

HERE is at the plantation of Samuel Ford, Anne-Arundel county, taken up as a stray, a bay mare, with a black mane and tail, about 4 years old, a natural trotter, no person's brand. The owner may have her again on proof property and paying charges.

Annapolis, April 16, 1777. All persons indebted to the estate of William Reynolds, late of this city, deceased, either by bond otherwise, are desired to come and settle the same with the subscriber; and every one having just claims against the deceased's estate, their accounts being duly attested, will be paid upon application.

MARY REYNOLDS, executor.

WANTED, MILLER, capable of managing a merchant mill. Such a person may meet with encouragement by writing to the printer.

EIGHT DOLLARS REWARD. LOST away in the night of the 5th instant, from Patuxent Iron-works, a convict servant named STEPHEN KENT. He was born in the county of England and speaks pretty much in the dialect of that country; is about 45 or 50 years of age, meagre countenance, short brown hair which is pretty much mixed with gray, has hoop shoes of a kind of amble or pace in his gait, and is much with the small-pox. He is a carrier by trade, and if he will do tolerable good shoe-makers work, apparel is not certainly known, but some of his clothes to be pretty good, the rest such as servants usually clothed with. Whoever takes up said Kent, on delivering him at Patuxent Iron-works, receive it taken 20 miles from home 30 shillings, and if 40 miles, or over the limits of this state, the above reward (including the law allow) paid by

SAM. and JOHN SNOWDEN.

EIGHT DOLLARS REWARD. LOST from the ship DEFENCE, some time ago, BENJAMIN HOBBS, and was seen in this city the 16th instant. He is a thick, well made fellow, four feet five inches high, of a swarthy complexion, black hair that curls behind; had on a black and a hunting-suit under it, a pair of trousers, stockings and shoes. Whoever takes up said Hobbs, and delivers him to the ship, shall be entitled to the above reward; and should the ship not be in the city to be put on board some of the galleys.

Port-Tobacco, April 16, 1777. LOST from capt. Joseph Marbury's company, of col. Mordcau Giff's regiment, a certain DAM RAIN, a well made fellow, about twenty years of age, five feet seven or eight inches high; had on a deserted, a light coloured coat and officers trousers which are much tarred, being a ship's crew by trade. Whoever takes up the said rain, may get him again, shall receive a reward of dollars.

Alexandria, April 17, 1777. The death of Mr. John Dalton dissolving the partnership of Carlyle and Dalton, there will be sold a fine, in Alexandria, on Monday the 18th of this month, being Fairfax court day, eight NEGRO men, who are good smiths, and have served regular in the trade; they do all kinds of ship and work, shoe horses, &c. one understands a good gun work and making nails; one of the others a man and pilot in the river and bay, the other a negro. At the same time will be sold complete sets of smiths tools, steel, old and new, 25 large tobacco flats, one of 45 hogheads, the 25 hogheads, with their rigging, sails, &c. all of sale to be agreed upon on the day of sale.

THE L O. A pair of hands and a half high, stout and well formed, rising 6 years old.

On Constitution-hill, near Piscataway in the George's county, Maryland, and will cover the ground this season. This horse was got by Fenix dam by old Traveller, his grand-dam by his great-grand-dam by Fox, and his great-grand-dam by the old Godolphin Arabian. He last season at Belmont in Virginia, the pro-Benjamin Dulany, Esq; I have very good for mares at 2/6 per week, and will have taken of them, but will not be answerable for any. The money to be paid before the mares are away. He begins covering the 1st of April to the 1st of August.

EDWARD EDELEN, junr.

GREEN.

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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1777.

The AMERICAN CRISIS. NUMBER III. By the author of COMMON SENSE. (Continued from our last.)

THE principal arguments in support of independence may be comprehended under the four following heads.

FIRST.—The natural right of the continent to independence. SECONDLY.—Her interest in being independent. THIRDLY.—The necessity. AND FOURTHLY.—The moral advantages arising therefrom.

I. THE NATURAL RIGHT of the continent to independence, is a point which never yet was called in question. It will not even admit a debate. To deny such a right, would be a kind of atheism against nature; and the best answer to such an objection would be, *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*

II. THE INTEREST of the continent in being independent is a point as clearly right as the former. America, by her own internal industry, and unknown to all the powers of Europe, was at the beginning of the dispute, arrived at a pitch of greatness, trade and population, beyond which it was the interest of Britain not to suffer her to pass, lest she should grow too powerful to be kept subordinate. She began to view this country with the same uneasy malicious eye with which a covetous guardian would view his ward whose estate he had been enriching himself for twenty years, and saw him just arriving at manhood. And America owes no more to Britain for her present maturity, than the ward would do to his guardian for being twenty-one years of age. That America hath flourished at the time she was under the government of Britain, is true; but there is every natural reason to believe, that had she been an independent country from the first settlement thereof, uncontrolled by any foreign power, free to make her own laws, regulate and encourage her own commerce, she had by this time been of much greater worth than now.

The case is simply this, The first settlers in the different colonies were left to shift for themselves, unnoticed and unsupported by any European government; but as the tyranny and persecution of the old world daily drove numbers to the new, and, as by the favour of Heaven on their industry and perseverance, they grew into importance, so, in like degree, they became an object of profit to the greedy eyes of Europe. It was impossible, in this state of infancy, however thriving and promising, that they could resist the power of any armed invader that should seek to bring them under his authority. In this situation Britain thought it worth her while to claim them, and the continent received and acknowledged the claimer. It was, in reality, of no very great importance who was her master, seeing that from the force and ambition of the different powers of Europe she must, till she acquired strength enough to assert her own right, acknowledge some one. As well, perhaps, Britain, as another; and it might have been as well to have been under the States of Holland as any. The same hopes of engrossing and profiting by her trade, by not oppressing it too much, would have operated alike with any master, and produced to the colonies the same effects. The clamour of protection, likewise, was all a farce; because, in order to make that protection necessary, she must first, by her own quarrels, create us enemies. Hard terms, indeed!

To know whether it be the interest of the continent to be independent, we need only ask this easy, simple question: Is it the interest of a man to be a boy all his life? The answer to one will be the answer to both. America hath been one continued scene of legislative contention from the first king's representative to the last; and this was unavoidably founded in the natural opposition of interest between the old country and the new. A governor sent from England, or receiving his authority therefrom, ought never to have been considered in any other light than that of a genteel commissioned spy, whose private business was information, and his public business a kind of civilized oppression. In the first of these characters he was to watch the tempers, sentiments and disposition of the people, the growth of trade, and the increase of private fortunes; and in the latter to suppress all such acts of the assemblies, however beneficial to the people, which did not directly or indirectly throw some increase of power or profit into the hands of those who sent him.

America, till now, could never be called a free country, because her legislation depended on the will of a man three thousand miles distant, whose interest was in opposition to ours, and who, by a single "no," could forbid what law he pleased.

The freedom of trade likewise is, to a trading country, an article of such vast importance, that the principal source of wealth depends upon it; and it is impossible that any country can flourish, as it otherwise might do, whose commerce is engrossed, cramped and fettered by the laws and mandates of another—yet these evils, and more than I can here enumerate, the continent has suffered by being under the government of Great-Britain. By an independence we clear the whole at once—put an end to the business of unanswered petitions and fruitless remonstrances—exchange Britain for Europe—shake hands with the world—live at peace with mankind—and trade to any market where we can best buy and sell.

III. THE NECESSITY, likewise, of being independent, even before it was declared, became so evident and important, that the continent ran the risk of being ruined every day she delayed it. There were reasons to believe that Britain would endeavour to make a European matter of it, and rather than lose the whole, would

dismember it like Poland, and dispose of her several claims to the highest bidder. Genoa, failing in her attempts to reduce Corsica, made a sale of it to the French, and such traffics have been common in the old world. We had, at that time no ambassador in any part of Europe, to counteract her negotiations, and by that means she had the range of every foreign court uncontradicted on our part. We even knew nothing of the treaty for the Hessians till it was concluded, and the troops ready to embark. Had we been independent before, we had probably prevented her obtaining them. We had no credit abroad, because of our rebellious dependency. Our ships could claim no protection in foreign ports, because we afforded them no justifiable reason for granting it to us. The calling ourselves subjects, and at the same time fighting against the power we acknowledged, was a dangerous precedent to all Europe. If the grievances justified our taking up arms, they justified our separation; if they did not justify our separation, neither could they justify our taking up arms. All Europe was interested in reducing us as rebels, and all Europe (or the greatest part at least) is interested in supporting us as independent states. At home our condition was still worse. Our currency had no foundation; and the fall of it would have ruined whig and tory alike. We had no other law than a kind of moderated passion; no other civil power than an honest mob; and no other protection than the temporary attachment of one man to another. Had independence been delayed a few months longer, this continent would have been plunged into irrecoverable confusion: some violent for it, some against it, till in the general cabal the rich would have been ruined and the poor destroyed. It is to independence that every tory owes the present safety he lives in; for by that, and that only, we emerged from a state of dangerous suspense, and became a regular people.

The necessity likewise of being independent, had there been no rupture between Britain and America; would in a little time have brought one on. The increasing importance of commerce, the weight and perplexity of legislation, and the entangled state of European politics, would daily have shewn to the continent the impossibility of continuing subordinate; for, after the coolest reflections on the matter, this must be allowed; that Britain was too jealous of America, to govern it justly; too ignorant of it, to govern it well; and too distant from it, to govern it at all.

IV. But, what weigh most with all men of serious reflection are the MORAL ADVANTAGES arising from independence: War and desolation are become the trades of the old world; and America neither could nor can be under the government of Britain without becoming a sharer of her guilt, and a partner in all the dismal commerce of death. The spirit of duelling, extended on a national scale, is a proper character for European wars. They have seldom any other motive than pride, or any other object than fame. The conquerors and the conquered are generally ruined alike, and the chief difference at last is, that the one marches home with his honours, and the other without them. 'Tis the natural temper of the English to fight for a feather, if they suppose that feather to be an affront; and America, without the right of asking why, must have abetted in every quarrel, and abided by its fate. It is a shocking situation to live in, that one country must be brought into all the wars of another, whether the measure be right or wrong, or whether she will or not: Yet this, in the fullest extent, was, and ever would be, the unavoidable consequence of the connexion. Surely! the quakers forgot their own principles, when in their late testimony they called this connexion, with these military and miserable appendages hanging to it, "The happy constitution."

Britain, for centuries past, have been nearly fifty years out of every hundred at war with some power or other. It certainly ought to be a conscientious as well as political consideration with America, not to dip her hands in the bloody work of Europe. Our situation affords us a retreat from their cabals, and the present happy union of the states bids fair for extinguishing this future use of arms from one quarter of the world; yet such have been the irreligious politics of the present leaders of the quakers, that, for the sake of they scarce know what, they would cut off every hope of such a blessing by tying this continent to Britain, like Hector to the chariot-wheel of Achilles, to be dragged through all the miseries of endless European wars.

The connexion, viewed from this ground, is distressing to every man who has the feelings of humanity. By having Britain for our master, we became enemies to the greatest part of Europe, and they to us; and the consequence was war inevitable. By being our own masters, independent of any foreign one, we have Europe for our friends, and the prospect of an endless peace among ourselves. Those who were advocates for the British government over these colonies, were obliged to limit both their arguments and their ideas to the period of a European peace only: The moment Britain became plunged in war, every supposed convenience to us vanished away, and all we could hope for was not to be ruined. Could this be a desirable condition for a young country to be in?

Had the French pursued their fortune immediately after the defeat of Braddock last war, this city and province had then experienced the woful calamities of being a British subject. A scene of the same kind might happen again; for America, considered as a subject to the crown of Britain, would ever have been the seat of war and the bone of contention between the two powers.

On the whole, if the future expulsion of arms from one quarter of the world be a desirable object to a peace-

able man;—if the freedom of trade to every part of it can engage the attention of a man of business;—if the support or fall of millions of currency can affect our interest;—if the entire possession of estates, by cutting off the lordly claims of Britain over the soil, deserves the regard of landed property;—and if the right of making our own laws, uncontrolled by royal or ministerial spies or mandates, be worthy our care as freemen; then are all men interested in the support of independence, and may he that supports it not, be driven from the blessing, and live upbitten beneath the servile sufferings of scandalous subjection?

We have been amused with the tales of ancient wonders; we have read, and wept over, the histories of other nations; applauded, censured, or pitied, as their cases affected us.—I be fortitude and patience of the sufferers—the justness of their cause—the weight of their oppressions and oppressors—the object to be saved, or lost—with all the consequences of a defeat or a conquest—have, in the hour of sympathy, bewitched our hearts and chained it to their fate: But where is the power that ever made war upon petitioners? Or where is the war on which a world was itaked till now?

We may not, perhaps, be wise enough to make all the advantages we ought of our independence; but they are, nevertheless, marked and presented to us with every character of GREAT and GOOD, and worthy the hand of him who sent them. I look through the present trouble to a time of tranquillity, when we shall have it in our power to set an example of peace to all the world. Were the quakers really impressed and influenced by the quiet principles they profess to hold, they would, however they might disapprove the means, be the first of all men to approve of INDEPENDENCE, because, by separating from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, it affords an opportunity, never given to man before, of carrying their favourite principle of peace into general practice, by establishing governments that shall hereafter exist without wars. Oh ye fallen, cringing priest and P—n-ridden people! What more can we say of ye than a religious quaker is a valuable character, and a political quaker a real jesuit.

Having thus gone over some of the principal points in support of independence, I must now request the reader to return back with me to the period when it first began to be a public doctrine, and examine the progress it has made among the various classes of men. The era I mean to begin at, is the breaking out of hostilities, April 19th, 1775. Until this event happened, the continent seemed to view the dispute as a kind of lawsuit for a matter of right, litigating between the old country and the new; and she felt the same kind and degree of horror, as if she had seen an oppressive plaintiff, at the head of a band of ruffians, enter the court, while the cause was before it, and put the judge, the jury, the defendant and his council to the sword. Perhaps a more heart-felt convulsion never reached a country with the same degree of power and rapidity before, and never may again. Pity for the sufferers, mixt with indignation at the violence and heightened with apprehensions of undergoing the same fate, made the affair of Lexington the affair of the continent. Every part of it felt the shock, and all vibrated together. A general promotion of sentiment took place: those who had drank deeply into whiggish principles, that is, the right and necessity not only of opposing, but wholly setting aside the power of the crown as soon as it became practically dangerous (for in theory it was always so) slept into the first stage of independence; while another class of whigs, equally sound in principle, but not so sanguine in enterprise, attached themselves the stronger to the cause and fell close in with the rear of the former; their partition was a mere point. Numbers of the moderate men, whose chief fault, at that time, arose from their entertaining a better opinion of Britain than she deserved, convinced stow of their mistake, gave her up and publicly declared themselves good whigs. While the Tories, seeing it was no longer a laughable matter, either sunk into silent obscurity, or contented themselves with coming forth and abusing general Gage; not a single advocate appeared to justify the action of that day; it seemed to appear to every one with the same magnitude, struck every one with the same force, and created in every one the same abhorrence. From this period we may date the growth of independence.

If the many circumstances, which happened at this memorable time, be taken in one view, and compared with each other, they will justify a conclusion which seems not to be attended to, I mean a fixed design in the king and ministry of driving America into arms, in order that they might be furnished with a pretence for seizing the whole continent as the immediate property of the crown. A noble plunder for hungry courtiers!

It ought to be remembered, that the first petition from the congress was at this time unanswered on the part of the British king. That the motion, called lord North's motion, of the 20th of February, 1775, arrived in America the latter end of March. This motion was to be laid by the several governors, then in being, before the assembly of each province; and the first assembly before which it was laid, was the assembly of Pennsylvania in May following. This being a just state of the case; I then ask, why were hostilities commenced between the time of passing the resolve in the house of commons, of the 20th of February, and the time of the assemblies meeting to deliberate upon it? Degrading and infamous as that motion was, there is, nevertheless, reason to believe, that the king and his adherents were afraid the colonies would vote to it, and left they should, took effectual care they should not, by provoking them with hostilities in the interim. They did not the least doubt at that time of a quering;