

base for their triangle, and had instruments ready to measure its height: accordingly they had not waited long, till they heard a subterraneous noise, and felt the earth beginning to shake under them, and soon after the water rushed out of the gulph, and began to mount into the air: several times it subsided to the level of the earth, and every effort seemed to give it new force; till at last the whole of this enormous column rose to the height of 90 feet, and continued at that elevation for the space of about two minutes, when, by degrees, it again subsided, and at last sunk altogether into its gulf. This singular well is not less than 70 miles distant from Hecla; but they found that the whole of Iceland has been formed by subterraneous fire. Hecla is about 4000 feet in height, and they were almost frozen to death before they got near the top of it, which is almost constantly involved in clouds.

ANNAPOLIS, May 27.

We hear from Calvert County, that Messieurs Alexander Somervell, John Weems, jun. William Lyles, and Richard Parran, are chosen Representatives for that County.

We also hear that Messrs. Josias Beall, Robert Tyler, Major Joseph Sim, and Mr. Thomas Contee, were elected for Prince-George's County, without Opposition.

We are requested to insert the following accounts of Frederick and Anne-Arundel county elections.

On Saturday last the polls were closed in Frederick county, and Messrs. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, Charles Beatty, Jonathan Hagar, and Henry Griffith were declared duly elected. On the afternoon of that day, a numerous and very respectable body of the freemen of the county assembled at the coffee house, when the proclamation was read and unanimously declared to be illegal, unconstitutional, and oppressive; and sentenced to be carried to the gallows, and hanged thereon, and afterwards to be buried, face downwards, that by every ineffectual struggle it might descend still deeper in obscurity.

The proclamation was then put into a coffin provided for the purpose, and carried to the place of execution, attended by a concourse of at least one thousand people, who moved in slow and regular order, attended with drums, fifes, and bagpipes, playing slow musick suitable to the occasion. The sentence was executed to the universal satisfaction and joy of the spectators, under a general discharge of small arms.

On Monday last came on the election for Anne-Arundel county, when Messieurs Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chaise, and John Hall were returned duly elected without opposition. After closing the polls it was agreed to meet at the dock and march in procession to a gibbet erected on the opposite side of the road to that where the gallows heretofore stood, the old one having been cut down and burnt, and the proclamation buried by the citizens taken up and destroyed by the order of Mr. John Hammond, on the morning of the election. A coffin much larger than the former was provided for the occasion, wherein were deposited the regulation in the Land Office, and the proclamation. About the hour of four of the clock the procession moved forward with great order and decorum, attended by a number of respectable gentlemen both of county and city, with colours displayed shewing proper labels, on the one LIBERTY, on the other NO PROCLAMATION, a third the UNION FLAG without any label. In this order they proceeded to the gibbet, to which the coffin was for a time suspended, during which time minute guns were fired. On the coffin was the following inscription:

THE INSTRUCTION TO THE REGISTERS OF THE LAND-OFFICE

born 24th November 1770

Also

THE PROCLAMATION

born 26th November 1770

The Children of Folly and Oppression

Departed this Life

On the Day of May 1773

And were buried

by

The FREEMEN of Anne-Arundel County.

After the coffin had hung some time it was taken down and together with its contents burnt to ashes, in imitation of the ancient manner of performing funeral rites.

TO WILLIAM PACA AND MATTHIAS HAMMOND, ESQUIRES.

NEXT to the satisfaction flowing from a consciousness of having merited well of one's fellow-citizens, that of meeting with their applause may be justly ranked. The distinguishing token which the free, and independent citizens of Annapolis have lately given me of their regard, claims my most grateful acknowledgments. Strong indeed must set the tide of liberty, when even the feeble efforts of an individual in its cause, are honoured with an approbation the best, the greatest men, are even "most ambitious to deserve, and the highest they can receive." How superior is the praise of freemen, to the mercenary, and interested commendations of a minister, even of a monarch, when bestowed to countenance, and support oppression and injustice! let me intreat you, gentlemen, to present my most hearty, and sincere thanks to your constituents; for the publick, and truly honourable approbation, they have been pleased to express of my endeavours, to warn them against, the pernicious attempts of a wicked counsellor, grown daring, and confident from a long and unchecked abuse of power.

The sentiments favourable to liberty, which you have disclosed on this, and former occasions, evince, that the citizens, in honouring you with the publick

character of representatives, have made a choice, that does equal credit to their spirit, and their government. I am with due respect,

Gentlemen, your most

Obliged, and respectful servant,

THE FIRST CHIEF

TO THE PUBLICK

"His de causis, ego huius causae...
"unus qui maximo ingenio, fructu...
"minimo periculo possem dicere...
Cic. Orat. pro Scaevola

I HAVE much cause to wish, that I were stating fairly to the publick the true views of those clergymen in this province, who so virulently maligned for having, introduced one of the most respectable of their brethren, at last, lent their feeble aid to the ill-considered introduction of an American bishop, had I to any other, than myself. There is no humility in saying, that many are more than the task. And, engaged as I have already been in a very disagreeable controversy, I cannot help thinking it somewhat unkind, that no friendly brother, in justice to himself, and compassion to me, has stepped in to ease me of this part of it. It can surely have been owing only to a supposition, that, as I had already passed the rubicon, I might, perhaps, as my motto intimates, close the campaign, with less risk, than another could begin it; or, it may be, to an apprehension of the little difficulty there could be in telling a plain tale, which needs no flowers of speech. Under this persuasion, I the more cheerfully undertake it. And, as what I shall say on the subject, must be said solely on my own authority, I hope for the pardon of my brethren, if, unknowingly, I shall wrong them, or express sentiments different from theirs. Most sincerely do I lament, that it should have been my ill-fortune to have been first called forth, as a publick writer, on questions, where the general voice has been supposed to be against me. The patience with which I have, hitherto, been listened to, and for which I am truly grateful, assures me, it will not now be withheld: let me not, therefore, any longer abuse it by the tediousness of preliminaries.

Daniel Burgetts, of famous memory, used to boast that he had never concluded a sermon, without first having a *thwack at the pope*: with some such spirit do my adversaries seem to have been actuated; as, I think, they have hardly written a paper, either jointly or singly, in which they have not had a *thwack at a bishop*. I enquire not in their motives; being contented, that their admirers should ascribe this also to their patriotism: it certainly is as much so, as many other parts of their publick characters, which have been palmed on the world for patriotism. My business is to collect, if I can, and place in one view before the reader, the various charges on this subject, which he dispersed in their multitarious performances: The amount of them, I think, is,

"That, about two years ago, I, with a flock of my brethren, assembled in Annapolis, to petition for a bishop, who might have a spiritual court, which might excommunicate a *naked dog*, and drive him into a wilderness; to herd with beasts: that the patriotic band of the petitioning clergy had a secretary of state, and branded the general assembly with the odious appellation of *LEVELLERS*: that the governor crushed this scheme of perdition, and made the body politic *knock under*, and shrink back into their original nothingness: that, this glorious American bishop was to have officers and ministers to enforce his jurisdiction, who were to be paid by a tax upon the people: that, he was to hold a *tremendous court*, either in Bolton—or, somewhere else: that, witnesses, who differ from commodities for sale, were to be either exported, or transported thither, in a *man of war*—or, some other vehicle: that, chosen ministers, or *sub-bishops*, with spiritual courts, were to be established in every colony, and that somebody was to be *sub-bishop* of Maryland: that, almost the unanimous sentiment of America, and a considerable majority of the worthy clergy of this province, have been against the measure: and that, finally, when all these things shall come to pass, Messieurs Chase and Paca will then pray to the Lord to have mercy on them."

What a sad catalogue of grievances!—"tis pitiful, in faith, 'tis wondrous pitiful!"

Quis talia fando

Temperet lacrymis?

Virgil.

But, not to be ludicrous on a subject, which, however ridiculous it may seem in the representation of these men, is, certainly, of most momentous concern, I will endeavour, with all becoming gravity, to give an answer, such as I can, to each of these charges.

And first, that more than nine clergymen did assemble in Annapolis, and did draw up an application for an American bishop, signed only by nine (others, who had approved of the measure, having then gone away) will not be denied. And, I would fain hope, it will not be thought more out of character for a flock of clergymen to assemble together, for the purpose of proposing and promoting any schemes which they think will rebound to the benefit of their church, than for a GANTRY of patriots of motley faiths, self-commissioned too, to assemble in the same Annapolis, and there, in close divan, plot and resolve on the demolition of our religious establishment. It never was in the thought either of the petitioners, or any other of the advocates for an episcopate, to have spiritual courts, with authority over either *naked dogs*, or pampered lawyers, who seem not to know what spiritual courts are. The people of England suppose themselves to be as free as the people of Maryland; and yet they endure the existence of spiritual courts amongst them,

which, however, bear no more resemblance to the hideous portraiture drawn of them by these men; than the caricaturists themselves do (for, I would express myself strongly) to genuine patriots, sound lawyers, or sensible writers. But, were such courts as tyrannous, as they suppose, why were they mentioned in this dispute; there being no more likelihood of our having a spiritual court in Maryland, than an *auto de fe*. That, I may not be thought to have made this assertion at random, let me, once for all, briefly inform the publick of the only plan on which the episcopate has ever been proposed: "The bishop shall have no coercive authority, nor any expectation of acquiring any, over the laity; he shall be empowered to interfere with no privileges, either civil or religious, enjoyed by any society, professing christianity, but differing from the established church; shall have no powers in temporal matters, of any kind, but shall be confined, within the limits of his charge, to offices purely episcopal; nothing is desired for him, that may, in the least, interfere with the dignity or authority, or interest of the governor, or any other officer of state; and, finally, he shall be maintained, in a manner becoming his rank and station, not by any TAX on the people; but by the donations of pious and well-disposed men, bequeathed for this especial purpose, and already amounting to many thousand pounds." This, I aver, is the only episcopate that has ever been asked, or wished for; and those, who assert the contrary, can do it only with the view of prejudicing and abusing the multitude, whose wide-mouth'd credulity, they imagine, is capable of swallowing any absurdity."

As for the secretary of state, the clergy leave the prerogative of having such an one to their king. One of their own order wrote their proceedings at the meeting, on which account, they thought, they might, innocently, call him their clerk or secretary; a word that literally signifies, "one who writes for another." In former times, it was no unusual thing for clerks more extensively to exercise this office; and, if I mistake not, it is from this circumstance, that the word clerk, signifying a secretary, or one who writes for another, is derived. Be this as it may, our secretary neither asked, nor received any pay, as has been insinuated: it should be remembered, he was not a lawyer, but a clergyman. The publick has now seen this obnoxious address; and I call upon every man of but common honesty, to say, whether there be in it a single sentiment or expression, branding the general assembly with the odious epithet of *LEVELLERS*. Romish caluities are charged with maintaining a *faith is to be kept with heretics*. The men I have to do with, to judge only from what they have written, seem to have adopted a maxim hardly less iniquitous; I mean, that there is no crime in belying the clergy. If any offence was given to the assembly, in extenuation of it, I can truly say, that no offence was meant to be given. There is, I hope, no farther crime in differing in judgment from the assembly, than, perhaps, presumption: and if, in the instance before us, thus to have differed, be presumption, I honestly own, for myself, that I have been notoriously guilty of it—though I would fain hope, I never shall again. Whatever the crime may be, I will not suppress my sentiments, that the act spoken of in the address of the clergy, and since passed into a law, is, in every view of it, highly injudicious and impolitic—is not only on a *paraboly presbyterian system*, but *unconstitutional*. I will not affront the good sense of the assembly, by making any apology for this freedom:

"In civitate libera, linguam mentemque liberas esse debere."—Suet. in Tib. Caes. sect. xxviii. Had it, indeed, been true, that the governor crushed this scheme of perdition, and made the abettors of it *knock under*, and shrink back into their original nothingness, what occasion for these drawncans to mangle, and kill us over again; unless, like Falstaff, they were afraid of the *gunpowder Percy, though dead*. God help this poor church-militant of ours! Messrs. Paca, Johnson and Goldborough, by their omnipotent, "sic vos lumus, sic jubemus," long ago nullified the act made for her establishment: not contented with this, the lawyers now tell us, that the governor, like some necromancer of old, totally annihilated nine of her ministers; nay, they insinuate, that we were, from the beginning, *non-entities*. This is doing business effectually, and like men who are in earnest. I wonder only, that they should think it necessary to give themselves any farther trouble about such original nothingness.

The clergy know of no officers, nor ministers, that this glorious bishop is to have: they know only, that if he has any, he must pay them himself. For, it is a monstrous, and most malicious falsehood, to assert, that ever there was the most distant design, or wish in the petitioners, to have the people taxed a single farthing for the maintenance of him, or any of his servants. If his court was to be a *tremendous* one, it could be so only to the clergy; for, no others can be amenable to it. And, I will not suppose, that either Mr. Paca, or Mr. Chase have so tender a concern for Maryland parsons, as to dread a *tremendous court* merely on their accounts. That witnesses differ from commodities for sale, I hope, is true. Not but that we all have heard of witnesses, who might be bought: certainly, however, lawyers are more likely to trade in these commodities, than clergymen. Be this as it may, these gentlemen should have credit for so difficult and pertinent a discovery. *Quantum est sapere!* It has not, I protest, been communicated to me, whether these witnesses are to be transported in a *man of war*—or, a *subelbarrow*: I take it for granted, however, that the bishop will leave it to people, who may have business with him, to find their way to him; as they please; and as he will hardly shed any malignant influence on the elements, I suppose, it will be as easy then to travel, either by land or by water, as it is now. How frivolous, how impertinent is all this! but, I have not yet done with it. These lawyers have been charged with an addition to word-coining; though I do not remember ever to have heard them charged with mak-