

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, JULY 14, 1780.

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ON some unfavorable changes in the course of our affairs, I have been led, for a moment, to reflect, what would be the face of things, should the enemy, at length prevail, and reaching the continent with frequent executions, overturn these states, so singular in their establishment and glorious in their rise: states erected with every hope, but made to sink beneath the stroke of a few revolving years. It would be painful to survey the ruins even of an old empire, whose end had been mature from the duration of its existence; but every source of sorrow would be opened at an immature exit of this nature; arches of a confederate empire just raised with so much skill and at infinite expense, and consumed before the first fires. The heart of man sickens at the thought, and Death himself would mourn, standing on the burnt pillars.

The constitutions of the several states had been formed by the hands of the wisest men; the respective governments had been put in motion; the noblest energy had succeeded. Like orbs of light, having revolved so small a portion of their course, they have passed away. The characters, the hopes, and the happiness of the citizens, have died with them. A universal wreck of the writings of genius, and the achievements of heroes, has been left behind. Honours have perished at their birth; names begun to live, are obliterated; so far a scene of things has disappeared, and memory only can call to mind that they have at all existed.

The spirit of the Gaul would dissolve at this catastrophe. That nation, as she had assisted in our elevation, would feel disgrace at our downfall. She has favoured us in our laying the foundations of the structure; in building and beautifying the edifice with every advantage, and with every ornament; she would be sensible of that affliction natural to all, who see the destruction of works, in which they themselves have had a great share.

The nations of the world not so nearly interested, would consider it as an unhappiness, that what was so gloriously begun had not been completed. They would survey this revolution which we have attempted, as the work of those, whose souls were capacious to conceive great things, but who had not the ability, or perseverance to accomplish.

Even the enemy (such is the force of the sublime and beautiful on the human mind) recollecting and contemplating what they had destroyed, would wish, in some softer moments of their thoughts, that the lofty fabric might have yet remained, to shew what had been produced in these latter ages, to surpass Greece and Rome; that the name of Washington, and the names of many great statesmen, might have lived, and been seen to blossom, like the ivy over a strong and venerable pile of buildings sanctified by their labours. Nor would it be wonderful that the enemy should feel this emotion. Satan, when he saw the ruin occasioned by the fall of Adam, the sun losing half his lustre, and nature withering in her earliest years, exclaimed, with a momentary language of compassion, "what a work have I destroyed."

If the overthrow of these states, would be to ourselves and the cause of grief to others, it be our study by vigilance and labour to preserve them. It is but one period of many, where men have an opportunity to make themselves illustrious. Some one scene of danger, some glorious circumstance of events, calls them into action and immortality. Myriads of them, in the mean time pass away, and are lost in obscurity; no honourable mention of them, no monuments on their tombs, no pen transmits their names to posterity.

The people of this country have it in their power to make themselves famous in the fairest part of reputation. They have lived in a day of glory; they have projected a noble work; it be their study to carry to perfection, what they have so well begun.

We have resources and native strength sufficient to purge off whatever scoria or dross may

have come upon our virtue. The present exertions of this city are an instance of it. If the same spirit shall kindle throughout the continent, we shall soon see our affairs established, and our land rising fruitful above the ravages of her destroyers; her destroyers shall return dismayed and confounded to their native island, whence they drew the spirit of tyranny and subjugation, which has impelled them to the war.

AN ANTI-ENGLISHMAN.

I have a reference particularly to the pleasing patriotism of the ladies, whose subscriptions for the relief of our army, as singular, as it is commendable, will yield a fragrance in the history of this revolution.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND. FRIENDS, and COUNTRYMEN!

A FREE people, from whom the trust and powers of government are delegated to a representative council, for the better management of the public interests, have a right to be informed at all times, but more especially in great emergencies, of the true situation of their affairs. Duty, therefore, as well as inclination, prompts us to lay before you the exigencies and the danger of this, in common with our sister states, to disclose our wants, our resources, and the means of calling them forth in support of the justest cause and noblest ends a people can contend for. The enemy, convinced by fatal experience, that force and artifice alone will never subdue the stubborn spirit of liberty, have long depended on the failure of our public credit to accomplish their views of conquest: the rapid depreciation of our paper currency, principally owing to the not imposing taxes in due time, and somewhat adequate to the public demands, and the abilities of the people to pay, had given foundation to the opinion, that these states, from the want of money to support the war, would at length give up the contest, and bend to the galling yoke of Britain. The event, however, we trust, will discover this opinion to be as vain and delusive, as many others entertained by our inveterate foe. The congress has recommended to the states a plan for calling in their bills of credit by taxes or otherwise, which has been adopted by this and several other of the states. Taxes equally laid, quickly collected, and faithfully applied, are necessary to give efficacy to the plan, and to restore, and when restored, to preserve public credit. Experience has taught us the necessity of taxation: a free people, seeing that necessity, and the importance of victory, on which their liberty depends, needs no exhortation to submit, even with cheerfulness, to the heaviest taxes; reflect, that these will be but temporary, and the benefits resulting from them most extensive and permanent; if adequate, and timely exertions are made, the war probably may be speedily ended, and will not leave us incumbered with a load of debt, under which the present and future generations must otherwise inevitably labour: by timely and due exertions we shall avoid the evils inseparable from a great national debt. The taxes hitherto imposed cannot be complained of as very burthenome: our present debt, when compared with our probable resources in peace, is far from being alarming; a lingering war, however, besides consuming our inhabitants, wasting our resources, accumulating expense, will subject our country to the cruel and wanton devastations of an enemy, who never yet used even transient victories with moderation; what strong incentives to the most vigorous and spirited efforts are deducible from these reflections! Rise then into action with that ardor, which despising overcomes all difficulties, and which set you, destitute of money, of allies, of arms, and soldiers, to encounter one of the most powerful nations in Europe. Single, and unsupported, raw and undisciplined, you baffled for three successive years the repeated attacks of numerous and veteran bands. Shall we now, when strengthened by a mighty alliance, droop, and desert the field, to which honour, the strongest ties, the dearest interests of humanity, point, to which victory itself invites us? A warlike, potent, and magnanimous nation, has espoused our cause with all that warmth of

friendship, and is determined to yield us powerful aid: a respectable land and naval force may be daily expected on our coast from France, ready to act under the orders of our patriotic general. How disgraceful would it be to this state, were it any ways necessary in laying that great, and good man, under the humiliating necessity of avowing to our allies an inability to undertake any enterprise of consequence against the common enemy, particularly, if that weakness should proceed not from the real liberty of this, and the other states, but from the supineness, the avarice, or want of spirit in their people! We have hitherto done our duty; the general has acknowledged our exertions, and we entreat you, by all that is dear to freemen, not to forfeit the reputation you have so justly acquired, let us set an example of fortitude, perseverance, and disinterestedness; these virtues form the character of true republicans; beware, lest an inordinate love of riches should mark too strongly ours; remember, that you entered upon this war, not through choice, but necessity, not to acquire wealth, or power, but to preserve liberty, and property; remember, that your cause is righteous, that you had not recourse to arms, until the bayonet uplited to your breasts, a discretionary surrender of all that is valuable to man, was demanded with menaces of hostile force, and with all the intolence of conscious power; remember too, that you have pledged to each other your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honour, in defence of those rights, without the enjoyment of which, life is but misery, and government a curse.

The general has called upon us to complete our battalions, and for a reinforcement of 2205 militia to join him with al expedition. Considering the approach of harvest, and attentive to your ease and convenience, we have offered to raise an additional battalion; in lieu of the militia, and we have the satisfaction to inform you, that the general has approved the offer, on condition that this battalion be ready at the place of rendezvous by the last of this month at earliest. By the law printed for your information and with which we treat your ready compliance, you will perceive that we have held out the most liberal encouragement for recruits, upon principles of equality and justice. If from negligence, indifference, or the dread of danger and fatigue, motives too degrading to be imputed to freemen, or from any other cause, this battalion should not be raised in time, we have directed the militia to be called out in classes, to supply the place of regular troops; your duty, your interest, and no doubt your inclination, will impel you to second the views of your representatives; without your co-operation in vain may we make laws, or concert plans for the general cause; these must remain as dead letters, unless inspired by your zeal and activity. We have the honour to represent men, who, sensible of the blessings of liberty, must know, that the continuance of them rests altogether on the successful issue of this war. You feel not, indeed, at present, those distresses, which our brethren, whose country is the immediate scene of action, are exposed to; their calamities, therefore, possibly may make a slighter impression on your minds. Contemplate, we beseech you, the ravages committed by the British forces on the plains of Jersey: behold the dwellings of the poor and rich in flames, or reduced to ashes; the fruits of a long and laborious industry swept instantly away as by a torrent; view the helpless infant, the aged parent, the tender virgin, victims to the savage fury, and unbridled lusts of an insolent soldiery; view these scenes of horror and dismay; rouse, and revenge these wrongs, for these we too in our turn shall feel, if we refuse our aid to drive these spoilers and invaders from our land; emulate the conduct of the brave militia of our sister states; the proofs of courage and patriotism, which they have exhibited, you cannot but applaud; and therefore must wish to imitate, and if possible, surpass.

The prize we are contending for is inestimable; the blood of those heroes, who has been shed in this just and glorious cause, the invaluable ties of plighted faith, the necessity of conquering, gratitude to our illustrious general and