THE

(IIId Year)

ARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1777.

The AMERICAN CRISIS.

NUMBER III.

By the author of *COMMON SENSE.*

(Continued from our last.)

ALL we want to know in America is simply this, Who is for independence, and who is not? Those who are for it will support it, and the remainder will undoubtedly see the reasonableness of their paying the charges; while those who oppose, or betray it, must expect the more rigid fate of the jail and gibbet. There is a kind of bastard generosity, which, by extended to all men, is as fatal to society, on one hand, as want of true generosity is on the other. A lax manner of dispiriting justice, falsely termed moderation, has a tendency to dispirit public virtue and promote the growth of public vice. Had the late committee of safety taken cognizance of that testimony of the quakers, and proceeded against such of the signers as were concerned therein, they had, probably, prevented the treasonable plans which have been concerted since. When one villain is suffered to escape, it encourages another to succeed, either from a hope of escaping likewise, or an application that we dare not punish. It has been a matter of general surprise, that no notice was taken of the incendiary publication of the quakers, of the 20th of November last: A publication evidently intended to promote sedition and treason, and to encourage the enemy, who were then within a day's march of this city, to proceed on and possess it. I here present the reader with a memorial, which was laid before the board of safety a few days after the testimony appeared. Not a member of that board, that I conversed with, but expressed the highest detestation of the perverted principles and conduct of the quaker junto, and that the board would take the matter up; notwithstanding which, it was suffered to pass away unnoticed, to the encouragement of new acts of treason, the general danger of the cause, and the disgrace of the state.

To the HONOURABLE the COUNCIL OF SAFETY of the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

A meeting of a reputable number of the inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, impressed with a proper sense of the justice of the cause which this continent is engaged in, and animated with a generous fervour for supporting the same, it was resolved, that the following be laid before the board of safety.

"WE profess liberality of sentiment to all men; with this distinction *only*, that those who do *not* deserve it, would become fools and *seek* to deserve it. We hold the pure doctrine of universal liberality of conscience, and conceive it our duty to endeavour to secure that sacred right to others, as well as to defend it for ourselves; for we undertake not to judge of the religious rectitude of tenets, but leave the whole matter to Him who made all.

"We persecute no man, neither will we abet in the persecution of any man for religion sake; our common relation to others is that of fellow-citizens and fellow-subjects of one civil community; and in this line of connection we hold out the right hand of fellowship to all men. But we should conceive ourselves to be unworthy members of the FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES OF AMERICA, were we unconcernedly to see or suffer any treasonable wound, public or private, directly or indirectly, to be given against the peace and safety of the same. We enquire not into the rank of the offenders, nor their religious persuasion; we have no business with either, our part being only to find them out, and exhibit them to justice.

"A printed paper, dated the 20th of November, and signed "JOHN PEMBERTON," whom we suppose to be an inhabitant of this city, has lately been dispersed abroad, a copy of which accompanies this. Had the framers and publishers of that paper conceived it their duty to exhort the youth, and others, of their society, to a patient submission under the present trying visitations, and humbly to wait the event of Heaven towards them, they had therein shewn a Christian temper, and we had been silent; but the anger and political virulence with which their instructions are given, and the abuse with which they stigmatize all ranks of men not thinking like themselves, leave no doubt on our minds from what spirit their publication proceeded: And it is disgraceful to the pure cause of truth, that men can dally with words of the most sacred import, and play them as mechanically off as if religion consisted only in contrivance. We know of no instance, in which the quakers have been compelled to bear arms, or do any thing which might strain their conscience; wherefore their advice "*to withstand and refuse to submit to the arbitrary instructions and ordinances of men,*" appear to us a false alarm, and could only be treasonably calculated to gain favour with our enemies, when they were seemingly on the brink of invading this state, or, what is still worse, to weaken the hands of our defence, that their entrance into this city might be made practicable and easy.

"We disclaim all tumult and disorder in the punishment of offenders; and wish to be governed, not by temper, but by reason, in the manner of treating them. We are sensible that our cause has suffered by the two following errors; first, by an ill judged lenity to traiterous persons in some cases; and secondly, by only a passionate treatment of them in others. For the future we disown both, and wish to be steady in our proceedings, and serious in our punishments.

"Every state in America has, by the repeated voice of its inhabitants, directed and authorised the continental congress to publish a formal declaration of independence of, and separation from, the oppressive king and parliament of Great-Britain; and we look upon every man an enemy who does not, in some line or other, give his assistance towards supporting the same; at the same time we consider the offence to be heightened to a degree of unpardonable guilt, when such persons, under the shew of religion, endeavour, either by writing, speaking, or otherwise, to subvert, overturn, or bring reproach upon the independence of this continent as declared by congress.

"The publishers of the paper, signed "JOHN PEMBERTON," have called in a loud and passionate manner on their friends and connections to "*withstand and refuse*" obedience to whatever "*instructions or ordinances*" may be published, not warranted by (what they call) "THAT HAPPY CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH THEY AND OTHERS LONG ENJOYED TRANQUILLITY AND PEACE." If this be not treason, we know not what may properly be called by that name.

"To us it is a matter of surprise and astonishment, that men with the word "*peace, peace,*" continually on their lips, should be so fond of living under and supporting a government, and at the same time calling it "*happy,*" which is never better pleased than when at war—that hath filled India with carnage and famine—Africa with slavery—and tampered with Indians and Negroes to cut the throats of the freemen of America. We conceive it a disgrace to this state to harbour or wink at such palpable hypocrisy. But as we seek not to hurt the hair of any man's head, when we can make ourselves safe without, we wish such persons to restore peace to themselves and us, by removing themselves to some part of the king of Britain's dominions, as by that means they may live unmolested by us or we by them; for our fixt opinion is, that those who do not deserve a place among us, ought not to have one.

"We conclude, with requesting the council of safety to take into their consideration the paper signed "JOHN PEMBERTON;" and if it shall appear to them to be of a dangerous tendency, or of a treasonable nature, that they would commit the signer, together with such other persons as they can discover were concerned therein, into custody, until such time as some mode of trial shall ascertain the full degree of their guilt and punishment; in the doing of which, we wish their judges, whoever they may be, to disregard the man, his connections, interest, riches, poverty, or principles of religion, and to attend to the nature of his offence only."

THE most cavilling sectarian cannot accuse the foregoing with containing the least ingredient of persecution. The free spirit on which the American cause is founded, disdains to mix with such an impurity, and leave it a rubbish fit only for narrow and suspicious minds to grovel in: Suspicion and persecution are weeds of the same dunghill, and flourish best together. Had the quakers minded their religion and their business, they might have lived through this dispute in enviable ease, and none would have molested them. The common phrase with these people is, "*Our principles are peace.*" To which it may be replied, And your practices are the very reverse; for never did the conduct of men oppose their own doctrine more notoriously than the present race of the quakers. They have artfully changed themselves into a different sort of people to what they used to be, and yet have the address to persuade each other they are not altered; like antiquated virgins they see not the havoc deformity hath made upon them, but pleasantly mistaking wrinkles for dimples, conceit themselves yet lovely, and wonder at the stupid world for not admiring them.

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they are the principal objects for which an authority is instituted, and the line in which it ought to operate. We have in this city a strange variety of men and characters, and the circumstances of the times require they should be publicly known; it is not the number of tories that hurt us, so much as the not finding out who they are; men must now take one side or the other, and abide by the consequences: The quakers, trusting to their short sighted sagacity, have, most unluckily for them, made their declaration in their last testimony, and we ought NOW to take them at their word. They have voluntarily read themselves out of the Continental Meeting, and cannot hope to be restored to it again, but by payment and penitence. Men whose political principles are founded on avarice, are beyond the reach of reason, and the only cure for toryism of this cast is to tax it. A substantial good, drawn from a real evil, is of the same benefit to society as if drawn from a virtue; and where men have not public spirit to render themselves serviceable, it ought to be the study of government to draw the best use possible from their vices. When the governing passion of any man, or set of men, is once known, the method of managing them is easy; for even misers, whom no public virtue can impress, would become generous, could a heavy tax be laid upon covetousness.

The tories have endeavoured to insure their property with the enemy, by forfeiting their reputation with us; from which may be justly inferred, that their governing passion is avarice. Make them as much afraid of losing on one side as the other, and you stagger their toryism; make them more so, and you reclaim them; for their of the whigs is the more exposed thereby; and whatever injury their estates may sustain by the movements of the enemy, must either be borne by themselves, who have done every thing which have yet been done, or by the tories, who have not only done nothing, but have, by their disaffection, invited the enemy on.

In the present crisis we ought to know, square by square, and house by house, who are in real allegiance with the United Independent States, and who are not. Let but the line be made clear and distinct, and all men will then know what they are to trust to. It would not only be good policy, but strict justice, to raise fifty or an hundred thousand pounds, or more, if it is necessary, out of the estates and property of the king of England's votaries, resident in Philadelphia, to be distributed as a reward to those inhabitants of the city and state, who shall turn out and repulse the enemy, should they attempt their march this way; and likewise, to bind the property of all such persons to make good the damages which that of the whigs might sustain. In the undistinguishable mode of conducting a war, we frequently make reprisals at sea, on the vessels of persons in England who are friends to our cause, compared with the residentiary tories among us.

In every former publication of mine, from Common Sense down to the last Crisis, I have generally gone on the charitable supposition, that the tories were rather mistaken than criminal people, and have applied argument after argument with all the candour and temper I was capable of, in order to set every part of the case clearly and fairly before them, and, if possible, to reclaim them from ruin to reason. I have done my duty

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ow done with that doctrine, that those who yet hold their disaffect of avaricious miscreants, who ontinent to save themselves, or a aitors, who were hoping for a di- To which may be added, a list of dependents, who rather than go power, would be content to share such men there is no hope; and only be according to the danger and the power that is exercised

arrive, in which, by ascertaining sons now, we shall be guarded then; for in proportion as the uest, they will be trying the arts force of fear, by all the mischiefs in war we may be certain of that cruelty in an enemy, and ore than usual parade, are always e that can conquer, fills his mind o be brutish; and he that intends makes too much shew of his

e enemy we have to do with. e certainty of victory they dis- nd in proportion as disappoint- r, and their apprehensions of an them, they will become cringing y cannot be. But our answer to tion they may be in, is short and dependent states we are willing to to-morrow, but we can neither ther character."

onquer us, it proves, that she is nor protect us, and our particu- th, that any connexion with her hanging a half defeated enemy Europe, by every appearance on the eve, nay, on the morn- and any alliance with GEORGE nce and Spain upon our backs; attach them to our side; there- peace, honour, and commerce, is

COMMON SENSE.

1777.

Year of the UNION, which

GAZETTE Extraordinary.

, January 22.

from lieutenant-general Clinton me was this morning received, ho arrived in his majesty's ship sland.

port, Rhode-Island, Dec. 9, 1776.

general Howe's orders to em- of British, and two brigades of onjunction with commodore Sir make a descent upon this island, nter for the full possession of it, he town and harbour, we sailed ff of December, and arrived at st side of this island, on the even- On the 8th, at day-break, the e such a disposition of the fleet as over the landing of the troops, above-mentioned bay without then, being informed that the orks in and about the town of ring towards Bristol Ferry, I Prescott, with the grenadiers ntercept them, sustaining him der the command of lieutenant- ajor-general Prescott took two ew prisoners, and obliged them to side the ferry, and retire to the sent a battalion to take possession of Newport, the capital of the island, in which were found some cannon and stores, which the rebels, in their sudden retreat, had left behind them.

I shall, as soon as possible, send troops to the islands of Conanicut and Prudence, and occupy such other posts as may be necessary for the security of the harbour.

Having had it in command from general Howe to give your lordship the earliest intelligence of the success of his majesty's troops, I have the honour to transmit this to your lordship by capt. Drummond, one of my aid-de-camps, to whom I beg leave to refer your lordship for any particulars which you may wish to be informed of.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. CLINTON.

Admiralty-Office, January 22, 1777.

Lieutenant Logie, of his majesty's ship the Mercury, arrived in town this morning from Rhode-Island, with the following letter from commodore Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stephens.

Chatham, Rhode-Island Harbour, Dec. 13, 1776.

SIR,

THE commanders in chief in America having thought proper, while the season would admit of it, to employ a considerable number of his majesty's ships and troops for the purpose of making descents on the colony of Rhode-Island; and lord Howe having done me the honour to appoint me to the command by sea (lord Shuldham having leave to return to England by the most early conveyance) I directed commodore

continent. I likewise sent a battalion to take possession of Newport, the capital of the island, in which were found some cannon and stores, which the rebels, in their sudden retreat, had left behind them.

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