

the former will remain an authentic Testimony of our unalterable Sentiments; which, by every justifiable Method, we are determined to support; and we doubt not, that, by a steady Performance in these Principles, the Electors of Great-Britain must finally obtain Redress of their violated Rights.

Your Conduct, Gentlemen, hath justly merited the Thanks of your Constituents; and we have the Satisfaction to declare, that we entirely approve all that you have done and said in support of their Liberties.

By the explicit, manly, and determined Part you have taken, during the last Session of Parliament, the Sentiments of those, whose Interest is intrusted to your Care, have been most faithfully expressed.

It is not, therefore, to admonish or instruct, but to point you out as Examples, to animate and encourage others, that we now express our Sense of the Firmness and Vigilance of your Conduct, in these Times of new and dangerous Doctrines; when not only Redress for the Violation of the Right of Election hath not been obtained, but every Attempt to secure that Right from future Violations hath been evaded.

It is become but too evident, that neither the most sacred Rights of the People, nor the Honour of the Crown, have been Objects of their Care, whose Stations render them more particularly responsible for a strict Attention to both.

The public Welfare, then, demands, that those who are chosen to guard its Interests, should employ their utmost Attention to enquire into the Causes of that general Dissatisfaction which prevails in the Minds of a free, a generous, and a loyal People: And, should there be found any just Objects of national Resentment, we trust, that neither ministerial Power shall be able to defeat, nor Retirement from Power elude, the Effect of that Enquiry.

That the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects may be united in a dutiful Submission to legal Authority, and a steady Resistance to illegal Power; and that the Rights of the People may be secured by the Virtue and Prudence of their Representatives, the natural Guardians of those Rights, is the fervent Wish of every Friend of the Constitution; and you may be assured that in Pursuit of those Objects, you will always be supported by the Freeholders of the County of York.

By Order of the Meeting, GEO. ARMYTAGE, Chairman.

It is said that the Russian Ambassador, in Consequence of an Express from his Court, has sent Orders for the Commander of her Imperial Majesty's Fleet in the Downs, to proceed for the Mediterranean, with the first fair Wind, without touching at any Port in the Channel.

On 3. A great Personage has expressed the greatest Uneasiness till the return of a Messenger from a Southern Court, which may serve to show how really critical and dubious publick Affairs are at present.

On Friday the Coroner's Inquest brought in the Verdict wilful Murder, on the Bodies of the Two Sailors that were shot by a Prefs Gang on board the Indian.

On Monday the Prefs for Seamen broke out at Shields, but as most of them had left the Town on the Saturday Night and Sunday, only a few were then impressed; but a great many useful Hands have been taken from the Ships which have since entered the Harbour. And we hear that Prefs Warrants have gone to all the Sea-Ports Northward.

On Tuesday a Prefs Gang amounting to about 40 stout Men, set out for Croydon Fair; and going there so unexpectedly; threw the People into Confusion; during which they picked up many useful Hands, who were conducted to Town, and put on board a Tender in the River. Yesterday most of the above impressed Men entered, and are to be paid the Bounty Money.

Last Night there was again a hot Prefs on the River below Bridge, and also at Wapping, &c. At one House on Salt-petre Bank, Nine able Seamen, who were making merrily with some Women, were taken by the Prefs Gang.

We hear that this Week Protections have been granted to a Number of Foreign Sailors, to induce them to serve on board the Merchant Ships in the River; now greatly distressed for Want of Hands.

Lord Chatham's Character now rises in the publick Opinion, and People renew their Acquaintance with their old Favourite with an additional Degree of Satisfaction.

Perthshire, Sept. 29. It is asserted, that there are several aggravating Circumstances, relating to the Affair at Falkland Islands, in the Papers of the Favourite Sloop of War, which have not yet been made publick. They are deposited at the Admiralty-Office.

Liverpool, Sept. 28. The following Particulars, relative to the Possession taken of Falkland Island by the Spaniards, it is said, may be depended on.

When the Spanish Fleet (which consisted of Five Frigates, on board of which were 500 Troops and a suitable Train of Artillery) arrived at Port Egmont, the commanding Officer immediately ordered the Place to be evacuated: To which our Commander replied, that his Orders were to maintain the Place for the King his Master; and that he would defend it. The Spanish Officer repented to him, how vain Resistance would be to such a superior Force, and that it might be the Occasion of much Bloodshed, which he wished to avoid. After some Altercation, it was agreed between the Two commanding Officers, that the Spaniards should fire over the Heads of our People (which was intended should be looked upon as a Commencement of Hostility) that we should return the Compliment in the same Manner; and then strike the English Colours; all which was accordingly done.

The Matter in Dispute between us and Spain, it is said, stands thus; Falkland Island is considered by the Ministry as an Object of no very great Consequence, and which they can at any Time easily repossess themselves of; but the Affront offered to the Nation in taking it, is looked upon as the greatest. In Resentment therefore for such an Outrage to the Law of Nations, as well as to the last Treaty of Peace, a Mes-

senger has been sent to the Spaniards, to let them know that they must immediately reinstate us in Possession of Falkland Island, and make good all Damages done there, that they must also now pay directly the Spanish Ransom, without Deduction or Abatement; furthermore, that they must indemnify us for the Expence we are at in our present Equipments, amounting, according to Estimate, to 700,000*l.* and make a proper Apology for this scandalous Infraction of Peace, by their Ambassador, otherwise that War will be instantly declared. The Publick will doubtless be impatient to know how these Terms are received by the haughty Spaniard.

PHILADELPHIA, November 19. Extract of a Letter from an English Gentleman at Lyons, October 2.

"We have Advice from Brazil, that Five Sail of Spanish Men of War and Frigates, with a large Store Ship, had sailed in May last from Buenos Ayres to dislodge us from our new Settlements at Falkland Island; this may possibly draw on Hostilities on our Side against the Spaniards.—The Russians have had amazing Success against the Turks, which seem to give Umbrage to France and Spain, and occasions our sending some Ships of the Line up the Mediterranean."

Extract of a Letter from London, October 3.

"A War with Spain is currently talked of among the Merchants here; the Spaniards, it seems, have taken Possession of one of the Falkland Islands, and unless Reparation is soon made for such an Insult offered to the British Government, People suppose a War will be proclaimed. But whether or not, we have several Ships of War fitting out at this Time, and the Prefs Gangs have been busy in the Streets of London for Ten Days past.

Various are the Opinions about what the Fate of America will be next Session. Our Friend does not guess upon the Subject. It appears to me, however, that unless the East-India Company interest themselves on our Behalf, the Tea Act will not be repealed. Parliament is composed of Men, who are out of the Way of being affected by the Distresses of America, and unless it can be proved, that a Repeal of that obnoxious Act will be for the Interest of the Kingdom, most certain it will be suffered to remain as at present."

ANNAPOLIS, DECEMBER 20. Yesterday his EXCELLENCY our GOVERNOR was pleased to issue his PROCLAMATION, for dissolving the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this PROVINCE, and we are assured Writs will issue this Day for a GENERAL ELECTION, returnable the 4th Day of February next.

December 18, 1770. TO THE PRINTER. Be pleased to insert the inclosed in your next Paper.

THE Letter directed to Mr. _____ with the Signature of Andrew Marvell is safely delivered, the Gentleman who has been pleased to confer that Honour is requested to resume his Pen, and point out a Division or some other Expedient, by which Mr. _____ may have an Opportunity of conversing with him on the Subject of his obliging Favour.

THE Hon. Lower House of Assembly, having caused some Resolves, entered into last Session, to be published in the GAZETTE, purporting, that certain Fees charged by the Commissary-General, on Administrations granted by his Deputies, as also a Number of Fees charged by the Commissary-General for Orders, &c. are an Abuse of the said Regulation of Fees, illegal and oppressive. I think it indispensably incumbent on me, as Register of the Commissary's Office, whose Duty it is to charge all Fees accruing due in that Office, in a publick Manner to vindicate my Conduct, in that Particular, as far as myself am personally concerned; and at the same Time, to refuse, in the most convincing Manner, a Report, as malicious as it is uncharitable, lately propagated, by some ill designing Person (whose Virulence doth not even spare the Ashes of the Dead) of having, at the Instigation of Charles Goldborough, Esq; late Commissary-General, charged additional Fees not warranted by Law.

Elie Vallée, do therefore, in the Presence of Almighty God, declare, that the above-mentioned Fees, as charged by me, are no Innovations; but that they have, as far back as can be traced by the remotest Fee-Books in the Office, always been charged uniformly, in the same Manner, and for the self same Services, as they stand charged at this present Time, except the Quantum for every such Service, which, until the Year 1747, was nearly double from what it was by the late Law, as can be verified by the Fee-Books in the Office.

That neither the late Charles Goldborough, Esq; nor Walter Dalry, Esq; the present Commissary-General, have, at any Time, directed me, in any Manner intimated their Desire to charge additional Fees not warranted by Law.

That ever since the Year 1769, the charging of the Fees, hath invariably been my Province, without any the least interfering of the Commissary-General.

That my Conduct here hath always been guided, to the best of my Skill and Judgment, by the several Acts of Assembly enacted for that Purpose.

That more especially, with regard to the Charge of the Commissary-General, on Administrations

granted by the Deputy-Commissaries, I never had, 'til very lately, the least Reason to believe that the Legality of that Charge ever could, or would be questioned.

Sworn to the Truth of the above, Nov. 17th 1770. before ROBT. COUDEN.

BY the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to enquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Officers of this Province for Seven Years last past.

In Obedience to the Order of the Honourable House, your Committee have inquired into the Amount of Fees in several of the Offices, and do report as follows:

SECRETARY'S FEES in the Provincial Court. Table with 2 columns: Year (1763-1769) and Amount in £ Tob. (180,496 to 244,990).

SECRETARY'S FEES in the Chancery Court. Table with 2 columns: Year (1763-1769) and Amount in £ Tob. (45,237 to 42,098).

Two of your Committee applied to the Examiner, for the Account of his Fees for Seven Years last past, who answered, in general, that he had not made any Lists of Fees but what were sent to the Sheriffs annually, and could only know the Amount by having Recourse to their Accounts and Returns, and at present was unable to do it.

Your Committee applied also to the Register of the Commissary's Office, and were informed, by Letter from him, that he was so unwell as to be incapable of leaving his Bed; that he was ready to give all the Information in his Power; that to the best of his Remembrance the Fees in 1763, and 1764, amounted to about 224,000*l.* in 1765, and the following Years down to 1769, to about 230,000*l.* and in 1769, by Reason of Papers not coming time to hand to charge in the preceding Year's Fees, they amounted to about 210,000*l.*

Your Committee afterwards understanding Mr. Fellows was better, went to his Office again, and obtained a Sight of his Fee Books, many of which we found not added up or the Fees listed, and in some Years, where the Amount was cast up, the same was marked by Letters, the Solution of which your Committee not being acquainted with, could come at no Certainty: Those Fee Books they could best understand they did examine, particularly in 1768, and found the total Amount 236,699*l.* and in 1769, the total Amount was 263,149*l.*

The Amount of Fees furnished by the Clerk of the Land-Office was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1763-1769) and Amount in £ Tob. (526,525 to 382,600).

All which is submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable House. Signed per Order, JOHN JOHNSON, Clk. Com.

SECOND REPORT BY the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to enquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Officers of this Province for Seven Years last past.

Since giving in our former Report relative to the Examiner-General, and the other Officers, your Committee have received from the Clerk of the Court and Examiner-General, an Estimate of the Amount of his Fees in both those Departments for the Years 1766, 1767, and 1769, which are as followeth:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1767-1769) and Amount in £ Tob. (7281 to 7741).

All which is submitted to the Consideration of the Honourable House. Signed per Order, JOHN JOHNSON, Clk. Com.

FRIDAY, November 2, 1770. On Motion, ORDERED, That the Report of the Committee appointed to inspect the publick Offices, and to enquire from the several Officers, their Deputies, Registers, or Clerks, into the annual Amount of the Fees that have accrued due to the said Officers of this Province for Seven Years last, of the Third Day of October, and also the Report of the same Committee of the Twelfth Day of October, be printed in the next Week's Maryland Gazette, and be continued for Six Weeks successively.

Signed per Order, JOHN DUCKETT, Clk. Lo. Ho.