

senza tirar un colpo di pistola. The Whigs tied the handlet round the temples of the PROTESTANT WILLIAM, and he well knew that, if he ever dared to flatter himself into the silly and destructive maxim, *the King can do no wrong*, the same fingers were ready to untie the knot. Hamden, the valiant patriotic Hamden; on the principle that *the King CAN do wrong*, fought the tyrant's life in the thickest of the battle. *Sed Divi aliter visum est. That the King CAN do wrong* is the voice of Locke, it is the voice of wisdom, and every WHIG will seal the truth of it with his blood. *That the King can do no wrong* is the voice of folly, it is the voice of a tory, a papist, and a time server.

MR. GREEN,

Please to insert the enclosed, which I hope will not disoblige the publick, and will much oblige your humble servant.

To the Reverend JONATHAN BOUCHER,

REVEREND SIR,

I WAS not a little pleased with your reply to Messrs. Chase and Paca, published in the Maryland Gazette, No. 1430; though some things in it were exceptionable, as inaccuracies: viz. After you had repeatedly denied the charge of arrogating to yourself the office of a judge, in the part you had taken against them; and asserted your office to have been that of an accuser only, and as such having exhibited your charge at the tribunal of the imperial publick, as judges to pronounce on the same; and though you supported the principal points of charge with considerable shew of argument (some say of pliancy), you should have left to the reader the decision: but in your conclusion, notwithstanding your abjuration, we find you in the chair pronouncing, "upon the best evidence, the accused guilty of the charges." And, what in forensic dialect, may be styled a "bul," when judgment had solemnly past against the culprits, you left them still upon trial; "acquit yourselves if you can." These things are not readily excused in men who would be ranked among the learned. However, I passed them by, and expected to see you censured by your brethren whose labouring cause you were attempting to prop.—But (would to God, darkness, eternal darkness had concealed it) the same Gazette, No. 1431, has distorted your name, Sir, to the world, among others of the sacred character, annexed to a performance that is likely to do a little honour to the Christian name, and principles which you profess, as service to the church whose interest you affect to espouse; I mean the address of the established clergy to his Excellency the Governor of this province. An address which cannot fail to alarm, and deeply affect every generous mind, that wishes well to the freedom of mankind, and the peace of religious society in general.

The great object of the scheme, divulged in the address, glares in almost every sentence, viz. The ennoblement of a particular set of men, and those (generally not of the first character) at the expence of all, and utter destruction of a great body of his Majesty's faithful subjects of this colony. Other objects indeed are held out to the publick, as a disguise, though, to every person of common discernment, they must appear only as mediums to bring into event the darling object.

Every obstruction to this must bow, and tamely take on the burthen, or else be broken. DISSENTERS (esteemed a principal barrier) because they have religion, and firmness enough to assert and contend for the native unalienable rights of conscience, and will not believe a man who can profane the name of God in the sacred desk, &c. is qualified to take upon him the care of souls; must be doomed to everlasting exile from Maryland, loaded with all the terms of reproach and ignominy that malice, exercised by courtly priests, can invent! Daring vexatious sectaries, factious spirited, &c. This seems to favour of accusing the brethren, for it has no foundation but in the address. And if to be exiled from Maryland; by a parity of reason they may be shut out of every climate where priestly influence can rack them, and routed from the face of God's earth! This would make way for episcopals to enjoy an establishment agreeable to their conscience. Dissenters must suffer all this, not because their morals are more depraved than other men, or because their principles are antichristian and dangerous to the souls of men; or because they are in an error in pointing out the way of righteousness to men, or in teaching them the way of salvation; but another reason, because their increase is so amazingly rapid (I believe that is to be attributed to the efficacy of the armour of God, unaided by the arm of flesh). But the execution of this truly Christian scheme is to subvert many interests, in particular the welfare of the clergy where it originated. And to accomplish all, nothing can be better thought of, "Than authorize episcopal vengeance to range unfeathered over these once peaceful realms, which I pray Heaven to avert;" and I trust all the people will say amen.

That this is the true spirit of that address, I submit to the judgment of every candid reader.

Roused from my native apathy, into order, at the glare of this vengeful flame, you will excuse me, Sir, if I tell you, your address is in its whole spirit adverse to the temper of the peaceful Jesus, whose law is love, and whose conduct is mercy.

Now, Sir, I must bid you adieu for ever, after observing, that I am far from claiming a sufficiency of skill to debate so deep in policy as civil and religious establishments, and I should not now, had not duty loudly called. I could heartily wish as a mercy to these infant colonies, and to the nation in general, that all the religious differences which have so long subsisted and rent the church of the peaceful redeemer, were ever banished from human society, and that all who name the name of Christ, would be content to serve him agreeable to their own consciences, and that it might be with one heart, and one mouth, and would cease to oppress and rent one another, after the example of the prince of darkness.

Wishing increase of piety and real religion in the church, and every Christian society,

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

PATUXENT.

To the Reverend Mr. JONATHAN BOUCHER.

REVEREND SIR,

I ASK pardon for having passed over the paragraph you are pleased to remind me of; my silence was occasioned by an opinion of its insignificance; only your ideas of its consequence make it now any way important. In Mr. Chase's and my first letter, we told you, "in questions of law permit us to deny your abilities: your dependance must necessarily be placed upon others, and when you open upon a legal topic we can only consider you as a mere echo;" the event proved the truth of the prediction; your dependance has been necessarily placed on another and you have echoed upon us the attorney general's argument. But I afterwards in my Letter of the 23d February let you know, that I was told, "you had spoken of my opinion and the author in the most disrespectful terms; that you had furnished yourself with law books, and had some legal knowledge; that I meant to challenge you to a publick discussion of the question and give you an opportunity of exhibiting your talent."—I heard, Sir, all that I said I did; though I confess, I still entertained the same contempt for your pretensions to legal knowledge; that I did, when I joined in the first letter to you. I could easily foresee, that however eloquent and learned you were on my opinion at your vestry meetings, you must cut a ridiculous figure on it in the news-papers; and there is nothing more extraordinary in tempting you to write, by taking hold of the handle your vanity might afford me, than there would be in getting an ill bred woman, who was eternally inter-upping better hands, to exhibit in a horrid voice, or a gouty man to hobble, who was rudely finding fault with those whose age, rigidity, and gracefulness, justified their pretensions and rendered their dancing agreeable.

Wilfully to misunderstand and misrepresent an adversary, I confess are tricks in controversy, that have been practised time immemorial, even in the legal idea of the expressions; but equally gray-headed too is the trick in controversy for an adversary to complain of being wilfully misunderstood and misrepresented when caught in an absurdity or defeated in his argument. You are pleased to say, you have nowhere asserted that the assigned cause of my doubt was a groundless insinuation. Pray Sir what did I doubt? The acknowledgement. And why did I doubt? Because I did not recollect it. Have you not in express terms pronounced the assigned cause (my doubt) a groundless insinuation? Did you not echo back upon me the acknowledgement if ever made! preceded by the assertion that it was a groundless insinuation? But there is no necessity to go back to your first reply to prove your above allegation an unseemly deviation from the fact: your last paper is a glaring proof of it. "What must the world think when informed that you did certainly know my assertion of the fact (acknowledgment I presume) to be true even now that you again say it still wanted confirmation." If as you say, I certainly knew it, why then my assertion to be sure, that I did not recollect it, was a groundless insinuation. But Mr. Boucher, permit me to ask again, By what powers do you dive into my heart and falsify my assertions of what passes there? What a pitiful figure does a man make when hampered in folly's leading strings!

You exhibit, Sir, a striking portrait of a spiritual judge, when you ask with surprize "What would you think of a culprit who when arraigned should content himself with coming into court with a declaration that he had a paper in his pocket which would evince his innocence beyond, a possibility of doubt?" My good Sir, I should think such a declaration a sufficient ground for his acquittal: for as much as it amounts to a plea of not guilty: for whatever notions a callous priest may entertain, humanity forbids a presumption of guilt from the naked act of arraignment. Upon the case stated what would be the verdict of a jury? Plain men, not hackneyed in spiritual cruelty and priestly administration of justice, would form mild and benevolent ideas of human nature; they would adopt the principle, which is founded upon the law of God and man; that every person is deemed innocent, till the crime alleged is proved; when therefore a culprit is arraigned and plead not guilty, a jury would call upon his adversary to come forth and bring his proofs; if he absconds and no evidence is given, they would find without hesitation a verdict of not guilty. A general charge, Sir was made against me: I thought it sufficiently refuted by a general negation, without a discovery of my vividence; I referred to my paper, as a declaration to the publick; I was ready to meet my adversary, when he should have generosity enough to face me open day. It is a stale stratagem among scoundrels, when nothing else can protect particular measures from contempt, to vilify those in opposition and charge them with dishonourable

motives. If you were not the inventor of the scandal, you have not been ashamed to insinuate your concurrence at least without adducing any proof or reason. But, Sir, as I do not wish even to lie under your suspicions, that my opposition to some late measures of government proceeded from a disappointment at court, I will publish the paper I referred to.

To WILLIAM PACA, Esq;

Governor Eden presents his compliments to Mr. Paca and pursuant to the request contained in his letter of the 23d instant is very willing to, and thus does, declare, that Mr. Paca never did solicit from him, personally or representatively, any office or place of profit for himself or any other person.

Annapolis, January 25, 1773.

My dear, dear Mr. Boucher what do you think of it? Is there any flaw in the declaration? Go and consult your books upon the propriety of a demurrer to it. But Mr. Boucher did you not know of the above paper and even the contents of it? Did you not know, that I obtained it from the Governor with liberty indeed to shew it to any man, but under an injunction not to print it? Why then call upon me, when you know I was bound in honour not to publish it in the Gazette? Were you in hopes to create suspicions and wound my character without a possibility of defence? And did you think that the Governor would have held me to my honour and left you at large to lavish your fire upon a man fettered and bound? Boucher! Boucher what art thou? Shame!—Shame!—But you wronged his Excellency when you flattered yourself with such a noble triumph over me: as soon as I was apprized of your attempt I waited upon him: without hesitation he released me from the injunction; for which, gratitude bids me publicly to thank him.

But you think it vastly unkind and ungenerous in me to leave my friend Mr. Chase under a strong and implied suspicion of being indefensible. You spoke the truth when you called him my friend: I consider him as such. Your pitiful sneers cannot shake my esteem for him. But is my friend indefensible? No, Mr. Boucher, he is not: I aver to the world, he is as free from the infamous imputation as I am: I know there was a paper prepared for him, as decisive as my own: I know too—but mum! As you possess an inquisitive spirit and care not, who you involve in our controversy, I pray enquire into this mysterious proceeding: if afterwards, you shall think yourself sufficiently authorized to strain your pipe upon this note, I pledge myself to the publick to vindicate my friend. Mr. Boucher, my good Sir, let us confine ourselves to our own affairs: let us not meddle with matters, that respect his Excellency. Why are you so wantonly inclined to bring him into the field of controversy? Does your intimacy with him justify such a freedom? Take my advice, Mr. Boucher, take it, though it comes from an adversary—it is folly in the extreme for you to verify by an imprudent conduct the old saying "Too much familiarity breeds contempt." I wish to be at peace with all mankind: it is no pleasure to me to live in animosity and variance: but I cannot—will not—calmly look on and let my friend fall by the hands of slander and injustice.

I did indeed charge you with the itch of scribbling: it is a charge too plain to require other proof than your late transactions: I need not travel to Virginia for evidence; your conduct in Maryland sufficiently evinces the truth of my assertion: but you reply upon me, I am equally afflicted with this scandalous propensity: no Mr. Boucher, you do me great injustice. I came into print impelled by a just and proper principle—to defend my character, check insolence and repel wanton attacks.—Does this, my good Sir, betray an itch for scribbling? Pray what were the motives, that led you into print? Were they not to dazzle the world with your scribbling, and to riggle yourself into importance by traducing the characters of Messrs. Chase and Paca and attempting to render them unpopular? And what has been your success? your scribbling has recoiled with vengeance upon you. Have you made one honest man your friend or convert? Have you raised up one new enemy against your adversaries? On the contrary are not very many, who knew but little of the subject, fully informed, that you are in the wrong: and do not parson Boucher's best friends shake their heads at his imprudence and wish him well out of the scrape, which they acknowledge he ran himself into? Nay more, Are not the bells tolling adieu to the 40 per poll?

That Jimmy Twitcher should impute to me "own surprizes me" well spoken by Captain Maibath: yet I beg you would not include me as a member of the honourable society. I never deprived my neighbour of his property, nor betrayed the confidence of a friend, nor villainously impeached him, nor pilfered any man of his reputation or robbed him of his good name; frequent as your comparisons are of me to culprits, criminals, and rascals, you have proved nothing against me, but your own want of good manners, the poverty of your genius and the baseness of your mind; you may have conveyed a correct idea of your own virtues by personating Maibath; you cer-

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