

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, O C T O B E R 25, 1781.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Gaudia magna nunciis.

THE man who, in the shade of public or private misfortune, discovers a disposition, callous to the stings of adversity, or deaf to the softer duties of sorrow, is equally an enemy to the enjoyment of happiness, with him who is insensible to the smiles of prosperity: both are enemies to sympathy, the parent of every social affection, and neither deserve the favours of fortune; because (if blind to her favours) he cannot taste with delicacy her excellencies. In public danger, to despond shows a limited exertion of soul, which, fatal to that confidence of action that extricates the bold adventurous from the wiles of difficulty: but not to rejoice in public felicity, is an apostacy to fortune, equally reprehensible: to withhold or refuse congratulations to the republic, when she rejoices, indicates a want of sympathy in her members; with her vicissitudes, that declares no very great share of interestedness in her concerns. No well affected citizen can withhold his voice from the general congratulations for which the present glorious prospect of our military affairs gives sufficient ground; and should the impulses of a warm heart elevate our expectations to a height, which the issue may prove too sanguine, such an error of the judgment would be more than expiated by the piety of the anticipation.

Since we classed ourselves a member in the confederacy of republics, never, as at this juncture, have the affairs of the union wore an aspect so flourishing. The state of Maryland, as well from the certainty of securing those liberties, for which, with the real energy of freemen, she hath contended, as from the felicity of seeing warded off that blow which she lately expected, whose ruin she saw so exemplarily marked in her sister states, hath the highest and peculiar causes for congratulation. More than half the charms of prosperity are borrowed from contrast: of these joys, the citizens of the southern states, this included, are the most competent judges, when scenes and prospects of the most severe and alarming nature are exchanged for such as at present are presented, of a complexion the most encouraging and auspicious. Happy indeed must we feel, when reflection forces her eye from these subjects, which at present engage the contemplation of the United States, to a period so dreary, that even Hope, "that friend to him whom every friend forsakes," was almost outstripped by the rapid progress of war, to the prospects of so lately as the summer, when sympathy with our southern states became but the melancholy anticipation of misfortunes; whose edge we expected quickly to experience at our own doors; scenes which the fancies of the fair sex could not have painted! misfortunes, which, from a concurrence of the most vigorous exertions of the armies, aided by a fortunate completion of the happiest contingencies, have by this state been felt but in idea.

Were it pardonable in men to fear at all, who are engaged in the cause of freedom, and who are actuated by the invincible spirit of virtue, at the opening of the southern campaign what had we not to fear! The virtuous remnant of a virtuous army were reduced almost beyond the hope of successful opposition, against an enemy so vastly superior in numbers; an enemy who, to the unarmed and defenceless, to the women and the aged, were, from the mode of war lately adopted by the British Parliament, become doubly formidable, and, from the most rigid execution of their orders, doubly the objects of terror and imprecation; orders which gave the varnish of duty and loyalty, to the licentious indulgence of principles and passions, before but partially embellished with the sanction of authority, which an Algerine two hundred years since would have blushed to own, but which the magic of a British parliament hath classed amongst the constituents of British patriotism. From an enemy thus disposed by principle, thus licensed in infamy, and chartered from the obligations of the laws of war, what exertion of military strength, what efforts of malevolent resentment, had not the southern states just grounds to expect? Nor had they, or the army, that pleasure which arises from retaliation; there was a generosity in their natures, which could not inflict an indiscriminate vengeance on the captive; a humanity, which could not, by a sentimental alchemy, draw rapture from the groans of the tortured. During the whole war, an unusual degree of severity and ill treatment hath distin-

guished the captivity of the American prisoners of war; but as soon as barbarity was covered from censure by the shield of ministerial maxims, the British army, except a very few officers of sentiment, resigned, as an irksome check to their meanesses and avarice, that feeling and politeness, which is equally the amia le offspring of education and a good heart, and which, in a less refined degree and mode, was, even in the rude ages of chivalry, the distinguishing trait of a gentleman soldier. Early they taught in the American army, that valour and patriotism in an enemy were the objects of their detestation; and when the chance of the field, or superior numbers, gave them to their dungeons, instead of that delicacy of treatment and manners, which marks the truly brave victorious, which by affecting an atonement to the captive hero, for the caprice of fortune, gains a gentler conquest over the hearts of the generous, they have made them the subjects of the most dastardly upbraidings and deliberate resentment. Of this, the brave officers whom lately we saw from Carolina, scarred as well with wounds received under the vain protection of the laws of war and honour, as with those received in the field; worn and emaciated by famine, and ragged from the licenced pilfer of the soldiery; these are animating examples; these are facts, and instances which the hand of Charity herself will indelibly mark upon our memories, and the knowledge of which will become to posterity an institute of patriotism.

Such was the inauspicious posture of affairs in the spring, when resolution was our only aid, and prospect of succours from the French our only hope. Of what heart-felt pleasure must the well affected citizen be sensible, when, from a scene so precarious, so big with a complication of ills, both from want of troops and money, six, nay two months, present to his eye one so replete with the most flattering appearances; the concurrence of circumstances, to which our warmest expectations did not stretch; events, in which Prophecy herself would have been discredited. To whatever point we turn our eyes, the prospect is more smiling; our finances last spring wore the most distracted d-rangement; and the mortal blow just given the continental currency was an event, that must have shaken the ranks of any other army, than such as was composed of good and faithful freemen, and commanded by the most celebrated and virtuous of men. Our currency hath mended. From the vigilant economy, and skilful arrangement of our financier general, aided by the spirited subscriptions of the people, the nerves of our finances have received a firmer tone, have taken the beauty of system, and now exist under a permanency of respect and value. Even last spring, the most alarming period of our depreciation, our credit was higher in Europe than the generality of our friends thought it to have been; of this the loan of specie negotiated by the honourable colonel Laurens is a proof; his present importation of specie and cloathing are circumstances of the most joyful consideration. The assurances of his most Christian Majesty, as they bear all the outward marks of the warmest concern for our cause, so are they illustrated by the most brilliant and well concerted co operation in our military designs; facts which evince his unseigned sincerity, and demonstrably attest his generous resolutions to support the INDEPENDENCY of America. These are benefits which claim the best returns of preference and gratitude from every American, whose eyes are not meanly shut by the policy of early inculcated prejudices against the great services of the French nation; for such must appear the present fleets and armies of that nation, such their alliance itself, which, in the eyes of all Europe, reflects a great degree of national importance on the United States. The patronage of so puissant a monarch as Lewis XVI. does the confederacy the utmost honour; for as it is an open avowal of the justice of our cause, so is it to be considered a public acknowledgment of that importance and grandeur to which by independence we shall arrive. Whatever motives may ostensibly connect an alliance between two nations, the real cause of union lies not so much in principles of generosity, as in a reciprocal interest. This foundation is the real, this the firmest bond of national friendships. The French are commanded by the most able politicians in Europe. From their known superiority, they are doubly watched; as increases their vigilance to the affairs and interests of their people. Upon the first dawn of a firm and uniform resistance to and resentment against Great-Britain, they saw the vast

commercial emoluments which must result to them as allies of an independent America. Their young monarch, under resolutions which flowed from an high sense of the rights of mankind, the maintenance of which reflects the only real glory on crowned heads, stretched forth the saving arm of friendship, claimed the protection of an infant empire as his peculiar glory, and chose the independence of America as the event which was to immortalise him. The prophetic spirit of policy saw, that to assist us, and by assisting engage our gratitude, was their interest; the passion for doing good was that which, void of the calculations of policy, actuated their monarch, and determined him to assist at all hazards a people whose confidence he had gained, against a nation whose low boast it hath been to do enormities with impunity. This restive spirit, the disturber of the repose of Europe, he hath curbed to the most mortifying restrictions; and limiting by a superior navy the latitude of their marine enterprises, hath given a confidence to commerce, of which, from the insults of these lordlings, she was destitute. From these prosperous foreign connections and interest, with fresh pleasure we may draw in our observations to objects, in which as Americans, particularly as citizens of Maryland, we are more immediately and intimately interested. The allied army, under the auspices of our great commander in chief, in Virginia, exhibits a prospect full of the most favourable impressions, and auguring the happiest issue to America.

Lord Cornwallis, that irresistible wanderer, hath at length periodicated his rambles, in the mode we could most have wished, and in the scene of his humanity, where the feelings of state will be fully gratified. Led by his evil genius and prompted by that distraction and insatiation incident to the schemes of tyranny, we have seen his lordship sinking by evasions before the sword of opposition, and moving in the measure of Burgoyne, trapped with a fine army in the theatre of his victories; in the possession of that object of his military adventures, which, like an ignis fatuus, hath lured and danced him into an inextricable difficulty. *Natura ferax, vehemens; maximum bonum in celeritate patet.* The catastrophe of this living military drama, may be in future to some American the groundwork of a farce; and when time, that candid and most faithful knight, shall have burst the chains of that spell and fascination which at present preclude a just calculation of their losses when a sensibility of their misfortunes becomes one of the most striking, though not most mortifying, characteristic of the British nation, the tale of lord Cornwallis, like that of a Richard, may afford to some native genius the fable of an historic tragedy!

A REPUBLICAN.
Cambridge, October 15, 1781.

Sal. Bel. Cat.
PHILADELPHIA, October 21.

Head-quarters, Continental-village, Oct. 4. 1781.
SIR,
ENCLOSED I have the honour to present your Excellency a letter from major Talma ge of the 2d regiment of light dragoons, with my congratulations on the success of the American arms, in the reduction of fort Slongo on Long-Island, the morning of the 3d instant.

The address and gallantry exhibited by major Tallmadge in planning the enterprise, and by major Tiescott and the officers and men under his command in the execution of it, do them much honour.

It is said a considerable number of arms were taken in the fort.
I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,
W. HEATH.

His Excellency Thomas M'Keane, Esq;
president of congress.
Compo-point, October 3, 1781.

Dear general,
I AM happy in having occasion to congratulate you on the success of the enterprise against fort Slongo, on Long-Island. After making many attempts to embark, and being prevented by bad weather, last evening at eight o'clock, I ordered 50 men from captain Richards's company of the Connecticut line, and 50 more from captain Edgar's dismounted dragoons, to embark at this place. The smallness of the garrison at Slongo, and the difficulty of procuring boats, making it unnecessary to employ but a part of my detachment in this ser-