

"gulate to a million;" for the reader will be pleased to remember, that I have proved; or at least "attempted" to prove before, from Mr. Locke, and the best authorities in the law books, that prerogative, (and proclamation which is a branch of it) were centered by the wisdom of the constitution, in the "governing power" of the state; not for the injury, but for the good of the people: not for the disadvantage, but for the advantage of the community: now, unless the following ability can, or will be maintained; viz. that the service of an officer, which is properly rateable at a "penny," ought consistently with prerogative (which is a "discretionary power to act for the people's good") to be set or laid at a "million," and that the party to whom such service is rendered, can as well bear, and as easily discharge (without injury to his private interest) the greater, as the lesser rate; I think, the above argument, or rather, the "show" of one, must, as it ought, fall to the ground, or vanish. Nor need the people any longer be an object of apprehensions, (suggested by wily men, who feel none of them their selves) that if the proclamation continues, "Whether, their own money shall remain in their pockets, or not, depends no longer on them, but on the prerogative (G);"—"That there is nothing (in such case) they can call their own (H);" and this too confirmed to them, by "the words of a light and ornament of the present age (I):" Qualities of substance, that I never heard before were endued with the organs of speech!

And, thus much may suffice, in relation to the above objection. There are others, and among them, one, of a more general nature, and indeed, of more general extent, being frequent in the mouths of many men, against the exertion of this act of prerogative: and it is this, "That proclamations are of bad precedent and dangerous tendency in a free state, and therefore ought never to be countenanced."

Arguments from the abuse, to the disuse, or non-user of a measure are vicious: they commonly prove too much, which is as bad, in logicks, as proving too little: Thus, a man ought not to be allowed the use of knife and fork at his meals, lest he stick some, and cut others, with them. Nay, those men who make use of these arguments, should not be privileged to retain their teeth, to chew their vituals with, lest they should, at some time or other, employ them to the purpose of biting mankind. Physick, properly applied, contributes to health; improperly, to death: shall it therefore be binned the community? A sword, in a prudent man's hand, is a weapon of safety and defence: in a mad-man's hand, an instrument, probably of destruction: Is it then to be disallowed, and disused, because it may be employed to a bad, as well as to a good purpose? That doctrine would be strange indeed! And yet, no less strange is it, to object to, reprobate, and condemn, the exercise of a right, constitutionally given, for the good of the people, and which, in the particular instance, under consideration, hath been productive of that very effect; merely, because it may have been, and, again may be perverted, from its true and proper end and purpose; and thoughtlessly or designedly be abused by unwise or impotent magistrates, to the detriment of the publick. One might justly object, from the levity, or rather facility of such objections, as these, to the proclamation (and I could mention many more, I have heard, of the like kind; but that I am apprehensive, the reader might think me fond of raising straw images, purely for the pleasure of pulling them to pieces again); that those who use them, really mean to give up the cause they affect to support. It is scarce to be credited, that in these days, which we boast of as enlighten'd, the people could suffer themselves, by the insinuating harangues of a few designing and selfish men, and the loud clamour of their followers, to be so far imposed upon, as to doubt the propriety of the exercise of a right, from whence they have received such signal benefits; and from whence they daily derive advantages, without the experience of any disadvantages, that I am apprized of (K). If there are any, let them be made appear to the publick: till then, I guess, they will wisely judge of the tree by its fruits, and not by the reports of others concerning it;—and if, on dispassionate, impartial, and mature consideration, had of the nature and tendency of this proclamation, the publick should be inclined to view it in that constitutional, legal, and beneficial light, it doth appear to me, on those grounds and reasons of law, I have assigned in support of my opinion in its favour; What will they think? What will they say? or rather, What will they not say?—of some men among us, who have exerted every nerve, employed every faculty of their soul, and made use of every argument and artifice they are capable of, to blind or mislead the understandings, and irritate and inflame the minds of the people; and who "industriously augment the difficulties of administration, by obliging it to pay that attention to their interested opposition, which might be better employed," in composing differences, in healing party divisions, and restoring harmony and union among us; in conciliating a

(G) See votes and proceedings, Oct. session, 1771, p. 66.

(H) Ibid.

(I) Ibid.

(K) Although we are told, "in the words of a light and ornament of the present age, that, if this unconstitutional assumption of power," should prevail among us, "there is nothing we can call our own;"—"our money may no longer remain in our own pockets, &c." yet I am happy in congratulating the publick, that this horrible prophecy is not yet come to pass, notwithstanding the proclamation hath subsisted among us almost three years: it hath taken no more from me, than I used to pay under the old inspection law; nor indeed "so much" I should be glad to know, how any individual in the community (and it is of individuals that the publick is composed) hath been a greater loser by it than I have declared myself to be: and yet, I have "as much in my pocket" as I formerly had, and still am possessed of "something" I can call my own.

friendly correspondence, and cultivating a good and permanent understanding, between the constituent members of the legislature; and thereby paving the way to the procurement of wise and salutary laws, regulating the fees of the officers, and the allowance of the clergy; and making generous and genteel provision for each, suitable to their respective ranks and stations; and by such conduct, superseding the reason, the expediency, the necessity, of the proclamation's existing any longer among us (if still dreaded, when no danger threatens); and thus cutting up, at one great and masterly stroke, all grounds of civil, political contest, and discussion in the community, which have too long prevailed, contrary to the fervent wish and silent prayer of every honest and well-meaning man—"Ne quid detrimenti capiat respublica."

I am, with due gratitude for all past favours conferred by the publick, their most obliged and humble servant,
JOHN HAMMOND.

L O N D O N, May 20.

THE ministry are now at a stand about what measure to take at this alarming crisis: they are unwilling to engage any more men, as also to turn off any men. They are quite in a state of uncertainty both at Portsmouth and Plymouth, and know not which to prepare for, war or peace.

May 25. Several Spanish men of war, with a number of transports, sailed last month, from different ports in Spain, for the coast of Guinea, in order to join the French squadron already there; after which junction, it is said, some important blow is intended to be struck.

By a Dutch ship just arrived from the East Indies we have an authentic account, that the French are making very great hostile preparations, and that the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon have been new garrisoned from Europe.

By a vessel from the Mediterranean, which touched at Barcelona in her way home, we have advice, that several merchant ships are detained in that port, by impressing of their hands to serve on board the Spanish men of war fitting out there.

A N N A P O L I S, JULY 29.

We hear from Frederick county, that about ten days ago one Mossman of Baltimore Town purchased a parcel of convicts, in order to dispose of them again to advantage; all of which he sold before he reached Frederick-Town except four men, with whom he was proceeding towards Hagar's-Town; but about two or three miles on the other side of Frederick Town, one of the servants told his master that he was too much fatigued to go any further; they therefore all rested themselves on an old tree by the side of the main road. After some time, Mossman told them they must proceed on their journey, but they refused and immediately threw him backwards over the tree, dragged him about five steps into the woods, and then cut his throat from ear to ear; took his pocket book and then went over the mountain, calling at every tavern on the road. They were met by a man, who had seen their master on his way up with them; and enquired of them concerning him; they said he was a little behind refreshing himself; but after riding several miles without hearing of him, concluded he had been murdered by them. He accordingly alarmed the neighbourhood, they were pursued, taken, and are now in jail at Frederick-Town, having signed a confession of their guilt before a magistrate.

* * * A. B. will have a place in our next.

Advertisements omitted will be inserted next week.

Queen-Anne's county, July 23, 1773.

WHEREAS one of my creditors, through ungenerous—misapprehension, or wrong judgment on my probity, did, in the course of the last year, attach on my estate, and cause all other of my creditors to do the same, while I was absent on a voyage to the West Indies and south provinces of this continent, by which I am a great sufferer, my wife's estate having been snatched away from us in a most cruel manner, and our negroes taken away from our plantation at an under value; these are to inform those persons who have any of them in their possession, that being arrived, even without having been informed of what happened to my disadvantage with regard to my estate in this province, I expect of their generousities to return me the said negroes, offering to pay them all claims they may justly have against me, on theirs, or other accounts; therefore as the said negroes have been taken away to different parts of the province, I hope none of them shall be disposed of but in my favour.

May the author of my griefs never experience the same, but have sensibility enough in his heart to feel the dagger he thrust into mine.

w 4 C. T. WEDERSTRANDT.

JUST IMPORTED,

In the Caroline, Capt. Lynch, from London, and to be sold, by the subscribers, at their store on the dock, in Annapolis, on very reasonable terms, for cash or short credit,

A CHOICE and general assortment of European and East-India Goods.
WALLACE DAVIDSON and JOHNSON.

July 19, 1773.
To be sold, at publick vendue, on the third day of August next, at the plantation of Mr. William Liams, that now is advertised for sale on the same day,

A TRACT of land called Duvall's Range, containing upwards of four hundred acres; it lies on Patuxent river, adjoining Mr. Liams's plantation. On the said land are four tenements. The soil is good, well watered and timbered. For title and terms apply to the subscriber living in Prince-George's county.

HOWARD DUVALL,

To be sold cheap for cash, by the subscriber, wholesale and retail,

VERY good spirit and West-India rum, continent ditto, molasses, genuine Mallaga wine, loaf sugar of several sorts, a large quantity of best Muscovado ditto, bohea and fouchong tea, nutmegs, allspice, pepper and ginger, mustard, chocolate and coffee, soap, tallow and spermaceti candles, powder and shot, window glass of several sizes, and a few choice salt-petre'd Burlington gammons. Also sweet oil, Stoughton's bitters, Bateman's drops and British oil, sugar cakes for destroying worms in children, Anderson's pills, cream of tartar, Epfom salts, rhubarb and manna, &c. &c.

3 W WILLIAM WILKINS.

July 21, 1773.

WENT away, last night, from Thomas Snowden's plantation, the six following servant men, viz. William Lowe, an Englishman, about 20 years of age, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, by trade a blacksmith, of a swarthy complexion, and has lost one of his fore teeth; had on, an osnabrig shirt, dirty brown holland trousers, old castor hat, old shoes, and plated buckles. Richard Ellingsworth, born in Yorkshire, about 25 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, of a dark complexion, and pretty well set; had on, an osnabrig shirt, crocus trousers, old flowered lapelled waistcoat, old felt hat, and good shoes. Richard Thompson, born in the north of England, about 27 years of age, about 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, of a swarthy complexion, and is much pitted with the small-pox; had on, an osnabrig shirt, crocus trousers, old felt hat, and good shoes with copper buckles. Thomas Hogg, born in Yorkshire, about 25 years of age, about 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, and of a swarthy complexion; had on, an osnabrig shirt, black breeches and stockings, an half worn castor hat, and old shoes with copper buckles. Thomas Sutton, a north countryman, about 25 years of age, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, and of a fair complexion; had on, an osnabrig shirt, canvas trousers, old castor hat, and good shoes with plated buckles. John Driver, an Englishman, born in Norfolk, about 23 years of age, about 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, and of a dark complexion; had on, an osnabrig shirt, crocus trousers, old castor hat, old shoes and copper buckles. Whoever takes up the said servants, shall receive, on securing them in any jail, so that their masters get them again, if taken 20 miles from home, 30 shillings for each, and so in proportion for a greater distance, and, if brought home, reasonable travelling charges, paid by

HENRY and THOMAS SNOWDEN.

LOST, from the brig Betsey, the 23d inst. July, between Poplar and Kent islands, a moles built long-boat; she is a new boat, painted yellow and blue, has a graven piece in her stern post, and had eight dolphins tails tacked to her stern. The subscriber will give any person forty shillings that will deliver her in Baltimore-Town.

w 2 RICHARD DAVIES.

Baltimore, July 17, 1773.

JUST IMPORTED,
And to be sold by the subscriber, on reasonable terms,

DRUGS and medicines, apothecary shop furniture, surgeons instruments, urinals, nipple glasses, and every article in common use among the medical and chyrurgical gentlemen. Also painters colours, oils, and utensils, gold leaf, varnish, &c.

w 5 ALEXANDER STENHOUSE.

COMMITTED to the jail of Charles county as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself Frank, and says he is the property of William Jetty, of Meclinburg county in Virginia; he is about five feet five inches high, a likely well made young fellow, his face much scarified, particularly his forehead, occasioned, as he says, by his being burnt when a child: Has on and with him, a good osnabrig shirt, a pair of old died jeans breeches, old shoes and stockings, a felt hat almost new, and a woman's osnabrig petticoat, which he says he took from his sweet-heart by way of a love memorandum. His master is desired to take him away and pay charges, to

1 W Wm. HANSON, depy. sheriff.

HERE is at the plantation of Richard Scaggs, on Bennet's creek, in Frederick county, taken up as a stray, a small bay mare, about 7 years old, 13 hands high, branded on the near buttock with a fork, is a natural pacer. The owner may have her again, proving property and paying charges.