

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1777.

THE AMERICAN CRISIS. NUMBER III.

By the author of COMMON SENSE. (Concluded from our last.)

HOWE appears to have two objects in view, either to go up the North-River, or come to Philadelphia. By going up the North-River, he seizes a retreat for his army through Canada, but the ships must return, if they return at all, the same way they went; and as our army would be in the rear, the safety of their passage down is a doubtful matter. By such a motion he shuts himself from all supplies from Europe but through Canada, and exposes his army and navy to the danger of perishing. The idea of his cutting off the communication, between the eastern and southern states, by means of the North River, is merely visionary. He cannot do it by his shipping; because no ship can lay long at anchor in any river within reach of the shore; a single gun would drive a first rate from such station: This was fully proved last October, at Fort Mifflin: ton and Lee, where one gun only, on each side the river, obliged two frigates to cut and be towed off in an hour's time. Neither can he cut it off by his army; because the several posts they must occupy would divide them almost to nothing, and expose them to be picked up by ours like pebbles on a river's bank; but, admitting he could, where is the injury? Because while his whole force is cantoned out, as sentries over the water, they will be very innocently employed, and the moment they march into the country, the communication opens.

The most probable object is Philadelphia, and the reasons are many. Howe's business in America is to conquer it, and in proportion as he finds himself unable to talk, he will employ his strength to distress women and weak minds, in order to accomplish, through their fears, what he cannot effect by his own force. His coming or attempting to come to Philadelphia is a circumstance that proves his weakness: For no general, that felt himself able to take the field and attack his antagonist, would think of bringing his army into a city in the summer time; and this mere shifting the scene from place to place, without effecting any thing, has feebleness and cowardice on the face of it, and holds him up in a contemptible light to any one who can reason justly and firmly. By several informations from New-York, it appears that their army in general, both officers and men, have given up the expectation of conquering America; their eye, now, is fixed upon the spoil. They suppose Philadelphia to be rich with stores, and as they think to get more by robbing a town than by attacking an army, their movement towards this city is probable. We are not now contending against an army of soldiers, but against a band of thieves, who had rather plunder than fight, and have no other hope of conquest than by cruelty.

They expect to get a mighty booty, and strike another general panic by making a sudden movement and getting possession of this city; but unless they can march out as well as in, or get the entire command of the river; to remove off their plunder, they may probably be sopped with the stolen goods upon them. They have never yet succeeded wherever they have been opposed, but at Fort-Mifflin. At Charlestown their defeat was effectual. At Ticonderoga they ran away. In every skirmish at Kingsbridge and the White-Plains they were obliged to retreat, and the instant our arms were turned upon them in the Jerseys, they turned likewise, and those that turned were taken.

The necessity of always fitting our internal police to the circumstances of the times we live in, is something so strikingly obvious that no sufficient objection can be made against it. The safety of all societies depend upon it; and where this point is not attended to, the consequence will either be a general languor or a tumult. The encouragement and protection of the good subjects of any state, and the suppression and punishment of bad ones, are the principal objects for which all authority is instituted, and the issue 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 votes 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 un luckily 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 tolyism 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 millers, whom no public virtue can impress, would become generous, could a heavy tax be laid upon corn-meals.

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 one of these as the other, and you stagger their tolyism; take them from us, and you reclaim them; for their

principle is to worship any power they are most afraid of.

This method of considering men and things together, opens into a large field for speculation, and affords me opportunity of offering some observations on the state of our currency, so as to make the support of it go hand in hand with the suppression of disaffection and the encouragement of public spirit.

The thing which first presents itself, in inspecting the state of the currency, is, that we have too much of it, and that there is a necessity of reducing the quantity, in order to encrease the value. Men are daily growing poor by the very means they take to get rich, for in the same proportion that the prices of all goods on hand are raised, the value of all money laid by is reduced. A simple case will make this clear: Let a man have one hundred pounds cash, and as many goods on hand as will to-day sell for 20l. but, not content with the present market price, he raises them to 40l. and by so doing, obliges others in their own defence to raise cent per cent twice; in this case it is evident that his hundred pounds laid by is reduced fifty pounds in value: Whereas, had the markets dropped cent per cent, his goods would have sold but for ten, but his hundred pounds would have risen in value to two hundred; because it would then purchase as many goods again, or support his family as long again as before. And, strange as it may seem, he is one hundred and fifty pounds the poorer, for raising his goods, to what he would have had had he lowered them; because the forty pounds his goods sold for is, by the general rise of the markets cent per cent, rendered of no more value than the ten pounds would be, had the markets fallen in the same proportion; and consequently the whole difference of gain or loss is on the different values of the hundred pounds laid by, viz. from fifty to two hundred: This rage for raising goods is, for several reasons, much more the fault of the Tories than the Whigs; and yet the Tories (to their shame and confusion ought they to be told of it) are by far the most noisy and discontented: The greatest part of the Whigs, by being now either in the army, or employed in some public service, are BUYERS only, and not SELLERS, and as this evil has its origin in trade, it cannot be charged on those who are out of it.

But the grievance is now become too general to be remedied by partial methods, and the only effectual cure is to reduce the quantity of money; with half the quantity we should be richer than we are now, because the value of it would be doubled, and consequently our attachment to it encreased; for it is not the number of dollars a man has, but how far they will go, that makes him either rich or poor.

These two points being admitted, viz. that the quantity of money is too great, and that the prices of goods can be only effectually reduced by reducing the quantity of money, the next point to be considered is, The method how to reduce it?

The circumstances of the times, as before observed, require that the public characters of all men should now be fully understood; and the only general method of ascertaining it is by an oath or affirmation, renouncing all allegiance to the King of Great-Britain, and to support the independency of the United States as declared by congress. Let, at the same time, a tax of ten, fifteen, or twenty per cent per annum, to be collected quarterly, be levied on all property. These alternatives, by being perfectly voluntary, will take in all sorts of people: Here is the test; here is the tax. He who takes the former, conscientiously proves his affection to the cause, and binds himself to pay his quota by the best services in his power, and is thereby justly exempted from the latter; and those who chuse the latter, pay their quota in money, to be excused from taking the former; or rather 'tis the price paid to us for their supposed, though mistaken, insurance with the enemy.

But this is only a part of the advantage which would arise by knowing the different characters of men. The Whigs stake every thing on the issue of their arms, while the Tories, by their disaffection, are sapping and undermining their strength, and, of consequence, the property 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 to 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 residential 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 a mistaken than a criminal people, and have applied argument after argument with all the candour and temper I was capable of, in order to let 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

by them, and have now done with that doctrine, taking it for granted, that those who yet hold their disaffection, are either a set of avaricious miscreants, who would sacrifice the continent to save themselves, or a banditti of hungry traitors, who were hoping for a division of the spoil. To which may be added, a list of crown or proprietary dependents, who rather than go without a portion of power, would be content to share it with the Devil. Of such men there is no hope; and their obedience will only be according to the danger that is set before them, and the power that is exercised over them.

A time will shortly arrive, in which, by ascertaining the characters of persons now, we shall be guarded against their mischiefs then; for in proportion as the enemy desist of conquest, they will be trying the arts of seduction, and the force of fear, by all the mischiefs they can inflict. But in war we may be certain of these two things, viz. that cruelty in an enemy, and motions made with more than usual parade, are always signs of weakness. He that can conquer, fills his mind too free and pleasant to be brutish; and he that intends to conquer, never makes too much shew of his strength.

We now know the enemy we have to do with. While drunk with the certainty of victory they disdained to be civil: And in proportion as disappointment makes them sober, and their apprehensions of an European war alarm them, they will become cunning and artful; honest they cannot be. But our answer to them, in either condition they may be in, is short and full. "As free and independent states we are willing to make peace with you to-morrow, but we can neither hear nor reply in any other character."

If Britain cannot conquer us, it proves, that she is neither able to govern nor protect us, and our particular situation now is such, that any connexion with her would be unwisely exchanging a half defeated enemy for two powerful ones. Europe, by every appearance and information, is now on the eve, nay, on the morning twilight of a war, and any alliance with GEORGE THE THIRD brings France and Spain upon our backs; a separation from him attach them to our side; therefore, the only road to peace, honour, and commerce, is INDEPENDENCE.

COMMON SENSE.

Philadelphia, April 19, 1777.

And in the Fourth Year of the UNION, which GOD preserve:

From the LONDON GAZETTE Extraordinary.

Whitehall, January 21.

The following letter from lieutenant-general Clinton to lord George Germaine this morning received, by capt. Drummond, who arrived in his majesty's ship Mercury, from Rhode-Island.

My LORD, Newport, Rhode-Island, Dec. 9, 1776.

HAVING received general Howe's orders to embark, with two brigades of British, and two brigades of Hessian troops; and in conjunction with commodore Sir Peter Parker's fleet, to make a descent upon this island, in the most effectual manner for the full possession of it, and for the security of the town and harbour, we sailed from New-York on the 11th of December, and arrived at Weaver's-Bay, on the west side of this island, on the evening of the 27th following. On the 28th, at day-break, the commodore having made such a disposition of the fleet as he thought proper, to cover the landing of the troops, they disembarked at the above-mentioned bay without the least opposition; when being informed that the rebels had quitted the works in and about the town of Newport, and were retiring towards Bristol-Ferry, I detached major-general Prescott, with the Grenadiers and light-infantry, to intercept them, pursuing him with a body of troops under the command of lieutenant-general earl Percy. Major-general Prescott took two pieces of cannon, a few prisoners, and obliged them to quit their fort on this side the strait, and retire to the 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.

I shall, as soon as possible, send troops to the islands of Conanicut and Rhode, 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.

Lieutenant Logan, 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 lord Stephens.

Charleston, Rhode-Island Harbour, Dec. 11, 1776.

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

ending, on Tuesday the 31 dwelling-house of the late left-River, for steering cast, currency, PROES, consisting of men, amongst whom are two good sawyers.

RISON, jun. } Executors. Annapolis, May 12, 1777. THE MEASURE.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SON, AND JOHNSON, day of January last, and the prosecuting by Great-Britain, rendering it immediate; notice is hereby given, and PARTNERSHIP was dissolved: It is necessary, therefore, that we earnestly request the concern in any immediate payment; which has many, who, taking advantage

of the subscribers, about six weeks ago, an English servant man, named WILLIAM, a likely young fellow, about 25 years of age, to the subscribers, at his old house, the above reward, or forty dollars for either, by JOHN THOMAS STEWART.

duct lenity ought not to be not in their power immediate accounts by payment, are lettie the same by bonds, in the management of business, will with fidelity be care completion thereof; and pat conduct will, we hope, in to their future favours, mutual benefits, may diff

WIDSON, AND JOHNSON.

May 13, 1777. from the subscriber, about the it, a black HORSE, with a tail, paces, trots, and gallops fourteen hands high, and any, not perceptible. Who-

the said horse to me, at the receive twenty shillings, paid JAMES TAYLOR.

Indiana, April 26, 1777. COLLARS REWARD

owing prisoners, who made about 12 o'clock, viz. RICH, James Parker, George

am, John Rothery, Josiah m Nicholls, and John Dun-

ressed the river Patowmack, from Alexandria. The of or near Norfolk borough,

the said prisoners, shall be in proportion for either of ABRAHAM BURFORD.

April 10, 1777. HALUS, ndsome, young horse, full get remarkable fine colts,

at my ferry, on the Eastern river, at thirty shillings per pounds; and ten shillings a n who will favour me with good care shall be taken of o shillings and sixpence per vant.

SAMUEL COLLARD. be paid down at the stable covered.

OMET, Arabian breed, full fifteen

laid this spring, a beautiful y well made, and answers r for the turf, saddle, or

which will be until the 20th of following most reasonable billings if paid the first time wife five dollars when the en paid eight dollars, Con-

r sale some beautiful full w6 BENJ. PHILPOTT.

RICK GREEN.

own, the same distance from, Bladenburg, from Baltimore, and about 40 from Frederick. The farm is in good order, fencing chiefly, the fields laid off in such a manner as to be convenient for pasturage of stock, whereon is a fine orchard just getting into prime, a comfortable dwelling-house, kitchen, barn, &c. about one acre of said land is well situated for meadow, which is already cleared and in grass. The ranch of Rock-Creek runs through said land, and a valuable mill-seat. Continental or currency will be received in payment, and two ditto will be given for one third of the purchase, on giving bond on interest, with security.

JOHN KENNEDY. The sale to begin at one o'clock.

April 10, 1777. persons who have any demands against the contractors for victualling the Maryland are requested to bring in their accounts to the g-office, at the city of Annapolis and Baltimore, in one month from this date, that they discharged, as they are desirous of settling their

SUCHANAN and CUMMINS.

GREEN.