

I apprehended Mr. *Chase* was no more answerable for my conduct than happily I am for yours. How far my reply has justified me, your thoughts will not determine: if it has more strongly confirmed your charge, it has done that, which, even after your assertion of the fact, was much wanting.

Had I immediately on the publication of the epigram, to which I alluded, suspected you to have been the author, my suspicion would not have outrun that of several other people: my then not thinking you capable of such wanton and groundless calumny acquitted you in my own mind; your late sporting with characters has since convinced me, that you have the itch of scribbling strong upon you: so strong, that I cannot fancy a line, at which you would probably stop: you have the remains of your character in your own keeping, and whether you will or will not gratify my curiosity is a point which rests with yourself.

You have surely an inimitable knack of story-telling, and the good natured way, in which you employ that talent, makes your relations very agreeable: the supposed malefactor it is likely knew as well as the judge; whether he was guilty or not, and there might have been some circumstances in the behaviour of the judge to induce the accused to pronounce him a *bad hard-hearted villain*: there have been judges who justly merited that epithet, and some of them even *Bishops*. I would not wilfully shock your delicacy or pain your modesty: but I think myself well justified in repeating "I abhor the charge and the villain who made it."

I told you I did not recollect I ever made the acknowledgement you charged me with. I owned that I had entertained a doubt upon the reference of the after acts to that of 1701-2, because I had understood from a gentleman of the law that there was a pointed case in favour of such after acts constructively confirming a void act of parliament: and that as the same gentleman had since candidly acknowledged he knew of no such case in point and told me I had mistaken his assertion my doubt was removed. In the polished file of a gentleman you ask "Why Mr. *Paca* do you meanly seek to evade the force of a charge, which you cannot deny, by insinuations as groundless, as they are unmannerly?"—If to assert the truth is meanly to evade the force of a charge, the cap fits me and I will wear it as a plume. But tell me, Mr. *Boucher*,

upon what information do you pronounce the assigned cause of my doubt a groundless insinuation? Are you blest with the peculiar gift to investigate the mind? By what powers do you dive into my heart and falsify my assertions of what passes there? To what folly and extravagance does your anger mislead you! When you are disposed to exhibit your talents, you attack with the most licentious violence, insult with exaggerated provocations, vilify and traduce without any bounds to your venom, impeach the integrity of men, charge them with artifice and insincerity, and represent them as chicaning, temporizing and dead to every moral impression, upon the foundation of your own conjectures only as to the imputed motives of their actions. If a defence is made with the honest warmth inspired by the occasion, you exclaim "Fie sir: is this the language of a gentleman?" I do not pretend to rival you in your gentlemanly erudition, splendid accomplishments and polished manners: but, Mr. *Boucher*, I am not singular in the opinion, you would be a better man, with more good nature and less of those acquisitions: and that you would discharge your sacred function with more decency and propriety, by propagating humility, peace, and charity, than by endeavouring to shine the comet 'tis probable you fancy yourself, with your long trail of defamation and calumny.

I thank you for the opportunity, you gave me, of vindicating myself from the charge of opposing the late measures of government from a disappointment at court. Abundantly convinced of your good will towards me, I designedly laid myself open to your thrusts upon this point, that you might strike home, if truth could justify you in the stroke. Whether you were or were not the gentleman, who attempted this blot upon my character, is a matter of more consequence to yourself than to me: a generous publick acquit me and I feel myself happy in my immaculate purity, which, as scripture teaches benevolence even to an enemy, I wish the characteristic of Mr. *Boucher*: it is certainly a badge of honour, and when worn by a *Maryland parson* might have the good tendency to buy that *proverb* in oblivion and exalt our ideas with respect to the clergy in this government.

You are still disgusted with my opinion. I expected it: you feel the force of it, and vanity apart, I may say, it has satisfied some, who were at least as honestly desirous as yourself to be informed: I have the gratification to see too, that it has in some measure contributed to stop the career for the *forty per poll*. Your feeble efforts to expose and ridicule me, which an overweening fondness for your own productions makes you mistake for manly satire, have not produced the wished effect. I am happy in the applauses of my countrymen for my honest intentions to promote their real welfare: and if you pursue the course, you have set out in, your disapprobation will be much more desirable than your praises of a man's conduct.

I don't doubt your readiness to take upon yourself to answer for every incumbent in the province: but I question, whether they will ratify your engagement. I have seen, Sir, a celebrated address—I don't mean, Mr. *Boucher*, to call up a blush in virtue's cheek—but I have seen a celebrated address upon the subject of episcopacy, which thus began "We the clergy of the established church in this your government of Maryland" and though it imported the general voice of the clergy and was delivered into the hands of his Excellency under the pompous signature of a secretary, yet, when truth drew up the curtain, nine personages only were exhibited to view. Gracious Heavens! What a scene of glory! but

How could these self-elected Monarchs raise
So large an Empire on so small a base.

CHURCHILL,

—I am told this address was nobly disclaimed by the majority of the worthy ministers of the church of England in this government of Maryland. When then an embodied mine could not fetter all, What must I think of your single attempt? But whether you have or have not a legal and conclusive authority to bind every incumbent in the province, upon the point you challenge me, I cannot accept your offer: I have no such powers over the people: I cannot controul or bind them: were I solely interested I would cheerfully take your proffered terms, and submit the question to the suffrages of eminent gentlemen of the law: nor should I fear to do it upon the very principle you intimate—the certainty of a majority: though I should object to your taking the *polls*, as from your manner, you seem to set down every one for you, who, you do not know, has declared an opinion against you.

The particular notice you have been pleased to take of the epithet *parson* betrays a peevishness, which you ought by all means to get the better of: an indulgence of this humour can only promote risibility. The term carries no reproach with it, that I know of; nor can I conceive why you should take offence at it; unless in applying it to you, it reminds you that alas! you are neither *Bishop* nor *Dean*.

An enemy as I am to the establishment of the *forty per poll* and warm and zealous in opposing it, say what you will Mr. *Boucher*, I profess myself friendly inclined towards the worthy ministers of the church of England. Your wanton attack and repeated ill treatment of me shall not provoke a general enmity. The day may come when honoured with a publick character I shall have an opportunity of delivering my sentiments: virulent reflections shall not bias my judgment nor personal animosity influence my heart: I will continue an honest man: endeavour to banish prejudice, to blot out of my memory past affronts and injuries—and to forget *parson Boucher*.

I am Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILLIAM PACA.

L O N D O N, December 10.

SOME very singular propositions are said to have been made at our court, by the Swedes, on the present critical state of continental affairs.

Should the expected rupture between the Danes and Swedes take place, our situation would be somewhat critical, for it is morally impossible, (though the sworn ally of the former) that, after what has happened to a daughter of this country, we should fight for them; and to take the contrary side, or even remain neuter, would be totally repugnant to our own natural interests.

Dec. 12. They write from Paris, that his catholic Majesty's ambassador at that court has insisted on the immediate dismissal of the French Governor at Martinico, for refusing assistance to two Spanish men of war which put in there in September last, in distress. It appears however that at the time of this refusal, the garrison itself was almost in a starving condition.

Dec. 14. An humble address is ordered by the House of Commons to be presented to his Majesty by such members as are Privy Counsellors, that he would be pleased to order that there be laid before that House copies of all intelligence that has been received by any of his Majesty's ministers, and all applications to them; upon which it has been thought expedient to send an additional number of forces into the island of St. Vincent's, together with copies of the orders, which have been sent by any of his Majesty's Secretaries of State or Secretaries of War, relative to the employment of the said forces.

Dec. 15. Since last session 35 appeals have been entered before the House of Peers, 16 of which are from Scotland, nine from Ireland, and six from the high court of Chancery.

The following anecdote is related as fact. The factory at Dantzick, in concurrence with their principals, had agreed that every British ship coming into that port should be assessed in a certain and proportionate sum, in order to form a fund for the relief of such British sailors as might be reduced by sickness, lameness, or any other accident, and for the support and maintenance of the British poor: For there are still at Dantzick, many descendants of British families, who were driven from their country during the civil wars. The produce of the fund arising from this voluntary contribution had often been sufficient to enable the directors of it to extend their benevolence to the poor of other nations. By this establishment the British merchants had acquired a degree of respect and esteem, which is ever of the highest advantage in a commercial city: And the masters of the British vessels have always found it easy to recruit their ship's company, if death, or illness, or any other accident, had deprived them of any sailors. The sums thus paid by the British ships had never been considered as a duty; had never been paid either to the King of Poland or to the town of Dantzick; but into the hands of trustees, appointed by the factory, who were to apply them to this particular purpose. Could the King of Prussia pretend the smallest right to these sums? Yet he has declared this voluntary contribution to be a port duty; obliges the British nation to pay it to his commissaries, and having thus arbitrarily and insolently appropriated these sums to his own use, refuses to make good the pensions assigned on them for the maintenance of divers poor and distressed families.

Dec. 19. Private letters from Lisbon say, that Sir Peter Denis, Rear-Admiral of the red, having settled some matters with the Portuguese ministry with regard to trade, was sailed from thence in his Majesty's ship *Trident*.

We have the pleasure to assure the publick, that in less than two months a reconciliation will take place with the three royal brothers, but their duchesses will not be included in the amity.

ANNAPOLIS, MARCH 11.

Another correspondent requests us to insert the following state of the cause between Mess. Harrison and Lee, in Charles county.

Mr. Lee had executed Mr. Harrison for the *Forty per poll*; upon which he brought his action for assault and battery and false imprisonment. The defendant pleaded not guilty; and also justified under the act of 1702. To the latter there was an issue in law, determinable by the court, which would have brought the validity of that act in question; and the jury were impanelled to try the former. It was proved, in evidence, that the sheriff had conducted himself with mildness and complaisance; yet, by his own declaration, the plaintiff had been arrested, and would have been carried to jail, if he had not redeemed his person by payment of the demand. The counsel for the defendant urged every favourable circumstance, in mitigation of damages, but could not, regularly, nor did they attempt a justification, before the jury. The charge was an assault and imprisonment. The fact, though denied by the plea, was proved; and the jury found for the plaintiff. They could not have done otherwise; as they did not enter into a consideration of the legality of the defendant's conduct—that point, by the demurrer, being submitted to the judgment of the court. By an agreement at the bar, the final consequences of the suit are to wait the determination of the law in the provincial court. If that court should be of opinion that the act of 1702 is not in force; or if in force, that the sheriff has no right to execute the person; then the plaintiff is to enter a judgment on the verdict. If the provincial court should be of opinion that the act is in force, and that the sheriff has a right under it to execute the body for the *40 per poll*; then the plaintiff, *Harrison*, is to enter a non-suit. On considering the above fair, and impartial state, the reader will perceive that the point, whether the *40 per poll* act be in force, or not, is not only not determined, but is not, in any manner, affected by the verdict.

N O W F O R S A L E,
THE Houses and Lots in which I lately dwell, situated on the Court-House Circle in the City of Annapolis; they are all well inclosed with Rails and Pales. the Houses are mostly new and in very good Repair; they will be sold for a long Credit if required; the Terms may be known by applying to

REUBFN MERIWETHER.

N. B. This House and Lots are so advantageously situated, and so well known, that I think a minute Description of them needless.

March 5, 1773.

A LL Persons who have any just Claims against the Estate of Richard Sappington, lately deceased, are desired to bring them, in legally proved, that they may be settled; and those who are indebted to the said Estate are desired to pay their Accounts immediately, to

JOHN & RICHARD SAPPINGTON, Executors,
and,
MARGARET SAPPINGTON, Executrix.

March 3, 1773.

A CERTAIN Thomas Holmes broke open the Desk of the Subscriber Yesterday, and stole out of it 13 Silver Dollars and a Silver Watch almost new and much out of Repair. The said Holmes is a middle sized Man, full faced, and much pitted with the Small-Pox: Had on a light coloured Willon Coat and Jacket, Leather Breeches, white Worsted Stockings, white Linen Shirt and Neckcloth, and professes bricklaying, painting and drawing. Whoever secures him in any Jail, shall have Ten Dollars Reward, paid by the Subscriber, living in Charles County, near Bryan-Town.

THOMAS WATERS.

HERE is at the Plantation of Samuel Rorer near Sharpsburg, a Stray bright bay Mare; about 13 Hands and a Half high, a large Star on her Forehead, her left hind Foot white, and several Saddle Spots on her back; branded on the near Shoulder something like M, and supposed to be Six or Seven Years old. The Owner may have her again on proving Property and paying Charges.

HERE is at the Plantation of Nicholas Hobbs, about 12 Miles from Frederick-Town, a Stray dark bay Mare, about 9 or 10 Years old, 13 Hands and a Half high, branded on the near Buttock C, has some white on her off hind and near fore Feet, some white Spots on her Back, and has a small Bell with a Leather Collar. The Owner may have her again on proving property and paying Charges.

HERE is at the Plantation of Thomas Tengut, near Herring-Creek Church, a Stray bay Mare, about 13 Hands and a Half high, 3 Years old, has a Star on her Forehead, no perceivable Brand, nor docked. The Owner may have her again on proving Property and paying Charges.

WHEREAS sundry idle persons under a Pretence of shooting and hunting, are frequently going about the Subscriber's Inclosures to his great Prejudice, by pulling down his Fences, and doing other Damages. This is therefore to forewarn all Persons from trespassing in like Manner for the future, as they may depend on being proceeded against agreeable to Law.

WILLIAM THOMAS.