

tion can be made so near that fine province, the new proprietors will contribute largely towards opening both James and Potomack rivers; and as soon as the principal and interest are repaid to the subscribers, the navigation of the rivers then to be free, only a small tax for repairs, &c.

Extract of a letter from London dated April 25.

War is inevitable — Press warrants were issued some days ago at the admiralty, and orders for recruiting are preparing at the war office, an augmentation in the guards has already taken place at Wapping, and the environs of this great metropolis are swarming with press gangs, the clerks in the admiralty navy and war office, have been obliged to give attendance for some time past till 12 at night, the Russian and Prussian ministers have daily conferences with the premier and Lord Rochford — all foretells what must soon happen. Grim war is too conspicuous in every countenance the din of arms fits heavy in the forehead of the landholder, while the soldier is elate with a coming expectation of being crowned with laurel. Vain hope! — thit bubble honour will excite many a good husband to take their last adieu of loving wives; many a fond father must bid farewell to their tender piattlers, and many an honest bachelor must leave endearing friends and obliging mistresses.

I do not know how you Americans may relish this, but I believe a war carried on in the West-Indies is of service to the continent, and am convinced a stroke of importance will be struck there, as Admiral Kepple will assuredly command the fleet destined for that part of the world, and Admiral Saunders the fleet of observation in the Mediterranean.

ANNAPOLIS, June 24.

Mess. Peter Chaillie, Nehemiah Holland, John Purnell Robins, and William Purnell, are elected representatives for Worcester county.

To his EXCELLENCY ROBERT EDEN, Esq; Lieutenant General and chief Governor in and over the province of MARYLAND.

The humble ADDRESS of the UPPER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY.

May it please your Excellency,

WE his Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Upper House of Assembly, return your Excellency our thanks, as well for your kind and obliging speech at the opening of this session, as for giving us this early opportunity of enacting such laws as may promote the general welfare.

We cannot but derive great pleasure and satisfaction from your Excellency's re-appointment, and the royal approbation of your past conduct, and have the strongest persuasion your endeavours to advance the prosperity of the province will continue to be exercised for that very laudable purpose, and that your Excellency's good intentions will be assisted by the concurrence of the new proprietary and the guardians of his minority.

June 18,

Signed per order,

1773.

BENEDICT CALVERT.

To which his EXCELLENCY was pleased to return the following ANSWER.

Gentlemen of the Upper House of Assembly,

I return you my best thanks for your very obliging Address, and feel great pleasure in your congratulations on my re-appointment, and your persuasion of my endeavours to advance the prosperity of the province; your early and numerous attendance, at the meeting of this session, is a convincing and satisfactory proof to me of your inclination to second the same.

June 18, 1773.

ROBERT EDEN.

To his EXCELLENCY ROBERT EDEN, Esq; Governor and Commander in chief in and over the province of MARYLAND.

The humble ADDRESS of the HOUSE of DELEGATES.

May it please your Excellency,

WE his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects the Delegates of the freemen of Maryland in Assembly convened, return your Excellency our thanks for your speech at the opening of this session.

A meeting of the general assembly, at this time is very inconvenient to the private affairs of many of us, but as your Excellency has thought proper to convene us, the peculiar state of the province has determined us to proceed to business. We shall make every effort in our power for the enacting such laws as may promote the general welfare; and whenever your Excellency is pleased to concur, you will as certainly obtain as merit the thanks of a grateful people.

It gives us a singular pleasure to be informed, that his Majesty has taken immediate notice of the affairs and government of this province, and we have the firmest reliance, that the conduct of the late representatives, so generally agreeable to their constituents, when fully known to the father of his people, cannot but meet with his royal approbation.

MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Speaker.

June 17, 1773

To which his EXCELLENCY was pleased to return the following ANSWER.

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the Lower House,

I return you thanks for your Address, and sincerely hope that the general welfare may be promoted by prudent and salutary laws.

I am glad, gentlemen, that his Majesty's immediate notice of the affairs and government of this province gives you pleasure; and hope you will be particularly solicitous to merit his gracious approbation.

Annapolis, 18th June, 1773.

ROBERT EDEN.

TO THE PRINTER.

PLEASED with the flattering hopes of seeing your Gazette adorned with a splendid account of the spirited proceedings of our patriots, at the close of our election; I have waited the arrival of the two last posts from Annapolis, with the most anxious expectation. I expected to have found the most ample justice done to the patriotic transactions of the memorable day, on which the nefarious proclamation was arraigned at the dread tribunal of the mob, was tried, condemned, and finally brought to suffer, by the hands of the common hangman. But, I have waited in vain; and, it is with the greatest concern, I perceive that no such representation hath been given to the publick. The patriot freemen of Baltimore county, have been robbed, unjustly robbed, by I know not what malignant influence, of the fairest feather that ever adorned the patriot's cap, and which they fondly hoped to have worn *asa plume*. Such a felonious attempt, however, "must not — cannot — shall not be endured." What! shall the glorious flame of liberty, that hath just blazed out among us, be for ever extinguished? — or, shall the triumphs of mobism remain longer untold? Can the historian's pen be brandished in a more glorious cause, than rescuing from oblivion, the perishable names of the patriotic few, who have rid the world of the horrible proclamation? What have the patriot citizens of Annapolis; or the independent freemen of Anne-Arunde, done, more than those, that their names alone should shine resplendent in records, that will hand them down, with a sweet savour, to future generations? Nay, historians have not been wanting to immortalize the phlegmatics of Frederick, who, by I know not what collision, have emitted such sparks of patriotism as might kindle kindred flames in the frozen breast of a Lapslander. Shall it then be said, that the tyrant Caesar fell, by the hands of so many worthies, and that the glorious few of Baltimore stabbed him not? Forbid it Brutus — and thou Cassius forbid it! Give therefore, Mr. Printer, give immediately to the publick, the following narrative of the late illustrious proceedings of our patriots, respecting the odious proclamation.

On the last day of our election, when the polls were closed; and Mess. Ridgely, Deye, Hall and Tolley were declared duly elected, a peal of applause, in three loud huzzas, burst from the multitude. Immediately, from the crowd, there issued a voice, as it were the voice of one raised from the dead, which squeaked "no proclamation — hang — burn and bury the proclamation." A general murmur arose, which was very properly construed an approbation of the proposal. As the new chosen delegates had just received the most obliging letters of advice and information, by express from the great Annapolitan leaders; and that so arduous a business might be conducted as similar to the grand original as it is permitted to humble imitators to approach; it was agreed, that the ceremony should be conducted, according to the directions in the aforesaid letter contained. Accordingly, a speech, arraigning the proclamation, was pronounced by the orator of the day; it was refused to be arbitrary and illegal; and it was adjudged to be hanged at the usual place of execution. About 4 o'clock p. m. the procession, "with solemn pace and step profound," began to move through the streets towards the gallows, accompanied with all the regalia of military intetment (the firing of minute guns excepted), that is to say, colours properly labelled flying, drums beating, and fifes and fiddles playing. When the procession had arrived at the gallows, one of those unlucky accidents, which sometimes disconcert the best laid plans, had like to have spoiled all. In the hurry of preparation, they had forgot to bring the criminal along with them; or he had made his escape in the bustle. A hue and cry was raised, messengers were instantly dispatched in search of him, and a reward with the thanks of the representatives were offered for apprehending him; but, in vain. It was then suspected, that perhaps he might be concealed in the houses of some of the disaffected; a general search was therefore made; but, all to no purpose. In this perplexing situation, it was observed by the sagacious, that perhaps the offender might have audaciously crept into the proceedings of the late lower house. Upon examination, this was found to be really the case; and the traitor was discovered where he had hid himself as the place of greatest safety, near the famous resolves themselves. He was instantly torn with indignation from his hiding place, and dragged away to immediate execution. To do him justice, he submitted to his fate, with the utmost firmness of mind, and with a countenance which seemed to laugh to scorn the malice of his enemies, and the utmost efforts of his tormentors. After he had hung the usual time he was cut down; and, in humble imitation of the patriotic men of Frederick, he was laid with his face turned downwards; in token of his immediate descent into hell from whence he originated, and as a means of his never rising again into judgement; he was then put into a coffin for that purpose provided, and "laid low in his narrow house," amidst the approving yells of the spectators of all kinds, and of every complexion and occupation. But, a phenomenon ominous indeed; and truly distressing to every genuine patriot who attended the execution, now presented itself to their astonished view. "As the malefactor descended to the place where the weary are at rest," something was observed, to adhere close to his back, still shewing signs of life, and seeming to pursue and persecute him in his grave. It could not at first be conceived what being was capable of carrying its virulence such lengths; till a deep groan ascended from the pit, and a voice was heard to say, with bitter lamentations, "Do not we beseech you, bury us alive; we are your friends — the resolves of the lower house." It was then discovered, but alas too late, that the said resolves had stood on the other side of the page from whence the proclamation was torn; and by this most unfortunate circumstance, were now irrecoverably involved in the same undistinguished ruin. Their cries grew fainter and fainter,

till they were heard no more; and they now sleep (peace be to their ashes) undisturbed, and undisturbed.

When this transaction, so illustrious in the eyes of Maryland, was finished; the same motley group which attended the execution, requested the new chosen delegates "to testify their thanks" TO THE FIRST CITIZEN, for his spirited, eloquent, and patriotic opposition to the proclamation while alive. Thus Mr. Mosser, have I given you, a full and faithful account of the proceedings of a day, sacred to Maryland liberty, and which ought to be held in everlasting remembrance to the patriotic few, who thus nobly "sift the career" of the odious proclamation.

Plausible objections, Mr. Printer, may be started even to the most laudable measure; and to give universal satisfaction is impossible. It is not therefore surprising, to hear many who, dead to all the finer feelings of the patriotic mind, speak with abhorrence of this illustrious proceeding, and who cavil at this mode of determining the legality of the proclamation. They shrug their shoulders, and with affected wisdom observe, that we have a governor "jealous and undesigning," whose interest it is not, to enslave the people, or to infringe their privileges; that if the proclamation was illegal, the intention of issuing it, was clearly praiseworthy, and moreover, that it hath already been declared by resolve of the late lower house to be illegal and unconstitutional; that it is perfectly inconsistent with the dignity of a free and intelligent people, to suffer themselves to be tossed about by every inflammatory blast blown by the Annapolitan junta, who but too plainly endeavour to use the people as a ladder, whereby to climb into the first offices of the province; and that this great commercial county is perfectly unconnected with the family feuds of the great, nor, can its interest be promoted by taking part in the political squabbles of the metropolis, which are plainly fomented by a few men, who under the specious covering of patriotism, sacrifice the peace and happiness of the province, to promote their selfish purposes. Thus do some men rail, and speak irreverently of those who have stood firm in the guardians of the laws and the constitution, and whose names will be handed down to posterity, covered with honour, and with glory. But, to the railings of men, who make so light of a measure, "which if established would by its pernicious tendency in a few years ruin the most sacred rights of a free people," very little attention is due.

These abettors of tyranny, not content with renouncing the glory which might have covered themselves, by joining in so glorious a cause, have weakly endeavoured to depreciate the merit of the few whose actions will reflect eternal honour on this county. For, they have the effrontery to assert, that of the one hundred and fifty patriots who attended the execution of the proclamation, there were not ten legal voters, exclusive of the delegates, and a few others who stoop to see the solemn farce; that the remainder were nothing more than a fortuitous collection of negroes, tenants, and convicts, the veriest dregs of the earth. Ye worthless ornaments of Africa's bench, and you whose merit ought ere now to have placed you among the representatives of the people, what think ye of this abominable calumny? Do not your patriotic breasts burn with indignation at so vile an insinuation?

For my part, I rejoice to find, that since the spirit of liberty hath forsaken the hollow hearts of those, who call themselves gentlemen, it hath happily taken up its abode among the more virtuous mob. That it may long flourish and raise its drooping head, when every other pulse shall vibrate languid in the sinking cause, "We on our bended knees to heaven devoutly pray."

Baltimore, June 9, 1773. MARK ANTHONY.

"When men continue long in power, they grow fond of it, and commonly are for enlarging it; a number of officers, powerful, and rich are dangerous to a free city." Cato's letters.

IF we take a retrospective view of the state of this province, during the ten or twelve years immediately preceding the passage of the contested forty per poll act, we shall not find it difficult to account for the conduct of our ancestors in making that law, considered by dispassionate men of the present age, as subversive of the principles, on which this colony in particular was founded, as repugnant to the spirit of colonization in general, and as highly prejudicial to posterity, however suitable it may have been to the temper of those times, and to the views of the prevailing party. Zeal for the established church and hatred of popery were not the sole motives, which actuated those legislators; we may presume less laudable considerations had some influence on their proceedings, if credit may be given to a report, that the clergy strenuously contended for fixed salaries in lieu of the 40 per poll, and that the assembly as strenuously insisted on the latter establishment. In this dispute we see both sides actuated by the same narrow, and confined principles: the assembly consulting the actual interest of their constituents, and wholly unconcerned about their descendants; the clergy equally inactive to, and regardless of their successors. It is plain "they had not the earnest desire of our present worthy incumbents: 'who consider themselves as trustees only for posterity; they have the patrimony of the church handed down to their successors'" on such footing, as might at a future day, and that not very distant, tempt an English bishop to wish for a translation to a Maryland parish. I am aware of the objection, which is often made to fixed salaries; if originally reasonable, nay if liberal and genteel, it is said, in process of time they become too scanty from the decreasing value of money, and the increasing price of provisions. This objection has not been made to the clergy's allowance in Virginia, or if made, has not been regarded. — In that colony the clergy's stipends are limited to about 16000 pounds of tobacco annually, with a glebe annexed to each parish, by which means as the parishioners increase in number the proportion