageous Ground they stood on, might well be thought sufficient to determine a popular Question in favour of the People. Neither was the House of Commons so absolutely engaged in Defence of the Ministry, or even of their own Resolutions, but that they might have paid some decent Regard to the known Disposition of their Constituents, and, without any Dishonour to their Firmness, might have retracted an Opinion too hastily adopted, when they saw the Alarm it had created, and how strongly it was opposed by the general Sense of the Nation. The Ministry too would have consulted their own immediate Interest, in making some Concession satisfactory to the moderate Part of the People. Without touching the Fact, they might have contented to guard against, or give up the dangerous Principle, on which it was established. In this State of Things, I think it was highly improbable, at the Beginning of the Session, that the Complaints of the People upon a Matter, which, in their Apprehension at least, immediately affected the Life of the Constitution, would be treated with as much Contempt by their own Representatives, and by the House of Lords, as they had been by the other Branch of the Legislature. Despairing of their Integrity, we had a Right to expect something from their Prudence, and something from their Fears. The Duke of Grafton certainly did not foresee to what an Extent the Corruption of a Parliament might be carried. He thought perhaps that there was still some Portion of Shame or Virtue left in the Majority of the House of Commons, or that there was a Line in publick Prostitution, beyond which they would scruple to proceed. Had the young Man been a little more practised in the World, or had he ventured to measure the Characters of other Men by his own, he would not have been so easily discouraged.

The Prorogation of Parliament naturally calls upon us to review their Proceedings, and to consider the Condition in which they have left the Kingdom. I do not Question but they have done what is usually called the King's Business, much to his Majesty's Satisfaction. We have only to lament that, in Consequence of a System introduced or revived in the present Reign, this Kind of Merit should be very consistent with the Neglect of every Duty they owe to the Nation. The Interval between the opening of the last and the close of the former Session, was longer than usual. Whatever were the Views of the Minister, in deferring the Meeting of Parliament, sufficient Time was certainly given to every Member of the House of Commons, to look back upon the Steps he had taken, and the Consequences they had produced. The Zeal of Party, the Violence of personal Animosities, and the Heat of Contention, had Leisure to subside. From that Period, whatever Resolution they took was deliberate and prepense. In the preceding Session the Dependents of the Ministry had affected to believe, that the final Determination of the Question would have satisfied the Nation, or at least put a stop to their Complaints; as if the Certainty of an Evil could diminish the Sense of it, or the Nature of Injustice could be altered by Decision. But they found the People of England were in a Temper very distant from Submission; and, although it was contended, that the House of Commons could not themselves reverse a Resolution, which had the Force and Effect of a judicial Sentence, there were other constitutional Expedients, which would have given a Security against any similar Attempts for the future. The general Proposition, in which the whole Country had an Interest, might have been reduced to a particular Fact, in which Mr.

Wilkes and Mr. Luttrell would alone have been concerned. The House of Lords might interpose;—the King might dissolve the Parliament;—or, if every other Resource failed, there still lay a grand constitutional Writ of Error, in behalf of the People, from the Decision of one Court to the Wisdom of the whole Legislature. Every One of these Remedies has been successively attempted. The People performed their Part with Dignity, Spirit, and Perseverance. For many Months his Majesty heard nothing from his Subjects but the Language of Complaint and Repentment;—unhappily for this Country, it was the daily Triumph of his Courtiers, that he heard it with an Indifference approaching to Contempt.

The House of Commons having assumed a Power unknown to the Constitution, were determined not merely to support it in the single Instance in Question, but to maintain the Doctrine in its utmost Extent, and to establish the Fact as a Precedent in Law, to be applied in whatever Manner his Majesty's Servants should hereafter think fit. Their Proceedings upon this Occasion are a strong Proof, that a Decision, in the first Instance illegal and unjust, can only be supported by a Continuation of Falschood and Injustice. To support their former Resolutions, they were obliged to violate some of the best known and established Rules of the House. In One Instance they went so far as to declare, in open Defiance of Truth and common Sense, that it was not the Rule of the House to divide a complicated Question, at the Request of a Member. But after trampling upon the Laws of the Land, it was not wonderful that they should treat the private Regulations of their own Assembly with equal Disregard. The Speaker, being young in Office, began with pretending Ignorance, and ended with deciding for the Ministry. We were not surpris'd at the Decision; but he hesitated, and blushed at his own Balances, and every Man was astonished.

The Interest of the Publick was vigorously supported in the House of Lords. Their Right to defend the Constitution against any Incroachment of the other Estates, and the Necessity of exerting it at this Period, was urged to them with every Argument that could be supposed to influence the Heart or the Understanding. But it soon appeared, that they had already taken their Part, and were determined to support the House of Commons, not only at the Expence of Truth and Decency, but even by a Surrender of their own most important Rights. Instead of performing that Duty which the Constitution expects from them, in return for the Dignity and Independence of their Station, in return for the hereditary Share it has given them in the Legislature, the Majority of them made common Cause with the other House in oppressing the People, and established another Doctrine, as false in itself, and, if possible, more pernicious to the Constitution, than that on which the Middlesex Election was determined. By resolving that they had no Right to impeach a Judgment of the House of Commons in any Case whatsoever, where that House has a competent Jurisdiction, they in effect gave up the constitutional Check and reciprocal Controul of One Branch of the Legislature over the other, which is perhaps the greatest and most important Object provided for by the Division of the whole legislative Power into Three Estates; and now let the judicial Decisions of the House of Commons be ever so extravagant, let their Declarations of the Law be ever so flagrantly false, arbitrary and oppressive to the Subject, the House of Lords have imposed a slavish Silence upon themselves;—they cannot interpose;—they cannot protect the Subject;—they cannot defend the Laws of their Country. A Concession so extraordinary in itself, so contradictory to the Principles of their own Institution, cannot but alarm the most unsuspecting Mind. We may well conclude, that the Lords would hardly have yielded so much to the other House, without the Certainty of a Compensation, which can only be made to them at the Expence of the People. The arbitrary Power they have assumed of imposing Fines, and committing, during Pleasurs, will now be exercised in its fullest Extent. The House of Commons are too much in their Debt to question or interrupt their Proceedings. The Crown too, we may be well assured, will lose nothing of this new Distribution of Power. After declaring, that to petition for a Dissolution of Parliament is irreconcilable with the Principles of the Constitution, his Majesty has Reason to expect, that some extraordinary Compliment will be returned to the royal Prerogative. The Three Branches of the Legislature seem to treat their separate Rights and Interests as the Roman Triumvirs did their Friends. They reciprocally sacrifice them to the Animosities of each other, and establish a detestable Union among themselves upon the Ruin of the Laws and Liberty of the Commonwealth.

Through the whole Proceedings of the House of Commons in this Session, there is an apparent, a palpable Consciousness of Guilt, which has prevented their

daring to assert their own Dignity, where it has been immediately and grossly attacked. In the Course of Dr. Mulgrave's Examination, he said every Thing that can be conceived mortifying to Individuals, or offensive to the House. They voted his Information frivolous, but they were awed by his Firmness and Integrity, and sunk under it. The Terms, in which the Sale of a Patent to Mr. Hine were communicated to the Publick, naturally called for a Parliamentary Inquiry. The Integrity of the House of Commons was directly impeached; but they had not Courage to move in their own Vindication, because the Inquiry would have been fatal to Col. Burgoyne and the Duke of Grafton. When Sir George Savile branded them with the Name of Traitors to their Constituents, when the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and Mr. Trecothick, expressly avowed and maintained every Part of the City Remonstrance, why did they tamely submit to be insulted? Why did they not immediately expel those refractory Members? Conscious of the Motives on which they had acted, they prudently preferred Infamy to Danger, and were better prepared to meet the Contempt, than to rouse the Indignation of the whole People. Had they expelled those Five Members, the Consequences of the new Doctrine of Incapacitation would have come immediately home to every Man. The Truth of it would then have been fairly tried, without any Reference to Mr. Wilkes's private Character, or the Dignity of the House, or the Obstinacy of One particular County. These Topics, I know, have had their Weight with Men, who, affecting a Character of Moderation, in reality consult nothing but their own immediate Ease; who are weak enough to acquiesce under a flagrant Violation of the Laws, when it does not directly touch themselves, and care not what Injustice is practised upon a Man, whose moral Character they piously think themselves obliged to condemn. In any other Circumstances, the House of Commons must have forfeited all their Credit and Dignity, if, after such gross Provocation, they had permitted those Five Gentlemen to sit any longer among them. We should then have seen and felt the Operation of a Precedent, which is represented to be perfectly barren and harmless. But there is a Set of Men in this Country, whose Understandings measure the Violation of Law by the Magnitude of the Instance, not by the important Consequences which flow directly from the Principle; and the Minister, I presume, did not think it safe to quicken their Apprehensions too soon. Had Mr. Hampden reasoned and acted like the moderate Men of these Days, instead of hazarding his whole Fortune in a Lawsuit with the Crown, he would have quietly paid the Twenty Shillings demanded of him—the Stuart Family would probably have continued upon the Throne, and, at this Moment, the Imposition of Ship-money would have been an acknowledged Prerogative of the Crown.

What then has been the Business of the Session, after voting the Supplies, and confirming the Determination of the Middlesex Election? The extraordinary Prorogation of the Irish Parliament, and the just Discontents of that Kingdom, have been passed by without Notice. Neither the general Situation of our Colonies, nor that particular Distress which forced the Inhabitants of Boston to take up Arms in their Defence, have been thought worthy of a Moment's Consideration. In the Repeal of those Acts which were most offensive to America, the Parliament have done every Thing but remove the Offence. They have relinquished the Revenue, but judiciously taken Care to preserve the Contention. It is not pretended that the Continuance of the Tea Duty is to produce any direct Benefit whatsoever to the Mother Country. What is it then, but an odious, unprofitable Exertion of a speculative Right, and fixing a Badge of Slavery upon the Americans, without Service to their Masters? But it has pleased God to give us a Ministry and a Parliament, who are neither to be persuaded by Argument, nor instructed by Experience.

Lord North, I presume, will not claim an extraordinary Merit from any Thing he has done this Year in the Improvement or Application of the Revenue. A great Operation, directed to an important Object, though it should fail of Success, marks the Genius, and elevates the Character of a Minister. A poor contracted Understanding deals in little Schemes, which dishonour him if they fail, and do him no Credit when they succeed. Lord North had fortunately the Means in his Possession of reducing all the Four per Cents at once. The Failure of his first Enterprize in Finance is not half so disgraceful to his Reputation as a Minister, as the Enterprize itself is injurious to the Publick. Instead of striking One decisive Blow, which would have cleared the Market at once, upon Terms proportioned to the Price of the Four per Cents Six Weeks ago, he has tampered with a pitiful Portion of a Commodity, which ought never to have been touched but in gross;—he has given Notice to the Holders of that Stock, of a Design formed by Government, to prevail upon them to surrender it by Degrees; consequently has warned them to hold up and enhance the Price—so that the Plan of reducing the Four per Cents must either be dropped entirely, or continued with an increasing Disadvantage to the Publick. The Minister's Sagacity has served to raise the Value of the Thing he means to

\* This extravagant Resolution appears in the Votes of the House; but, in the Minutes of the Committees, the Instances of Resolutions contrary to Law and Truth, and Refusals to acknowledge Law and Truth, when proposed to them, are innumerable.

MEDICINES...  
Q. H. N. B. O. V. D.  
As there are many Orders now on Hand...  
Disappointment in the last Fall's Importation...  
O. B. E. S. O. L. D.  
well improved Lots in George Town...  
O. B. E. S. O. L. D.  
RELY young Negro Man, about Twenty...  
Annapolis, June 21, 1770.  
REAS it has been represented to his Excellency...  
DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.  
WILLIAMSON, May 10, 1770.  
SOLD at PUBLIC AUCTION, the Town of the Honourable Benjamin...  
EN at the PRINTING...  
Yearly ADVERTISEMENTS...  
PRINTING-WORK performed.