

[XXXVIIth Year.]

THE

[No. 1807.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1781.

To SAMUEL CHASE, Esquire.

[Concluded from our last.]
HERE I would close this address, but as I am glanced at in other parts of your publications, I cannot permit them to pass wholly unnoticed and uncensured.

You assert "the confiscation has taken place on the very principles contended for its justification." Be it so; the assertion however although true, does not contain the whole truth; for surely the withholding our bank stock (C), and the confiscation of the estates of several citizens of South-Carolina, altered the case, and rendered the measure necessary and just on the principle of retaliation, which before was only justifiable on the severest construction of the most rigid principles of the law of nature, and nations (D). When the first bill for the confiscation of British property was sent to the senate, a majority of that house was not convinced of its justice, and few, if any, at that time deemed it necessary. The senate requested that the consideration of the bill might be put off to another session, as the season of the year was far advanced, and the business very thin. The eagerness with which the bill was promoted by the delegates, the pretended inability to pay taxes so speciously enforced in their messages, the hastiness of the proposed sale of part of the property proposed to be confiscated in order to raise 5,220,000 dollars, and probably the knowledge of what had happened in a neighbouring state (E), induced a majority of the senate to be of opinion, that this property, if confiscated, would sell greatly under value, and lead some to suspect (I answer for one at least) that a job was intended, and that some individuals might raise great fortunes to themselves, at the expense of the public. It will not be controverted, that the state, far from suffering by the confiscation not taking place, when first proposed, will be a great gainer by the delay; indeed, if the necessities of the public did not render an immediate sale necessary, it would be good economy to defer the sale, or postpone it altogether till after peace.

A word or two, Sir, if you please, on the convention money, for the calling in of which you are to roughly handled both branches of the legislature. I do not mean to go into a justification of the resolves of congress of the 18th of March, for taking out of circulation the continental bills of credit, although I think those resolves may be vindicated from the aspersions cast upon them by interested men, or the partizans of our enemy. It is

(C) Extract from lord North's speech, translated from the Courier de l'Europe of the 19th March, 1781. "I declare openly and publicly believe, that every individual interested in our funds, whether Frenchman, Spaniard, Hollander, or rebel, is invariably preserved in the full possession of his property. I have named even rebels, and I can prove, that the fact has preceded the rebellion. When the rebellion broke out in America, the king of Maryland and Rhode-Island had pretty considerable sums in our funds; certainly, if a breach of national faith was ever justifiable, it would be in a case of this nature; it has not been violated; the rebel property has been regarded as sacred as that of our most intimate friends."

(D) Surely you must be ignorant then of the collector-general's opinion, by which the trustees of the Bank stock belonging to the people of Maryland were induced to protest the bills of exchange drawn on them by the governor and council, or by the treasurer of this state under their authority.

(E) It is also to be observed, that the confiscation, first proposed by the delegates, was general, and extended as well to the property of refugees, as to that of their property deemed British subjects. The two branches of the legislature differed on this point; for by their laws the refugees were considered as subjects of the state, and permitted to return to it, within a limited time, and under certain conditions: by a law of the last session but one they were not to be considered as British subjects till after the first day of next March, since they might return to this state at any time before that day; and a law of the very last session secured to them the value of their estates, to be repaid to the public, if sold, provided they return by the time appointed, and are not found guilty of any of the crimes mentioned in the law, within the meaning of that law.

The property in Pennsylvania of persons formerly enslaved or on conviction of treason, sold beneath its value, and the money continuing to circulate, the slave got next to nothing by the sales, and the purchasers made very profitable bargains.

sufficient, for my present purpose, to assume as a fact, that the bills of credit issued by the convention, circulated at the same value with the bills of congress. Now, if it was right to adopt the resolves of congress with respect to their money, what reason was there for making a distinction between two currencies of equal value. Had a distinction been made, it would have opened a new field for speculation, and the incautious would have been taken in: even an expectation of such a distinction gave rise to a speculation of this nature, if credit is to be paid to the affidavits produced and read in the house of delegates. However, if the calling out of circulation the convention money, at the rate of one for forty, was wrong, although exactly at par with the continental currency, were you blameless in moving to include in the law the bills of credit emitted under the old government? These bills did not circulate and consequently did not increase or depreciate the money in circulation, and had been bottomed on a fund amply sufficient for their redemption. But having succeeded in destroying the fund, you acted consistently enough in attempting to draw in the bills of credit issued thereon; perhaps you had some expectation, that the holders of the bills would bring them into the treasury, in conformity to the law, and some fears too, that if not brought in, they might hereafter rise up in judgment against the bondsmen, and produce a renewal of cancelled loan-office bonds, an operation, which, I suspect, would not be very well relished by persons in your predicament. Here it may not be improper to observe, that you have ascribed, in one of your Censors, the depreciation of the continental bills of credit to the resolves of the 18th of March above mentioned, though in truth, the rapid depreciation of those bills occasioned the resolves. Amongst the variety of causes, assignable for that depreciation, the one, you mention, has no place; for every cause must precede its effect: but the depreciation preceded the resolves. It is foreign to my purpose to point out the causes; their effects were but too sensibly felt in every department, and in all public and private dealings. The resolves of congress were passed to remedy these inconveniences, by drawing out of circulation a paper currency, which administering constant opportunities of fraud, answered not, but perverted the purposes of money. Indeed, these paper circulations have of late years been so much abused, that nothing but the most evident necessity can justify any further emissions, or the continuance in circulation of the present. Among the many blessings to be expected from peace, one of the greatest will be the means it will administer to the several states of getting rid of their paper currencies, and introducing in their stead gold and silver, which not being subject to such fluctuations and uncertainty, are not so liable to be abused, to the great detriment of most, and to the utter ruin of many citizens.

You censure the majority of the senate for not repealing the law excluding traders from congress, and impute their conduct to their hatred of an individual. Is it not astonishing that you, who complain so bitterly of having unworthy motives ascribed to your conduct, although circumstances strongly justify the imputation, should impute to others to mean a motive, as their hatred of you? No senator, I am confident, was influenced in voting, by such a principle. I hope, I shall be credited by those, who know me best, when I assert, that I did not give my negative to that bill through hatred to you, (for you really are not an object of my resentment) but because I apprehended a possibility of your being elected a delegate to congress, in which station, I feared, you might injure the public. Merchants are useful members of the community, and as such ought to be countenanced and encouraged by the legislature; but the spirit of the times and circumstances, may justify a temporary exclusion of that order of men from the public councils. If all merchants were men of known probity, and tried integrity, the exclusion would be improper; however as past occurrences have discovered that all are not to be trusted, it is prudent to exclude the latter, which cannot be done, but by a general law; for certainly in times, when an insatiable thirst of accumulating wealth, and of rising into opulence instantaneously, and not by the gradual progress of an unremitting industry, has taken place of a sober and well regulated spirit of trade, when occasions present themselves of making thousands by one bold, though publicly injurious stroke of speculation, mercantile men can more readily turn such occasions to their own emolument, than

others not engaged in trade. Thus the facility, and strong inducement of abusing the trust, are with me arguments for not administering the opportunity, and consequently, for a temporary exclusion of merchants from the great representative council of North-America.

This address you may, Sir, as usual impute to anger, or hatred; it flows from neither of those passions, but from a desire to vindicate my own character from the false, bad, and illiberal motives you have attributed to my public conduct. If I have not paid you, as many compliments, as you have paid yourself in the last Censor, consider, that I have not viewed your character through the medium of your self-love, and that I have learnt from reading, reflexion, and some experience of the ways of men, to distinguish between declamation, and argument, confident assertions, and proofs, and the pretences to, and the effects of genuine patriotism (F).

CH. CARROLL, of CARROLLTON. July 16, 1781.

(F) As Mr. Holt's letter to Mr. Chase, referred to in the preceding part of this address to that gentleman, may not be known but to very few persons in this state, I have republished the whole of it.

"The foregoing letter (Mr. Chase's to Mr. Holt) was received the 13th instant, while I was absent on a journey to New-England, otherwise I should sooner have given it a place in my paper. For the author (and every other person on a similar occasion) may be assured of my hearty disposition to give him all the opportunity, he could wish, to vindicate himself from any charge, exhibited against him, in my paper. I cannot however at present, agree with Mr. Chase in opinion, that the name of the author of the pieces signed Publius, is at all necessary to his vindication, which may be as well effected without, as with it. The charge is plainly expressed, and if Mr. Chase proves it to be groundless, and unjust, his character will be perfectly cleared without his being acquainted with the name of his accuser. But if it should hereafter appear, that he has been injured, or could derive any just advantage from that knowledge, I assure him, I have not the least inclination to the concealment. At present however, I hold myself obliged to it, by the duties of the business I profess, for if the names of writers, without their consent, should be given, without any apparent necessity, or good reason, it would be a great restraint upon the freedom of the press, and prevent many important public advantages of it. Mean while, I beg leave to assure Mr. Chase, that if I could have had the least suspicion, that the pieces signed Publius were malicious, or untrue, I would not have inserted them for any person on earth; but the character of the writer, set him above suspicion of any design, but the public good. Hence Mr. Chase will see, that I am not at present sensible, that Publius has injured him—nor on that account think myself obliged to give up that author's name; but my regard to impartial justice, is a sufficient inducement to my ready compliance with Mr. Chase's desire, in his other alternative, the publication of the foregoing letter to me (G). I am his and the public's humble servant, The PRINTER."

(G) "If a sense of justice to the man (says Mr. Chase in his letter to Mr. Holt) whose reputation you have been instrumental to injure, will not induce you to disclose the writer, I request you to publish this letter, and I pledge my veracity and honour to the public, that every fact alleged by the author as criminal, or exceptionable in me, is either wholly false, or grossly mistaken; and I undertake (if he will give his name) to prove him a slanderer and a calumniator."

If Mr. Chase had proved to the satisfaction of the public, "that every fact alleged by Publius against him as criminal, or exceptionable, was either wholly false, or grossly misrepresented," would it not have followed as a consequence, that Publius had slandered and calumniated his character? But surely the real name of that author was no more connected with the facts, on which Mr. Chase would have grounded his defence, and rested his reputation, than the fictitious name of Publius: the knowledge then of the person, who wrote the pieces signed Publius, was not necessary to Mr. Chase's vindication. If Mr. Chase sought a reparation for the injury done to his character, after he had evinced that it had been undeservedly injured, he might have sued Mr. Holt for a libel, if that printer had then refused to give up the author. Mr. Holt has indeed informed the public, that he would not in that case any longer conceal from Mr. Chase the author's name. "If (says he) it should hereafter appear that he (Mr. Chase) has been injured, or could derive any just advantage from that knowledge, I assure him, I have not the least interest in, or inclination to the concealment."

an American party came down to... 6 miles from Charles-town... took several dragoons... with a number of officers... on a frolic, to governor... of the enemy's works; that... very ill at Charles-town that... of, and that general Gold had the... days ago fell in with the Carysford... of which was gen. Leslie, bound... for Charles-town, supposed to... d there.

GAZETTE. 23, 1781.

Colquhin, wounded. Robinsin killed; capt. foot; ensign Isbot killed; ebler (since dead), lieutenant, ensigns Kelly, Gera, and Fox, wounded. 7th; en- Regiment of Bose; captains, Eightenbrood, lieutenant Gaise, ensign d'I rot (since... lieutenant colo-

DESPARD, dep. adj. gen. plantation of Robert Where- george's county, taken up as iron gray horse, 13 hand- ed gallops, and is about 12 or d brand on the near buttock dly made out. The owner p proving his property and

ation and sale of forfeited polis, July 5, 1781. UCTION, on Saturday of August next, onal estate, late the property y of Daniel, in the city of the following lots appear: 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 64, 27, ed out. On one of the lots a and finely situated dwelling. Taker formerly lived, with ongt the personal property res, consisting of men, wo- he money to be paid down, chaeters; if not, they may y, to pay one third of the of September 1782, another ptember 1783, and the re- of September, 1784, with r, or the new bills of credit- ce of an act of the last ses- at the time of payment.

JO. BAXTER, c.k. Samuel Moits, on the 12th of Keely's point, near the steau, about 16 feet long, 5 has a ring-bolt in her head, r ears. The owner may ng property and paying w 3

claims agant the estate of n of George, are desired to roved; and those ho are e requested to discharge the

JAM WELSH, admrs. HAMS, sen.

Annapolis, June 18, 1781. his city for taking subscription AL BANK, FOR THE UNITE CA, is now opened at the loat THOMAS HANWOOD, CHARLES WAL... the supplement.]

Charles-Street.