

ANNAPOLIS, April 21.

Charles county, William and Mary parish, April 13, 1785.

"Sed omnia una manet nox, et calcanda
semel via leti." HORACE.

"But one night awaits all, and the road of death
must once be travelled."

"On Saturday the 19th of March 1785, the
rev. Mr. JOHN M'PHERSON unfortunately ended
his days by the fright of his horse, who ran him
rapidly against a tree, when on his way to his re-
sidence from Benedict, and fractured his skull—This
gentleman was between 50 and 60 years of age.

"He was a truly pious and good christian—im-
proved by education, study, and travel—charitable
without the show—benevolent to all—a sincere friend
—kind matter—an ornament to his profession, and
—an example of this age—loved by good, and feared
by bad men—admired by all, alas, though imitated
by few, and paralleled scarce by any—In this pa-
rish (where he was pastor near thirty years) his cha-
racter—his virtues, &c. will ever be remembered—
it is engraven in their minds, and can never be for-
gotten—Like him, let's learn to live—Like him, be
always prepared to die—From circumstances, his
death was instantaneous—without pain, out of this
world into a better, (as he was a righteous man,)
where there is no pain or sorrow. Of the shortness
and uncertainty of all things here below, we should
have a full conviction—Each day brings us nearer
to eternity—Let our endeavours (like the above good
man's) be, that each day also may bring us nearer
to a blessed ETERNITY."

ANSWER to the PLANTER; so far especially as con-
cerns the colleges, or university.

AN ADDRESS, signed a Planter (dated from Worcester
county, but bearing evident marks of Baltimore,
where it was first published in the news-papers) hath
been since re-published in hand-bills, and distributed or
stuck up in taverns and places of public resort, especial-
ly in the forests and remoter parts of the eastern shore,
to work upon the ignorant and unwary, who have re-
adom an opportunity of seeing, or receiving a true ac-
count of the laws made for their government, till long
after they are passed; and who, upon the subject of
taxation, above all others, are most easily misled and in-
taxation, by designing men, with the aid of "grievous
oppression! intolerable burdens!"—with which, it the
Planter may be believed, the good people of this state
have been loaded by their general assembly, at the last
session, beyond all their neighbours, and out of every
proportion to their abilities.

It is not the design of the present ADDRESS to com-
bat phantoms, or try to remove the Planter's dreadful
apprehensions and alarms, respecting BILLS not yet
passed. The bill to which he refers hath been expressly
printed and distributed for public consideration by the
people's own immediate representative; and it cannot
be doubted but they will pay a faithful regard to what-
ever instructions they may justly and fairly receive from
them.

But the Planter hath not confined himself to BILLS
not yet passed. He hath reprobated almost the whole
money transactions of the last session of assembly; and
particularly those laws whereby the public finances have
been arranged, and other foundations laid, with such
ease to the people, and such care and ability in the le-
gislation, as (it is believed) will prove of the most last-
ing advantage to the state, and meet the warmest ap-
plause of succeeding generations!

But the Planter exclaims against the whole in the
gross, and strives to inflame the people even into mad-
ness and despair, as if wholly ruined and undone.—
"You cannot (says he) salt even your *mus* without
paying a tax—a tax of eight-pence for every bushel of
salt you use; besides the state is burthened with fifteen
thousand pounds to open the river PATOWMACK for the
benefit of the state of Virginia; and also taxed with two
thousand five hundred pounds per year for ever, for the
support of two colleges, where gentlemen's children are to
be educated at the public expence."

The whole of the foregoing paragraph, as the Planter
woud have it understood, will appear to be intended as
a gross deception upon the people, to procure their
names to petitions or instructions, before they can see
the laws which are therein referred to. By what the
Planter says, he would have it believed either that
"there is no duty" on salt in the neighbouring states,
or much less than eight-pence per bushel;—that Mary-
land alone, and at her own expence, is to open the
river Patowmack, for the sole benefit of Virginia;—and
that the colleges or university of this state are to be sup-
ported by some proportion of public money, operating
as a new burden or tax upon the poor, for the particular
benefit of the rich; and upon some grievous foundation
different from public seminaries in other states."

Although a number of misrepresentations he thus
jumbled together by the Planter, yet the chief design of
the whole seems to be against the two colleges. For no
instructions as yet appear respecting the salt tax, the Pa-
towmack and other taxes complained of by him; but
instructions have been promoted in some counties, "dis-
approving all such laws passed the last session of assembly
as appropriate public money to the support of colleges,
and praying that they may be repealed, or at least sus-
pended for seven years." It is very easy to get numbers
of signers to any paper, which promises the removal of
any grievance or any abatement of taxes. Some cannot
read, and many more cannot judge of the artifices of
designing men.

When these instructions come forward to the legisla-
ture, it will be readily discovered whether they have
been promoted and signed chiefly by a certain class of
men, who have not less greedily fought and obtained

* If duties were not laid on such articles as salt, spiritu-
ous liquors and other consumptions, the landed property
would pay the whole taxes and numbers of citizens pay no-
thing at all.

the aid of public money to colleges and seminaries under
their own direction, than they have endeavoured to
subvert and destroy all other seminaries, the direction
of which they cannot engross to themselves. By this
criterion let the weight and candour of their instructions
be estimated.

In the mean time, it is the further design of the pre-
sent address, to vindicate the two colleges in question
from the misrepresentations of those who seek to destroy
them in their infancy; although begun and hitherto
rising into public usefulness, almost wholly at the gene-
rous expence of private contributors.

The great design of these colleges, as it is expressed
in their charters or acts of incorporation by the legisla-
ture, is for the common and equal benefit of citizens of
all denominations and classes, without preference of the
rich to the poor. On the contrary the former are to pay
for their instruction, and the poor to be admitted free
as the air, and instructed gratis, or without pay.—But
as the air, and instructed gratis, or without pay.—But
as a writer who will assert that the Maryland Patowmack
law is a burden of fifteen thousand pounds for the benefit of
Virginia (without intimating the least benefit it may be
of to Maryland) will gain little credit, when in the
same paragraph, he would have it believed that the col-
leges are at the public expence, and supported by
grievous taxes for the benefit of the rich more than the
poor.

The Patowmack navigation acts, both in Maryland
and Virginia, owe their rise and establishment chiefly to
that great and good man, general WASHINGTON; who
at the close of his glorious labours in our recon-
quered it as one of the first and greatest works of peace,
to make permanent provision for the encouragement of
arts and sciences, agriculture, commerce, navigation, and
every dom the improvement which can contribute to
the further civilization of his country, and the render-
ing it as enlightened and happy, as he hath contributed
to render it independent and free. It is only by improve-
ments like these, and especially by the opening our in-
land-water carriage, for a more ready communication
of the mutual benefits of commerce, arts and know-
ledge, that our connexion with the vast states, now
rising up within our western territories, can be main-
tained, or made the permanent basis of our future em-
pire and glory! Their trade will otherwise go down the
Mississippi.

The opening the Patowmack, and the communicati-
on with the western waters, for the benefit of trade, is
to be by similar laws of both states, forming a company
of adventurers or subscribers for shares, who are to re-
ceive a toll at a future day if the design succeeds; and
each state by law engages for a small number of shares,
with a proportion of the toll, in order to encourage the
design, and maintain a legislative control over the
company for the public good. This cannot be called a
separate tax or burden on Maryland for the benefit of
Virginia. On the contrary it is probable that Mary-
land may receive the first and greatest benefit; as
George-town is a higher landing than Alexandria.

This is said to be the true tenor of the Patowmack
laws, which it is hoped will be soon published to speak
for themselves. The state ought to wish that further
laws of the same kind might be made for the great sus-
quahanah waters, up to their highest sources; and
when that shall be done, it is probable that no more
complaints will come from any Baltimore writers on
this score. It is hoped also that the complaints about
the colleges may be quieted in the like manner, as they
will be found to be alike without foundation.

The Planter says that he does not disapprove of esta-
blishing seminaries of learning; but, if at the public
expence, he would have them all for the poor. This
appears more generous than just. They should be alike
for both. Much has been done in Maryland by the
establishment of free schools, where the poor might be
educated with others, in the common principles of
learning; and more was intended by the western shore
college act, for the regulation and further encourage-
ment of such schools in each county; and will probably
be soon carried into execution. But such schools were
not intended, and cannot be made wholly sufficient,
for raising up men for the liberal professions of life, and
the great duties and offices of the state, whether legisla-
tive, executive or judicial. And without a succession
of such men, educated in the several states, they must
soon be obliged to fill every important place of trust,
with men of foreign education; or leave a few of their
own citizens, who may happen to have superior abilities
or acquisitions, to acquire too great an ascendancy in
all public measures; unless the state is left to suffer for
want of their service.

The states of Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecti-
cut can look, with joy, an hundred years back to the
foundation of their colleges; and can count ten thou-
sands of their citizens educated, and millions of their
treasure saved by these domestic institutions.

Virginia, besides the liberal endowment of her an-
cient college, hath extended her care westward as far
as her dominion reaches; and hath made a liberal
grant of land for the foundation of a college at Ken-
tucky, on the waters of the Ohio. The university of
Pennsylvania hath got more than a capital of fifty thou-
sand pounds of confiscated property; and congress have
allowed to Dickinson college in that state, the present
value of the spacious public buildings at Carlisle, which
will probably be continued to the institution for ever.
The legislature of New-York, among their first works
after regaining their city, have revived their ancient
college and erected it into an university, with sundry
subordinate colleges, proposed in other parts of the
state. In none of these states has this been called a
waste of public money; to be made up by taxes. They
estimate the contrary way, and consider it as a saving
to the public.

Thus while so much has been done, and is still doing
in the sister states, for advancing their more immediate
honour as well as happiness, by public seminaries of
learning and virtue, it was certainly time for Maryland
to think of permanent establishments of a like kind; as
well in justice to her numerous youth, as to maintain
her rank and dignity, in the present enlightened age,
among the confederated nations of America. She was
inferior to none of them in the means of accomplishing
such a work; and the time was favourable, when we

† Pennsylvania hath just passed a law appointing com-
missioners for that purpose.

were not only, through Divine Providence, reflected
to a happy peace; but there yet remained in the ad-
ministration of our public affairs, men capable to derive
liberal things—PATRIOTS of an enlightened stamp, who
have been long tried and trusted in the most arduous
concerns of their country, during all the periods of the
late revolution.

Under such men, the establishment of a general le-
minary of learning for this state, could not be difficult.
They set an example with their own liberal subscrip-
tions, which hath been followed by such a list of con-
tributors on each shore, that the building of both col-
leges, and furnishing their libraries and necessary phi-
losophical and mathematical apparatus, although at an
expence of between twenty and thirty thousand pounds,
will probably be soon accomplished in this way.

With respect to WASHINGTON COLLEGE, on the
eastern shore, the general assembly, by their unanimous
resolves of the 27th November 1782, were pleased to
declare "that the numerous subscribers towards the
founding it, had given an exemplary proof of their
zeal for the honour and interest of their country; and
that their liberal exertions in that behalf, did merit the
approbation of the legislature, and (when circumstances
would permit) ought to receive their public encourage-
ment and assistance." The governor and council, in
an address to the general assembly in May 1783, highly
approving the establishment of this college, had warm-
ly recommended the making similar establishments in
other parts of the state, meaning the western
shore.

It remains now to be inquired, whether in the ac-
complishment of these useful and pious establishments,
which reflect so much honour upon Maryland, "ad-
ditional burdens and taxes have been laid upon the
people." Certain it is that the writers and governors
of Washington college did not desire any new burden
to be laid, as expressly appears from the 5th paragraph
of the memorial, presented by their committee praying
the assistance of the legislature (in pursuance of their
former resolves) which is as follows, viz.

"Your memorialists humbly conceive that with a
new burden to the good people of this state, it may be
early now as at any future day, to give such assistance,
by granting to this seminary a reasonable proportion
of the monies heretofore appropriated towards the building
of a college or colleges; and by such additional means
may be a discouragement to vice and immorality, and
at the same time create a fund for the advancement of
learning, and the cultivation of those virtues which lead
to improve the manners of the rising generation, and
exalt their genius above the temptation of low vice, and
debasating pursuits of every kind." This memorial was
signed by the following visitors and governors of the
college, as a committee for that purpose, viz.

William Faca, Samuel Chase, Peter Lethbrugh,
John Henry, John Scott, Peter Chaile,
William Perry, William Smith,

Thus then it appears that no new burden was de-
sired, but only the payment of an old debt; and the
application of monies before appropriated for the pur-
pose of learning and the benefit of the rising genera-
tion.

In November sessions 1773—By the "act for emitting
bills of credit and applying part thereof; the sum of
42 666 dollars and two thirds of a dollar, being fifteen
thousand pounds, was appropriated to and for the estab-
lishment of a seminary of learning, in such manner
should be directed and appointed by (some future) act
of general assembly; and for that purpose, to be locked
up in an iron chest with two locks and keys, &c.
The calamity of war rendered it necessary to unlock the
chest; but with a solemn pledge of the public faith that
the money should be re-placed as soon as possible, and
applied for the founding of a public seminary of learn-
ing. The principal and interest, in November last
would have amounted to twenty five thousand one hun-
dred and twenty pounds. Could that sum have been
paid to the colleges, and laid out in the purchase of
certificates or other property in the funds of this, or
even some of the neighbouring states, it would have
least doubled itself as a capital, and produced a revenue
to the colleges of at least three thousand pounds a
year.

Thus it appears, as said before, that the college
laws, are not any new burden upon the people, but
only a wife and easy provision for the payment of an
interest of an old debt. And when every other public
DEBT was to be funded, and provision made for the
payment of interest till the capital can be discharged,
it would have been very unjust that this DEBT of the
rising generation, our own children and posterity, al-
though one of the oldest, and contracted at the very
commencement of the war, should alone remain un-
funded; more especially as the provision made for it
(marriage licences excepted which heretofore were the
perquisite of governors) is not a tax upon any persons
unless those who choose to pay it. For no person is
under a necessity to deal with a hawk or pedlar, or
incur a fine or forfeiture by a breach of the laws, or
to lay out his money in purchasing spirituous liquors
by gills or pints, or at booths and benches, at horse-
races and fairs.—And of those who in a jovial mood
choose to contribute in this way, their quota is
scarcely a great by the year.

But if the college debts were to be paid by a public
tax, it would still be as reasonable as the payment of
other debts in the same way; and those who would
chiefly contribute to such payment will save forty times
the yearly sum to the public, by having the means of
education within their own state. The inhabitants of
the eastern shore in particular ought to think themselves
obliged to those who have brought half the money
heretofore set aside for learning, across the bay for their
emolument; when originally it was expected that the
whole would be for the more immediate benefit of the
western shore.—It should be further known that the
of the same revenue which is for satisfaction of the me-
ney appropriated to the founding a seminary of learn-
ing, viz. ordinary and retailers licences are given to
the town of Baltimore for lighting and watching the
streets; and to the city of Annapolis for other public
uses. The residue goes into the treasury, which is
probably not be a shilling the poorer, as so many pub-
lic bodies are interested in a strict collection of these
duties.

Maryland, April 4th, 1785.

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