

states, and at the same time to pay the interest out of his own privy purse. This will endear him to America, and has taken away that prejudice, which from the injuries of George III. we had conceived against sovereigns. For when we survey the kind acts of this prince, and consider what it is in the power of a good man possessed of great authority to do, we have changed our opinion, and no longer wonder that it was made a part of the blessing of Abraham, "and kings shall come out of thee."

Our gratulation of his excellency, the minister of this nation, just arrived amongst us, is an evidence not less of our affection for our ally, than of the sense we entertain of the particular reputation of this gentleman, honourable from his connections, his personal worth and capacity; and to be respected amongst us on account of those services rendered us in a distant line, though with direct advantage to these states, in his able and successful negotiations at the court of Bavaria, to compromise the differences that had arisen between the emperor of Germany and several of the powers of Europe, relative to the succession of that Dutchy, debarking on the continent, he has been received at Buxton amongst that brave, polite and hospitable people, with every testimony of respect which genius could invent and gratitude bestow. The allusions of the town, the music of the college waited on him, and in our vernacular tongue, and in the Latin language expressed their love for the alliance, for the prince, for the minister, and for the nation. On his journey from the northward, when by a company of light dragoons he had been escorted to the camp, a view of universal satisfaction prevailed amongst our patriotic soldiery: no wonder; for they love the servants and the nation whose aim it is to fix on a solid basis that liberty for which they have contended. On his approach to this city a company of militia light dragoons, gentlemen of the first rank amongst us, was happy to wait upon the chevalier, and to escort him into town. His arrival was announced by a discharge of the artillery, and the confederate flag was displayed, as on occasions of particular joy. The day following a noble vessel, launched from our docks, received, in honour of his excellency, the name of the LUZERNE.

I mention these things with pleasure, as demonstrative of our affection for the nation, contrary to the insinuations of our enemies, who have called this an unnatural alliance, and are ready to believe that necessity, not love, engages us, and that we are strained up to it by an artificial force, which must soon break, and leave us once more alunder; that our affections are no more than cold ceremony, and the gratulations of our voice the mere effort of a common policy, suited to the occasions of the day. A charge of this nature, so injurious to our feelings, it is our part by every mark of peaceable respect and civility, and every good natured act of kindness to the new minister and to the nation, to endeavour to disprove.

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THERE are two things which I have in view in the course of these papers: first, to explain to the people of America, the terms of our alliance with the court of France, the advantages of that alliance, and at the same time the good-will of the nation to our cause: second, to bear witness for my countrymen that we are not insensible of the equality of these terms, of these advantages, and at the same time of the good-will of the nation to our cause.

The task is agreeable, and I hope it will be useful, because while I explain what we owe to the just and equal policy of France, I shall excite our gratitude; and while to France I bear witness of the grateful feelings of my countrymen, I shall secure the continuance of her friendship, and prompt her to farther acts of generosity and kindness in our favour.

Generosity, paradoxical as it may appear, does not always and certainly produce gratitude; but gratitude always and invariably calls forth generosity. The reason is, that the man who has received a favour considers himself as in debt and shuns his creditor; but the man who has done a favour, and meets with a recompense in the full and sincere thanks of the person so obliged, from his own self-love will be disposed to confer a farther obligation. Therefore, while I shew to France the perfect and just sense which the people of this country entertain of the honesty of her in-

tentions, and the greatness of her exertions, I shall contribute to increase the spring of these, and to add force to her determination to carry through the war, and to establish these states in liberty on an equal and permanent foundation. For it may happen, what I do expect, that these papers, though not from the merit, yet from the nature of them, may be translated into her own elegant and fine language; and in this case, she will have my evidence, that these people, who breathe the air that blows from the Apalachian mountains, and who drink the streams that issue from their sides, have warm gratitude for her good-will to our cause, and are disposed to be sensible of the greatness of her exertions in support of it.

Her exertions have been great, and we shall be sensible of this, if we consider her losses in the late wars, and the low state to which she was reduced. Virtue is eminent, in proportion to the difficulty which it overcomes; and generosity is great, in proportion to the ability of those who exhibit it.

France, at the commencement of the reign of her present sovereign, was not what she was in the age of Charlemagne, when, like an iron bar, she was lifted up and smote every power of Europe. She was not what she was under Henry IVth, when, though harassed by internal wars, and the power of Spain, yet her constitution, vigorous and strong, braved every hardship. She was not what she was under Louis XIVth, when it was impossible to mark every circumstance of conquest, and the innumerable multitude of battles extinguished their glory. These very conquests and battles drew upon her the jealousy of the powers of Europe, and the suspicion of aspiring to universal monarchy. This suspicion brought against her the whole force of Italy, and Holland, and Germany, and England. Waited by her conflict with these powers, she has endeavoured to repair her strength, and has sought peace; but the injuries of Britain has made it necessary for her to engage in two fatal wars, by which her whole naval force has been destroyed. She has been at all times inferior to Britain on the sea, owing to her situation, which does not render it to absolutely necessary for her to live upon the water as her neighbour; but in the late wars her losses have been particularly great, and almost her whole marine has become a prey to the power of that island. In the war of 1741, out of thirty-four ships of the line fitted out in the western seas, which made the greater part of her maritime force, she had but one remaining. At the conclusion of the peace, by the treaty of Paris, in the year 1763, her fleets returned home greatly broken and destroyed, from almost every quarter of the globe. Yet, though but just recovering from these losses, did she venture once more to brave the power of Britain, and in behalf of America, to risk the fleet, which by great industry she had got together. Undismayed at the great power of her rival, she took us by the hand, even though the boldest threats were thrown out against her, if she should undertake to do it. Lord Sandwich told the marquis Noailles, just before he presented his memorial to the court of Britain, that there were forty-five ships of the line in commission in the docks of England, and that in a day or two there would be six more. To these France had but thirty-four to oppose; and though she, as well as Europe, did not doubt but that the power of Britain was indeed great and formidable, yet she had the resolution to engage in our debate. She has engaged, and her exertions have been such as to astonish Europe. Ships have been built, fleets have been fitted out, and a naval force has been raised, as it were by the power of magic. England, to whom it was greatly unexpected, and to whom it was hostile, has been particularly struck with it. Like the Vizir, in the oriental tale, who saw the castle raised by the Genii, she has been disposed to rub her eyes and to look again, to see whether the ray on the visual nerve might not have given her a false information. She has been convinced that it was actually a fleet, and admiral Kappel met by the count d'Orvilliers, and re-

turning home with his shattered flag, he put it past dispute, that France was in fact upon the seas. The count d'Estaing, victorious over admiral Byron, off the island of Grenada, has made it the height of indignity with Britain to call it any more in question.

When I speak of France as greatly weakened in the end of the reign of Louis XIVth, and in the course of the succeeding reign, I do not mean to say that she was not still, by land, the most powerful of the European nations. Like a youth of great bodily strength, and depending on it, she had exposed herself, and her constitution had been waited, but she has recovered health; not by the empirical prescription of borrowing money, as has been the expedient of Great-Britain, but by the regimen of good oeconomy in her finances, and by the temperate exercise of agriculture, and of commerce. Britain has been equally wasted in her former wars; but to support herself she has had recourse to the temporary expedient of borrowing money from her subjects and from foreign powers. By this means she has kept up an appearance of health in the midst of weakness; but the hectic bloom of her complexion betrays her in the last stage of a confirmed tabes. In the opinion of her best physicians, she has not long to live, and though fresh air and cheerful company may add a few moments to her date, yet they cannot possibly restore her. A national bankruptcy must shortly happen, and when it does happen, it must bring some great revolution with it. France, on the other hand, is recovered wholly, and begins to taste the sweets of perfect health and strength. In the great object of our independence, having freed herself from the insidious tyranny of Britain, and having gained the confidence of other powers and the veneration of a new empire, she will be at liberty to cultivate peace, and with the mellowed spirit of a wise man, who has seen the changes of the world, she, as a nation, will conduct herself on the principles of true philosophy, which is to seek her own happiness in making others happy.

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ANNAPOLIS, December 17.

A LIST of continental agents, licensed by the Governor and Council to purchase in this state for the American army, agreeable to the act of assembly for the more effectual preventing of the sale and engraving, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

- 1779. PATRICK EWING, Cæcil county, assistant commissary of purchases.
- Sept. 3. Henry Hollingsworth, Cæcil, deputy quarter-master-general for the eastern shore.
- Sept. 7. James Calhoun, Baltimore, deputy quarter-master-general for the western shore.
- Sept. 10. Ephraim Blaine, deputy commissary-general of purchases in the army of the United States.
- Conrad Theodore Wederstrandt, assistant deputy commissary of purchases for Queen-Anne's, Talbot, and below.
- Nathaniel Potter, ditto, for Caroline.
- Richard Dallah, ditto, for Harford.
- Robert Buchanan, ditto, for Baltimore.
- Thomas Richardson, ditto, for Montgomery.
- Prince George's, Charles, and St. Mary's.
- George Murdock, ditto, for Frederick.
- Moses Rawlings, ditto, for Washington.
- Sept. 15. Charles Beatty, deputy quarter-master-general for Frederick.
- Sept. 14. Richard Butler, deputy quarter-master ditto.
- Nicholas Ticez, ditto, for ditto.
- Sept. 17. Henry Wright, jun. assistant deputy forage-master-general for all the counties of the eastern shore of this state except Cæcil.
- John Greer, assistant deputy quarter-master-general for the lower part of Frederick and upper part of Baltimore counties.
- Henry Shryock, ditto, for Washington.
- David Poe, ditto, for Baltimore.
- Oct. 18. Joseph Ford, assistant commissary of purchases for St. Mary's and Calvert counties.
- 21. Levin Spedding, deputy assistant commissary of purchases.
- Nicholas Goldborough, ditto.
- John Caille Harrison, ditto.
- George Dawson, ditto.
- Robert Walter, ditto.
- Aquila Brown, ditto.
- 28. James Martin, ditto.
- William Horsley, ditto.

*Paid*