

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

SUPPLEMENT to the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1779.

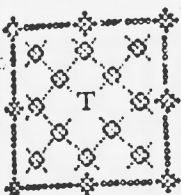
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TO THE INHABITANTS

OF THE

United States of AMERICA.

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN,



THE present situation of public affairs demands your most serious attention, and particularly the great and increasing depreciation of your currency requires the immediate, strenuous, and united efforts of all true friends to their country, for preventing an extension of the mischiefs that have already flowed from that source.

America, without arms, ammunition, discipline, revenue, government, or ally, almost totally stripped of commerce, and in the weakness of youth, as it were with a "staff and a sling" only, dared "in the name of the Lord of Hosts" to engage a gigantic adversary, prepared at all points, boasting of his strength, and of whom even mighty warriors "were greatly afraid."

For defraying the expenses of this uncommon war, your representatives in congress were obliged to emit paper money; an expedient that you knew to have been before generally and successfully practised on this continent.

They were very sensible of the inconveniences with which too frequent emissions would be attended, and endeavoured to avoid them. For this purpose they established loan-offices so early as in October 1776, and have from that time to this repeatedly and earnestly solicited you to lend them money on the faith of the United States. The sums received on loan have nevertheless proved inadequate to the public exigencies. Our enemies prosecuting the war by sea and land with implacable fury and with some success, taxation at home and borrowing abroad, in the midst of difficulties and dangers, were alike impracticable. Hence the continued necessity of new emissions.

But to this cause alone we do not impute the evil before mentioned. We have too much reason to believe it has been in part owing to the artifices of men who have hastened to enrich themselves by monopolizing the necessities of life, and to the misconduct of inferior officers employed in the public service.

The variety and importance of the business entrusted to your delegates, and their constant attendance in congress, necessarily disables them from investigating disorders of this kind. Justly apprehensive of them, they, by their several resolutions of the 22d of November and 20th of December 1777, and of the 3d and 9th of February 1778, recommended to the legislative and executive powers of these states a due attention to these interesting affairs. How far those recommendations have been complied with we will not undertake to determine; but we hold ourselves bound in duty to you to declare, that we are not convinced there has been as much diligence used in detecting and reforming abuses as there has been in committing or complaining of them.

With regard to monopolizers it is our opinion, that taxes judiciously laid on such articles as become the objects of engrossers, and these frequently collected, would operate against the pernicious tendency of such practices.

As to inferior officers employed in the public service, we anxiously desire to call your most vigilant attention to their conduct with respect to every species of misbehaviour, whether proceeding from ignorance, negligence or fraud, and to the making of laws for inflicting exemplary punishments on all offenders of this kind.

We are sorry to hear that some persons are so slightly informed of their own interests as to suppose that it is advantageous to them to sell the produce of their farms at enormous prices, when a little reflection might convince them that it is injurious to those interests and the general welfare. If they expect thereby to purchase imported goods cheaper, they will be egregiously disappointed; for the merchants, who know they cannot obtain returns in gold, silver, or bills of exchange, but that their vessels if loaded here at all must be loaded with produce, will raise the price of what they have to sell, in proportion to the price of what they have to buy; and consequently the landholder can purchase no more foreign goods for the same quantity of his produce than he could before.

The evil, however, does not stop at this point. The landholder, by acting on this mistaken calculation, is only labouring to accumulate an immense debt by increasing the public expences, for the payment of which his estate is engaged, and to embarrass every measure adopted for vindicating his liberty and securing his property.

As the harvests of this year, which by the divine goodness promise to be plentiful, will soon be gathered, and some new measures relating to your foreign concerns, with some arrangements relating to your domestic, are now under consideration, from which beneficial effects are expected, we entertain hopes that your affairs will acquire a much greater degree of regularity and energy than they have hitherto had.

But we should be highly criminal if we did not plainly tell you that those hopes are not founded wholly on our own proceedings. These must be supported by your virtue, your wisdom, and your diligence. From the advantage of those seats in the national council with which you have honoured us, we have a pleasing prospect of many blessings approaching to our native land. It is your patriotism must introduce and fix them here.

In vain will it be for your delegates to form plans of economy; to strive to stop a continuation of emissions by taxation or loan, if you do not zealously co-operate with them in promoting their designs, and use your utmost industry to prevent the waste of money in the expenditure, which your respective situations in the several places where it is expended, may enable you to do. A discharge of this duty and a compliance with recommendations for supplying money, might enable congress to give speedy assurances to the public that no more emissions shall take place, and thereby close that source of depreciation.

Your governments being now established, and your ability to contend with your invaders ascertained, we have on the most mature deliberation judged it indispensably necessary to call upon you for forty five millions of dollars, in addition to the fifteen millions required by a resolution of congress of the 2d of January last, to be paid into the continental treasury before the 1st day of January next, in the same proportion, as to the quotas of the several states, with that for the said fifteen millions.

It appeared proper to us to fix the first day of next January for the payment of the whole; but as it is probable that some states, if not all, will raise part of the sums by installments or otherwise before that time, we recommend in the strongest manner the paying as much as can be collected as soon as possible into the continental treasury.

Though it is manifest that moderate taxation in times of peace will recover the credit of your currency, yet the encouragement which your enemies derive from its depreciation and the present exigencies demand great and speedy exertions.

We are persuaded you will use all possible care to make the promotion of the general welfare interfere as little as may be with the ease and comfort of individuals; but though the raising these sums should press heavily on some of our constituents, yet the obligations we feel to your venerable clergy, the truly helpless widows and orphans, your most gallant, generous, meritorious officers and soldiers, the public faith and the common weal, so irresistibly urge us to attempt the appreciation of your urgency, that we cannot withhold obedience to those authoritative sensations.

On this subject we will only add that as the rules of justice are most pleasing to our infinitely good and gracious Creator, and an adherence to them most likely to obtain his favour, so they will ever be found to be the best and safest maxims of human policy.

To our constituents we submit the propriety and purity of our intentions, well knowing they will not forget, that we lay no burthens upon them, but those in which we participate with them—a happy sympathy, that pervades societies formed on the basis of equal liberty. Many cares, many labours, and may we not add reproaches—are peculiar to us. These are the emoluments of our unolicited stations; and with these we are content, if you approve our conduct. If you do not, we shall return to our private condition with no other regret, than that which will arise from our not having served you as acceptably and essentially as we wished and strove to do, though as cheerfully and faithfully as we could.

Think not we despair of the commonwealth, or endeavour to shrink from opposing difficulties. No Your cause is too good, your objects too sacred, to be relinquished. We tell you truths, because you are freemen who can bear to hear them and may profit by them; and when they reach your enemies, we fear not the consequences, because we are not ignorant of their resources.

on the appearance of a few continental troops they thought proper to retreat rather hastily, having secured only a part of their booty.

NEW LONDON, May 20.

Thursday last arrived here a sloop from Corke, bound to New-York, laden with provisions, a prize to the ship Patnam. On Sunday was sent into port the privateer Lady Erskine, capt. Drew, of eight guns, taken in sight of this harbour by the Hancock and Beyer privateers; out of a fleet of twenty-one sail, who were bound from New-York to Rhode-Island, under convoy of the Thomas, a British frigate of thirty-six guns.

had brought into this city, the dearer they have been, and this is one of the evils which it is absolutely necessary to enquire into. But the great point is to begin.

The paper I have in my hand, contains some resolutions which have been drawn up and agreed on by a committee of citizens, which, with your approbation, I will read. I propose first to read the whole through, and then read it a second time by paragraphs, in order to take your sense thereon.

The paper being read, after some amendments, was agreed to as follows:

Whereas the prices of goods and provisions have, within the space of six or six months, risen to an enormous

George Schlosser, col. Will, col. Jehu Eyre, capt. Heynam, major. Boyd, Philip Boehm, Jedediah Snowden, Nathaniel Donnell, capt. Robert Smith, capt. Lang, Dr. Hutchinson, William Brown, Paul Cox, Edward Fole, Thomas Cripp, capt. George Ord, James Skinner, John Kling, William Thorn, William Coats, tanner, Joseph Dean, capt. John Young, Cadwallader Dicklison, capt. Thomas Moore.

Signed by order of the meeting, DANIEL FORD, chairman.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously returned to the chairman for his noble and disinterested manner of conducting the business.

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ointed to ascertain coffee, and tea, ft, and to publish nd feller, and to f such dealers as tstruct the execu- o report the same

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ppointed to collect which have been congress, with the execution of pub- delegates of this made therein to charges or com- if guilty; and to ties, in order that- ons to their repre- sents; or for such- the interim;

f this meeting that- can be proved in- ce of the Distric- us, and that the- lures for carrying-

ted on the com- argo lately arriv- consigned to the or others.

(S) capt. Blewer, J. B. Smith, er with the for- carrying the o-