

MARYLAND GAZETTE

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WHAT shall be the punishment of that nation, which has violated every law of justice, and outraged every sentiment of humanity with regard to a poster people, who had placed an unbounded confidence in her dominion, as the guardians of their rights and liberties? Certainly at least the destruction of their ships and possessions of all who know the circumstances of her conduct.

I am so far from wishing to see the people of America united to the people of Great Britain, even by the most slender link in the chain of an alliance, that I am rather willing to excite a spirit of indignancy, that shall breathe resentment to the second generation. Why? Is not forgiveness evangelical, and is it not the characteristic of the noble mind to forget an injury? I grant it, and am cheerfully informed from revelation and from reason, that it is unlawful for a single moment to indulge the evil passions of the breast. But—are there not cases where punishment is necessary, to reclaim offenders, and deter others from a perpetration of the like injury?

In the social state, a violation of the perfect rights is cognizable by the civil law; but the violation of imperfect rights is not cognizable, and therefore there are cases even in society, where it rests with individuals to manifest a disapprobation of injurious treatment. Where a man withholds or takes my property; attempts my liberty or life, or wounds my reputation, the law is made and provided in that case; but where he has acted an ungrateful part, or has deceived me in professed friendship, or has haughtily frowned upon me in humble and distressed circumstances, in which cases he is not amenable to any laws of man, it certainly remains with me to deny him confidence, esteem or intercourse, until he shall become duly sensible of his ignominious conduct. For with regard to those rights, which cannot be secured to us by society, we revert to a state of nature, and it remains with every man to distribute natural justice.

Nations, with relation to each other, are in what is called a state of nature, bound by certain laws; the sanction of which laws is not rewards or punishments from any superior and commanding court constituted upon earth; but only the general approbation, confidence, esteem, or general disapprobation, disesteem and distrust of nations. For the same reason, that in the social state there would be a general outcry against the unseemable indulgence of a magistrate, who at any time should entertain the guilty with impunity, there ought to be amongst nations a general disapprobation of the facility of any people to admit the correspondence and connection of a tyrant; a general condemnation of exterminate or put to death a wicked nation might not be justifiable; but it lies on all who pay the least regard to truth and justice to bear a testimony against the conduct of a tyrant nation, and deny them that esteem and confidence which others have deserved.

In the social state, if individuals would more generally deny an approving countenance to those who have been guilty of ingratitude, or have betrayed the secret of a friend, or evasively detracted from the reputation of another, we should have fewer instances of ungrateful, and unfaithful conduct. But men contract their thoughts to private and immediate interest, and it is no matter what a man has done, if he now has it in his power to serve them; in this case they will pay him court, and receive him, if not to a sincere, at least to an apparent friendship.

If, amongst nations, who are with relation to each other in a state of nature, men more generally would scorn the intercourse of tyrant powers, we should have fewer instances of unjust encroachments, perfidy and fraud; but little politicians at the head of empires, whose souls were never touched with the love of virtue, regard the present moment, and their own particular interest, and are ready to ally themselves with Satan, if he shall appear to be a great power, and if not with Satan, at least with those who have done what Satan never had it in his power to do, that is, to show his hand and spirit, reaching with the blood of men, women, children.

It is true, that there is sometimes a generous indignation amongst neighbouring states against the nation which has waged an unjust war, and the apprehension of this general indignation forms a happy check on the rapacity of tyrants; for hence the custom of the declaration of the causes of war: Those who entertain the most unjust designs are willing to possess some character of honesty amongst their neighbours, and for this reason do generally draw up and publish to the world some specious cause, or some pretended circumstance of injury, which hath made it necessary to appeal to arms. It would be well for mankind if this chain of pretended circumstance of injury was more generally examined, and a more certain indignation did take place against the power, whose declaration had appeared to be the just apology of others or ambition.

It is greatly to the honour of the French nation, that in but controversy with the tyrant they have examined our cause, and seeing it to be the cause of truth and mankind, have determined to countenance and show it favour. I wish I could inspire the nations of the world with a like love of justice.

It will be an encouragement to Britain, and to every other nation who shall act wickedly, if, after all hostilities committed on the soil of North America, she shall be honoured with the countenance of nations, and find an easy pardon from the people whom she has ravaged, wounded and insulted. I am therefore willing to impress upon the public mind a proper sense of injury felt, and villainy intended, that by living loyal to just and desirable resentment, they may avert the onward way of tyranny, and strike it down from every future hostile purpose of ambition.

You have heard, my countrymen, the flagrant and contemptuous language of the nation of Great Britain; you have seen her lords, and your territories, making every honour and interest of the soil, destroying towns and villages, and sacred edifices, spreading in a track of blood, and hyacinthing the aged and the young, the sick, wounded, and the dead themselves, calling out for farther opportunity of havoc, and wishing anxiously and irreconcilably to say, burn and exterminate; you have felt the griefs of widows, sisters, parents, who have lost their husbands, brothers, sons, in this unnatural contest; hearing, seeing and experiencing, you have been witnesses of the unjust, ungenerous claims, the pride and insolence, the cruel and determined war of Britain; these are the injuries which have justified you in resentment, which King and Parliament in the Great of the American, and urge you to resentment.

These are the injuries which will demand it of you, that even after you have stated to posterity with arms the action of the tyrant, you hold them at a distance, and give them to perceive that magnanimity offended knows why it will admit to favour; The weak and varying mind may be easily prevailed upon, but

the steady reason and reflection of the virtuous soul shall, but from proper motives, be added to reconciliation. The voice of natural justice demands it of the people of America, that, at least for half an eye, they scorn the intercourse and intimacy of the tyrant.

The names of the heroes who have fallen in the cause demands it of you, that you give not up yourselves to the embraces of a people, and that you take not them to your embraces, who have been the cause of immensurable death to many in the bloom of youth, and in the hope of long, useful and desired life.

The past age demands it of you, that you discontinue, in justice in the earth; that a nation, like an individual, may feel something from the torments of a politically honest character, and disposed to act a just part. The past age has been a witness of many instances of national malignity, unjust pretensions, and cruel spoils of arms. She has groined under it, and would be happy that her history had never told the circumstances.

Your own age demands it of you, that in your steady disapprobation, distrust and distrust of a nation, who is greatly criminal, you show such regard for justice, that if she should propose to bribe and flatter, and to promise half her empire, as a murderer would promise half his riches, yet that should not prevent the execution of the vengeance which she has deserved.

The coming age demands it of you, that you send not down to her the story of a people, who having gallantly repulsed the foe, yet, by an unfeeling and unjust facility of disposition to admit to favour, have encouraged her to like excesses. It is not necessary that you say God damn Great Britain, nor that you entertain the thoughts of insult, hatred and revenge, within your breasts, but that, like men who act from reason not from passion, even when the enemy is baffled and contumacious, shall have ceased hostilities, you hold them from you, and, like heaven's justice in the ways of providence, by steady and determined firmness you give the world to understand that there ought to be a different retribution to a people, who have exhibited a character of rectitude and generosity; and to those who have discovered in a national capacity, injustice, fraud, and every wicked principle and spirit of action.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

LONDON, April 21.

COL. Campbell lately arrived from Georgia, waited on his majesty in his highland dress, and had the honour of kissing his majesty's hand. Captain Parker kissed his majesty's hand on his promotion to be rear admiral of the red, and his advancement to the honour of knighthood, for his services in America, now admiral Sir Hyde Parker. The earl of Cornwallis, aid de camp, capt. Brodrick, and a number of other general officers, took leave of his majesty previous to their setting out for America.

April 22. Sir Joseph Yorke, the English ambassador at the Hague, has presented a very spirited memorial to the states general of the United Provinces, in the name of his master the king of Great-Britain, wherein he represents to their high mightinesses the evil consequences of the negotiation carrying on between them and France, for the protection to be given to the transportation of all sorts of naval stores, and the danger to which they will expose themselves by listening to proposals which will oblige them to infringe a neutrality which they have to often declared they wished to support, and which at once attack their independence, sap the basis of their government; and threaten nothing less than their dissolution. At the same time that the end of all these intrigues is manifestly designed to cause the republic to quarrel with the king, and to bring on a war between their high mightinesses and Great-Britain, under the seducing pretence of a perfect neutrality and the interest of trade, of which the king can no longer remain an indifferent spectator, and therefore finds himself obliged to lay before their high mightinesses the danger into which France wishes to plunge them.

Sir Joseph subjoins that his majesty had ordered him to add, that he cannot depart from the necessity he is under of excluding the transportation of naval stores to the ports of France, and particularly timber, even if they are escorted by men of war; and that the example which France has set of favouring some members of the republic to the detriment of others, is directly contrary to the union and independence of their high mightinesses, the king hoped never to be obliged to follow, unless a concession to the views of France obliges him to take that method of making amends to those members of the republic, who are hurt by the partiality of his enemies.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 22.

There was a very full attendance of the members this day, in order to take into consideration the papers relative to Lord Howe, Sir William Howe, and general Burgoyne.

At half past three the house resolved itself into a committee, on which the correspondence between Lord George Germain, as secretary of state for the American department, and those several gentlemen, was referred to the said committee, and Mr. Montague was called to the chair.

A short conversation now took place. At length Sir William Howe rose in his place, and, after some apology read a narrative, frequently interrupted by animadversions and explanations by the proceeded, containing a chronological account of every transaction he was concerned in, from the time of his being appointed commander in chief and commissioner, to the minute of his resignation of both. He was on his legs upwards of two hours and a half.

A difficulty now arose, whether to proceed upon the reading of the papers, or call witnesses to be examined at the bar. The former mode was adopted, and the clerk began to read the letters containing the instructions, &c. to general Howe, from Lord George Germain, and continued reading them until about half after nine o'clock, in the course of which time nothing came out that could afford our readers any amusement.

Yesterday morning arrived at Spithead admiral Gambier, from New York, in his majesty's ship the Ardent, with the Unicorn and Raleigh frigates. The Richmond frigate, which sailed with them, is put into Plymouth.

On Saturday evening a cabinet council was held at Earl Gower's house, Whitehall, at which all the cabinet ministers were present; they are said to have met for the express purpose of considering the proposals of the court of Versailles; the result of their determination was to be communicated to his majesty yesterday.

It was yesterday reported that the Spanish ambassador had received orders from his court to use his utmost endeavours to bring about a reconciliation between the court of England and that of France, and that last Saturday he communicated his orders to the ministry.

Letters from the Hague say, that the Spanish merchants are ensuring their shipping in all the ports of Holland at advanced premiums. This circumstance looks very suspicious, and gives great credit to the report of a Spanish war.

HOUSE OF LORDS, April 23.

As soon as the order of the day was read, Lord Bristol rose, and after thanking their lordships for their very great indulgence to him in postponing the business of that day from time to time, entered into a detail of the state of the navy, since the coming in of the first lord of the admiralty.

For many complicated reasons his lordship thought himself bound to propose the following motion to the house: That an humble address be presented to his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to remove from his situation, as first lord of the admiralty, John earl of Sandwich, for his manifold misconduct in that department.

To this Lord Sandwich made a very long reply, justifying his own conduct, and announcing extraordinary merit and vigilance in his department.

The other speakers who took the most distinguished parts in this important debate, were the dukes of Richmond and Grafton, lords Lyttelton, Shelburne, Abingdon, Craven, Effingham, and the Lord Chancellor.

About half past twelve o'clock the question being put, there appeared for Lord Bristol's motion,

Against it — 64

For it — 28

Majority 36

BOSTON, June 24.

We hear that uniform and consistent patriot, the honorable Samuel Adams, Esq; is soon expected in town from Philadelphia.

The Mars ship of war has returned into a safe port, and carried in with her a prize letter of marque ship, valued at 25,000l. sterl.

PHILADELPHIA, July 1.

On Sunday last the first company of Philadelphia militia artillery were relieved from their duty in garrison at the fort on Mud-Island, after receiving a very polite and respectful letter of thanks from his excellency Joseph Reed, Esq; president.

On Monday the 28th, the company marched to the state-house and presented an address of thanks with assurance of their fidelity to the honourable supreme executive council, and their readiness to turn out again upon every emergency to defend and secure the freedom and independency of this and the United States.

From thence they marched to the college, where the committee were then sitting, and being invited into the hall, grounded their arms and delivered the following spirited address:

Philadelphia, June 28, 1779.

To the COMMITTEE of the city of Philadelphia and northern and southern districts, appointed at a general town meeting in the state-house yard, May 25, 1779.

EDWARD T. LEE, Esq.

AT the general town meeting held the 28th of May, 78, the first company of Philadelphia militia artillery were in garrison at the fort on Mud-Island. We were informed of your meeting, and were well pleased with the resolves then adopted, and no less with the committee appointed for the purpose of regulating the prices of the necessaries of life and other articles; and as a garrison, contributed all in our power to forward the good purposes intended, by bringing to and searching (agreeable to your order) all vessels going from the city, that provisions and other necessaries might not be conveyed from thence.

But notwithstanding we are convinced much good has arisen from the said resolves, and your appointment at said meeting, and are well satisfied that your proceedings are attended with many difficulties, and require the most indefatigable attention and vigilance, yet we are very sorry to observe, that designing and interested persons endeavour by every means to elude your judicious intentions, and that something more urgent and striking must at length bring them to reason.

We having fulfilled our tour of duty at said garrison and being properly relieved, are now returned to the city. We have arms in our hands, and know the use of them—and are ready and willing to support your honourable board in fully executing the righteous and equitable measures for which you were appointed. We will lay them down till this is accomplished. We wish not to have the pre-eminence; but we will no longer be trampled upon.