

L O N D O N

Sept. 25. Some Letters from Genoa mention a Report prevailing there, that the Senate are actually upon the Point of coming to an open Rupture with Spain, the Bone of Contention being some Disputes relating to the total Sale of Coffee.

We hear that it is now fixed that the Earl of Rochford is to succeed Lord Townsend as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and also (in order to appease the People, who are generally displeas'd at the late unpopular Step of proroguing the Parliament) the Parliament shall sit the ensuing Winter, and the Sessions be opened with a most gracious and conciliating Speech from the new Viceroi.

Sept. 27. The Commander of the Favourite Sloop of War from Falkland Islands, has, we hear, been introduced to his Majesty, and honoured with a private Conference. A spirited Memorial is dispatched to the Court of Spain, demanding their immediate Evacuation of the Falkland Islands.

The Spanish Ambassador says, the Officer at Falkland Island has done what has happened of his own Head, and that his Court knew not a Tittle about it. This should rather seem to be the Answer of a French Ambassador.—We might expect such a One from such a Court.

It is reported, that Lord North waited upon the Earl of Chatham a few Days since, at his Lordship's Seat at Hayes, but upon what Business is a profound Secret. It is reported (we hope without Foundation) that the Plague rages with some Violence in the Island of Minorca.

Sept. 28. Two Bets are actually laid (One by Lord S—) that before the End of Ten Days the Spanish Ambassador will terminate Disputes—by setting off from London for the Catholic Court at Midnight.

Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, Expresses arrived here from Paris, at the French Minister's, in Consequence of which, it is said, Preparations are making for his speedy Departure, which causes much Speculation.

Oct. 2. We hear that a great Personage, notwithstanding his favourite Prepossession in Favour of Peace, has publicly declared, if the Answer of the Spanish Court is not in every respect satisfactory, a Declaration of War shall immediately assert the Honour of his Crown, and the Rights of his People.

Volunteers in Hopes of sharing the Spoils of the Enemy. We hear that the Premier continues to affirm, that Matters may be accommodated with the Court of Spain, without putting either Nation to the Expence of a War.

This Morning the Excellency the Spanish Ambassador has had long Conference with Lord Weymouth, on the Subject of Advice received from the Court of Madrid. It is said that Two Spanish Men of War have been lately sent to Falkland Island, to increase the Force there.

On Monday last fresh Warrants were issued from the Admiralty, which occasions a Conjecture that the Ministry look upon a War as inevitable. They write from all Parts of the Country, particularly the Counties of Hereford, Buckingham, Bedford, Leicesters, Northampton, Warwick, and Stafford, and agree in their Accounts, that their Harvest is extremely plentiful, and well got in. The Weight of the Sheaves exceeds any Thing that has been known for many Years.

PORTSMOUTH, Sept. 29. Lord Chatham, it is reported, has been lately employed in drawing up a Plan for settling the Dispute with America, which, it is said, his Lordship intends to lay before the House of Peers, at the Opening of the next Session of Parliament. Oct. 1. His Majesty's Sloop Swift is lost off Falkland Island. The Captain was tried here on Friday by a Court Marshal, and honourably acquitted.

LIVERPOOL, Sept. 28. The Captain of a Vessel who arrived here Yesterday, and left Aviles, a small Seaport Town in Spain, on Sunday the 16th Inst. brings an Account, that while he was there, all the Fishermen belonging to that Place were ordered to Ferol, to man the Fleet in the Harbour, which he was told consisted of 50 Ships of the Line; but that War was not declared against England.

NEW-YORK, December 3. Extract of a Letter from Cork, dated October 12, 1770.—“The Court of Spain has not yet returned any Answer to the Memorial sent from our Court,—therefore, there can be no Certainty, as yet, whether we are to have War or Peace.”

WILLIAMSBURG, November 29. The Regulators of North Carolina having threatened, we hear, to pay the Assembly a Visit at Newbern, in order to force them to enact what Laws suit their Notions of Government, his Excellency Governor Tryon has ordered the Militia of several Counties to repair to that Place, and to remain there during the Session.

PHILADELPHIA. Extract of a Letter from London, October 4.—“There is great Reason to apprehend a Rupture with Spain, which will probably bring on a general War. You may remember, the English had Two or Three Years ago, made a Settlement at Falkland Island, in the South Seas, which the Spaniards have disposed them of, the Favourite Sloop of War having lately arrived here with our Men; but the Ministry had, previous to the Arrival of the Sloop, put into Commission upwards of Twenty Sail of the Line, and several Frigates, which are equipping with the greatest Expedition, Proclamations and Warrants for Seamen having been issued about a Fortnight past. The spirited Conduct in Administration, treating with Spair in Hand, has met with universal Applause, and cannot fail of either producing an honourable adequate Submission from the Court of Spain, for their insolent Behaviour, or a Declaration of War from ours.

It is said that Restitution of the Island has not only been peremptorily and immediately required, but also Payments of the Manilla Ransom, and all the Charges of the present Naval Equipment, &c. of which I hoped shall be able to speak with more Certainty, even by this Opportunity; the Express which carried the Ultimatum of the Demands made by our Court, being daily expected from Madrid.

the Statute 33 Hen. VIII. C. 9. was made, which prohibits to all but Gentlemen, the Games of Tennis, Tables, Cards, Dice, Bowls, and other unlawful Diversions there specified, unless in the Time of Christmas, under pecuniary Pains and Imprisonment. And the same Law, and also the Statute 30 Geo. II. C. 24. inflict pecuniary Penalties, as well upon the Master of any Publick House, wherein Servants are permitted to game, as upon the Servants themselves who are found gaming there.

But this is not the principal Ground of modern Complaint; it is the gaming in High-life, that demands the Attention of the Magistrate; a Passion to which every valuable Consideration is made a Sacrifice, and which we seem to have inherited from our Ancestors the ancient Germans; whom Tacitus describes to have been bewitched with the Spirit of Play to a most exorbitant Degree.—“They add themselves, says he, to Dice (which is wonderful) when sober, and as a serious Employment, with such a mad Desire of winning or losing, that, when strip of every Thing else, they will stake at last their Liberty, and their very Selves. The Loser goes into a voluntary Slavery, and though younger and stronger than his Antagonist, suffers himself to be bound and sold, and this Perseverance in so bad a Cause they call the Point of honour: *Est in re pravâ perniciosa, ipsi fidem vocant.*” Black. Vol. 4. P. 173.

TO THE PRINTER.

The following Scheme for an Inspection at Queen-Anne, being generally approved and agreed on, you are requested to publish it in your next Paper.

WE the Subscribers, considering that as the Inspection Law has expired, and there being little or no Probability of our getting it again, but upon such Terms as we are in Hopes our Representatives will not agree to, we mean an unreasonable and enormous Regulation of Officers Fees, therefore, in order that the lois of said Law may be felt as little as possible, we propose and oblige ourselves to abide by the following Agreement, viz.

To prevent Frauds and Deceits in the Tobacco Trade, and to secure Purchasers from being imposed upon by mixing Trash Tobacco with the good, we will carry our Tobacco to Queen Anne Warehouse, there to be inspected by Mr. Jeremiah Magruder, except such Part thereof as we may reserve for the Payment of Officers Fees, Parochial Charges, Clergy's Allowances, and for the Payment of the Publick and County Levies, who shall carefully view and inspect all Tobacco as shall be unsealed, and offered to him for Inspection, and shall weigh such Hogheads as was usual under the late Inspection Law, and after the Owner thereof hath secured such Tobacco, he shall certify the Tare and Nett Weight thereof, agreeable to an Oath made before Richard Duckett, Junr. Gent. One of the Magistrates of this County, published in the Maryland Gazette of this Date, that he hath carefully viewed and inspected such Hogheads, and that it is of such Weight and Quality, whether the same be found, well conditioned, merchantable, and clear of Trash, and for his Trouble in writing, and giving such Certificate, and for his Attendance at the aforesaid Warehouse, from 10th Day of December, till the 1st Day of April, as often as may be required; and constantly from the said 1st Day of April, till the 20th Day of August next, for inspecting and delivering out such Tobacco, and afterwards for his Attendance as often as may be necessary till all the Tobacco is delivered cut; we, and each of us, agree to pay such Inspector, the Sum of One Shilling and six-pence for every Hoghead of Tobacco he shall so inspect, to be paid him by the Owner thereof immediately on the Delivery of a Certificate of the Inspection; and we, and each of us, do likewise agree to pay to such Inspector, a further Sum of Nine-pence per Hoghead, for every Hoghead we shall carry to said Warehouse, to be by him paid to the Owner of the Warehouse, by Way of Rent; and for securing the Payment of all such Dues, we agree that the Inspector may detain in said Warehouse every Hoghead of Tobacco, he shall from Time to Time so inspect, and which are not paid for, until the above Payments are duly made; and for the true Performance of all and every Article and Thing set forth and contained in the above Agreement, we have hereunto set our Hands. Dated at Queen-Anne Town, in Prince-George's County, this 3d Day of Decr. 1770.

Prinze-George's County, December 3, 1770. I Herby certify, that at the Request of Mr. Jeremiah Magruder, I have administered the following Oath, to wit, I Jeremiah Magruder, do make Oath, on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that I will, in Case there should be no Regulation by Law for the Inspection of Tobacco, diligently and carefully view and examine all Tobacco which may be carried to Queen Anne Warehouse, from the 10th Day of December, to the 20th Day of August next, which shall be offered to me for Inspection, conformable to the Agreement entered into by the Planters of this Date; and that I will deliver to each Person who shall require it, a Certificate expressing the Tare, Nett Weight, Condition, and Quality of each Hoghead I shall so inspect, and that it is found, well-conditioned, merchantable, and clear of Trash, and that I will distinguish the same as to Colour, in Manner as was done under the late Inspection Law.

Sworn to before me, RICHARD DUCKETT, Junr.

RESOLVED unanimously, That the Charge of Fees (estimated at above the annual Amount of 50,000 lb. of Tobacco) by the Commissary-General, upon Administrators granted by All Deputies, and for which they are paid, is an Abuse of the Regulation of Fees, illegal and oppressive. Resolved unanimously, That the additional Charge, by the Commissary-General, of order to almost every Service done in his Office, (estimated at above the annual

Amount of 40,000 lb. of Tobacco) when, by the same Regulation, it was only allowed in extraordinary Cases, is an Abuse of that Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Charge, by the Secretary and County Clerks of this Province, for recording Papers, in Actions discontinued, abated, struck off, or agreed, when they are not, nor need be recorded, is an Abuse of the same Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Charge by the Secretary, for making up Issues in the Provincial Court, when the same is done by the Attornies, for issuing a Venire Facias for Jurors, when none is issued; for Copy of Judgment on issuing Executions; or for Search and Copy of Judgment on issuing Scire Facias, is an Abuse of the same Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Charge of 300 lb. of Tobacco, by Surveyors for laying down adjacent Tracts, merely to correct the Errors of an original Survey, is an Abuse of that Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Charge of 300 lb. of Tobacco, by Surveyors, as for a Reference, for surveying or laying down each Tract of Land, or a Waiver of Survey, from the Provincial Court; and of 400 lb. of Tobacco for any Tract of Land laid down only for Illustration, is an Abuse of that Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Charge, by the Examiner General, on every Plat laid down for Illustration, and on every Piece of Vacancy added, at the separate and distinct Tracts, is an Abuse of that Regulation, illegal and oppressive.

Resolved unanimously, That the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, having so far agreed on the Bill for amending the Staple of Tobacco, for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs, and for the Regulation of Officers Fees, as that the County Levy, Clergy's Dues and Attornies Fees should be payable in Tobacco or Money, at the Election of those who should be chargeable therewith, and it being the Duty of the General Assembly to enact and provide wholesome Laws, for the Ease, Welfare and Happiness of the People of this Province, the Upper House of Assembly, after their Negatives on the said Bill, ought to have assented to the Bills formed by this House, to provide for the Payment of the County Levy, Clergy's Dues and Attornies Fees, in that Manner.

Resolved nemine contradicente, That the Upper House, Four Members of which hold the Secretary's, Commissary-General's and Land Office, and the Fees of which Offices were attempted to be regulated by the first mentioned Bill, have, in the Intercourse between the Two Houses, on the Subject of that Bill, and by their ultimate Rejection thereof, manifested an unreasonable Attachment to the Emoluments of Office, and by their Rejection of the said other Bills, that House hath evinced an unjustifiable Design to force this Branch of the Legislature, by the Feelsings of the People, into a Regulation of Fees more correspondent to those Schemes of Wealth and Power, which it is much to be apprehended are formed by some of the great Officers of this Government, and which, if carried into Execution, will tend to the Oppression of the People, and, in the End, greatly endanger their Liberties.

By the Lower House of Assembly, Nov. 21, 1770. Ordered, That the above Resolves be immediately printed in this Week's Maryland Gazette, and continued therein Three Weeks successively. Signed by Order, JOHN DUCKETT, Cl. Lo. Ho.

ON the Twenty-sixth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy, came before me the Subscriber, one of his Lordship's Justices of the Provincial Court, Reverdy Giffins, Gent. Clerk of the said Court, and made Oath on the Holy Evangelists, that the Charges in the Secretary's Office, for filing and recording Papers in Actions discontinued, abated, struck off, or agreed; for all Issues made up; for issuing a Venire Facias for Jurors; for Copy Judgment on issuing Executions, and for Search and Copy of Judgment on issuing Scire Facias, have, in every Instance, to the best of this Deponent's Memory and Belief, been the same in every Respect, (according to the Nature of the Case) for and during the Time of the present Secretary, as they uniformly had been before his Appointment to the Office of Secretary; from the Time that this Deponent was first appointed Clerk of the Provincial Court, and also for many Years before. That when this Deponent first entered on his Office of Clerk of the said Court, he had Recourse to the Fee Books in the Office, for his Direction how to make out the Charges, and among others, several Fee Books in the Hands Writing of Mr. Richard Burdus, late Clerk of the said Court, and of Mr. Thomas Johnson, Junr. as he this Deponent verily believes, lodged in the said Office, by which Fee Books this Deponent has been principally guided in his Manner of charging Fees; that particularly the Charges above-mentioned, for recording and filing Papers in Actions discontinued, abated, struck off, or agreed; for all Issues made up; for issuing a Venire facias for Jurors; for Copy of Judgment on issuing Executions, and for Search and Copy Judgment on issuing Scire Facias, which have been made by this Deponent, have always, ever since this Deponent hath been Clerk of the Provincial Court, been, to the best of this Deponent's Judgment and Belief, agreeable to the said Fee Books.

And this Deponent further saith, that he never has been, in any Manner or Way, or at any Time whatever, directed by the present Secretary, to charge any Fee of Fees; but that this Deponent hath been entirely left to pursue his own Methods, except in the following Instance, to wit, when a Sheriff has returned any Fee denied by the Party charged, this Deponent hath received the Secretary's Directions, carefully to examine, whether the Fee denied had been