ere heard no more; and they new fleep to their aftes) unditturbed, and unditturb.

is transaction, so-illustrious in the eyes of was finished; the same motley group whichte execution, requested the new cholen de-tefify their thanks" to THE FIRST CITIZEN, ited, eloquent, and patriotic opposition to the on while alive. Thus Mr. Proceed. y, facred to Maryland liberty, and which, held in everlating rememirance to the pa-who thus hobly " flot the career" of the lamation.

objections, Mr. Printer, may be flarted e molt laudable mealure; and to give uniaction's impossible. It is not therefore furhear many who, dead to all the fiver leel-patriotic mind, speak with abhorrence of ous proceeding, and who cavil at this mode ing the legality of the procramation. They thoulders, and with affected wildom obwe have a governor " youthful and undefign. of interest it is not, to enlave the propie, nge their privileges; that if the prociama. egal, the intention of iffuing it, was clearly and moreover, that it hath already been resolve of the late tower house to be illegal titutional; that it is perfectly inconfift.nt. gnity of a free and intelligent propie, to selves to be toffed about by every inflainmalown by the Annapolitan junto, who but too envour to use the people es a ladder, whereby the full offices of the province; and that this nercial county is perfectly unconnected with: feuds of the great, nor, can its interest be by taking part in the political squabbles of oolis, which are plainly fomented by a few under the specious covering of patriotisin, e peace and happiness of the province, to neir felfish purpoies. Thus do some men peak irreverently of those who have Rood e guardians of the laws and the constitution, names will be handed down to posterity, th honour, and with glory. But, to the men, who make so light of a measure, established would by its permissus tendency in-

ittention is due. ettors of tyranny, not content with renounlory which might have covered the mielves, in fo glorious a caule, have weakly endealepreciate the merit of the few whose actions eternal honour on this county. For, they frontery to affert, that of the one hundred atriots who attended the execution of the on, there were not ten legar voters, excludelegates, and a few others who ftopt to fee farce; that the remainder was nothing a fortuitous collection of negroes, ter-anti, ts, the verien dregs of the earth. Ye averments of Afirea's bench, and you whose meric now to laive placed you among the repreof the people, what think ye of this abomiinny? Do not your patriotic breafts burn action at so vile an infinuation?

ruin the most sacred rights of a free propie,"

part, I rejoice to find, that fince the spirit of h- forfaken-the-hollow-hearts-of those, who lves gentlemen, it hath happily taken up its ong the more virtuous mob. That it may sh and raise its drooping head, when every fhall vibrate languid in the finking cause, r bended knees to beaven devoutly pray e, June 9, 1773. MARK ANTHONY.

e continue long in power, they grow fond of il,

of the fax is lessened to each individual: nor is this diminution of the iax the only benefit refulting from that wife regulation. Clergymen are thereby kept in a state of dependance on the civil power, and the dan-gerous influence of that body, which too large a state of wealth would be apt to create, is prevented. The primitive ages of christianity prove, that a happy mediscrity, suitable to the spirit of our divine rengion, sendered its patiers buimble, patients and light, or the discharge of their holy functions. The corryman of moderate fortune seldom foregoes, the divise of his station, to display his political talents, in order to second the views of ambition or avarice; the meddling, turbulent priest is must commonly wealthy; first perverted by affluence, then digusted with his calling, the meek and charitable precepts of the gospel cease to guide his actions; he throws off the nobtelt character, and assumes the most contemptible, that of a court-fycophant, or ministerful hireling. It helongs not to an individual to point out what falaries it would be proper to lettle on the ministers of the established church; a matter of such consequence must be left to the wisdom and discretion of the legislature: thus much however a private writer, I hope, may fay without being thought guilty of arrogance, or prefumption, that forty pounds of tobacco per poll, all circumitances duly weighed, is most certainly an exorbitant provition, and confequently unreasonable. That the clergy should endeavour to support so be-nessial an establishment is not to be wondered at:

while we blame their too great attachment to worldly concerns, we ought to make fome allowance for human frailty, and to consider, that the functify of priest-hood cannot divest priests entirely of their passions. It will appear on examination, that at the time of enasting the 40 per poll law, the largest parish was not worth more than £. 150 cur. annually 5 but now it may be truly said that our parishes rife from £-300 or £. 250 the lowest value to 2000 currency per annum, rating tobacco at the average price it has bore for, some years past. I speak not this at random. What judgment then must we form of those men, who espouled from policy, not conviction, the unreasonable claim of the clergy, who made a shield of that order to defend their own usurpations, to obstruct a new regulation of fees, and to uphold the old table, which they have endeavoured by every artifice to transmit unimpaired to their fuccessors in office. Are not the officers in the upper house, who unwilling to submit to a new regulation of fees, held forth the clergy as an unfarmountable obstacle thereto, unless their dues should be previously settled, jully chargeable not only with the want of a legal fettlement of fees, but also with the loss of an inspection law, and the continuance of the 40 per poll, should the validity of the act be confirmed by a legal determination? If the lower house had coincided with the views, and wishes of the officers in the upper, if a table of fees had been offered by the former agreeable to the craving appetites of those gentlemen, this condescension would probably have begot a reciprocal complaifance, and we have great reason to believe that on the death or removal of the present incumbents 3/9 per poll on every taxable would have been deemed a fufficient support for the clergy. On the expiration of the inspection law, matters of the utmost consequence to the welfare of this province claimed the attention, and called for the interpolition of its legislature. What regulations would be useful, what would be just, every man of common sense could discover; but every friend to his country dreaded an obstruction to measures of general utility as inconfiftent with the particular interests of some leading men in administration. The ut-most exertion of political intrigue was expected on their part; in this expectation the publick was not de-ceived. The officers having no other resource left, made a merit of necessity; they offered to receive their fees in money at 12/6 currency per hundred in lieu of tobacco. The offer came with a bad grace, and was attributed to the agreement entered into by the lawyers, and published in the Maryland Gazette, to receive their fees at the above rate, notwithstanding they were by law entitled to tobacco, the value of which was more than double that price. The officers not being under the fame fituation, but obliged to have recourse to the constitutional trial by jury in a quantum me-ruit, in what did the merit of their offer consist? They confented to take, what in justice they only ought to have received even under the inspection law, had its true spirit and intention been complied with. In 1747 twelve shillings and fix-pence cur, was deemed the full equivalent of 100 lb. of tobacco; the framers of that law neglected to infert a clause in it to this effect, that in case tobacco should rise above 1256 per cent, the planters might then choose to pay the tees of officers in tobacco, or in cash at the rated value; for want of fuch a clause, the officers, lawyers, and clergy have pocketed fome hundred thousands of pounds more. than what was thought by the legislature equivalent to their services, and of course intended to be given. It is no doubt to be wished that the assembly would heartily unite in framing a law for the regulation of four staple, of officers fees, and clergys dues: but when a talutary law must be purchased by concessions dangerous to liberty, we had better submit to a temporary inconvenience, refulting from the loss of the law, than fuffer a galling yoke to be fallened on the necks of posterity. Had the different branches of the legislature concurred from the fettlement of the province in promoting the general good, we should have rivalled; perhaps have surpassed Rennsylvania in every usefulimprovement. Happy indeed would then have been our condition! But happier is our present flate, than if unanimity, and concord had been bought, by a tame fuhmillion to the various, unjust, and absurd claims, which from time to time have been made by government, and have kept the province in an almost conflant flame for many years. A recapitulation of thole claims in this place would be tireforme, difguffing, and foreign to the main defign of this paper, which is to disclose to the publick the exorbitant same that have been extorted from the many by the few, contrary to

justice and the intention of the legislature. The afters tion may appear paradoxical to thole; who have never been at the pains to investigate the Tubject. Thepe however to convince my country men of its truth. I fhall ay it down as a principle not to be controvered. that the affembly in 1747 rated the value of tebacco at, 12/6 currency per cent this clearly appears from the piece; which farmers were directed by the law to pay or sees charged against them in tobacco. A distinction in the event lo-injurious to three fourths of the community was certainly never meant by the legislature, not being founded either in justice, or good polis cy. The affem ly supposed that the price of tobacco during the existence of the law would on an average be equal to the abovementioned standard, and confequently deemed, that planters paying fees in to bacco would be on an equal flotting with farmers, who were allowed to discharge theirs in money at 12/6 pery200ib, of tobacco, the just value thereof at the time of passing the law. Experience has shewn how satal that suppofition has been to the province, and what an excessive price my brother planters in particular have paid for the inspection law. The following state will serve to fet this marter in a clear light.

Dr. officers, lawyers and clergy Contra-Cf.
Tobacco. To 30 per poll on By & paid, taxables >1,500,000 50,000 by non 1,430,62.5 vearly tohacc To the average amakers mount of officers By balls 4,222,500 and lawyers fees duefrom 24,291,875 yearly planters] 5,722,500 5,7,22,500 D:tto currency Dr. currency B 4291875 Tu4,291,875] at 22/6 per >48,283 II 101 at 12/6 per 26,824 4 41 cent. cent. syball due toplanters 21,459 7 6 48,283 11 101

4,291,875 pounds of tobacco paid annually by the planters, on an average under the inspection law at 21/6 per 100 wt. current money, taken as the medium price during the subsistence of the law, amount to £.48,283 11 101 currency, from which sum subtract £, 26,824 4 41 currency, the amount of officers, lawyers a d clergys fees in tobacco reduced to money at 12/6 per cent. there remains a balance of £ 21,459 7 6 currency due to the planters, being the excess or difference between the felling price of tobacco, and the value rated by the legislature. The last sum being multiplied by 22 years, the term of the intrection law, amounts to £.472 105 17 6, extorted from the planters contrary to justice and the intention of that law. By this just state we have at one view the immense sum paid by the planters to the clergy, officers, and law-yers over and above the real value of the fervice performed by them. When complaints are made against the unreasonableness of such excessive fees, the officers have always an answer ready: the expence of collection, and number of insolvencies make, they allege, a very great deduction from their lists. The following observations will discover what little stress ought to be placed on this plea of theirs. The officers, and lawyers tees, and clergys dues being subject by the inspection law to execution, it was not only the duty of the sheriff, but greatly bis interest to compel payment of them ; we may therefore reasonably conclude, that the sheriffs, or their deputies received and pocketed the fees of feveral returned infolvents, or that many were fo poor, that an execution of their effects would have been either impracticable, or ineffectual. -If we suppose the former, the publick suffered equally; the money being paid, it became a matter of the utmost indifference to the people, whether it went into the pockets of the superior officers, or was embezzled by their collectors: If the latter, we ought to be alarmed at the oppressive taxes, which have reduced fuch numbers to beggary. The common people are much involved in law; no wonder that many of them staggering with the heavy loa! of 30 per poll should entirely fink under the additional preflure of fees more than double the value of the fervices done. If the true amount of officers, and law-yers fees, and clergys dues could be precifely afcertained by an accurate calculation, it would, I believe, appear that three parts in four of infolvencies are owing to the weighty burthen of the 30 per pol, and of excessive fees. The legislature in providing for the executive officers of government never meant to proportion with a ferupulous nicety their rewards to their fervices: a decent, a liberal provision was certainly intended; infolvencies and other deductions were forefeen, and confidered, and for fuch, an allowance was made in forming a table of fees in tobacco rated at 12/6 currency per cwt. Atter all deductions on account of infolvencies, and expences of collection, the fums of tobacco paid to the officers, lawyers, and clergy are sufficient to excite the indignation of my bros ther planters for having patiently submitted to such oppression, and their assomishment at having been able to bear up fo long against them. In appealing to my fellow sufferers on matters of experience, I'am fure of their concurrence in afferting, that though the price of tohacco has role confiderably, the difficulties in making crops have likewife increased. An impartial state of those difficulties, of the enhanced price of land, and negroes, would fee this matter in a proper light. Were time mafterly pen to exhibit to the publick, in one comprellentive and diffinct view, the fums paid yearly by the people to the officers, lawyers, and ciergy, the proportion between them, and the amount of our exports, the former will appear to have acted from. the fertlement of the province down to this day as owith the rapid increase of sees to the truth of this observe vation the following facts will evince.

By report of a committee October feffion 1753, the fees of the fecretary; commillary general, and land office for the years 2749 50, 31, 52, being the fill four years after the inspection law, appear to have averaged one year with another for that time as follows:

The fees to the fecretary in the provincial and I chancery courts from 1748 melutive avet - 235803 aged per annum The fees to the commissary general ditto 1200423; The fees to the registers of the land office ditto 222239

per annum 578467

By report of a committee September festien 1770; the fee in t'e same offices for the years 1763, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, appear to have averaged yearly as fol-.

Lh. of tobacco. The secretary's fees in the provincial and ? chancery courts Comm ffary's ditto Land office ditto 407276

Total 909868 Deduct the average of the first four years 578467

Remains 331401

331401 pounds of tohacco have therefore, been annually paid to those offi ers from 1763 to 1769 inclusive, more than what was paid to them during the course of the fieft f ur years abovementioned. Onferve; reader, no notice is taken in this state of the tenths paid by the county clerks to the feeretary, on the grofs amount of. their fees, which is supposed to be 100,000 lbs. of to-bacco annually. Can it now be faid, I mean with truth, that the expence of living and charges of office. bear any proportion with this increase? From the vast increase of business, and consequently o fees, arile principally the injustice, in contending for the old table of fees, and the necessity of a new one. As my brother planters have smarted most, they will propably feel most fenfibly the justice of my remarks. However the greatest grievance remains to be told, and affecting the whole community is of the most consequence. I mean the dangerous influence, which our sucrative offices and fat livings give to government. Whenever a country has improvidently thrown too much power into the hands of administration, it requires the utmost exertion of true patriotism, to cure the evil by a judicious choice of representatives; and by a hearty and unanimous concurrence with them in opposing the arbitrary and felfish views of interested rulers. Without this union and concert between the people and their delegates, our fituation is truly critical, and alarming, I may fay, desperate. If the oppressive forty per poll act should be supported, if the claim of government to settle the fees of its officers by proclamation be sub-mitted to, why in the general plunder may not the lawyers be permitted to retract their engagements to the publick, and to receive their fees in tobacco agreeable to law? Many severe reflections have been cast onthose gentlemen during our present political contests: fome perhaps may have given occasion to centure, but let not the private faults of individuals be imputed to the whole body. In just ce to the lawyers, I take this op-portunity of declaring, that I think myself and my countrymen under the greatest obligations to them for having led the away in less ning the heavy burthen of our taxes, and for having continued itendily to oppole the measures of government at a time, when the united force of the country was necessary to take it from poverty and flavery. Men, who from lucrative offices have in a short time acquired estates wi hout much trouble, or rifk, will neturally groud at being curifiled of fome profits: disappointed avarice will quicken their refentment; if arguments fail, they will fly to fourrility and abuse, the last and miserable refuge of a discomfitted faction. Invectives flowing from malice, and deflitute of truth, deferve contempt; though not treated with contempt by the persons attacked, yet may they have a very different effect from what was intended by the flanderers they may puffioly recommend to publick notice and regard theft, who ar fligmatized for espousing the cause and interest of the publick. Were it my intention to rouse the indignation of the people, and to render the officers, and clergy generally obsoxious, a strong, lively, and genuine narrative of facts would be jufficient for my purpofe. But I appeal to the understandings, not to the passions of my countrymen. I wish abuses and grievances may be retormed, though I wish not the corporal punishment of those, who have committed then; let justice be tempered with mercy; let the intolence and power of our oppressors be so effectually restrained as not to become dangerous, or burther some a second time. I That close this paper with a quotation from Cato's let-ters, which is apposite to my to jet, and ought to make a deep impression on every man in a publick, and conspicuous station.—" Of this we are sure, that she " least publick guilt is greater than the gjeatest pri-vate guilt. Let every man in publick tiult consider "this, and examine his heart; every ftep, which a publick man taker, every freech; which be makes, and every wote, which be gives may affect millios Whoer ever acts in a great lation against his conscience " might perhaps with more innocence carry a dagger, at and like old Muly stab twenty men a day."

A PLANTER

Thath been faid, that I may well feel the force of an avowed enemy."-Mren I publified a defence against the malicious afpe sions of Client and Plain Truth, I very faithfully and innocently related a

minduly are for enlarging it; a number of ofpowerful, and rich are dangerous to a free jo-Cato's letters.

ke a retrospective view of the state of this e, during the ten or twelve years immediding the passage of the contested forty per e thall not find it difficult to account for the our ancestors in making that law, consideraffionate men of the pretent age, as subverprinciples, on which this colony in particuunded, as repugnant to the spirit of colonieneral, and as highly prejudicial to posterier suitable it may have been to the temper nes, and to the views of the prevailing parfor the established church and hatred of ponot the lole motives, which actuated those we may p. esume les laudable consideraame influence on their proceedings, if credit yen to a report, that the clergy strenuously for fixed falaries in lieu of the 40 per poll, re affembly as ftrenuously infilted on the lathment. In this, dispute we fee both sides the fame narrow, and confined principles: nd wholly unconcerned about their descendclergy equally inaitentive to, and regardless cellors. It is plain Mibey had not the earnest cur present , worthy inclubents (who confider es as trustees only for posterity) To have the pa-f the church banded down to their successors" on g, as might at a, future day, and that not to a Maryland parish. I am aware of the which is often made to fixed salaries; if oeafonable, nay if liberal and genteel, it is, occles of time they become too featity from ng value of modey, and the increasing price. This objection has not been made to the owance in Virginia, or if made, has not ded In that colony the clergy's Ripends to about 16000 pounds of tobacco annually, be annexed to each parish, by which means ishioners increase in number the proportion

verleers only in amaffing fortunes for the latter, -It

carror with justice be said that the additional charges of office, and expense of living, bear any proportion