

[XXXVth Year.]

THE

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MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, M A R C H 17, 1780.

of the MARYLAND GAZETTE. NUMBER I.

I AM one arrived at that age and experience, who having seen the end of all popular applause, that like the morning mist, it vanishes away, am induced, by a purer principle, love my country, to undertake, at this time, a series of papers addressed to the public. Never was there greater necessity for every man to put his hand to the oar; we are becalmed far from the harbour; the mariners are asleep, and it behoves to call, with a loud voice, Yoho, upon each there.

At the beginning of the present contest, the sea was entertained, that the non-impertation agreement would lay Britain under the necessity of relinquishing her claims, and cultivating the affection of her colonies. This idea, however vainly entertained, was pernicious to us; as we thereby deprived ourselves of all those articles of foreign commerce, which were necessary for carrying on the war. After the commencement of hostilities, April, 1775, we were still of opinion, that Britain, in a short time, would see her true interest, and offer reasonable terms of accommodation. Hence came the resolutions of temporary cessations, and many partial and short-sighted measures, which have been greatly ruinous to the hope of a speedy issue to the contest. The neglect of taxation has also been the offspring of these false and delusive hopes; it being apprehended, that peace must shortly ensue, and then we might tax with ease and at leisure.

For my part, I was far from believing that few years would see an end of the debate. Britain had seen the spirit of the Americans in their resistance to the stamp-act; she had seen that arms alone could effectually force upon them claims contrary to their liberties; she had counted the cost of this, and had it in view to prevail, or to perish in the undertaking. I had frequently laid in conversation, that the continuance of the war might be 21 years; I had said to myself, in the most favourable event of things, our sea-ports possessed by the enemy; our armies obliged to retire to the barrier of the mountains, where far inland we should hear of them pushing and being pushed, beating and being beaten; on yonder hill, on this plain, and in that valley. Britain was among the first powers of Europe, triumphant from a former war, ready in her purpose to reduce us, and it was not to be supposed that she would easily desist from her pretensions. Her commerce furnished her with great resources, and not for many years could she sink under the expences of even distant campaigns.

America, on the other hand, was animated with a pure spirit of liberty; she was nervous, and unbroken, she had all that, for which, on earth it is dear, to contend. Beaten from the sea-coast, her inhabitants could retire within the barrier of the mountains, and even after they had ceased to be able to oppose regular armies, could continue an incurive war, until encroaching in the woods, and by the streams of the west, they could roll back on their oppressors, and expel them from the soil. From this view of things, I could not be of opinion, that accommodation could speedily take place; Britain, with all her strength and passion, had it not in her power to conquer; and America would never yield.

The alliance of these states with France was a great era of our hopes; we began to believe, that Britain could not even for a short time carry on the war in America, and at the same time resist the monarchy of France. This was a mistake: Britain, by her situation as an island, is secure from the inroad of the French armies, and her fleets must be beaten before the neighbouring power can attempt an invasion. Hence, on the part of France, it has hitherto continued, and will continue to be, principally, a naval war. In this, it is impossible for us to give any perceptible assistance, in any other manner, than by suffering, in some degree, the trade of our enemies. France therefore has herself the main battle to fight; and as long as Britain shall be able to hold up against the naval power of the house of Bourbon, she will continue to struggle,

and, like a person in the rage of madness, to beat all whom she finds around her.

The idea of a peace prevailed in the spring of the year 1779, and by raising false expectations, which in the end were disappointed, tended to destroy the patience of the people; it being natural to the human mind, to prepare itself for long labours, and to sustain them patiently, when it has at first expected that they would be long; but, on the contrary, to repine and be dissatisfied, when evils are drawn out to a greater duration than was at first expected.

In the course of the past winter, the idea of a peace has been kindled up; and for this reason, principally, that commissioners on our part have been appointed to negotiate for that purpose. It is, without doubt, prudent and humane, to make every proper advance towards an accommodation; to be prepared to receive terms of peace, that when offered there may be no delay in putting a stop to the effusion of human blood. Besides, proposals of accommodation make a gradual progress on the human mind, and, though they may not have an immediate and visible effect, will, in the end, be found to have made a good impression, and to have tended to throw the minds of men forward to this object. For this reason, I do not mean to censure the sending commissioners with powers to negotiate a treaty; but I would not have the people of this country, to form from them any apprehensions, that the congress know more than is generally known, or that some advances, on the part of Britain, have laid the foundation for this measure.

It is evident from the last speech of the king of England to his parliament, that his thoughts are still for war. Yet on this continent we are led to indulge the thoughts of peace. There is danger from this veteranism of the mind. We have struggled with the maladies of the debate, until the present hour, still approaching nearer to the end of our labours; but we are to consider, that the most dangerous period which the patient has to pass, is between the abatement of the fever and the spring of health. Then, trusting too much to the unconfirmed vigour which he feels, he takes the cool air, and is sensible of a relapse.

It is high time that we be roused in every state, from New-Hampshire to Georgia. We are yet in the midst of a wide ocean, knowing not what storms may descend upon us. It behoves us to be alert, active, industrious, indefatigable; dismissing party quarrels and partial considerations, and holding in view the great object, the general liberties of our country. We may set it down as a certain truth, that we shall have no solid ground to expect peace, until our enemies shall cease to retain possession of a foot of territory within any of the Thirteen United States.

AN ANTI-ANGELICAN.

November 25, 1779.

To the honourable SENATOR. Care of Mr. GREEN. These.

YOUR honour's publications have come to hand, and have been reading them over at different spells, as could find time; and am much taken with them; but it seems strange to people that your honour should disallow of the Plebeian who explains what was first broached by your honour, especially when by a few lines in the newspaper we took to be from your honour, we thought you wanted to know him. Your honour says, the Plebeian has told things that you did not mean; but I and my neighbours cannot find where; for it seems to us you are both the same in the argument matter of debate; and to differ must be some election of affront, which we cannot make out; but hope your honour will tell us; for we can find nothing in him but what was first started by your honour. It is a pity that people should differ on the same side, about nothing; and hurt a good cause. Some thinks as how your a going to fly back; and it will bring a reflection of a disallowance of your own writings, if you should; and it would be wrong in your honour to be frightened at your own shadow; we hopes you will stick to your under-

takings; and no fear you will hold your own in spite of them, if to be you and the Plebeian make up, and no mistake or party matters is put between you for the future. I do not say as how I am judicious and discerning, but hopes your honour will at least think me

A WELL INTENTIONED READER.

March 5, 1780.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

I HAVE held my tongue long enough, but will now speak out. The Senator has fully proved, that we are still British subjects. How then, consistent with a good conscience, could any one take the oath of allegiance to the state? On this ground the Senator may go on to shew the iniquity of the treble tax law, as he has done that of the tender law. The treble tax is oppressive both on conscience and property. I hope it will be repealed. If the Senator undertakes to write against it, he may depend upon being supported, and what he loses of popularity amongst violent men will be made up to him, as it is at present, in the attachment of others.

W. M.

To the PUBLIC.

IT has been observed, that the resolution of the judges in Calvin's case, that "the post nati were natural born subjects of both kingdoms," might well be questioned.

When James ascended the English throne, he brought with him the most extravagant notions of his hereditary right to the crown, and the power of kings; the one indefeasible, the other absolute; and from thence inferred, that his will ought to be the sole rule of his government. From the first moment he found the crowns united on his head, he anxiously desired to effect a union of the two kingdoms; this was his darling plan, he urged it with the utmost impatience, nor could any thing exceed his passion and zeal to accomplish it. In a studied oration, he urged this measure to his parliament, at their first meeting, and declared that "all who were against it were blind, ignorant, restless, and disaffected." The parliament, to compliment and humour their new sovereign, appointed commissioners to meet others from Scotland, to deliberate on the terms of the proposed union; but so impatient was the king, that, without waiting to see what would be done by the commissioners, or how far what they should agree to would be confirmed by parliament, by virtue of his own proclamation he declared himself king of Great-Britain, and quartered the armorial ensigns of Scotland with those of England. The commissioners assented, among other propositions, to the following, "That the common law of both nations should be declared to be, that all born in either nation, since his majesty was king of both, were mutually naturalized in both." The very point which was afterwards decided in Calvin's case. His proposition was delivered in to parliament by the lord chancellor Ellesmere, one of the commissioners, and who, the more effectually to secure the favour of James, had a principal share in procuring this proposition, as, he had also afterwards, from the same motives, in procuring the like decision in Calvin's case. The parliament deferred the consideration of this proposition until their next session; but James, of his own mere authority, issued his proclamation, declaring the common law to be, as the commissioners had proposed, thereby prejudicating the question, and laying his parliament under a necessity of assenting to this proposition, or of affronting his proclamation.

Upon the meeting of the next parliament, James addressed them in a most elaborate speech, recommending to them his favourite measure, the union of the kingdoms. He engaged Sir Francis Bacon, whom he often used, to tamper

Mallet, in his life of lord chancellor Bacon, says, that "lord Ellesmere presided in the court of chancery with an unblemished reputation as a judge in private cases, but his public conduct had been always framed to the directions of the court, with an obsequiousness of dangerous example to us, who hold so great and important a trust."

as published with a of February last ator in his propo tors to the loan. ir bonds, to give es, after deducting ements, according respective times of n opinion. I al- er law. Our cr- made, rendered it risis of our affir ice. I question if made the congress her it would have ther necessities for ot answered all the of it. Some cre- but even some of eciate the curra- (ible) could be de. I fear great dif- arife from the se- mult fee, if pub- o make up to the e debtors must do that creditors for as, but they shoul- ral consequence of ble to bear the they should conside- thens of the war, ich creditors had pay their fines for miltia. I believe, to repealed, more ultice, would bow n its continuance, adeavoured to ext- shall again trouble In that case, for ave to make use of ean; I hope I shal- ion of it. Forth

PLEBEAN. November 25. I am bring an r in consequence e genera to tell w- failed, but that t- who expected ou- I was to have g- intentions and a

2, March 7. on Sunday evening Carolina, which is that on the 14th, he heard the a- ne approach of the and was afterwards a few hours from had entered North es from that plac e, and that a bod- mmanded by Sir unwallis, had fact w Island, opposi- from the capita- further progress of l by the reasonab- gallees, which had al Lincoln, from that important pe- adds, that the g- are determined to- list extremity; fr- ing all possible pr- er; and that g- their formidable line-

March 4, 1780. le of the subject. y of Annapolis, y of February last out thirteen hund- nine years old th- il, one hind had- butock C-D; part- er head when red- will give insom- to that the orm- receive one hund- one hundred st- securing the thie- office, shall recei- ars, paid by.

WATSON.

n Charles-Sirra.