

and I take notice of the toast drank in Limerick, at the rejoicing on the occasion of the news of lord North's propositions, "peace with America, and war with all the world."

That Ireland may be satisfied with the proposals of lord North is possible, if we consider that she has been long depressed, and accustomed to a worse condition; it is natural for men to estimate advantages, not so much from their intrinsic value, as by a contrast with disadvantages under which they may have laboured. Take off the irons of a prisoner, and he will be happy for a while, though you still confine him. If Ireland should be satisfied, it will be possible that our enemies, in this hour of her good humour, may draw great assistance of men and money, from her voluntary concurrence in the war.

When we survey these circumstances, which bespeak determined enmity on the part of Britain, shall we still conduct ourselves on the principle of temporary provisions, for the war, which, in our opinion, the ensuing campaign may terminate? I am persuaded the ensuing campaign will not terminate it. Let us, then, reject the idea and the language too often used, that if we can make a shift this summer, a negotiation will take place, and all matters will be settled. It is time that we quit the rocks and shoals of this dangerous coast; that we furnish ourselves with a compass, and attempt the wide ocean, for there only shall we be safe, and have it in our power to make the port, the end of our navigation.

AN ANTI-ANGLICAN.

NUMBER VIII.

Addressed to the INHABITANTS of IRELAND.

CITIZENS,

IT cannot be well said that the fire of liberty, on this continent, has kindled up the fire on your island, as that originating thence, it has spread to these borders. For we are many of us your descendants; and some of the best officers and soldiers of our army, are of your nation. The Irish Americans, in this contest, have manifested an excellent spirit, and few, very few, of that origin have joined the enemy. The politeness of your nation to our prisoners, which have been taken by the enemy, and carried into your ports, is an evidence that you do not disdain to be called our ancestors, or do think that our actions disgrace you.

We were happy to find, from the commencement of this debate, that in all our measures, we had your most cordial approbation. This was declared to us by volunteers who have left your soil, and have fought with us in the war. It was farther manifested by the opinions of writers, and the speeches of your representatives in parliament, and of those of your nation who had a seat in the parliament of Britain. We were no less happy to perceive, that seizing the opportunity which our resistance afforded, you had remonstrated to that nation who had so long laid restraints upon your commerce, and oppressed you in your privileges, as an independent people. We marked the early progress of your patriotism, and saw it rise to a noble height, with that pleasure, which a sense, that it was laudable in itself, congenial with our own, and directly for our deliverance, could alone give. We rejoice that you have so far succeeded, that the enemy, humbled in their minds, are willing to concede to you what they have called an equal trade, though that must be still cramped with restraints on your commerce to these states; and a lord lieutenant presides over you, who has a negative on all your laws, and is appointed by the crown. For we consider these concessions of the enemy, as an evidence, that you have it in your power to assert your independence.

That you have been heretofore subdued by England, and still in some measure under the dominion of that power, has been owing not to your want of native spirit, but to the unhappy divisions, which, from the many sovereigns, that existed early on your island, and the difference of religion which has subsisted since, have prevented you from making one united and entire resistance. Your climate is favourable to the growth of valour; your inhabitants, according to the account of all writers, have evinced the most heroic fortitude, in your several struggles for liberty. Every nation of Europe is witness of their gallantry abroad, and to know that a man is brave, it is sufficient to say that he is an Irishman. Is it then consistent with your honour, that you should remain in any degree subordinate to that kingdom; the satellite of a larger planet, that you should increase her glory, who has oppressed you while she had it in her power? Is it consistent with your interest, to suffer a restraint of trade, and that a governor, by a negative on all laws for the public good, shall have it in his power to screw you up to what grants of money he shall please? Is it consistent with your safety to place confidence in

her promises, who will not hesitate to withdraw every privilege, and execute her resentment at a future period, for the trouble you have given in this moment of the perplexity of her affairs? It must be more your honour, your interest, and your safety, to form an alliance with the house of Bourbon, and with these states; to shine the center of your own system, and be no longer the attendant of the hated kingdom. I though Britain grants you an equal trade, for the present, she will deny this; recover her courage with the absence of danger, she will repent of her approach to equity, and step back to destruction once more. It is eternally unsafe to live connected with a neighbouring people of the same manners, the same language, and of superior strength. The propinquity of situation will give opportunities, and the influence arising from the sameness of language and similarity of manners, will insensibly prevail and establish an interest in the smaller kingdom.

Should it so happen, that for reasons known to yourselves, for indeed we do not know of any, you should be willing for the present to rest satisfied with concessions of the enemy; yet we are persuaded, you will continue sensible of the justice of our cause, and that it is not in the power of these states to accept of any terms short of independence. You will form no weight against us, by contributing one shilling to carry on the war, or by sending any of your gallant spirits for the purpose of reducing us. It would be hard if the fire whose glory we have beheld with admiration, should flash, in lighting on ourselves. Rather let your spirit creak the hostility of Britain; use the ascendancy you have obtained by your prowess to divert her from the vain and impious thought of subduing this country.

It is necessary for your safety that America should be independent. If in any shape we should, again, become connected with that island, by means of the influence which she may establish here, having already many friends, she may have it in her power to triumph over both you and us. While we continue independent, we shall form a check on her councils, awe her designs against your kingdom, and, in some unguarded moment, she may take advantage of your situation, it will be the glory of America to preserve the liberty of Ireland.

AN ANTI-ANGLICAN.

Montesquieu.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

IT was an observation of Cato the elder to the Romans, "that they either set little value on their offices, or that no man of character and abilities would serve them." I congratulate my countrymen that this observation of the old censor is not applicable to them, or their offices. I sincerely congratulate them that they have men of character and abilities, whose zeal, and attachment to their country, are now to well established on the credit of their services, and their alacrity to accept of, and discharge the duties of public employments, that a reasonable doubt cannot be entertained of their sincerity and patriotism. A late choice of a most celebrated character in this state, to fill one of the most important trusts, has occasioned these remarks. It is at once a strong proof of the wisdom, and steadiness of that body, which appointed him, and of the approved virtue and public spirit of the gentleman, who has been so honourably distinguished. It would be a matter of curious and useful speculation, to enquire into the principles upon which that appointment was founded, and into the preceding conduct, and sentiments of the gentleman himself. The writer of this has every reason in the world to believe, that such an enquiry would be perfectly agreeable to both parties, as it would inevitably place that transaction, and his character, in so open and fair a point of view, that the most malevolent mind must despair of fixing the slightest imputation of blame on either, and the most weak and prejudiced escape the mischievous effects of delusion. Inquisitive men, unacquainted with affairs, and those of weak intellect, and little penetration, will be apt to suspect that this choice proceeded rather from thoughtlessness and inattention, than from mature deliberation, and design. This will lead them to enquire into the reasons that have wrought a change so unexpected in our public councils; and from what principle it could flow that one discarded from the public service, on pretence of his wanting that attachment to the established government, which every person employed in its service ought to possess; I say such men will busy themselves to discover what motives could influence an appointment of the same person, at no very distant period of time from his discharge, without any

interesting proofs, or, they will add, any reasonable suspicion that he has, indeed, can afford any sentiments. Others, who are dissatisfied with the present administration of affairs, whose hearts are soured by disappointment, and whose not capacity to conduct, will vent their spleen in idle reports, and groundless assertions. They will endeavour to disturb and confuse, because they cannot assist, or are not suffered to do so. The present infirmity is a strong confirmation of these remarks: for what but ignorance and pride, or malice arraign, the wisdom and propriety of that appointment? Man of sound judgment, and actuated by other principles, will cheerfully acquiesce in a measure, calculated to answer all the valuable purposes, that can be derived from an able and prudent choice. They will readily discern the futility of the objections that have been raised against it. The enemies of that gentleman cannot accuse him of an unbecoming his character or station. His conduct under the old, as well as present government, have ever manifested the most pure and disinterested regard to his native land. The character of a courtier, and the emolument of office he ever despised. I am confident his inveterate adversaries can only object a few guarded expressions to him, which can have no weight with the generous and candid; and when it is considered that the sentiments they were expressed at a most critical period; a period when his fortitude and resolution might naturally forsake him, amidst the perplexities and confusion that are unavoidably occasioned by the uncertainty of events. An obscure prospect necessarily affects the mind with gloomy ideas; and he must have more than the fortitude of a man, who can, on very trying occasions, withstand the rude assault. Such considerations as these will determine the opinion of the worthy and judicious. They will make every just and favourable allowance for the infirmities of nature, and will patronise a man whose whole only fault, if it may be deemed one, is a weakness of nerves, and not a deficiency of patriotic resolution. Calumny, when artfully directed, may injure the best established character; the means that are used for this purpose are calculated to prevail on inconsiderate, and violent tempers; with these they seldom fail of success; and we have too much reason to lament that these is composed too great a proportion of mankind. I mean not to write a panegyric on the above gentleman at the expense of such men; those who know him as well as I do, will not suspect me of it, they are sensible that his reputation requires not such a support. My intention is to vindicate, in a few words, an injured character, and to justify those principles, upon which it has been restored to credit and confidence. It is not my purpose to enter into the minute detail of this subject. What I have said is sufficient to satisfy those, who are disposed to be convinced by fair and obvious reasons, that those who have not that disposition are unworthy the attention of

CENSORS.

BOSTON, March 30.

CAPTAIN Adams, who arrived here Saturday, brings the following intelligence:

That he sailed from Martinico the 24th of February; two days before he sailed, count de Grasse and admiral Picquet arrived from a cruise with nine sail of the line, and joined six more which lay at Martinico; the day before he sailed, a ship arrived from Bordeaux, in 49 days passage, and brought advice, that admiral Sutherland at the life of Rhef, with 15 sail of the line, fleet of merchantment and transports, with 10,000 troops on board, destined for Martinico. That admiral Arbuthnot, with part of his fleet were blown off the coast of Carolina, and he arrived at St. Christophers. The fleet from France were daily expected when he left Martinico.

March 30. Saturday last arrived at New-London a letter of marque sloop, of 10 guns, from St. Kitts bound to New-York, with eighty heads of rum, prize to the privateer ship captain Smedley, from New-London.

Friday last arrived at Marblehead a prize of about 250 tons burthen, laden with 1200 barrels of flour and 1400 barrels of beer and port. She was one of a fleet of victuallers bound from Europe to New-York, and taken by the American belonging to Newbury-Port.

By this prize we learn, that a motion has been made in the house of commons of Great Britain, for declaring the American colonies independent, but was carried in the negative a majority of 53. And that after this declaration was made, that as his excellency

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