

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 20, 1786.

To the FREE and INDEPENDENT CITIZENS of MARYLAND.

WHEN you delegate to any of your brother citizens a power to legislate for you, or to execute any other public trust, it becomes the duty of those intrusted to give you every information in their power respecting public measures and public transactions, with the greatest candour, uninfluenced by any attachment to any party whatever. Impressed with this idea, I take the liberty to do my duty as far as my poor abilities will admit, hoping to be excused as a writer, because I am conscious that I lack those qualifications necessary to command estimation in the literary world. I had the honour of a seat in the last general assembly of Maryland. Whether I did my duty as a faithful servant to my constituents or not, they are the judges who must determine on my conduct. The session was long, and consequently very expensive to the state, and I am sorry to believe, though a common case, that much time was taken up about trifling questions. This is unavoidable where members of the legislative body happen to differ in opinion, and it ever has been, and for ever will be the case, less or more, while legislation shall exist. To give an abstract of the whole proceedings would swell this address beyond the common bounds of a news-paper. I shall therefore confine myself to a few particulars that most immediately dwell in my memory, referring to the votes and proceedings for the rest. Much debate and cavilling took place respecting the conduct of the late intendant of the revenue, and whether that office should be continued or not. It was carried in the house of delegates by a considerable majority, that the office ought to be continued for another year. The intendant's conduct in general met with the approbation of a majority of the immediate representatives of the people, though there were some who appeared by their conduct, to be rather persecutors than fair prosecutors, while on the other hand, some appeared to be strenuous defenders at all events, and determined to acquit, right or wrong. For my own part, considering the multiplicity of business done by the intendant in the course of last year, I was surprised to find that no more, and greater charges, were not alleged against him; the powers given him by law, being greater than ever were given to any one man, in any commonwealth or republic in government. I was satisfied that he had not wantonly abused the trust reposed in him, though in many instances he might, if he pleased, have done it with impunity. One part of that gentleman's conduct, though not made a charge against him, I disliked more than any other, on account of the precedent. He retained counsel in behalf of the state. The attorney-general, whose duty it ever was, and now is, to act for the state on all occasions, living too inconvenient to the metropolis to be consulted on every emergency, the intendant thought proper to retain two gentlemen of the greatest law abilities (the one a member of the senate, the other a member of the house of delegates,) at the moderate price of one hundred guineas each, to act in behalf of the state in the many disputes arising between the state and the purchasers of confiscated property. This might be right and proper, but were there no counsel learned in the law not members of either branch of the legislature, and residing in the metropolis, who might have been retained with equal propriety? To suppose this to be the case, would be doing manifest injustice to those who have long acted in that profession, to their own emolument and credit, and the satisfaction of their clients. But suppose for the sake of argument, that the counsel retained by the intendant were the only two eminent lawyers in the state, would it not be very natural for such citizens who were unhappily involved in disputes with the state, to complain that they were deprived of an opportunity of employing, at least, one of the two, and that in difficult cases they could not have an equal chance in the law? The people at large who are not involved in disputes with the state, will naturally infer, that the intendant meant to secure one vote as well as one orator in each branch of the legislature in his favour. Gratitude at least, must obligate gentlemen thus retained, to speak in favour of the retainers, and supposing the most atrocious misconduct had been alleged and proved against him, he retained, in my opinion, ought to have retired, and not voted upon a question of that kind. It is a known fact, that the intendant left this advance of two hundred guineas before mentioned, to be determined on by the general assembly, and contracted with the counsel, that they should return the money, and only receive pay for their actual services, provided the general assembly did not approve of that transaction. A motion was made and seconded in the house of delegates, in order to bring that house to a question of approbation or disapprobation on this subject, but many members seemed rather shy of coming to a division, and the matter was postponed from time to time, under some pretext or other, and finally did not come on at all. Perhaps those members who did not wish their names to appear on the yes and noys on such a question, might shelter themselves under the general vote of approbation respecting the intendant's conduct in his public station, looking on that vote as a sufficient voucher to empower the intendant to charge the two hundred guineas in his cash account against the state. If this was the opinion of some, they will find themselves mistaken, for a vote

of approbation respecting public conduct is no voucher for the expediture of public money not warranted by law, or the particular approbation of the delegates of the people. It therefore remains, that the council must return the money according to contract, or that the intendant must pay it out of his own private purse. The senate very wisely, in my opinion, hath at length abolished the office of intendant of the revenue. It was high time, when disputes respecting the conduct of that officer, (during the last session,) cost the state a very considerable sum of money, by delaying much time and procrastinating other public business, the purposes for which the office was first instituted being answered so far as to make a further continuance thereof needless. I know not what induced the house of delegates, I mean the majority, to with a continuance of that office, with all the former powers given to the officer, unless a majority of them hath become debtors to the state by purchasing public property, and wished to have particular indulgences under the dispensing powers lodged in that office heretofore. I do not pretend to assert that this was actually the case, but it is a known fact, that some of the warmest advocates for continuing that office, are largely indebted to the state on account of confiscated property heretofore purchased. This leads me to a few words of advice respecting the choice of delegates in future. A certain english writer on this subject, which he treats of at large, begins thus, "Choose not men noted for nonattendance," &c. For the benefit of my fellow-citizens, to this I add, choose not men who are largely indebted to the state, nor men who have been noted speculators, nor men who are deeply interested in buying up your public funded debts with a view to their own private emolument. Such men must be self-interested in every public question, and of course will vote accordingly. Choose men of known integrity and honour; of sound judgment and good understanding, who dare avow their sentiments and principles to all the world as often as necessary, without having cause to blush, even if they should happen to be mistaken. At the same time they ought to be open to conviction, yet not to be put in leading-strings. I must conclude this address with some advice to a set of men, who, perhaps, will not thank me for the trouble, and as rhyme is easier remembered than prose, I choose the former in preference to the latter in an epistle
To Great Patriots, or rather those who wish to be such.
Would you, your country's favour gain, and trust,
Seem to her interest always true and just:
Act the loud orator on all occasions,
And, if you fail, use brow-beating persuasions.
Damn Tories at the off-set, 'till your name
Sounds far and near, thro' the loud trump of fame.
Then speculator turn, to serve your ends;
In this, if you act wisely, you'll have friends.
Hunt up the Tories, to conceal your aim;
"Send them to hell" (from whence assert they came,
In words of course) "then shut and lock the
door."
Next "lose the key" (you scarcely need say more
Than promise this) "provided you had power."
If times should change (and changes will take
place)
To change your tone, will ne'er be deem'd disgrace.
Acts of oblivion—politic and wise,
(Such as true statesmen never should despise)
When urg'd by you, may answer very well,
And to the world, your christian spirit tell!
An orator you must be,—loud and strong,
To captivate the gaping, listning throng.
All those you can't convince, call stupid fools,
Who know not how to act by certain rules;
Rank them in bulk, a set of stupid asses,
While what you say or do, all else surpasses;
This, once believ'd, will rank you great and high!
Great patriots you may live—great statesmen die.
April 2, 1786. PHILAGATHUS.

ordered to meet the pacha of Chocz'n on the frontiers, for the purpose of his undergoing the ceremony of baptism within the imperial dominions.
AMSTERDAM, December 27.
The directors of the company of merchants trading to the West-Indies, desirous to shew to Monsieur de Bouille, who recovered for the republic the island of St. Eustatia, a mark of their gratitude, as has been done before by the Dutch East India company to Monsieur de Suffrein, have applied for that purpose to the states general, praying their concurrence in voting to the above officer some mark of acknowledgment for his eminent services on the occasion. This, say the directors in their petition, they would have done sooner, and of their own accord, had they thought themselves justified in so doing, without a regular appellation to the sovereign. The fact is, that the East-India company being proprietors both of the trade and territories in those parts, have a right in themselves to act as they think proper in matters that concern them as a body or proprietors; whereas the company trading to the western parts, are to be considered as owners of the settlements only, and not exclusive proprietors of the trade thereto.
LONDON, January 7.
It is said that the empress of Russia draws too many advantages from her trade with Great-Britain not to encourage the sale of English goods in her dominions. But it is to be considered that her exports to us are of such a nature that we must have them at any price, or can be supplied no where but from her, whereas she can furnish herself with manufactures of the same kind as ours from several other nations; and by thus admitting a rivalship, she will find means to lower the prices of foreign goods and enhance the value of her own. At the same time that by offending her in a matter which she seems to have so much at heart, as procuring for the emperor possession of Bavaria, we shall probably cease to be the favoured nation, especially now that she has established a respectable navy. Her desire of this was the reason why she shewed so much favour to this nation, as without our shipbuilders, carpenters and sailors, she would have found it very difficult to become a maritime power. Yet we know the very first use she made of this accession of power was to conclude the armed neutrality, which proved a thorn in the side of Britain, during the greatest part of the late unhappy war. If such was her conduct at a time when she had received the most substantial favours from us, what must we expect it to be when she has a pretence to plead provocation.
A morning paper has remarked that before any decision can be given, whether it was proper or improper for his majesty to sign the German confederacy, "it must be shewn that an exchange of Bavaria would neither have infringed the Germanic constitution, nor aggrandized the house of Austria, so as to effect the necessary balance of power on the continent. If either of these cases would have happened, his majesty, in his electoral capacity, could not, consistently with common policy, be a neutral spectator of the measure; and if the measure be right, the consequence flowing from rectitude of conduct and sound policy is not to be dreaded."
That the elector of Hanover acted right will not admit of a doubt: the only question is—Whether the king of Great-Britain has not been led into an error by his ministers? If the writer of the above quoted paragraph will shew that the measure is not directly repugnant to the dictates of sound policy and of common sense, if the interests of this country are to be regarded, he will do something. But it is manifest, that in this case, the interests of the two countries are diametrically opposite, and what is sound policy for Hanover, is the height of folly for Britain; till therefore, the two can be entirely separated or entirely ruined, the one must be made a sacrifice to the emolument of the other; and which of the two is to be the victim, let every Briton judge. Were it possible, indeed, to separate the electoral from the royal capacity, much might be said; but that being impossible, it behoves us, above all things, to take care, that no ill consequences flow from the rectitude of conduct and sound policy of the Hanoverian ministry.
A letter from Germany says, "that the dispute between the king of Prussia and the emperor resolves itself simply into a difference of sentiment between the two potentates on a question of speculation, viz. Whether it is possible that an exchange of Bavaria could ever take place? a question which cannot be attended with any serious effects; while the Bavaro-Palatine house remain in their present situation."

V I E N N A, December 18.

EVERY day we continue to be amused with fresh reports, relative to the exchange of Bavaria; but men of sense and reflect on but little faith in the various political assertions which are so confidently propagated on this subject—Among the fictions of this sort, is that which happened the other day, mentioning in positive terms, that the Duc de Deux-Ponts was on his way to this capital, for the purpose of concluding an agreement for the exchange of his eventual dominions, for the sum of ten millions of florins. Not more truth is there in the reports, that an imperial commissary has already been appointed to go to Bavaria, and take possession of it; that an arrangement was formed for giving the government of it to the arch duke Ferdinand, who was to be succeeded in Lombardy by the arch duchess Maria Christina, and her consort the duke of Saxe-Teschchen; that in fine (to crown all these mighty plans which appear so admirable upon paper) the king of Prussia, as the reward for acceding to them, was to be invested with the sovereignty of Dantzick, Thoren, &c. &c. The intelligence is groundless also, that an officer of hussars has been