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For the MARYLAND GAZETTE. NUMBER XI.

WHEN we reckon up the encrease of inhabitants and improved skill in carrying on war, and established order in the several governments, and more settled commerce of the continent, it cannot be a doubt that America has now more strength and ability, to resist the enemy, than she had some time ago; why then do we call the present an alarming crisis? It is because we have lost the means to bring that strength into action.

As long as our money filled the public treasuries, it represented the wealth, and could command the force of the States. Its depreciation was in many cases, an immediate injury to individuals, and by weakening the springs of industry, and corrupting the morals of the people, was equally an injury to the public. Nevertheless it was still money, and existed the medium of commerce, and the nerves of war.

Now that our treasuries are exhausted, and our presses can no more supply them, it remains that we collect money from the people, or that without money we bring the force of the public to exert itself. This last, in the present state of society, and mode of carrying on war, is impossible. Every man cannot serve in person, or supply himself with clothing and provisions, or the means of transporting these. Should one part of the community remain at home, while another serves abroad, the part remaining, could not make its specific contributions of food, clothing, &c. nor divide its property, so as to answer the demands of those who serve, without such manifest inconvenience, as would amount to an impossibility.

Taxation then, or the collecting money from the people by some means, is the only expedient within our power, by which we can supply our treasuries and carry on the war. Taxation must be attempted with vigour and with perseverance, and the public must submit to taxation, let the pressure upon individuals be what it may. It is the only certain expedient of our safety.

I am weary of harangues addressed to the people, calling forth the exertions of private virtue. The people have as much virtue as any people ever had, but it is immaterial whether they have it or not, unless it can be properly organized and brought into action. What avails that there are mechanical powers in nature, the lever, the screw, the wheel and axis, the inclined plane, &c. if these are not constructed to produce a noble operation. These powers exist in nature, but there must be an Archimedes to contrivise them, and to cause them to cast javelins and to toss the galleys of the enemy.

Let the congress, let the assemblies of the several States be this Archimedes; let them press the public readily and unremittedly for the supplies of war. Let the public shew their virtue in submitting to this severe regimen. This is better than to be persuaded that the being awakened, or enraged, or enrouzed at this loss or the other is at all to the purpose unless it shall diffuse us to do those things which alone we can do which are necessary for our liberation.

It has become fashionable to speak against the man who has the management of our affairs; but there is equal danger from an incompletion of the people, as from a deficiency of wisdom in the public bodies; not that the people will be unwilling to act; but that they will be reluctant to submit. I have no objections to every expedient which the wit of man can suggest to ease the people of their burthens, and by growing money, or other means, to throw the expenses, in some part, forward to a distant period. But I use the language of Epictetus, when I say, there are some things in our power and some things not in our power, and our true happiness will be found in those things which depend upon ourselves. We cannot certainly obtain a loan, but we can certainly raise money by collecting it amongst the people, for whose use it is to be applied.

A resolution to adopt the measure of taxation; however to carry it into execution when adopted, has been the point in which we have hitherto failed. Until this is believed by public bodies

and felt by the people, we can have little expectation of such stability to our affairs as will discourage the campaigns of our enemies and dispose them to a peace.

AN ANTI-ANGELICAN.

From a lady in Philadelphia to her friend in this place.

LETTER II.

Philadelphia, July 6, 1780.

MADAM, OUR circuits through the different districts of the city of Philadelphia are now entirely finished; I will not enter into a new detail of what has been done; it will suffice to inform you, that we have been witnesses of scenes of patriotism extremely affecting, and capable of inflaming the coldest minds with love of the public good; I have learned more than ever to respect my countrywomen, and there is no title in which I shall hereafter more glory than in that of an American woman.

It is with great pleasure we understand, that this our patriotic scheme is highly esteemed by the whole army, and that the American soldiery find the pure motives of love of liberty and their country, heightened and animated by gratitude towards the American women.

Our first intention was, that these contributions should be paid in to Mrs. Washington, to be disposed of in such manner as she should think most grateful and beneficial to the soldiery; but her departure from head quarters has induced us to submit the disposal of this money to the determination of his excellency the general. Some persons had desired that we would point out the manner in which this capital ought to be applied, and many proposals have been made to this purpose; we have answered, that it would be impossible in so great an extent as that of the Thirteen United States, to agree upon a uniform plan; that we knew nothing of affairs of state; and that we were certain that the proposition to remit, without any exception, the management of this capital to the general, could not but be universally approved, that there was not one amongst us, who could determine equally well with him, what was proper to be done.

I will now, Madam, give you some account of what has been done, since our collections in the city have been finished; we knew that the counties waited only for a hint to begin the subscription, and that many had already engaged to undertake it; it was agreed upon by us, to write a circular letter, to all the ladies of our acquaintance in the different towns and counties, and we have it in charge to keep up the correspondence until the whole subscription shall be completed. To avoid confusion, each lady, who has it in charge to write to her acquaintance in one of the counties, confines her correspondence to that county; she makes an entry in her books of all the sums collected or subscribed, together with the names of the contributors, unless any person should object to having her name recorded, in which case, the sum only is mentioned, under the title of cash. This business has required care and application, and some persons have amused themselves with the importance which we have given it.

I confess we have made it a serious business, and with great reason; an object interesting was certainly worthy an extraordinary attention; we have consecrated every moment: we could spare from our domestic concerns to this public good; we have supported, with pleasure, the fatigues and inconveniences, inseparable from such a task, flattering ourselves with this pleasing reflection, that whilst our friends were exposed to the hardships and dangers of the field of war for our protection, we were exerting at home our little labours, to administer to them comfort and alleviate their toil.

Excuse, Madam, the length of my letter; the subject is a very interesting one to me, and I doubt not equally so to you.

I am, Dear madam, Your ever affectionate friend.

P. S. I am just now informed, that the towns of Reading, Gettysburg, and Bristol, have

begun and finished their subscriptions; the same spirit seems to animate every female breast, and the love of the public good diffuses itself every where. If we yet have some secret and internal enemies, their exertions must prove ineffectual, and they will find it vain to oppose a people to universally inflamed with the love of that liberty for which they are so nobly contending.

BOSTON, July 3.

Yesterday returned into port, after a short cruise, the privateer ship Tracey, captain Hopkins, and brought in with him a ship laden with about 4000 firkins of butter, beef, pork, and some dry goods. She mounted 16 guns, and had 56 men, 7 of which the Tracey killed the first broadside, besides 14 wounded; she was bound from Ireland for New-York, and sailed with the West-India convoy, consisting of about 150 sail, and has had 12 weeks passage; the Tracey had two wounded—Besides the above, the Tracey has captured a brig and a sloop, which may be hourly looked for.

The honourable Elbridge Gerry, Esq; arrived here last Tuesday evening, from Philadelphia. This gentleman's public character, and public services on every occasion, when called out by the exigencies of his country, particularly as a member of congress, entitle him to all the marks of esteem and respect shewn on his return to this State.

Translation of a letter from Mons. de la Touche, commander of His Most Christian Majesty's frigate, the Hermoine, to captain Hawker, of the British frigate, the Iris.

On board the French frigate, l'Hermoine, June 22.

S I R, I read, both with surprise and indignation, the account of the action which took place between us the 7th inst. published in the New-York paper of the 10th. I cannot imagine that a commander of his British majesty's frigate is so lost to the dignity of his own character, and so destitute of truth (the foundation of all military virtue) as to have recourse to the vilest impotence to persuade the world he had an advantage over an enemy, which he himself knows he never gained. I flatter myself that Rivington the printer has, on this occasion, indulged his natural propensity of perverting facts and publishing falsehood instead of truth; should this be the case, the assertion deserves only contempt; but I expect, from your justice, and from your honour, a contradiction of so false an account as that of my pretended flight, and the appearance of an American frigate at the end of the combat, otherwise you must be considered as the author.

In the account I have transmitted to my court of this engagement, I did justice to the manner in which you met me; I confess it was in such a way as merits my esteem, and I should be exceedingly sorry to be obliged to change my opinion, which I must do, if you do not render me that justice which is my due.

I intended to attack you, Sir, from the first moment I discovered you, and bore down on you for that purpose; you appeared to me to possess the same sentiments, as you met me half way. Your conduct, both before and during the action, was that of a man worthy of the command with which you are entrusted; but you impose on the world if you assert that I fled from you; and you have very little knowledge of me, if you imagine that I should ever be branded with the shame of flying from an enemy of equal force; your shot having damaged my rigging as much as I am convinced the ball of your ship suffered from my fire, it was out of my power to gain the windward to renew the action; you could bear down on me for that purpose whenever you pleased, as your sails and rigging were in a situation vastly superior to mine. When I perceived you haul'd your wind, I attributed your retreat to the number of men you had lost; of which I am persuaded by the success of your fire towards the action, that you know my opinion; I leave you to judge how much I was surpris'd to read in the New-York paper, that you lost only 7 men killed and 9 wounded. I do not follow your example, Sir; I confess to have had 10 men killed and 37 wounded; two of my officers, with myself, are