

These three weeks, or upwards, have I been threatened with the vengeance you were preparing to pour on this devoted head: at last, you vouchsafe, formally, to announce the approach of the storm. How shall I bite its pelting? I should certainly sink under the apprehension, had I not already survived your first attack, which, I remember, was supposed to be no less terrible, while at a distance. Comforted by this recollection, like Freeman, I now wait with great tranquillity, and with the most perfect sang froid, for the discharge of your heaviest artillery. It is not the first time, I have known a storm, that seemed tremendous, whilst it was a gathering, become, on its breaking out, a mere *brutum fulmen*.

I trust to the candor and good sense of the publick, to suspend their judgments respecting the Address (which, after the promise I made you, it was so exceedingly fair and generous in you to have printed) till after we have settled the other parts of this controversy. When that is done, I hope to convince every passionate and reasonable man, that neither my brethren, nor myself, are, or ought to be, so odious to the community, as you threatened to render us, by the publication of this paper.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,
JONATHAN BOUCHER.
Prince-George's County, March 1, 1773.

To a certain Gentleman, of distinguished abilities, who has retired from the Bar.

THAT you have uncommon talents, derived both from genius and a large education, even those of your enemies, against whom you have been repeatedly guilty of the inextinguishable crime of stripping them and showing them for what they are, will not deny. But neither art, nor genius, will save you from the destruction that now threatens you. The wooden horse, the boot, the whip of wire, the screw, and the dog's head, are all your bitter, but inevitable lot. The holy inquisition of *Jesuits and Independent Whigs* have so put the question, that to speak in the words of Friar Bernard Delicci on a like subject, "even St. Peter and St. Paul, if they were now alive, if inquisition were made against them, according to the manner used by these inquisitors, could not defend themselves from hereby." For mark the words of AMICUS PATRIÆ, the promulgator of the *revocable* decree: "IT IS HOPED (this is the humble formula of the office) that the published opinion will continue to be *revoked*, AS IT REALLY IS, UNANSWERABLE, until it shall be publicly answered." Thus are you commanded to answer an opinion, which the omniscience of the inquisition itself has predetermined and settled to be UNANSWERABLE. God grant you patience to sustain you under your afflictions!

A PROTESTANT WHIG.

A C A R D.

I PRESENT my humble service and respects to Doctor Crispin, and pray that he will take me along with him. I do not pretend to say absolutely that he had not a good intent in writing; but suspect that he had better mind his awl and last, than dabble in politics, which the learned say he knows nothing about. His quackery only makes folks laugh at him, and by and by he will become so fulsome, and so troublesome, and of such bad fame, that he will be obliged to go abroad, and leave the management of his shop to a journeyman, because his neighbours will not suffer him to intrude into a room where they are.

I know it ill becomes a Tailor, as I am, to write for the press, but Dr. Crispin must not therefore think to use me ill, otherwise I may bite him, though I am but a Tailor. Mayhap he may some time or other have got something by haling himself in to write; but the pitcher that goes often to the well is broke at last. As for example; an acquaintance of mine, of the same trade, thought himself so clever, a fellow once by means of some success in his craft, as to try to take care of himself, and his poor neighbours, by his pen. For when a journeyman, by name Mahgnirey Seggib, was carrying home some new cloaths, he stumbled over a horsehoe, near a stream, and had like to have ruined his whole burthen, which would have been to the cost of his customers. But my acquaintance paid for this through the nose, and some might think, perhaps, if they knew all, that he ought to have paid by his neck. He afterwards however got to writing upon publick matters; and all the paper he stained was fit for nothing but to cool his own goose. So I think, for the reasons aforementioned, that Dr. Crispin had better let alone the Bishop, who had his head chopp'd off, as I am told (though the Doctor dreams of a rope) and all other publick affairs, for he is much likelier to get by scratching out than by writing.

From my own shop-board
in Prince-George's County.

A TAILOR.

Prince-George's, March 1st, 1773.

MR. GREEN,

HAPPENING to be present at the Coffee-House in ANTONION in your Gazette; I overheard a discourse between a Courtier and a Countryman, which I could not help pausing upon all night, and part of the next day as I rode home.—My memory being naturally retentive, I have since had the substance set down in writing and by the advice of some of my neighbours, who are pleased with what was said by the Countryman, I send it to the press, and should be obliged to you to publish it in your next paper.

I am your humble servant,

A PLANTER.

Courtier. Have you read over the piece under the signature of Antilon with attention? He is not such a

simply writer as the Editor; he seems to have rather too much warmth but discovers great depth of historical and political knowledge and his reasoning about the proclamation appears to me unanswerable.

Countryman. I do not pretend to any great degree of knowledge in the history of past ages of the world, but have my eyes open and all my senses perfect and yet cannot see the proclamation in the same harmless light he does—a meer chip in porridge—to men of my plain understanding it appears quite otherwise, and I think I have no difficulty in shewing that the conduct of Administration has been wrong.

Courtier. It will not be sufficient to allege your mere opinion; the declarations of a faction, or the clamours of a mob.

Countryman. I shall not rest my proof entirely on either; my own opinion is of no consequence; the very existence of what you call a faction is a presumption of something wrong in administration, and the clamour of the mob, as you are pleased to call the people, gives strength to that presumption. There cannot be so much smoke, where there is no fire; but our discontents are not confined to what you call the faction or the mob; if you will produce any man in the province of common reflection, who is independent, and has no views on administration for himself or his friends, who will not greatly blame some of the measures lately pursued, I will engage to become your convert.

Courtier. Persons of the class you hint at are always finding fault, and are ever ready to join in the cry against men in power. Some of the most designing expect to fill up our places, when they become vacant.

Countryman. The people in general seldom complain without reason—there is no doubt but that they are uneasy and discontented, and this I look upon as good proof of a bad administration. The end of civil government is to secure to the people the full enjoyment of their important natural rights, whilst these are preserved, they are happy and of course orderly and quiet—when these are invaded by men appointed to preserve them. They immediately feel the consequence in the abatement of their happiness—and become uneasy and unruly, this is the general state of things.

Courtier. You moralize very well by way of preface, but this is wide of the mark. Come to the point and shew me if you can that Antilon is mistaken in what he says about the proclamation. To me it seemeth that the subject is not exhausted; more might have been said in favour of that measure.

Countryman. Happy it is for the people of this province that the subjects of contention are known and established rights which every man of common sense is capable of forming his judgment upon—or they might have been misled by the sophistry of Antilon and other court writers, of which we have had great abundance—who serve rather to puzzle than convince. When the present subjects of contention were first started, the people immediately formed their opinion, and they hold that opinion firmly. Indeed every rational man can judge of *palpable deviations* from the end and first principles of government.

Courtier. Pray explain yourself and be more particular, or I shall begin to think of applying the old maxim—*dolus versatur in generalibus*. As you do not understand Latin, I will give it you in English—the artful man deals in generals.

Countryman. Have a little patience; I will gratify your request, and am only afraid you will be tired before I have done. By reading the votes and proceedings in the year 1770. I find that the fees of officers were much controverted, and the gross amount of their salaries enquired into by the Lower House—and I have heard from some of our Burgesses that many accounts were produced demonstrating the abuse of the old table of fees in the mode of charging—upon full consideration of the whole matter, they came to a resolution to adopt a new regulation of fees. That being disagreeable to the Officers who composed in great measure the Upper House—the Law failed—what followed? Why that very table of fees rejected by the representatives of the people was to be established some how or other—the Governor by and with the advice of his Council issued a proclamation strictly enjoining and commanding all Officers &c. under pain of his displeasure to take any other or greater fees than limited by the Act entitled, &c. The form of words need not be again repeated—from the language of the proclamation 'tis evident to me that the very table in contest was set up as the standard of right and wrong between the Officers and the People—in other words the Chancellor and Surveyor General of the Western Shore as Governor by and with the advice of the other great Officers who chiefly composed his Council made that very regulation relative to their own fees, which the several constituent branches of the legislature could not agree upon. Needs there many *hard words* to prove that this proceeding cannot be justified on the principles of the constitution?

Courtier. Hold—hold—you seem to go on rather too fast, and are now too particular—you should remember the maxim that the King can do no wrong.

Countryman. Your friend Antilon has exploded that maxim, we have nothing similar to *Majesty* in our petty province—I am quite indifferent who advised or was principally active in bringing about the proclamation—I blame measures not men—and am willing to treat the supreme magistrate on all occasions with complaisance—all I contend for is that he was wrong advised—I have read some where "that nothing can be Law that is contrary to the first principles of justice and reason, and that even an Act of Parliament would be void that constituted a man judge in his own cause." If these maxims be admitted, do they not apply to the proclamation? Every unprejudiced person must perceive their force on the slightest attention. The Officers in the plenitude of their power assume the station of judges in their own cause, and determine contrary to the declared sense of the representative body of the people, and contrary, as I think, both to Law and Justice. The instances put, of the

courts at home or the chancellor settling an allowance for services done by the subordinate ministers or servants of the court; do not apply—they themselves were not deeply if at all interested in the rate so settled, and if either of the parties conceived themselves aggrieved, trial might be had before a jury—how the Law may be on constitutional principles, I take not on myself to determine—be those instances as they may, they come not up to the proclamation.

Courtier. You reason plausibly enough—I with very sincerely we had never had any anonymous publications—the Editor was greatly to blame for bringing up the fashion of dialogue writing—we shall never have an end to them, I doubt. All this time however you pass over the parallel between ship-money and the proclamation.

Countryman. I am coming to that immediately—great pains have been taken by Antilon to shew a diversity between ship-money, and the fees established by proclamation—compulsory methods by seizing the person or property of those, who did not pay, were directed ('tis alleged) to be used by King Charles and his Ministers—the proclamation threatened only the Governor's displeasure—heavy enough this to annual Officers or *meer tenants at will*; and farther in case of non-payment in ready money, at 12s 6 the whole was to be paid in tobacco by farmers as well as planters—it ready money were paid, no compulsory measures were necessary. The power of demanding tobacco in case of non payment in ready specie was a sufficient rod in the hands of the Officers. Considering how unwilling, indeed unable most men are to imitate the immortal Hampden and go to law with powerful men—and considering also the necessity men are under of having business done in the publick offices; besides let me ask you what is to hinder the Governor and Council under some future less virtuous administration than the present upon complaint of the Officers that their salaries are too small, to issue another proclamation settling a higher rate of fees?

Courtier. I am not prepared with an answer to that question (*yarow!*)—it is not late in the evening (*looking at his watch*); let us return—and hereafter renew our conversation.

Countryman. Before I dismiss the subject, let me ask, what is the sum of Antilon's reasoning—if it proves any thing, it proves that we have no use for Representatives, and therefore may stay quietly at home, and not trouble ourselves with politics.—If at any time we read the history of those worthies, who have stood forth and nobly asserted the cause of liberty to the utter confusion of all her enemies, we must suppress any rising emotion—shake our heads and say—those were halcyon days—we must not expect such; may the genius of this once happy province arise and fire the breasts of all her sons with sentiments worthy of them in these times of difficulty and danger—and grant that the era may not be approaching fast, when we shall be obliged to submit to whatever the Governor and Council shall think proper to impose—good night—I perceive you are heartily tired with the length of my discourse.

A CARD TO ANTONION.

YOU are exceedingly mistaken. We solemnly aver as to any knowledge from us the first Citizen was and is totally and absolutely a stranger to our signature: If he has been told who we are treachery alone could have communicated the information. We approved of his manly spirit in defence of Liberty: His merit called for our publick acknowledgments.—We propose, Sir, hereafter, to expose the futility of your arguments, in favour of the palpably illegal and unconstitutional proclamation. Passionate expression and furious assertion have no weight with us; nor are our nerves of such a delicate nature as to feel an alarm from the insolence of office and petulance of station.

INDEPENDENT WHIGS.

TO AMICUS PATRIÆ.

SIR,
WHEN my Opinion is attacked I shall endeavour to defend it, unless the arguments advanced convince me, that I am wrong in my assertion of the Law: thus far you might have ventured to say of me without my leave: but to challenge a Gentleman to a publick discussion of my Opinion, and then to assure him that I shall be ready to answer him, certainly Antilon this is a liberty you ought not to have taken without my privity or consent. To prevent unfavourable impressions, I must beg leave to deny that you had any authority from me to do what you have done, and by the by what you ought not to have done.

4 March, 1773. Your humble Servant,
WILLIAM PACA.

MARSEILLES, Oct. 30.
THE report which was current, that the plague had manifested itself at Salle and the Isle of Fedala, alarmed the traders, but the report proves to be groundless. What gave rise to it was the fever which always reigns there every year, when the fruits are ripe. In that season the Moors eat nothing else, and take no precautions for guarding themselves against the effects of this ailment: they drink only water, and go almost naked; during the day they are scorched by the sun, and in the night are chilled by the excessive dews. For these fevers, as they have neither physicians nor surgeons, they take no remedies, but support themselves under their system of absolute predestination. They are so accustomed to this mortality from the living on fruits, that at Fez, where it reigns more than in any other part, the persons charged with the office of interring the dead make their bills payable annually, after the cessation of the fruits.