

and of the authority of the king and parliament of Great-Britain over the same; be it enacted by the king's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that if at any time, within the space of years from and after the any bill or bills of indictment shall be found against any person for murder, or other capital offence, in the province of the Massachusetts-Bay, and it shall appear, by information given upon oath to the governor, or in his absence to the lieutenant-governor of the said province, that the fact was committed by the person indicted, while he was either in the execution of his duty as a magistrate, for the suppression of riots, or in the support of the laws of revenue, or that he was acting in his duty as an officer of revenue, or acting under the direction and order of any magistrate for the suppression of riots, or for the carrying into effect the laws of revenue, or aiding and assisting in any of the purposes aforesaid; and if it shall also appear, to the satisfaction of the said governor or lieutenant-governor respectively, that an indifferent trial cannot be had within the said province, in that case it shall and may be lawful for the governor or lieutenant-governor to direct, that the indictment shall be tried in some other of his majesty's colonies, or in Great-Britain, and for that purpose to order the person indicted to be sent under a sufficient custody to the place appointed for his trial; and that there may be no failure of justice from the want of evidence in such cases, it shall and may be lawful for the governor, or in his absence the lieutenant-governor, to settle and assess a reasonable sum to be allowed for the expenses of such witnesses as the prosecutor, or the person indicted, shall desire to be summoned; which sum shall be advanced by the commissioners of his majesty's customs, to the witness, who, upon the receipt thereof, shall enter into a recognizance before a judge of the superior court, to appear and give evidence upon the trial of such indictment.

And be it further enacted, that the governor, or in his absence the lieutenant-governor, if he shall direct the trial to be had in any other of his majesty's colonies; shall transmit the indictment, together with the recognizances of the witnesses, under the seal of the province, to the governor of such other colony; who shall immediately issue a commission of oyer and terminer, and deliver or cause to be delivered the said indictment, with the said recognizances, to the chief justice, and such other persons as have usually been commissioners of oyer and terminer there; who shall have power to proceed upon the said indictment, as if the same had been found before them, and the trial shall thereupon proceed in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as if the offence had been committed in such place; and in case the governor, or in his absence the lieutenant-governor, shall direct the trial to be had in Great-Britain, he shall then transmit the indictment, together with the recognizances of the witnesses, under the seal of the province, to one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, who shall deliver or cause to be delivered the same, to the master of the crown office, and the indictment shall be tried in the next term, at the bar of the court of king's bench, in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as if the offence had been committed in the county of Middlesex.

BOSTON, May 27.

*Extracts of a letter from London, April 8, 1774.*  
 "The eyes of all Europe are now turned to North-America. It must soon be determined whether they are men, and deserve that freedom which heaven has put in their power; or whether they have the submissive spirit of a spaniel that was formed to fetch and carry, and be kicked into submission. The London merchants, such of them as trade to Boston, have evidenced a ministerial temper. They will not appear in opposition to the ministry. A few natives of America have signed a petition to the king, lords, and commons, which has occasioned very considerable debates in both houses, has chanced to make more profelytes out of doors, than all the political pieces together that have appeared lately on the American subject. I suppose it was, because people in general attend more to any thing in that form, than to fugitive pieces which no body owns. The minister, conscious of the badness of his cause and fearful of an opposition, has called out all the dogs of Hell to bark at the Americans: never were the public papers so filled with the invectives of hireling writers. In the mean while, the further this business advances the more people begin to tremble for the consequences. I never go abroad but I am applied to by people who wish well to America, and express the most ardent desire, and hope that the Americans may be unanimous on the occasion; the minister plumes himself on the certainty of their dividing among themselves, and considers them as a rope of sand. The Boston port bill is an essay how far the other provinces will suffer a sister to be insulted; if the minister succeeds in this attempt and no formidable associations are set on foot, as sure as there is a god in heaven, the provinces will soon suffer one by one. The Boston charter is soon to be altered, which is also intended as a precedent; I believe I am well informed that certain other charters, not far from Pennsylvania, will soon follow, nor is there any reason why all may not be changed, if any one of them may. It is apprehended that there never was more need of a general convention of the provinces than, at present; such a thing would raise the idea of vigour and unanimity among them, and terrify their enemies. The notion of another non-importation agreement begins already to alarm the manufacturers, but the apprehension of cutting off trade with the West-Indies, alarms the West-India merchants much more. I cordially wish that every American had heard the speeches that were made in parliament, when the motion was made for leave to bring in the Boston port bill. It was then echoed from every creature of the court, that the time is now come when the question must be finally determined—whether we be independent of Great-Britain; or, whether we be reduced to due subjection? whether

they will suffer themselves to be humbled, so as to submit to the yoke that is made for them, I shall not venture to guess, but if they do, I shall wish that I had been born in France, that land of freedom, or what may express the same idea; every American will soon wish that he had never been born, for not to be, is better than to be—a slave.

BALTIMORE, June 11.

**TO THE judicious and impartial PUBLIC.**  
 AMONG the great variety of subjects which the human mind is capable of treating on, whatever their tendency may be, none, it is certain, ought more seriously to engage either private or public attention amongst christian society than that which endeavours to obviate unjust and malevolent reflexions against a man's character. Injured innocence, in the opinion of the wise and good, is so unexpressibly moving that it not only even in bare appearance lays claim to human agency, but when realized commands social as well as legislative interposition in its vindication—How far my case, which I shall state with all the brevity the circumstances of it will admit, may deserve public attention, and how far my character hath been licentiously treated and unjustly traduced I shall submit to the public to judge from the following circumstantial and incontrovertible facts—

After a reputable residence of about seventeen years in St. Mary's county, during a great part of which time I was, by regular admission, an attorney at law, and was also admitted to practice in Calvert county, and acted for six years as deputy county clerk of St. Mary's, I came with my family in June 1771 to Baltimore town to manage the business of the county clerk, but having reason to believe it would be more to my interest, I at August court 1773, quitted that business, and entertaining no idea of even the possibility of a single objection being started against my admission, applied to be admitted an attorney of that court, when to my great astonishment Mr. George Chalmers moved the bench against my being admitted, urging that my character was not held good in St. Mary's county, but without being able to cite a single instance of anything that amounted to a proof or, indeed, to a probability of what he advanced; the court, however, acting rather under the restriction of caution and prudence, as I was a stranger to them, than influenced in any degree by the bare assertion of my jealous and mistakenly important adversary, thought proper to postpone my admission until I produced testimonials of my character at St. Mary's. At the next ensuing March court I again applied for admission, but there not being a full court I was referred to its adjournment, viz. to the court in June, when I repeated my application, not only under self conviction of my innocence of the charge dirtily and meanly insinuated against me, but under the attested confirmation of the falsity of the imputation from a considerable number of letters from gentlemen of the first character in St. Mary's county, whose undoubted reputation and honour would give validity and truth to their assertions in the most respectable senate where their characters were known: these letters, with the testimony of several gentlemen of distinction in this county, which were publicly read in court, I shall communicate to the public in the Maryland journal of next week, and how far they operated in my favour the reader will judge from the issue of my address.

The bench divided only on a difference of opinion with respect to the mode or manner of my application for admittance, and of the seven following gentlemen, who constituted the court, viz. Mr. Plowman, Mr. Moale, Mr. Sollers, Mr. Vn. Elbber, Mr. Andrew Buchanan, Mr. William Buchanan and Mr. Speare, a majority were for my being immediately admitted and sworn, when Mr. Robert Alexander with, as I thought, some degree of pertness observed that I could not *then* be sworn, as the court was adjourned, which I found it had been a few minutes before my application. Mr. Alexander's petulance did not end here. He insinuated to the bench that if I was admitted, *He would quit the bar*, whether this insinuation was dictated by an opinion of his own importance, and that he intended it as a threat, to enforce a compliance of the magistrates with his stubborn and unreasonable humour, or whether his apprehensions that my success in business, were I admitted, would so much interfere with and reduce his practice as to render the continuance of it not worth his while, is a matter which several judicious gentlemen, who were present, are yet at a loss to determine on. To give my own sentiments of the matter, my opinion of Mr. Alexander's innate *modesty*, and his respect for magistracy induces me to believe that the latter motive operated, and that the passions of fear and jealousy were so predominant as to produce that instance of *ill-judged confidence* which in another point of view might with great propriety be considered the height of consummate impudence.

Mr. Alexander Lawson, who is my inveterate enemy, for no other reason, known to me, than that I consulted my own emolument in leaving his employ, now thought proper to put his faculty of speech to torture in opposing me, and attempted to discharge a volley of invectives against me, but proved so unequal to the task, with any kind of efficacy, that after distorting the muscles of his face, and provoking himself into a violent passion, he could only convince the court that he had nothing at all to the purpose to say; and this ineffectual sally of his malevolence was attended with such a shaking of his lips, such a faltering voice, and trembling as affrightedly as if he had just committed on my person that murder which he so inhumanly meditated against my character. He, indeed, was able to mutter that George Maxwell, Esq; and col. Benjamin Young had expressed their disapprobation of me, and that it was suspected I had been concerned in burning my house in which were sundry records of St. Mary's county—but this cruel insinuation is so pregnant with improbability, that to attempt a circumstantial refutation of it would be entirely needless, nor could any man living, except he was callous to the very conviction of inhumanity, as well

as hardened in and insensible to self reproach in the highest degree of baseness, conceive the commission or intention of such an act on my part, when it is notorious in St. Mary's I suffered a very considerable loss by that unhappy accident, in the total destruction of my house, furniture, books, papers, &c.

Much doubting the verity of Mr. Lawson's assertion respecting Mr. Maxwell and col. Young's opinion of me, and conscious that neither of these gentlemen can advance any thing to my discredit, I call upon them to declare in as public a manner as they may think proper, their sentiments of me; and while I dare and do challenge any man in St. Mary's county to accuse me of being instrumental in the destruction of my house, from perishing in the flames of which two of my children, together with two of Mr. Llewellyn's sons, who then lodg'd in my house were almost miraculously preserved; I beg these two gentlemen, Mr. John Llewellyn, and others who are acquainted with the generally supposed occasion of the fire to declare their knowledge thereof—I esteem it a gratitude I owe the many respectable gentlemen of St. Mary's county, who furnished me with recommendatory letters, and also the gentlemen of this town and county, for their general character of me furnished also in writing, to beg their acceptance of my most sincere thanks, and to assure them that notwithstanding Mr. Alexander ungenitely endeavoured to depreciate their condour and honour by saying to the great surprize of many respectable persons who were present, "We know how easily letters of recommendation are obtained," I am highly sensible of the service they rendered me, in exposing the malignity and refuting the falshood of my enemies. Steady and resolute in pursuing the proper steps for obtaining admission at the next ensuing court, in July, fully satisfied that I shall experience justice and impartiality from the bench, and that all the efforts which the envy, hatred and malice of my few enemies can devise, will be impotent against the reasonableness and equity of my cause, I flatter myself and hope without vanity, that my future conduct a member of society, and my integrity as an attorney of this court, will further demonstrate to the bench, to my numerous and respectable friends, and to the world, how unjustly I have been treated.

*M. Wallace.* I am, with great respect,  
 the public's humble servant,  
 OWEN ALLEN

ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 23, 1774.

Yesterday departed this life, the reverend Mr. ROBERT RENNAY, rector of St. Margaret's Westminster, in this county.

When a man is past his sense,  
 There's no way to reduce him thence,  
 But twinging him by the ear and noise,  
 Or laying on of heavy blows.

HUDIBRAL

THE necessity, I consider myself under to vindicate my character, as a man professing the principles of honour, and to remove any unfavourable prejudices that may have been too hastily imbibed from Henry Thompson's very extraordinary notification in the Maryland gazette of the 9th instant, will, I humbly presume, be a sufficient apology to a generous public for my soliciting their candid attention.

In consequence of letters from Boston, &c. the inhabitants of Baltimore-I own were convened, and a committee appointed; some time after, a general meeting of the country inhabitants of Baltimore county, to join in consultation with their brethren in the Town, was agreed upon; the committee of Baltimore-Town, immediately after the meeting of the inhabitants of the city of Annapolis, invited the committee for that city to be present at the proposed general meeting in Baltimore; and at a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of both country and town, in Baltimore-Town, on Tuesday the 31st ult. Messieurs Johnson, Chafe, Peca, and Hammond, accordingly did attend, but as spectators only, not in the least interfering with the business of the day.—Prior to this general meeting a report prevailed, that if the gentlemen from Annapolis attempted to speak, on the important subject, which occasioned that meeting, Messieurs Ashburner, Thompson, and their party, intended to insult and pull them from their seats; very many gentlemen present at the meeting were, from the behaviour of Thompson and his party, of opinion, that they came there resolved to interrupt and prevent, if possible, those measures which, previous to the meeting, were thought necessary, and were afterwards almost unanimously resolved upon.—To this general meeting I, an inhabitant of Anne-Arundel county, went, and there endeavoured, in conversation with Mr. Ashburner, to prove it far more laudable for the inhabitants of Baltimore to stand forth, as early as possible in the common cause; and by spirited measures evince to the world, that nothing in their power should be wanting to obtain a repeal of that act, by which the port and harbour of Boston is blocked up, than coolly and supinely wait for the resolutions of any of the colonies; Thompson, a single man, nothing more than a peregrinating factor, without any connexions in America, that I have ever heard of, exercising his talents to prevent those salutary resolves, which were entered into, notwithstanding all his feeble efforts to the contrary, moved, that no person, who was not an inhabitant of the county, should speak at that meeting, and I being the only person under this predicament, who had said a word on the occasion, considered his motion as an insult offered me alone, and as such resented it; from him I received an assault, and, whilst engaged, Mr. Ashburner lifted a club to strike me, but was prevented by the gentlemen present, who, being convinced from their behaviour, that they came to disturb the harmony of that meeting, cried with a general voice, *turn them out*, and immediately a gentleman took Thompson by the shoulders and conveyed him to the stairs. The same evening I received, by Mr. Ashburner, a note from Mr. Thompson, of which the following is a copy.

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