

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, M A Y 26, 1780.

To the PRINTER of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER, HERE was a rule laid down formerly in the courts of justice in this state, that if a man could not pay the thing contracted for, he was obliged to pay the value, and it certainly is justice.

Pray, Sir, is it, or is it not justice, that a man should pay me £. 33 6 s. nominal money for £. 20 0 0 sterling lent him on bond? Doth he pay me the value, nor of it? If not, why not some other exchange? ... Why tie up the hands of the 6 per centers, and leave every other person in this state to extort just what they please? ... Do not the lawyers ask 100 times more to do my business than formerly? ... Do not the iron master ask for his iron 30 prices? ... Do not the merchant ask 150 prices? ... Do not the smith, weaver, joiner, carpenter, tailor, shoemaker, silver-smith, and tinker, ask 90 prices? ... Farmer and planter ask 56 Prices. Pray, Sir, how is the 6 per center to deal with any of these persons above mentioned, if he is to receive all his bonds in the common nominal money at 66 2/3 exchange for his sterling bonds, and only the nominal money for his current money bonds, where silver dollars were lent at 7/6 each, and other paper money, which was of equal value with the silver dollars when lent, and I could have got as much law then for 8 paper dollars, as I can get now for 33 1/3 nominal dollars?

My neighbour this other day received £ 60 nominal money for one year's interest due on £. 1000 to two poor orphans under his care as guardian, and went to get some cloaths for them, and it just purchased five yards of brown linen at 18 pounds per yard, which made them a guinea each, and he could have purchased the same linen for about 28 shillings hard money; so that the debtor just paid his year's interest off at 28 shillings hard money, and hath robbed the orphans of £. 59 s. and the guardian hath not one farthing to pay for their board, education, and winter cloathing.

Pray, Sir, could not we have a tender law separate from an exchange law? Why are they both to be kept linked together? Is it because the old table of officers fees was linked with the old inspection law, and therefore let what abuses or mischiefs that would arise, they were never to be altered?

What a pity that the orphans money should be on the same footing as the 6 per centers; surely they might obtain justice, if it was not for those sad men the 6 per centers, who have not left the United States or this state any of their money to carry on the war.

A C R E D I T O R .

* The name 6 per center was printed out by a debtor in the year 1778, when he wanted to have had all the interest stopped, both public and private, but was prevented by a vote then taken for that purpose by the honorable the convention of this state.

L O N D O N, February 11.

A FLAG of truce is arrived at Bristol from Boston, freighted by some English privateers, who engaged their words for the security of the vessel and for their exchange. This vessel is found to be a prize taken by the Americans, and belonging to the port of Glasgow; her actual captain was commander of the privateer that took her. The merchants in Glasgow, being informed that this vessel had arrived in a British port, have demanded her restitution; pretending that, as the Americans had been declared rebels and pirates, the British, who have had vessels taken by them, have a right to take them again wherever they find them. Nevertheless this vessel has been received, by order of government, on the footing of a cartel; we are impatient to know how the ministry will extricate themselves out of this difficulty, which is occasioned by their having no fixed system relative to the American independency, tacitly acknowledging it

under certain aspects, whilst they will not bear of it in other cases. It is by this inconsistency that they have destroyed all the efforts which were taken in favour of England to prevent a war, which hereafter will prove the ruin of this nation.

March 7. Admiral Digby, on his passage home from Gibraltar, has taken a French 64 gun ship, with four East-India ships, and is arrived with them off the Lizard.

8. The Pallas privateer, of Liverpool, has taken and carried into that port the Le Anna, from Bourdeaux for St. Domingo, a rich ship. The Prother, a French 64 gun ship, and three transports bound to the Mauritius, are arrived at Spithead. The money on board, 140,000l. was to pay the troops. Another 64 gun ship was in company, but escaped in the night. The Nostra signior de Santillaine, captain St. Joseph Oveido, of 350 tons, with hemp, &c. is carried into Scilly.

9. Prince William Henry and admiral Digby arrived at the queen's palace yesterday. The St. Laurent La Bardeleur, a French privateer of 50 guns, is taken by admiral Digby, and sent into Plymouth.

B O S T O N, May 1.

To the gentlemen merchants and other persons in America, who remit bills of exchange to Europe.

Nautis, February 8, 1780.

GENTLEMEN, OF the many bills which have been sent from America to me, few whole sets have arrived, parts of them (firsts, seconds, thirds or fourths) having been thrown overboard or taken, of those which I have received, a great number have been only blank endorsed, which leaves them as much exposed to fraud as if they had been payable to the bearer. I have accordingly more than once found, on presenting a second bill for acceptance, that the first had been already paid, and on examining the bill so paid, I have seen my friend's name on the back; without a syllable by which I could discover the hands it had afterwards passed through. In one instance, I accidentally discovered that the bill paid had been in the possession of a captain of a British privateer, which clearly proves that our enemies consider bills of exchange blank endorsed as a good article of plunder.

In order to remedy this evil effectually, I with respect propose to you to make it an invariable rule fully to endorse all bills which pass through your hands, and to make them payable to the orders of the person to whom you remit them.

So far as this affects myself or my friends, it would only be necessary to write to my correspondence to put a stop to it; but as it is of a very extensive nature, and may occasion great loss to many individuals, I think it my duty thus publicly to caution all persons in America against it. I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, and most humble servant,

JONATHAN WILLIAMS.

Tuesday last arrived here, captain Brown, in 24 days from Guadaloupe, who brings advice that 5 sail of the line had gone from Martinico, to join 2 Spanish ships of equal rate at St. Domingo, from whence, it is said, they were going to Georgia.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, May 17.

Extracts of several letters from a gentleman of great information in Europe.

Feb. 15. Seventeen ships of the line have sailed for the West-Indies, under Monsieur Guichin; five or six more are to follow, in addition to ten or twelve already there. The English are to borrow twelve millions this year, and it is said the loan is filled up. They have thrown a sop to Ireland, but have not appeased her rage. They give out exactly such threats as they did last year, and every other year, of terrible preparations. It is perfectly well known how these menaces have been accomplished. They will not be more fully executed this year than the last.

19. The art of making and spreading false news, to answer political purposes, is not peculiar to Great-Britain; but yet she seems to pol-

fect this art, and the talent of giving to her fictions the colour of probability, beyond other nations; at least she seems to have more success in making her impostures believed, than any other. It is her annual practice in the winter to fabricate and export large quantities of this merchandise to all parts of Europe and America, and she finds more customers to take them off her hands than she ought, considering how illicit the traffic is. Her winter her emissaries have been more assiduous than ever in propagating reports, that they have entered into new engagements with several principalities in Germany, by which they shall hire 7000 men for the service of the next campaign in America; that by compromising with Ireland, they shall be able to take advantage even of the military allocations in that kingdom, and draw from thence a large number of regular troops for the service in America, depending on the volunteers, militia, or associators for the defence of the country; that they have made a treaty with Russia, whereby that power has engaged to furnish them 25 ships of the line and 20,000 troops, as some say, and 20 ships of the line and 12,000 troops according to others. This alliance, they say too, is of the more consequence on account of some connection between Russia and Denmark, who, it is insinuated, will follow Russia into the war; and Denmark they add has 45 ships of the line, not mentioning it is true, but England, they say, can man them.

Their tales, one would think, are so extravagant and absurd, that they would not find a believer in the world, yet there are persons who believe them in all nations of Europe; and there is no doubt the same song will be sung in America, and many will listen to it. There is nothing farther from the truth. They will find the utmost difficulty to draw from Germany troops enough to repair the breaches in the German troops made in America the last year. The same with regard to Ireland; and as to what is said of Russia, there is not even a colour of truth in it. There is no reason to think that Denmark is disposed to assist Great-Britain, but, on the contrary, that she has arms to defend herself at sea against Great-Britain; but if it were otherwise, to what purpose would her ships of the line be, unmanned, when Great-Britain cannot man the ships of the line she already has?

Admiral Rodney is supposed to be gone to the West-Indies. The English have derived such a flash of spirits from their late successes, which are mostly however of the negative kind, that they talk in a very high stile. Two reflections they cannot bear; one is, that of losing the domination of the colonies, because they look upon this domination as indispensable to the support of their naval superiority; the other is, that of leaving France and Spain, or either of them, in possession of a powerful fleet at the termination of the war. Their maxim is to make themselves terrible at sea to all nations, and they are convinced that if they leave America independent, and France and Spain powerful at sea, they will never again be terrible to any maritime power.

20. We are informed that the English ministry, not long since, made a formal application by their ambassador to the emperor of Russia, for a body of troops and a number of ships; but that the application was opposed in council with great spirit, and rejected with great unanimity. The harmony between Versailles and Peterburgh continues firm and perfect.

23. From the current of the gazettes, it is obvious to remark, of what wonderful efficacy in pulling down tyranny, a committee of correspondence, is likely to be; Ireland has done great things by means of it; England is attempting great things with it, after the example of the Americans, who first caught its use; yet all does not seem to produce the proper gratitude in the minds of the English towards their benefactors. However, the glory of the invention is certainly ours, as that of electrical rods, Hadley's quadrant, or inoculation for the small-pox.

By accounts from Charles-town as late as the 15th of April, we are informed that the British had attacked Charles-town by water, but were repulsed, and that the Kosbuck, being killed by six out of seven shot, was obliged to retire.