

United States, cannot be considered as *aliens* to Great-Britain; and his conclusion is equally just, that "they are still entitled to inherit lands in Great-Britain, as its natural born subjects, and may sue in its courts to recover their debts or lands, if withheld from them." The reasons collected by the Senator from Calvin's case, are satisfactory to me. 1. Americans born before the declaration of independence, were, in the judgment of the law of England, natural born subjects of Great-Britain at the time of their birth, and they cannot become *aliens* by any matter *ex post facto*, as the descent of the crown to different persons, or a division of the empire, by the declaration of independence, and our becoming a separate and independent state. 2. Once a natural born subject of Great-Britain, always such subject, and no declaration of independence, no act of the legislature of this state, can make its inhabitants, born before the declaration of independence, *aliens* to Great-Britain, or subjects of this state; they must remain natural born subjects to Great-Britain, and not aliens, for their lives, "for it is a principle of universal law, that the natural born subjects of one prince, cannot, by any act of his own, no, not by swearing allegiance to another, put off or discharge his natural allegiance to the former; for this natural allegiance was intrinsic and primitive, and antecedent to the other; and cannot be divested without the concurrent act of that prince to whom it was first due." 3. Americans born before July 4, 1776, must still, in the judgment of the law of England, be considered as subjects of Great-Britain, or they cannot inherit lands there, because, upon the principle of natural or civil polity, aliens cannot inherit lands in that kingdom. They must still, in the judgment of the law, be considered as subjects, or as *alien friends*, or they cannot prosecute suits in its courts of law or equity. Upon the same principles, every person born in Great-Britain, before the declaration of independence, is entitled to hold and inherit lands in any of the United States. They cannot be considered as members or subjects of this state, because, in that case, they must, by the law of England, be adjudged aliens. But being natural born subjects of Great-Britain, they may inherit lands here, and no act of our assembly can "make them cease to be natural born subjects, or divest them of that natural, inherent and indelible character." As for those persons who were born since the declaration of independence, in any of the United States, they are, by that solemn act, made not only aliens to the individual subjects of Great-Britain, but to the nation; yet I should hope some mode will be found out to enable the children to inherit the lands of their parents in the respective countries. If the children of persons born before the declaration of independence could also inherit within the several countries, it would be very desirable, and might be a great means of restoring our former happy connection; but the Senator asserts, "all born in any part of the dominions, under the actual obedience of the British king, and all born in any of these United States, since the declaration of independence, are *aliens* in the respective nations; the former are aliens in these states, the latter aliens in the British dominions." The difference, I understand, from the Senator, to be this; the declaration of independence operated only on the persons born in these states after that event, it made them *aliens* as to Great-Britain, but it had no effect on their parents, because being born before that event, they could not become aliens to Great-Britain, and this he says is proved on common law principles, and from the greatest law authority. The new generation (infants) born since July 4, 1776, are aliens to Great-Britain, and may be considered as citizens or subjects of the state where born; but their parents are not aliens, but subjects to Great-Britain. I would not be understood to assert, that they are such subjects as owe any allegiance to the king of Great-Britain, but *quasi* subjects, that is a kind of subjects, of such a sort or nature, as to be capable to hold and inherit lands in that kingdom, without owing any allegiance to its king, and to sue not only for debts but lands, if withheld from them. I humbly conceive they must be considered as subjects of some kind, or they cannot inherit, or sue to recover lands, by the laws of Great-Britain. If it should be objected that the children born in the dominions of Great-Britain, or in these states, since the declaration of independence, cannot succeed to their parents lands in the respective nations, I can only answer, that their parents may either repair to their estates and possess them for their lives, or they may sell them, and by that mode secure the value to their issue.

If it should be observed, that the reasons given by the judges, to prove Calvin *not an alien*, and now adduced to prove, "that all British and Americans, born before the declaration of independence, cannot be considered as *aliens*, either in Great-Britain or in this state, and that they may inherit within the several countries, as the natural born subjects of both; and that they may sue in the respective courts of either, to recover their debts or lands if unjustly withheld from them," did also prove that Calvin was a natural born subject, and will also prove that all Americans born before the declaration of independence, are now, non obstante the declaration of independence, our establishing a new form of government and swearing allegiance to it, subjects of Great-Britain. I can only say, that the case is good law, and applies directly in point to the question.

If it should be objected, that the people or inhabitants of every nation are either citizens or subjects, and aliens or foreigners, and that if the Americans born before the declaration of independence are not aliens, they are subjects, and that by the law of England, every person known to its laws is either deemed a subject or an alien and, that every person must be one or the other, and that no person but a subject can inherit lands in England, and that no one can be *quasi* a subject, that is to inherit lands, but to yield no allegiance, and that the term or appellation *quasi* a subject is new and unknown to the law and constitution of that country; I would observe, that the case under consideration is *novus*, and requires distinctions never before necessary, and only proper on the present occasion; and that as it is proper and usual to make use of new terms on the invention of new arts and sciences, so it is justifiable to adopt new terms and designations in the present unparalleled case.

As the delegates justify the confiscation of the property of British subjects on the sole principle that they are aliens, and it is not in their power to make them such, even by an act of assembly, as the Senator has proved from the case in 2 Ventris 6. I hope the subject will not be again revived at the next session of the assembly. Indeed I am apprehensive, consequences not expected by the popular leaders, will happen, if they persevere. Disunion has already taken place in our public councils, and the money required by congress to furnish the current supplies has not been raised; this state has no mode to procure its quota of money but by taxes. If congress is not supplied by the states with cash, they must either stop payment to their army, and the purchase of provisions and other necessities, or make further emissions. The consequences of either of these events are very great and to be avoided. If the house of delegates shall still insist on the confiscation of British property, and will not raise the supplies, required by congress, unless the senate assent to the measure, great blame will be imputed to those, who the public shall adjudge to be in the wrong. There is too much good sense in this country to be long deceived. The public vengeance or resentment is too heavy for any individuals.

A PLEBEAN.
Prince-George's county, Feb. 16, 1780.

THE SENATOR having occupied the press, it will be impossible to answer him, until it shall be vacant for that purpose. The public in the mean time will suspend their judgment.

A DELEGATE.

ANNAPOLIS, February 25.
By captain John Stewart, in the sloop William, just arrived in Patuxent from St. Euliatius, we are favoured with
The Speech of the Monarch of Great-Britain to the parliament of that nation, on the 25th of November, 1779.

My lords and gentlemen,
I MEET you in parliament at a time when we are called upon, by every principle of duty, and every consideration of interest, to exert our united efforts in the support and defence of our country, attacked by an unjust and unprovoked war, and contending with one of the most dangerous confederacies that ever was formed against the crown and people of Great-Britain.

The designs and attempts of our enemies to invade this kingdom, have, by the blessing of Providence, been hitherto frustrated and disappointed. They still menace us with great armaments and preparations; but we are, I trust, on our part, well prepared to meet every attack, and repel every insult. I know the character of my

brave people; the menaces of their enemies, and the approach of danger, have no other effect on their minds, but to animate their courage, and to call forth that national spirit which has so often checked and defeated the projects of ambition and injustice, and enabled the British fleets and armies to protect their own country, to vindicate their own rights, and at the same time to uphold and preserve the liberties of Europe from the restless and encroaching power of the house of Bourbon.

In the midst of my care and solicitude for the safety and welfare of this country, I have not been inattentive to my loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland. I have, in consequence of your addresses presented to me in the last sessions, ordered such papers to be collected and laid before you, as may assist your deliberations on this important business; and I recommend it to you to consider what further benefits and advantages may be extended to that kingdom, by such regulations and such methods as may most effectually promote the common strength, wealth, and interests of all my dominions.

Gentlemen of the house of commons.
The proper estimates shall in due time be laid before you. I see, with extreme concern, that the necessary establishments of my naval and military forces, and the various services and operations of the ensuing year, must inevitably be attended with great and heavy expences, but I rely on your wisdom and public spirit, for such supplies as the circumstances and exigencies of our affairs shall be found to require.

My lords and gentlemen,
I have great satisfaction in renewing the assurances of my entire approbation of the conduct and discipline of the militia, and their steady perseverance in their duty, and I return my cordial thanks to all ranks of my loyal subjects who have stood forth in this arduous conjuncture, and by their zeal, their influence, and their personal service, have given confidence as well as strength to the national defence. Trusting in the Divine Providence, and in the justice of my cause, I am firmly resolved to prosecute the war with vigour, and to make every exertion, in order to compel our enemies to listen to equitable terms of peace and accommodation.

A person who has left his name with the Printers desires to be acquainted with the writer under the signature of A Plebean, as a communication of sentiment may be of advantage to both. Confidential secrecy will be observed.

Office for stating and settling the public accounts, Annapolis, February 15, 1780.

THE commissioners having desired the law for stating and settling the public accounts to be printed in the Maryland Gazette, think it necessary to give further notice, that they intend to continue setting every day in the Stadt house, Sundays excepted.

And as there appear many large sums due to the public for money advanced upon contracts (and for other purposes) which have been in many instances disregarded, the commissioners take this method to inform all persons concerned, that they are determined to pursue the directions of the legislature, as far as in their power; that they shall require a specific compliance with every public contract, as far as it is possible and equitable, and as they wish to prevent every unnecessary expence and delay, so they hope those who are interested will see the propriety and absolute necessity there is for them to render their accounts, and make satisfaction to the public as speedily as possible. Those clerks of counties who have omitted to transmit lists of ordinary fines and fines, since the year 1775, are requested to forward them; the sheriffs indebted on those or any other accounts to perfect their payments; the supervisors of roads, who have had money advanced from the year 1774; the committees of the counties, and in general all persons who have public money or effects unaccounted for, will be pleased to take notice and comply with the requisitions of the legislature.

Signed per order of the commissioners,
I Princes SAWAY, clerk.

FOR SALE,
A NEGROWENCH about thirty years of age; she has been brought up to do either kitchen or plantation work, can spin very well, and is a very good plain cook. She will be sold for cash or tobacco, or any person having a likely young negro girl, about 10 or 12 years old, fit for house service, may have her in exchange, the owner being in great want of such a one. Enquire of the printers.