

what is paid by the mother country, who, collectively considered, are, by no means, more able, it is but little, if any, more than a fifth; so that, at any rate, we are not "of all men most miserable."—I am sensible, this calculation is made far too much by guess, to be strictly accurate. I have studied, however, to give the advantage against my own argument. The aggregate, or sum-total of the provision made for the church in Maryland, is inadequate to the maintenance of a competent number of reputable clergymen. We have but forty-four parishes, and, even now, twice that number would be unequal to the exigencies of the country. As we increase in people, more will still be requisite. For, it can never be thought that religious instruction is sufficiently communicated, till every man, that will, may have it in his power, with his family, conveniently to attend divine service, at the least, once in every week. Every parish is too large, as long as there is a parishioner distant above four or five miles from a church, where there is service every Sunday. Could things be suffer'd to remain on their present footing, this, in time, might be remedied: parishes heretofore, when really too large, have been divided, and, undoubtedly, will continue to be divided; but, should the patriotic schemes prevail, it is hard to say, when, or how it could be remedied—certainly, not in this generation. For, as to any gain accruing from a casual increase of taxable, which, excepting, perhaps, in some frontier parishes, is slow and uncertain, that, it seems, is intended only to lessen the tax—a very flattering prospect to separatists! and thus, by an artful appeal to the selfishness of the people, and the seducing allurements of some immediate little savings, an effectual project is form'd to keep our church down: I am surpris'd, her friends are not alarm'd at it.

It is owing, as Swift, with his usual sarcastic shrewdness, well observes, to this "pedantry of republican politics, when men come, with the spirit of shopkeepers, to frame rules for the administration of kingdoms," that regulations, like these, so unworthy a rich and a thriving country, have ever been projected: regulations, which, it would seem, cannot well be carried into execution, without violence to publick faith. And, whether the apparent advantages (and they are but apparent) proposed to be gain'd, be worth such a sacrifice, deserves some consideration. Such a country as this is well able to support the dignity of government, and the independency of officers; to encourage arts and sciences, pay really deserving lawyers (of whom we have many) liberally, and maintain a clergy in a decent and hospitable manner, without overturning foundations, for the sake of an Utopian "principle of equality." But, say the conferees of the lower house of assembly, "none of the parishes are so inconsiderable, but that the worst is too good for the worst clergyman." As if it were the policy of the legislature to have bad parishes, merely for the sake of punishing bad clergymen. Now, surely, for such men, any parish is too good: and the punishment falls not so much on the delinquent, as on the poor parishioners. There is a passage in a speech of Sir Benjamin Rudyard in the house of commons in 1628, when Pym was speaker, not inapplicable to this paragraph of the conferees. "for scandalous ministers, there is no man shall be more sincerely desirous to have them punish'd, than I will be. But, Sir, let us deal with them, as God hath dealt with us; who, before he made man, made the world a handsome place for him to dwell in. So let us provide them competent livings, and then punish them in God's name; but, till then, scandalous livings cannot but have scandalous ministers. It shall ever be a rule to me, that, where the church and commonwealth are both of the same religion, it is comely and decent, that the outward splendour of the church should hold a proportion; and participate, in the prosperity of the temporal state: for, why should we dwell in houses of cedar, and suffer God to dwell in skins."

Precipitate counsels, and rash resolves, are not peculiar to Maryland. All history abounds with examples of bodies of men, as well as individuals, being carried down by the current of party. Far then be it from me, indiscriminately, to reflect on many persons of worth and abilities, who, by not sufficiently considering the consequences, have been persuaded to join in the cry against the clergy. The case was new, and it was hardly possible, that the clamours, abuse and misrepresentation of violent and prejudiced men, should leave even very ingenuous minds without some degree of prepossession against a cause, which was "every where spoken against." The cause, however, is now before the publick, and, I trust, not misrepresented. Farther discussion and enquiry will give it still additional strength. Let us then hope, as, surely, even folly and frenzy must now be fatiated with uproar and confusion, that men will, at length, return to a better mind, and that peace and tranquillity may again be restor'd to this once happy country: and, maugre all the little, sinister, insinuations of such Planters, as this writer, every real patriot will be an advocate for our pure and reform'd church; and, in the words, and with the fervor, with which father Paul, in his dying moments, pray'd for the republick of Venice, will say, ESTO PERPETUA!

A CLERGYMAN OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

TO THE PRINTERS.

Prince-George's county.

IN my publication of last week, I, without favour or affection, pour'd out the unfeigned feelings of an honest heart. I now, in part, repeat what I then said, that, the present administration is despicable and low, in the most alarming and high degree. And that the envenom'd arrow aim'd at the honest hearts of the most fair and pious characters recoils, (let the expres-

sion be carp'd at as much as it will) and drinks the black blood of the sycophantick genius's, who were the authors of it, whilst they were flocking to the standard of detraction, and shewing their teeth for a dinner. But I never will cease to thunder but my trumpet of patriotism, to prick my countrymen from their slumber, in the time of danger. These poor creatures have led Antilon their benefactor, into the justification of a measure, which was deservedly burnt at the gallows—the proclamation I mean—It was burnt, I say, to perpetuate its infamy, after the manner of the ancients, and minute guns, to stamp it with disgrace, were fired over its grave: for it is to be noted, that, the ancients always burnt the bodies of atrocious criminals on funeral piles, as certainly as they fired minute guns over them in token of abhorrence; as all military men know to be practis'd in our own times. But the funeral procession was the bravest of all—the standard bearers were admirably chosen, and the chief mourners march'd after them with infinite propriety to the gallows, the Independent Freeman, not uttering a single joke in facetious sort, but overwhelm'd with sorrow, measuring his solemn paces in the rear. I well know, that, a malicious and despicable report, was put about, with the most wicked views, that, a patriot who has ever stood foremost in the stand, that has been made to prop up our falling constitution, blush'd forth repentance afterwards, for the part he acted on that glorious and triumphant occasion, confessing, that, he had been compelled to it, to humour the caprice of the rabble; but let any tool of administration sign his name to that charge, and send it to me I will scorn to pocket it, I will give the scoundrel the satisfaction of a gentleman—In all other countries, I know both from reading and experience, that, these indignities are entirely left to the rabble to offer them to wicked, selfish, and tyrannical ministers, their wives and daughters—unless when others mix with them in disguise; but the character of a Maryland patriot braves the day, he scorns to assume the tar'd face, jacket and trousers, but boldly marches with the hangman and grave-digger, like a gentleman, in his own proper dress and person. Oh Antilon! Antilon! as I detest scurrility from my heart, and have some share of decency, I will deal gently with you. The treachery you have practis'd to all men who have had any thing to do with you, the dark and suspicious means by which you have enrich'd yourself, have made you a by word of detestation, you never did a friendly act in your life, either in your profession or out of it: this is the true real cause why this storm has broken upon you; you have not made enemies according to the saying of the wife man, viz. do a scoundrel a service and he is your enemy for ever. You are a pitiful, ill-looking, low-lived extortioner—an unnatural composition of venom and spleen—you deserve to be hang'd or banish'd—I shall, Mr. Printer, retain my former signature, because let Jereus that blackguard priest, that, has long ago deserved to be dungeon'd for his foul-mouth'd scurrility and abuse, say what he will to the contrary, hunger is a sensation that cannot must not be long endur'd in a free country; and he that can see a dainty dish of flesh every day set before him, and not fall to, cannot possibly have patriotic vigour enough to stand forth at a pulch—And that I have herein reason'd fairly, I appeal to the ghost of that brave youth, who, according to the declaration, in the words of the great Addison contain'd, expired on or about the 7th of Oct. inst. and who is gone to receive, in the next world, his reward for the crosses and oppositions he met with in this, to the many fine things he has both written and spoken, for the good of his country—The courtiers have, as I said before, propagated a doctrine which exercises the passion of vanity in their favour; but as I have not taken notice what that doctrine is, I shall here explain myself, and after I have done that, and some other matters, conclude upon the whole, that, as king James and all his popish advisers were sent to the devil headlong, for endeavouring to cut up our laws and religion by the roots, so our present miscreant administration, ought in common justice, to be pelted, kennel'd and knockt at head, and this I tell him to his teeth, and dare him, I repeat it, I dare him to shew his resentment AT THIS TIME, or any other. Was it so as it is now, in the late administration? did any selfish, odious, despicable, cunning, wriggling minister, then ride upon the necks of the people? no—universal applause and popularity then followed the most bright ministerial merit and generosity, the people were RELIEVED, contented, and happy, from one extremity of the province to the other, from the sea coast to the FRONTIERS; no body then dared to pick the pockets of the publick, no jobbing—and I call upon this whole province to testify the truth of this, and particularly the impartial and disinterested personages of all denominations and religions, that compose the present opposition. There is nothing recorded, that can stand up in judgment against a little that I aver; and I do not doubt, but that, by sticking together, we may bring back the same happy days again. But, as I said before, I despise the present administration and its officers into the bargain, your SAFE AND CLOSE KEEPING has no terrors for me, indeed I had rather incur it than not. It is to be hoped, that, the hammers of patriotism are at least a match for the bars and bolts of tyranny—the liberty of the press is the most powerful adversary to slavery, ambition, and faction; but it is repugnant to the principles of honour and general liberty, that it should not be totally at the devotion of the profess'd friends of the people—but I doubt not, that, if ever it should presume to grin at green-gill'd oysters, or squint at the lean apothecary in Romeo and Juliet, the justice and necessity will instantly appear, of hurling destruction thereat, and at all concerned therewith. The doctrine I alluded to—to proceed regularly—is this—that a roguish prevaricating lawyer, that mouths against his own hand-writing that he has been paid for, may make a very honest law maker; and that it is as plain as the nose in your face, that, a brickbat to-day, may be a diamond to-morrow, to

support an honourable scheme—that a mere broomstick, without a head, is not a very sorry and useless piece of wood, nor apt to be rotten at the heart—upon what other principle can we account for, an independent person's cutting down a gallows, which may be fairly deemed a publick building, on his own land, and which ought to have been kept sacred, for the use of some of the most virtuous personages, that ever blew up the flame of once expiring liberty? and is it not upon the same principle, that, the same person now walks in open day, with a staff shaped into the form of a broomstick, thereby signifying his contempt evidently, of one of the most fine and gallant youths, that ever manifested a noble readiness, to sacrifice every thing that little minds and vulgar natures hold dear, honest, and important, to prove his independent connection with the Hamdens and Sydneys of our times? it has been observed, that, youth rarely breaks out into absolute perfection, at the very first setting out; it requires time to be a little hackney'd in experience. But this province is blest with a most amiable exception thereto. It is known, that, if avarice once strikes a single fibre in the heart of a youth, virtue turns her back upon him for ever, and that not even one generous vice can insinuate itself into his bosom—his notorious detestation of usury, secures him from all suspicion of being tainted with this poison—who so singular for speaking religiously the truth on all occasions! a man may be safe with him in the most trifling dealings without taking his bond—and he is as brave as a Bencoolen tyger; he is withal a most able and judicious critic, and, when in company, the most sweet, polish'd, facetious companion living. But the elegance of his breeding needs not be wonder'd at, considering at whose foot he was brought up, at a time, that, other lads are playing the fool, in mauling the minutiae of grammar. I have said before that the inveterate arrow aim'd at the honest heart recoils—and as I do not desire to be credited any further than my reasoning will go, I thus support my position—did not a most learned and humorous gentleman, some time ago, step forth to execute justice on the enemies of their country, with an ax in one hand and an halberd in t'other, under the signature of Crispin? and what showers of abuse were instantly shot at him from the bows of miscreant court sycophants? and did they prevail to make one flaw in his adamant heart? were his spirits broken in consequence thereof? did the rose of cheerfulness fade away from his cheeks? at a word—does he now sneak in holes and corners? does he not make his way as good as ever into all companies? when he hears himself pointed at, which is the case every where, with there's Crispin! there goes the Doctor! does not the burning blush of conscious merit light up his patriotic countenance? But to sum up my arguments and dismiss my readers—the liberty of the press consists in revering as sacred, both the publick and private characters of the lawyers, and their papist confederates in the cause of liberty and religious consistency, and their characters alone, and that this is both law, justice, and reason, is the sentiment of an Independent Freeman, and whoever contradicts it is a most scurrilous scoundrel and sycophant, and a most deadly enemy to all freedom and independency.

A CUSTOMER.

TO THE PRINTERS.

WHEN I behold those performances in your Gazette which tend to delineate the rights of the subject, and the extent of prerogative, or which strike at the views and measures of administration rather than at men, I confess myself much pleas'd. But on the other hand, there is no son of Maryland, blest with any sense of virtue, or with common sense, there is no son of Maryland animated with the least spark of publick spirit, but must burn with rage and indignation to behold men of breeding, men of distinguished abilities, who deservedly merit the most amiable characters, avowedly admitted, nominally to be degraded, and scurrilously villified, through the channel of your Gazette, under an impossibility of redress, by secreting the author's real signature. The liberty of the press I hold essential to free government, but it is folly to suppose, that a people free as we are, and bold by being so, will ever submit to such indignities, or suffer the private characters of their deputies, wantonly to be sported with by the hands of a—*I favouritely*, fed upon the plunders of the publick to destroy the general felicity, with impunity.

The First Citizen, for his manly, nervous, and spirited opposition, to that ever to be detested measure, I mean the proclamation, has received the most infamous abuse, from perhaps the vilest parasites, and when his reason and argument surmounted a refutation by Antilon, why truly he was a papist, and consequently disaffected; a weak, and shallow device, calculated no doubt to destroy the force of those truly patriotic performances, which evidently laid open to our view the danger of acquiescing to any illegal exertions of power; but the penetrating eye of the publick will always see to the bottom of such artifice, and notwithstanding we are always honoured with the title of mob, rabble, &c. we have long learnt to respect an honest man of another profession, in preference to a knave of our own.

Messrs. Paca, Johnson, Chase, and Hall, for their unshaken fidelity to the common cause, for their unwearied diligence in opposing the designs of a corrupt administration, tending to the subversion of the policy, and economy, of our constitution, for their uncommon application to the business of the province, for their spirited and bold endeavours to infuse, and inspire, publick virtue, and resolution in the inactive mass; for these illustrious qualities, which constitute their present distinction, have likewise met the despatch, and scurrilous strokes of our late very great patriot.—But notwithstanding the many and repeated efforts of these creepers, to render these gentlemen contemptible, the world is sufficiently satisfied, not only