

[XXXVth Year.]

T. H. B.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1781.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

Libertas, et anima vestra in dubio est. Sall. Our lives and liberties are at stake. WHEN the republic is in danger, it is the right and duty of every citizen to offer his advice; I therefore solicit your attention to the following observations, suggested by my regard for your welfare, and the present very critical situation of public affairs. You were among the first to discover, and to resist the insidious designs of the British king and his ministers; you did not content yourselves with the duty on stamp paper, and tea, as oppressive; but the principle admitted, you could have no property. The contest and war with Great-Britain commenced from a well grounded belief, that if you admitted, the right in the British parliament to tax you one farthing, without your consent, the exercise would soon be extended to your oppression and ruin, and reduce you to a state of poverty and vassalage. Arbitrary taxation plunder under the form and sanction of law. Experience shewed, that the most ruinous and fatal consequences might, and probably would flow from your acceding to the claim, in the most trivial matter, and but for a moment. The right usurped, and claimed by the British parliament, to take your money, without your consent, was inconsistent with the essential laws of nature, subversive of the first and inherent rights of humanity, and contrary to the constitution of Great Britain, the principle of which (and of every free government) is this, that no man shall be bound by any law to which he does not give his consent. It is the very essence of liberty to be governed by laws made with the consent of the people; and it is the essence of slavery to be governed by the will of another. This principle would have excluded the power of the British parliament to regulate the trade of America, and therefore the first congress, contented to the operation of laws, bona fide made, for the regulating our external commerce, excluding every idea of taxation; which was all free people could admit, and all a wise, or just nation would require. The unlimited claim by the parliament of Great-Britain, to tax you, against your will, was a sufficient cause, in the sight of God and man, to justify your resistance, in any manner; and their further claim to make laws to bind you in all cases, was at once to require a right to reduce you to the most perfect state of slavery, that the human mind can conceive; and evinced a fixed deliberate design, in the king, lords and commons of Great-Britain, to exterminate the liberties of America. The history of the world cannot produce an instance of a more absurd, or wicked design, than that of one people over another; this impious use of power is treason against the rights of mankind, and the claim of omnipotence by the British parliament may, with propriety, be called blasphemy against our great Creator, who alone, in his unerring wisdom and justice, can have a right of exercising an absolute authority over any part of the human race. The ministry of Great-Britain, abandoned as they were, disavowed any intention of exercising this preposterous claim, and rejected the design of imposing any taxes on America; but the right in parliament to impose them, and its supremacy in all cases, must be admitted, as a cause in every government there must be a supreme, universal legislative power, and only one; and government includes the right to impose taxes, for its support and defence. To force us to acknowledge this right (which she declared she never intended to exercise), Great-Britain commenced a present unjust war, and by fire and sword, and every species of savage barbarity, attempted to compel our submission. Several of our countrymen urged and practised every art, to induce you to acquiesce to the claim (as it would never be carried into execution, and would remain a dead letter) which involved a power to abridge, or destroy your civil and religious rights; and though, after your concession, you would hold your property, lives, and lives, solely at the will of an inexorable tyrant, and his profligate ministry, and corrupt parliament. Your sense and virtue revolted at the thought, and with manly dignity you asserted your rights, and readily joined your brethren in the other states, and determined to defend your property and liberties by arms. Your conventions were the first to resolve on war, if your humble applications for peace, liberty and safety failed; and from any oppression actually experienced, but

from a rational belief that it would certainly follow the power claimed; because power naturally swells into tyranny and oppression. The dangers and miseries ever attendant on war, and peculiar to a civil one, were foreseen, and without a government, without arms, or money, and without military skill, relying on the goodness of your cause, the favour of Providence, and your own virtue and public spirit, you determined to brave every danger, and run every risque. The prize was liberty, and no hazard could be too great to obtain it; the pulse of freedom beat high, and virtue and patriotism glowed in every bosom. The first and real object of the British king and his ministers was, to force the Americans to resistance, that under the pretence of rebellion, their property might be forfeited; and the spoils, derived from confiscation, divided among the rapacious minions of the court. Some few of the virtuous part of the nation reprobated the folly and iniquity of waging war against a, merely to compel us to acknowledge the supremacy of parliament; and lord North, borne down with the glaring absurdity of such conduct, in 1776, flung off the masque; and to induce the landed interest of the nation to contribute to the support of the war, avowed, "that the object of it was to draw a substantial revenue from America." Before this, many of the nobility had declared, "that it was the indispensable duty of parliament to tax America, to enable the gentry and people of Great Britain." From the time of this declaration by the minister, the object of the war was changed; the British nation supported the ministry with the wicked hopes of imposing their burthens on us; and the king, and his ministers, influenced by avarice and the hope of plunder, resolved to force us to a declaration of independency, and flattered themselves with the conquest of America; because, on such event, by the right of conquest, you would be subject to such government and laws as the conqueror might please to impose; and all your property would be subject to his disposal. The revenge, avarice, and ambition, of the British tyrant, could not be so fully gratified by your submission as rebels, as by the conquest of your country. For two years the war was prosecuted with this view, and to glut the bloody revenge of the pious monarch of Britain with the slaughter of your leaders, and to gorge his avarice with the confiscation of the property of all the wealthy men in America. On the alliance with France, the British tyrant was compelled to relinquish his hopes of conquest, and to content himself with the brutal revenge of endeavouring to delude and lay waste a country he could not subdue to his despotic sway. I have thus briefly traced the original cause of the war, that you may review your conduct; and I have an entire confidence, that you would pursue the same measures, if time could be recalled; and you were again at liberty to make your election. You must long since have remarked, that Great-Britain, in the prosecution of the war, has afforded irrefragable proofs, that every thing suggested or feared from her claim of unbounded superiority, was well founded; and that she has discovered a national pride and insolence, and love of dominion; and a brutality unknown to any other nation in Europe: she has denounced, and executed the extremities of war, which humanity disclaims, and religion forbids. She has treated the Americans as robbers or pirates, who had forfeited all the rights of mankind. She has wantonly destroyed our houses and towns, and the sacred edifices of religion; she has waged war with the arts and sciences, and against aged helpless men, and more helpless women and children; she has decreed our unhappy prisoners to miserable deaths in gaols and prison ships; she has violated the faith of capitulations; she has disregarded the rights of humanity, and instead of alleviating, practised a new mode to increase the miseries of war, by compelling her captives to bear arms against their country, their nearest relatives, and dearest friends; and she has falsely and ungenerously imputed our moderation and lenity, and reluctance to retaliate, to base cowardice and unmanly fear. AN AMERICAN.

port prevailed, and was very generally believed, that an action had lately happened between the French and British fleets in the West Indies, in which, it was said, the latter lost seven ships, &c. By accounts from the eastward we learn, that an advanced party of our troops on Tuesday morning last attacked Delancy's corps near Kingsbridge, by which both suffered much; but no particulars of this matter are yet received. Friday last arrived at Chester, a flag from Charles-town, with a number of the virtuous citizens of South-Carolina, who had been so unfortunate as to fall into the enemy's hands at the surrender of that place. It is with singular satisfaction we inform the public, that the above flag is one of six, appointed to bring to their friends in this quarter, some of the very distressed, but firm friends of the United States, who have sustained, with the greatest patience and perseverance, the hardships of a rigorous confinement on board British prison ships in Charles-town harbour; a cartel having been established at that place for the exchange of all prisoners (whether regulars or militia) to the 15th of June, ult. Near 900 regular American officers and soldiers were also embarked at Charles-town, to be landed at James-town, Virginia, having been exchanged by virtue of the cartel above mentioned. Notwithstanding no official account of the surrender of the important post of Augusta, in Georgia, has been received by public authority, we can assure our readers, that that gallant and enterprising officer, lieutenant-colonel Lee, with a detachment of the southern army, has reduced colonel Brown (who commanded it) to surrender at discretion: whereby near 800 prisoners had fallen into our hands, together with a variety of stores, such as a large number of blanket-buckets, tom-hawks, &c. to the amount of near 2000 of each article. His we have from authority we cannot doubt; and is confirmed by corresponding accounts through different channels. Much has been said by our enemies, of a very capital reinforcement being arrived about the beginning of last month, at Charles-town, said to consist of 4000 men. By persons who saw the troops enter the town, we are assured, that no more than 1500 effectives landed: lord Rawden immediately marched those into the country for the relief of Ninety-Six, and persons who went with them, some little distance, say, they were in exceeding bad order, many of them suffering a little distance from the town, others stopping by a relation of swelled legs, &c. and a party of them were attacked by some of the brave yeomanry of South-Carolina, a few were killed, and near one hundred taken prisoners. ANNAPOLIS, July 19. We are informed that general Greene was completing the reduction of all the enemy's posts in South-Carolina and Georgia, except Charles-town and Savannah, when the enemy received a reinforcement at Charles-town of about 2000 men, which enabled them to raise the siege of Ninety-Six; that he was within four days of reducing that post, when lord Rawden arrived and obliged him to retire. He had attracted two of the enemy's outposts, one of which he carried; his loss between 40 and 50 men; that he retired on the 19th, when the enemy were within a few miles of Ninety-Six; that general Greene was rather intending opposition than a retreat. Extract of a letter from an officer with the marquis de la Fayette. "The late Continental assembly of Maryland, to raise a body of horse, is one of the wisest measures which could have been adopted. It remains to prosecute its execution with vigour. Under our present circumstances, they are the most favorable army we can raise; the enemy, sensible of this, have turned all their attention to it in South-Carolina and, from their superior means, must exceed us in cavalry." At a meeting of the citizens of Annapolis on Wednesday July 16, 1781, The Meeting appointed CHARLES WALLACE, Esq; chairman, and Mr. GEORGE RAKEN clerk, And took into consideration the late law of the general assembly, for the emission of two hundred thousand pounds, to deny the expences of the present campaign; and the subscription and association recommended by the legislature, to support the credit and value of the said emission; and thereupon came to the following resolutions, to wit:

PHILADELPHIA, July 10. Sunday morning a vessel arrived here from St. Croix, at which place (when the last it) a conqueror in a just war acquires a right to the property of those who oppose him, but not to the property of their posterity.