

his mind the folly of ambition, however plumed, and return and save his country.

April 22. We hear, from undoubted authority, that orders were issued yesterday for equipping a powerful armament with all possible expedition. Various are the conjectures as to the destination of the above armament: some people pretend that it is to sail directly for the Mediterranean, in order to protect the Russian Squadron against the combined fleets of France and Spain, which are now preparing to attack them.

Yesterday the speaker of the house of commons acquainted the house, that he had received a letter from John Wilkes, Esq; informing him he had received a summoning order from the sheriffs Oliver and Lewes, requiring his attendance as member for Middlesex; which it is said will be burnt by the hands of the common hangman, and the author sent to Newgate.

It is certain that our ministry have refused all the offers which have been made them from the courts of Versailles and Madrid.

April 23. A correspondent at the admiralty informs us, that 15 ships of the line are already put in commission; and that as soon as it is equipped, they are to sail for Gibraltar to join Sir Peter Dennis's Squadron.

The grand fleet destined for the Mediterranean is to be commanded by Sir Charles Saunders; it consists of 25 sail of the line and 4 frigates, viz. one of 90 guns, 4 of 74, and 10 of 64.

It is said that France and Spain, by a secret treaty with the Porte, are to fall upon the Russian fleet as soon as the armistice between the Turks and Russians expires.

The French fleet fitting out at Toulon consists of 12 ships of the line; they are to be joined by the Spanish Squadron at Carthagea, and to act in conjunction against the Russians.

April 24. Yesterday his Majesty's proclamation was issued, dated the 22d inst. for encouraging seamen and landmen to enter themselves on board his Majesty's ships of war, in which a bounty is promised by his Majesty of three pounds each to all able seamen; two pounds each to all ordinary seamen fit for service, and twenty shillings each to able-bodied landmen, who shall voluntarily enter themselves on or before the 31st of next May, to serve in the royal navy; such respective sums to be paid them immediately after they shall have been three times mustered.

NEW-YORK, June 7.

Extract of a letter from London, April 23.

"I have none of your favours unanswered, the chief purport of this letter is to advise you, that 15 sail of the line, with 4 frigates, and two fire-ships, are ordered for sea with all expedition. Some say, it is designed only as a fleet of observation; however, it has had a severe effect upon our funds. Advices from France and Spain import, that each of those courts are preparing fleets, and perhaps with the same intent. This fleet has had no effect on any sort of merchandise."

PHILADELPHIA, June 7.

Extract of a letter from London, dated April 8.

"It is now pretty certain that the tea act will be repealed. A war on the continent is much spoke of in the city, though Lord North has given no intimation of it: I hope the report is without foundation, yet there seems to be some reason to apprehend it."

ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 17.

A sufficient number of the gentlemen of the general assembly to compose a house—not coming to town on Monday last, his excellency our governor prorogued it to the next day, when they met, and unanimously made choice of the Honourable Matthew Tighman, Esq; a representative for Talbot county, to be their speaker, and Mr. John Duckett to be their clerk; of both which elections his Excellency was pleased to give his approbation, and opened the session with the following SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the upper and lower houses of assembly, I AM apprehensive that the meeting of the general assembly, at this time, may be rather inconvenient to your private affairs; though, after the unusual length of your recess occasioned by the death of our late lord proprietor, and the peculiar state of this province, in consequence of that event; you may, perhaps, deem it expedient to embrace this opportunity of enacting such laws, as may promote the general welfare.

I have already communicated (in publishing my commission and issuing the writs of election for this assembly) the accession of Mr. Harford to the proprietorship of this province; I have the honour to be continued governor thereof, with his Majesty's most gracious approbation of my conduct heretofore, which I shall be supremely happy in meriting a continuance of, as well as of the confidence reposed in me by my re-appointment; and you may be assured, gentlemen, that it will ever be, as it always has been, my wish, and endeavour to promote the general good of Maryland, in which, I am well assured, I shall be assisted by the concurrence, not only of the new proprietor, but also of the guardians of his minority.

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the lower house, If the inconvenience of this season be such, as that a meeting at another would be more agreeable to you, I will, upon being informed of your inclinations, prorogue this assembly to a time more convenient to your private affairs; but should you think proper to enter upon, and proceed in, a general course of business, I shall, with the greatest pleasure, attend the duties of my department, and most cheerfully concur with you, gentlemen of both houses, in establishing such acts of assembly, as may be conducive to the public utility.

On Thursday and Friday last the weather was remarkably cold for the season—in several parts of Baltimore and Frederick counties, particularly the latter,

there was a considerable fall of snow succeeded by a smart frost, which has greatly damaged the corn and tobacco.

Baltimore, 14 June, 1773.

To CHARLES RIDGELY, THOMAS COCKEY DYE, AQUILA HALL, and WALTER TOLLEY, Esqrs.

IN the Maryland Gazette of the 10th instant, we find a paper subscribed by you, addressed to the First Citizen, and said to be at the request of the freemen of Baltimore county.

We the subscribers, freemen and freeholders of Baltimore county, conceiving ourselves involved in such requisition, do hereby publicly disclaim and disavow our having directly, or indirectly, given you any such instructions. We pretend not to censure the conduct of those, who differ from us in opinion; if they are right, let them enjoy the merit of it: at the same time, Gentlemen, we think it but justice to ourselves, to assure you and the publick, that whatever our opinion may be of the governor's proclamation, we are sorry to see any act of government treated with indecency, and in such a manner as can only inflame, instead of healing, the animosities of the publick; and we entirely disavow the tumultuous proceedings in this town, the last day of your election.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| William Spear, | John Heasterington, |
| Samuel Purviance, jun. | Job Green, |
| Jonathan Ploverwar, | Sevie Hollingsworth, |
| William Buchanan, | Lucas G. est, |
| James Sterett, | Thomas Browning, |
| John Merryman, jun. | Cameliland Dugan, |
| Jonathan Hanson, | Archibald Buchanan, |
| James Clarke, | Thomas Bond, jun. |
| James Laxson, | Charles Harris, |
| Thomas Jones, | Lemuel Cravath, |
| William McGachen, | Henry Thompson, |
| Philly Rogers, | Walter Rose, |
| John Wilson, | Thomas Usher, |
| Robert Purviance, | Thomas Worthington, |
| Thomas Place, | Thomas Paricle, |
| John Ashburner, | Simon Washon, |
| William Smith, | Andrew Steiger, |
| Benjamin Rogers, | David Stewart, |
| James Calhoun, | Barrett Subilberg, |
| John Smith, | David Mitchell, |
| William Harris, | Nathaniel Smith, |
| Melchor Keener, | James Somervell, |
| Alexander Stenhouse, | Christopher Johnston, |
| David M'Lawe, | H. Coutenay, |
| William Neill, | John C. Harrifon, |
| Thomas Breerton, | Benjamin Nelson, |
| John Boyd, | Richard Button, |
| Samuel Roddey, | George Patten, |
| Robert Alexander, | Frederick Meyer, |
| James Govan, | Daniel Earnet, |
| R. Buchanan, | John Leonard Jacobs, |
| Robert Christie, jun. | Christopher Limes, |
| John Kennedy, | John M'Clellan, |
| John Stevedon, | George Preistman, |
| Samuel Casfan, jun. | Archibald Mofman, |
| William Moore, jun. | John Cornbrwait, |
| John Clanagan, | John Phile, |
| Robert Christie, | Thomas Samuel Pole, |
| James Christie, jun. | Valentine Lofsb, |
| John Craig, | Murdoch Kennedy, |
| Joseph Magiffin, | John Gray, |
| John M'Lawe, | John Sleigh, |
| William Hammond, | Philip Graybell, |
| George Wesley, | Christopher Hughes, |
| John Riddle, | John Little, |
| Andrew Buchanan, | Caleb Shields, |
| George Dagan, | William Claufe, |
| James Caldwell, | William Lavelly, |
| James Gray, | Jacob Weisb, |
| David Brown, | Alexander M'Mechan, |
| Robert Walsh, | William Rogers, |
| Thomas Donnellan, | William Beafeman, |
| John Weatherburn, | William Richardson. |

TO THE PRINTERS.

By inserting the following, you will greatly oblige, A CHURCHMAN.

IT is thought that a card or note to the following effect might at this present time be serviceable—viz. "The Gentlemen of the Upper House present their compliments respectfully to the Attornies Clerks at Annapolis, and will be much obliged to them if they will leave them room in the Counsellors pew to sit, that they may be enabled to attend divine service, in which they were prevented on the last Sabbath."

"True conscious honour, is to feel no sin;
"He's arm'd without, that's innocent within;
"Be this thy screen, and this thy wall of brass."

POPE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the pleasure, the infinite peace of mind enjoyed by those who have the inward satisfaction of knowing themselves innocent, yet it is an acknowledged truth, that nothing is so dear to an honest man, as his good name, nor ought he to neglect the just vindication of his character; when it is injuriously attacked: I hope then the publick will excuse my engrossing a part of this useful paper to defend my reputation from the malevolent imputation of Mr. Stephen West, who asserted he had such authentic accounts, papers, and vouchers, under the hands of those very persons, the same Capt. Judson Coolidge, the same Mr. William Brogden, and the same Mr. Singleton Wootton, ready to be produced; as will

"flash conviction on any sensible mind." Here the charge is general, and in order that I might have an opportunity to clear myself from this most poignant and malicious aspersions, I requested Mr. West to be particular, and let me know what papers they were he referred to, and as he has not even attempted to support the charge, but agreeable to his real uniform behaviour through life, had recourse to artifice and evasion; wandering from the point; by mean scoffing prevarications—scandalous and lying, and little trifling cavils and carpings, to pass for arguments and answers?—I shrewdly suspect not; therefore I rest assured the publick are satisfied that his insinuations were not true; but I suppose the doctor was a DREAMING again, and his dreams (as usual) are falsehoods void of truth.

Heads under the dominion of the moon are perpetually fluctuating, and if Mr. West, in one of his frantic moods, made a collection of a few half finished sentences, quite unconnected and foreign from each other, which he has jumbled together (blindfold) in a most confused manner, and published in the last week's Gazette, intended merely to amuse, why the thing is comical enough, that's certain, it's the natural effusions of a wild imagination and comes quite in character from the mouth of a Quixote.

"Such labour'd nothings, in so strange a file,
"Amaze th'unlearn'd, and make the learned smile.

Though methinks too, if Mr. West had favoured the publick with the adventures of the knight of the DAPPLE GRAY; and how he was led by an ignis fatuus, the TALE would have been equally ludicrous, and the publick then would have seen that mystical art of scratching and letting them in at the right door, &c. but truth will out, and you, Mr. West, while you was robbing the noble DON of some of his flourishing harangues, pleased yourself with the romantic notion, that you should surely pass for a man of great erudition, and an accomplished fine writer; O, Vanity! how thou deceivest thy votaries. That Mr. West is exceeding subtle, cunning, low and tricky (to give the Devil his due) I readily admit, but I know of no act of his through life which has passed the publick notice, under which he can claim the title of a man of sense, honour, or probity; and his last flimsy performance (or rather his own panegyric) puts me in mind of the man who was in such a plaguy hurry for his new coat, that he put it on wrong side out.

But pray, Mr. West, how comes it you did not produce those papers, &c. that would, "flash conviction?" How comes it you did not call on Capt. Coolidge to publish the letter? What letter? The letter, Sir, he says you wrote to a gentleman since deceased—Are you afraid to let it see the light?

"The brave, it's true, do never shun the light;
"Just are their thoughts, and open are their tem-
"pers;
"Freely, without disguise, they love and hope;
"Still are they found in the fair face of day;
"And Heaven and Men are judges of their actions."

Ha! What? no remorse—no penitence—not even a blush—callous indeed.

Illiberal language I abhor and despise, so likewise the man who builds his greatness upon the dirty art of craft and deception; my original intention in appearing in print was in justification of my own character, and not to depreciate that of Mr. West's; I envy not his imaginary greatness, neither do I regard his personal invectives, the mere flashes of an upstart self-conceited arrogance, which evidently appears from the many boasted services he has so liberally bestowed upon himself, in his last pitiful performance. I shall pass them over with the contempt the author merits, and beg leave to recriminate no farther, than barely to solicit Mr. West to give the world a true and impartial history of his own UPSTART rise and origin; when perhaps his present great dexterity in ship business will appear to proceed from an early application, in sailing the bar, and his acuteness in accounts from jerking the tally board.

I mean not to keep up any further controversy in this paper, however, before I take my leave, let me, Mr. West, whisper you a piece of advice, Don't make use of gentlemen's names in the papers without their privacy and consent; let not your flashes exceed the limits of truth—for shame, Sir, get the better of that silly, childish itch for scribbling, and be not so fond of dabbling in the publick prints, you only render yourself a fit object for satire; can't you see how people point at you—Behold the pedantic ninny—the petty retailer of buffoonish wit.

"The bookful blockhead, ignorantly read,
"With loads of learned lumber in his head.

And don't you observe, Sir, a contemptuous supercilious sneer on the countenance of every one, when you go in company—hence select companies at the coffee house—and hence are waiters told to keep the doors shut. At times, Mr. West, you are brimful of proverbs; let me remind you of one, which you seem entirely to have overlooked, "Honesty is the best policy." And as you seem well versed in the theory of religion, let me recommend the practice to you, "Keep your tongue from evil speaking, lying and slander—ing." Adieu; and if thy conscience should ever awaken thy dastardly soul to a sense of thy guilt, I—perhaps may rid the publick of one of those seven turbulent mischievous S. Wests, and the other six (as it is said) cannot be found.

Queen-Anne, SINGLETON WOOTTON.

June 22, 1773.
* See my publication, No. 1446.
† Dreadful predicament indeed Mr. West, You must implicitly confess you published a lie, otherwise your acknowledgment, when I called you to an account in a publick company at Queen-Anne, stares you in the face.
I See Mr. West's reply to Capt. Coolidge, Gazette, No. 1445, where he says Capt. Coolidge asserted "falsehood void of truth."