

pursuits to those researches necessary fully to comprehend it. It is highly probable there might be members of both houses of our legislature, who considered it in a different point of view; we well know that bills are framed by a few individuals, who understand their legal operation, while many who vote for their passage have neither the leisure or the knowledge requisite to examine into their meaning or effect.

I have no fear of being refuted when I declare that the legal operation of that clause of the act of assembly is agreeable to the exposition which I have given to it; and if the legislature had any other intention; if they supposed it would operate differently, it must have proceeded from inattention to the principles of the law of nations, and the common law, and from not considering what alterations were made, according to those principles, with respect to individuals, and their property, by the declaration of independence, and the formation of our new government, and what rights, by those events, were given to the public, or taken away from private persons. I am inclined to believe, that the construction I have given the act is such as the framers of it, at least, designed it should have, and, if it has generally been considered in a different light, that it has been, in a great measure, owing to the artifices of our enemies, and to the arts of the friends, the connexions, and the favourers of the abettors, who wished such a construction should be given to the law as might, if possible, secure their property to its former owners, and prevent its being appropriated to the use of the state; the very purpose they are endeavouring to effect by a different exposition.

AN INDEPENDENT WHIG.

Baltimore-town, May 1.

To the PRINTER.

SIR,

OUR affairs are now arrived at such a critical state, that every serious, thinking man must be alarmed for the consequences. Public virtue, public spirit, national pride, respect for our councils, legislators, and officers, are almost totally extinct. Union, which is now so necessary, and which should be the object of every one, who is not entirely lost to a sense of social duty, is destroyed by the sly artifices of crafty, designing men, or by the more open efforts of daring, hardy adventurers. Our most worthy characters are traduced in the public papers, nay the pernicious spirit of abuse and ridicule hath become so prevalent, that the very dog-kennel is infected with it. Mr. Printer, this is a matter of serious concern to the good people of this state; if some very efficacious means are not speedily taken to dispel this virulent humour, I dread the fatal effects of it. Let us for a moment reflect on our disastrous situation, if we are deprived, by these practices, of the assistance, and direction of our most able, and firm patriots; those men who set out with such an active, determined spirit, and continued with such unshaken uniformity, in the glorious cause of freedom, and their country. We have too much reason to believe that this will be our fate, if some effectual remedy against the crying evils of scandal and defamation, be not quickly applied. Whilst the Independent Whig, Centor, &c. are allowed to disperse their destructive principles, and calumnies through the land, what reasonable hope can we have of united exertions, and consequently of a successful issue to our endeavours? It is then the duty of every good whig to exert himself against these disturbers of the public tranquillity, that the fame of our great men, like their virtues, may be without stain, and that their country may reap the glorious

* A strong instance of the truth of this remark is exhibited in note to a publication in your last paper, under the title of An Independent Whig. The particulars of it I need not repeat, as I make no doubt, it did not escape the notice and indignation of any person who has the least sense of decency and decorum.

† Vid. Old Portius. Quere, is it not contrary to the spirit of our constitution and form of government that dogs should intermeddle in state affairs. If so, a question will arise how they are to be treated if detected in practices of this kind; whether as spies, and punished accordingly, or merely as aliens. But as the wisest heads in the land, seem to be under insurmountable difficulties in determining the precise idea and extent of this last article, it is probable their property in this instance, would escape the effects of confiscation; and their persons, though they would not strictly come under the title of subjects, might with singular propriety be admitted under that of quasi subjects, which in law has the same effect.

advantages, that must necessarily result from their invaluable services.

SINCERUS,

Head of Magothy, April 30, 1780.

Mr. GREEN,

THE gentlemen, whom Mr. Finis thought proper to attack, in your paper, have treated him with the contempt he deserves; they have given him an adversary from the kennel; but I am vexed to see the air of importance which the pitiful dog assumes, upon this fancied mark of distinction; he has taken the signature of Old Portius, and would thereby innuendate that he is chief of the pack. I beg that no two-legged animal will be imposed on by his babbling; he is nothing better than a puppy, and, so far from following his own nose, that in the chase only barks to the cry of greater puppies than himself; he constantly strays from the kennel; and indeed it is impossible to confine him; for he will gnaw through cords, pales, and doors, to get free; and the principal use he makes of his liberty is to annoy passengers. Almoit every cur can distinguish between a gentleman and a dirty fellow; but this dog, who pretends to be of superior kind, snaps at the heels of every one, who will not condescend to stroke him. After all, I will not deny that he has tolerable natural parts; but from the instant he received his sight, he has been so violently addicted to currish tricks, that I absolutely despair of his amendment. In short, it is the sincere wish of every sober, judicious member of the pack, to have him dismissed from the society.

You may possibly conclude, Mr. Green, that malice has incited me to give an unfavourable character of a brother member; if he persists in babbling, I will convince you, in my next address, that this is too lenient a correction.

JOWLER.

From the kennel, May 3, 1780.

LONDON, Dec. 30.

LETTERS from France mention the arrival of monsieur Gerard (who has been succeeded in his embassy by the chevalier le Luzerne, and of Mr. Jay, with his secretary, Mr. Carmichael, appointed to the court of Spain. They sailed from Philadelphia in the Confederacy American frigate, the first of October; and a day or two after their sailing, Mr. John Adams was appointed, by congress, a sole commissioner to Europe, to treat for, or to receive terms of peace; Mr. Francis Deane is his secretary, and they are to reside at Paris, in order to be near the place of any future negotiations for peace among the belligerent powers. They sailed from Boston in a French frigate of 40 guns, and are said to be arrived at l'Orient.

Feb. 5. Government are certainly of opinion, that Gibraltar has not been succoured by a previous brush with the Ferrol Squadron.

Yesterday it was reported in the city, that government had received certain advice, that the Spanish ships which were captured by admiral Rodney, were taken by a fleet of French frigates and carried into Brest.

ANNAPOLIS, May 5.

Captain McClenaghan, arrived in Philadelphia from St. Eustatia, confirms the arrival of 16 ships of the line and 12,000 troops at Martinico from old France.

** The printers are under the necessity of informing their customers, that the uncertain value of the paper currency obliges them to demand, 12/6 hard money the year, or paper at the exchange; those persons, therefore, who do not think proper to continue subscribers, will give them early notice.

Charles county, April 17, 1780.

I HAVE in my custody, committed as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself Dover, and says he belongs to Mr. James Lloyd on James river; he says he is about twenty-three years of age, he is a middle sized fellow, remarkably black, and speaks good English; had on, when delivered to me, a striped country cloth jacket and breeches, country linen shirt, one pair white yarn hose, and one pair blackish coloured mixed yarn ditto, a pair of old shoes and an old country cotton cap. His master is desired to pay charges and take him away.

BENJAMIN CAWOOD, sheriff.

St. Mary's county, April 27, 1780. COMMITTED to my custody by the name of C. way, a mulatto man by the name of ... appears to be about twenty-five years of age, five feet ten inches high. His master, if any, is desired to pay charges and take him away.

Saint Mary's county, April 7, 1780. A PETITION will be offered to the session of assembly after this notice has been published eight weeks, for an act to amend the recording and to give effect from the date of deed executed in this county, by Philip ... and Anne his wife, to George Medley, for a tract of land lying in Medley's Neck, in the county aforesaid.

GEORGE MEDLEY.

A PETITION will be offered to the session of the general assembly after this notice shall have been published eight weeks, for an act to empower the subscriber (now a minor) to make a good and sufficient deed of conveyance, for certain tracts of land lying in Charles county, which he inclines to make sale of.

HARRISON MUSGRAVE.

Somerset county, April 4, 1780. NOTICE is hereby given, that I intend to petition the next general assembly, for a road to lead from the main road leading from Princess-Anne to the lower ferry, to the plantation whereon David Megrath formerly lived, and now in the possession of

MARY WAGGAMAN.

Annapolis, March 30, 1780. THE COMMITTEE OF GRANCES AND COURTS OF JUSTICE will sit to do business in the committee room, every day, from eleven in the forenoon till four in the afternoon, during the present session of the general assembly.

Signed by order of the committee, A. GOLDBER, clk. com.

Prince-George's county, St. Paul's parish, March 30, 1780.

WANTED a clergyman of the church of England. Any gentleman who will apply and approved by the vestry, they will engage to give annually twenty thousand pounds of tobacco, and the use of a small glebe.

LEONARD WARING, register.

THERE is at the plantation of Stephen Rawlings, taken up as a stray, a bright bay mare, about seven years old, is neither docked, nor has any perceptible brand or mark, about 13 hands high. The owner may have her again on proving property and paying charges.

FRANCIS WAYMAN.

April 18, 1780.

TAKEN up adrift, last Easter, in South river, a large pine canoe, 27 feet long, 2 1/2 feet in the clear, with 4 row-locks, and a large locker in her stern; she has been cracked, and has eight knees in her sides and one in her head, with a rope painter. The owner may have her again on proving his property and paying charges.

LEONIDAS.

A most beautiful blood bay, full fifteen and a half hands high, of a remarkable stout and handsome form.

WILL stand the ensuing season at Abingdon, near Alexandria in Virginia, and will cover mares at four pounds Virginia currency the season, to be paid in specie, or four hundred weight of tobacco, or an equivalent in either in continental currency. The money is expected when the mares are brought to the horse, otherwise they will not be covered.

Leonidas is six years old this grass, in perfect health, and has never received the smallest injury. He was got by colonel Lloyd's Traveller, who was got by Merton's Traveller, his dam the thorough bred imported mare Jenny Cameron. Leonidas's dam was got by Morton's Traveller, his grand dam Selima by the Godolphin Arabian.

Good passage will be found only for those mares which may come from a distance, and particular care taken of them, but will not be answerable for escapes.

I. P. CUSTIS.