

SUPPLEMENT to the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1825.

TO THE PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

OUR illustrious commander in chief, in his answers to the numerous addresses, on a late important event, has endeavoured to inculcate an idea of the necessity for making the most vigorous exertions. By these alone we can improve the advantage, and secure a speedy conclusion of the war. Every man agrees to the general proposition; but various opinions are entertained with respect to the means. I have attended to the plan of the supply bill, and am satisfied, the taxes will not produce one third of the sum requisite for the various purposes of complying with the requisitions of congress, of providing for internal defence, of supporting government, and fulfilling its engagements to those merchants, who have generously confided in it at a time, when public credit seemed entirely lost. All this cannot be accomplished with less than 425,000 pounds—42 shillings in the hundred upon 24,000,000 will yield 315,000 pounds gross—deduct 20,000 pounds paper, which according to the prevailing opinion, ought not to re- issue; and the sum is reduced to 295,000—from this subtract one fourth equal to 73,750, on account of specific articles being over-rated; and one fifth, equal to 59,000, on account of waste, loss; and the charge of collection, and there remains the net sum of 161,250 pounds. Every one of these deductions must be thought moderate—perhaps the net sum will not exceed 100,000 pounds. With this then, without further supplies; we are to make our contributions to congress, to provide for internal defence, to support the civil list, to perform certain contracts, and to be prepared against every contingency.

It has been proposed to tax the stocks in trade; to sell confiscated property; to open the land-office; and to issue, as specie, the residue of the red bills, amounting to about 120,000 pounds. If all these aids are inadequate, there are some men ready to exclaim, "We must then be content to provide for the operations of war, which is as much as the people are able to bear."

If you can come at the stocks in trade, or if you lay a duty on imports, what mighty sums do you expect to derive? I have even considered duties on trade as improper in a free government; and the eyes of politicians in Europe begin to be opened on the subject. It is argued, that this kind of tax excites no murmurs among the people, and that none but the person, who chuses to buy, is to bear the burthen—the present object, I conceive, is to ease the people—but it is evident, this species of tax only deceives them; as whatever is raised in this way is ultimately extracted from their pockets; and the merchant will, besides, levy a profit on the money, he advances for the import. As for the consumers voluntarily paying the duty—that is a powerful argument against it. Is it politic, or just, that a miser, who sells the produce of his farm, at the highest price, he can extort, and who, by hoarding every penny, deprives society of its circulating medium, should be exempt from a burthen, that falls only on the general, and useful citizen?

Upon what terms shall we dispose of vacant lands, or unappropriated British property? Shall we sell for ready money, or on short credit? Set up, a single 2000 acres of the best land, for ready money; and the number of those, capable of the purchase, is so inconsiderable, it would not produce one half the value—set up 50,000 acres in convenient parcels, and there would be no necessity for purchasers to bid against each other—the 50,000 acres would not, I verily believe, produce 20,000 pounds. Indulge people with a credit, and they bid without prudence, or forecast—the 50,000 acres would probably be struck off at double the value—But will this answer the purposes of government?

There is perhaps no subject in which politicians differ more than the quantity of specie within the state—we are possessed of no means of forming a near conjecture, what was the amount at the commencement of the war, what proportion of it remains, or how much has been since imported—I pretend to a little reflection, to a little spirit of enquiry, and am convinced that the scarcity of specie will not permit us by taxes, sales, or otherwise, even at different periods, the sum of 75,000 pounds, to be raised within the year.

I suppose, a considerable part of the demands of congress may be furnished in specific articles—that consideration, and the scarcity of money, must justify a species of tax, which, of all others, is the slowest, the most precarious, the most deceiving, the least productive, and of course the most oppressive. I would adhere to the plan of specific taxes, and even change the rate from 45 shillings to 75, which, according to my mode of calculating, would produce the net sum of 244,800 pounds—that is—it would furnish something more than one half the

necessary supplies. The people of Maryland, notwithstanding the policy of their rulers holds out the idea of exacting more than they really do, have sufficient understanding to perceive, that if property is assessed to half the value, and specific articles are over-rated one fourth, the 75 shillings does not exceed 30 shillings. If there is a man, who will maintain that the middling and lower classes of the people, which are much the most numerous, and valuable, are unable to pay this 30 shillings, he must mean they are unwilling; and if they are unwilling, it is because the measures of government have not produced a conviction, that their good, and nothing else, has invariably been the principle. Let memory go back to the time, when the true flame of patriotism warmed every honest bosom—what was the prevailing language? We will give up a third, a half, nay the whole of our property, sooner than wear the chains of Britain. Had an orator, at that time, presumed to declare that the people could not, ought not, to sacrifice one hundredth part of their property to the carrying on a campaign, in defence of every thing, which is dear to man, no former partiality, no rank, services or talents, would have shielded him from their indignation. Do men reason, or is the result of their reflection a thorough belief, that we ought, at this stage, to relinquish the contest, and sue for grace, pardon, and reconciliation?

In my first paper, I was wrong in reckoning upon the last emission of money, for the ensuing year, and was then unacquainted with the demands of congress—I have not the smallest doubt that a much larger sum than 225,000 pounds of the red bills might issue as specie—to pay debts contracted during the present year—when I contemplate a needy creditor receiving for 100 pounds, what he knows will not yield him 50, I must equally deplore his hard fate, and the state of public credit—Here then we touch upon the cause of our difficulties—I am unwilling to view government as acting in the same line with an individual, whom the general voice, consigns to infamy—persuaded, that the most upright conduct will be misconstrued, and that it is impossible to eradicate an obstinate prejudice, we ought not to be surprised if he should not think it worth his while to act an honest part, provided he can, at any time, succeed by trick, cunning and evasion. The reputation of a state is not like that of an individual—the very nature of society and government implies the confidence of their constituents—and, if a series of errors has murdered public credit, an opposite conduct cannot fail to revive it. I am astonished that men will not perceive truths, which are manifest as the sun in his meridian glory; and that any other act of legislation can be thought of, before some attempt is made to open the most fruitful source, from whence government can derive its supply.

Let government resolve to be honest, and endeavour to convince the world, that such is their determination—Legislatures should be governed by maxims, as individuals by laws—What avails it for an assembly to plight the faith of government, if its successors conceive themselves no farther bound, than their own discretion shall dictate. I would have a solemn resolve, that this assembly will, to the utmost of its power, perform every subsisting engagement of its predecessors, and an act to declare certain maxims to be implied by the constitution.

An enquiry must now be, what are those subsisting engagements? Government has seized, or obtained by consent, the effects of its citizens, engaging to pay the value, it has borrowed money, to be repaid in a short time, or without a day of payment, upon interest; it has emitted bills bearing an interest; and has made other engagements, for the performance of which the persons concerned do not conceive they have the least security.

I cannot tell what the state debt, exclusive of the bills of credit, and what is due to soldiers for depreciation, may amount to—perhaps to 250,000 pounds specie—perhaps to a great deal more. I am sensible, it cannot be discharged; but I would determine, at all events, to pay the interest by quarterly payments, beginning as early as possible. These measures could not fail to produce an instant and blessed effect in retrieving the confidence of the people, and consequently in appreciating the bills of credit.

"Shall we then admit a heavy additional expence, when we are at our wits end, to provide ways and means?" Permit me to point them out.

I lay it down as removed from a possibility of doubt, that we must have paper money—A bank we cannot have at present, and it is in vain to talk about it—but the three emissions might still be made to answer almost all the purposes of government—I propose (without the most distant idea of a tender law) that they be received in all payments to the public at par. Is it not clear, that the best way to stamp a value on paper money, and to make it circulate with freedom, is to create a demand?

Friday the next... country women... a cook... a flourish... and hogs... years of a... improved... Alexandria... of a new... the, axes... interest... security... S O N... Friday the... at on of... Prince... from... ROE... 25 hands... old, and... Othello... of Cha... thorough... ck's dam... as got by... seller, his... as celima... I twelve... given with... A R R... uff-point... it failing... arge, but... wner may... ying rea... PER, ...napolis... December... on Wed... li be loud... mitted in... eral valua... late the... an estate... Mrs. Ste... Blachin... Moore, ...Edward's... 200 acres... return of... eptember... payments... interest... R, clk... 1781... ark roan... ended, his... ble well-... right fore... had on... the person... es by, the... from the... taken the... man, has... both coat... et, and a... the said... lenburg... Tyers in... guineas... paid by... I O N... Thomas... nty, de... payme... id estate... ecutor... 1781... of Charle... deceased... me to the... aint the... in to be... atrix... 1780

and America was the destined door of that invasion. Will be soon...