

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A U G U S T 31, 1786.

To the CITIZEN.

OUR virtue and patriotism, your learning and wisdom are the admiration of the present, and will be the wonder of all future ages. I glory in this city, that gave you birth; and without the gift of prophecy, I presage, that you will become the able advocate, guardian, and protector of her rights and privileges. Lost in admiring that constellation of virtues, which you discover in the dawn of manhood, I bid thee, hail, thou rising GENIUS of Annapolis. Why did you so long conceal those virtues and abilities, which can save your country on the brink of ruin? The auspicious day of your nativity shall be celebrated in all future time by your grateful countrymen. Thy whole life will be spent in rendering the most important services to the state, from the most pure and disinterested motives; and all thy wealth will be expended in acts of humanity, charity, and munificence. Thy death, which may Heaven long avert, will drown the world in tears; but, like Britanicus, you will live in the hearts of all the virtuous citizens of Maryland. Go on, thou noble youth, pursue with manly firmness the plan you have adopted, open the eyes of your deluded citizens, and teach them the way to virtue and to honour. Pull off the mask of hypocrisy, detect, and expose to public contempt, the false patriot, and receive as thy reward, "the grateful applause of an approving public!" graciously condescend to extend thy protecting care and influence to the LUMINARIES of the senate, proclaim their exemplary virtues, and invaluable services to the government, and save them from the insidious designs of envy, malice, and faction. With a champion of thy learning and knowledge, experience and fortitude, influence and address, this city may bid defiance to her rival BALTIMORE, and smile with indignant scorn, at any future attempt to remove the seat of government. Under your auspices religion will revive her drooping head; and under your patronage the arts and sciences shall flourish; and peace and plenty once more bless the land. As you aspire, with laudable ambition, to attain, may the judicious rulers of the state bestow on your unrivalled merit, the highest civil honours; and fear not, by accepting them, to excite jealousy or envy. These effusions of a grateful heart, extorted by the force of truth, deign to accept as a small tribute to thy transcendent worth.

VERACITAS.

Annapolis, August 25, 1786.

To the VOTERS of MARYLAND.

EVERY man has a right, and it is his duty to give his advice to the public, and, though unasked, if it comes from a person of knowledge and experience you ought to receive it with gratitude and respect. My only fears are that my counsel may come too late, "To guard against the consequences of inactivity, and that you want the propensity to decided conduct." I shall only address you, my fellow voters, "Who feel yourselves interested in the prosperity of the state." I have some suspicion that my abilities are not equal to the task I undertake, but encouraged by the example of one of my fellow citizens, who with manly firmness has stepped forth and modestly offered his advice, as to certain political questions and characters, to the inhabitants of Annapolis, I will venture to counsel you what characters you ought to appoint as your electors of the senate, and what characters you ought to reject, "If you set any value on the independence of character, which has heretofore appeared in the senate; if you have it at heart to re-appoint the conspicuous and most valuable members of the present senate, of steady and independent principles, who from a series of judicious and honourable conduct have gained the grateful applause of an approving public; and if you wish to prevent a fatal turn to the administration of a government, from the good conduct and energy of which you expect to derive the blessings of protection and liberty." I will first take the liberty to assure you, on my faith and honour, that I am actuated by the principles of virtue and love of country, and pure disinterested affection to your welfare and happiness; and that I have no ambition or party views, or private friendships or connexions to promote, or any resentment or animosity to gratify. These professions I make to remove all ungenerous suspicions, that I am influenced by improper or unworthy motives, and I have an entire confidence, that you will believe me. My dear countrymen you are in the most critical and dangerous situation, and it requires the utmost exer-

tions of all your wisdom to extricate and save yourselves from impending ruin. Your happiness depends on a proper choice of electors of the next senate; and if you will not be advised, "but will stand indifferent, your peace will be subjected to the event of chance, or the fatal influence of intrigue; your anxiety may incline you to wish for the best, but without activity and resolution your hopes will not be realized, and it will be too late to guard against the consequences of your inactivity, when your peace and happiness have felt the fatal attack." A powerful and dangerous combination is formed against the peace and the prosperity of this government by characters, who lately possessed your highest confidence and trust. A coalition, dangerous to your welfare and dignity, and aimed at particular conspicuous members of the senate, was suspected so long ago as the last session, by one of the greatest and most conspicuous and most valuable members in the community, and who has exhibited on all occasions the most striking proofs of political wisdom. Be not alarmed, my dear countrymen. Vice is the growth of every soil. Rome produced a Cæsar, England a Cromwell, and America an Arnold. That Maryland has given birth to a Cataline I can assert from an authority as pure and infallible as the religion he professes. The heads of the coalition are the late intendant of the revenue, the late governor, a leader in the senate, and two demagogues of the house of delegates. Your present governor, and a great number of other characters, you little suspect, dispersed in all the counties (many of them members of the late house of delegates) abet the pernicious and destructive counsels of the conspirators. There are solid grounds to believe, that the intendant gained two of the coalition, as venal in principle as any of the most profligate characters of antiquity, by an application of a large sum of public money, under the specious pretence of obtaining their professional services for the state; but in reality to bribe them to support and justify all his conduct in office; and to continue him therein, with sufficient powers to keep in subjection the worthy and peaceable citizens of the state. The first and great object of the coalition is to procure such persons to be chosen electors of the senate, as will answer their designs, and prevent the re-election of the two most judicious and most valuable members of the present senate; and the emissaries of the confederates are notoriously endeavouring to execute the schemes of their principals, by every artifice and management, in every county of the state. I will venture to declare, in the face of the world, and will hazard my reputation for judgment and discretion on the truth of my assertion, that one of these illustrious characters, by his wisdom and abilities, has often preserved the state from destruction, in which, but for him, it would have been plunged by the rash and violent counsels of one of the confederates. You cannot but remember that this gentleman exhibited the most striking proof of political wisdom (and which alone ought to render his name immortal) in originating the scheme to confiscate British property, and by his labours and perseverance carried it into effect, though opposed with every nerve by many of your first and greatest characters, and thereby he saved you half a million of money, which, but for him, you would now have to raise in addition to your present taxes already sufficiently burthenome. These valuable senators (for the others are not worthy your attention) are possessed of immense fortunes, and consequently have great influence in the state, and their interest can never be distinct from yours. Equally with the Citizen, and from the same motives, I have their continuance in power nearest my heart, from a conviction that unless they are re-elected, you will certainly be ruined. You are not acquainted with one twentieth part of their merits and services. The Citizen thinks them the most virtuous and most sensible men in the state, and of the most disinterested principles. He informed you "that they both warmly opposed the continuing the intendant in power, and were decided enemies to an emission on loan;" and I will add, on any other system, because against your, and their interest. The Citizen forgot to remind you, that they boldly impeached the late governor and the late intendant, and would have tried and censured (or hanged) them, for their high crimes and misdemeanors, if in their power; but they were unhappily prevented by a most frivolous objection, suggested by one of the advocates of the intendant, and supported by him with more zeal and labour, than knowledge or abilities, that there was some impropriety in these honourable members being accusers and judges; and that if the senate exercised the power these conspicuous gentlemen contended for, it would be in violation of the constitution, and the established law of the land. If you permit the machina-

tions of the enemies of these worthies of the senate to prevail, I concur in opinion with the Citizen, "that you will curse the fatal hour in which you part with men of their steady and independent principles," inflexible to ill, and obstinately just.

You ought not to choose any man as an elector of the senate, who will not declare himself opposed to an emission of money; because such elector will consequently vote for the two conspicuous and valuable members of the present senate, who obstructed the execution of the measure at the last session. By this means you will prevent a few wicked, designing, and interested men from effecting their scheme for issuing paper money on loan; which I pronounce injurious to the public tranquillity and happiness. At the last session a great majority of the house of delegates were so ill advised as to adopt this plan; but you must be blind if you cannot see, that it was calculated only to enable speculators, and public and private debtors (some of them involved more than they are worth) to borrow from the government, to speculate in its securities, and to pay their debts; and that they would afterwards depreciate the money by every artifice; purchase it at one third, or less, of the nominal sum; repay it into the office; and thus acquire fortunes. The project and all its baneful effects were immediately discovered, and opposed by the more judicious citizens of Annapolis; to whom, as heretofore, you ought to look up; and from whom you should receive the ton of your political conduct. Some few of the citizens were interested against an emission, but not so as to influence their sentiments; and the far greater part could not be any way affected by it. There is not one among them so wicked "that he would sacrifice every obstacle to the accomplishment of his wishes;" and if there is any one so abandoned, he would have more sense than to disclose such opinion of himself to the world. If you could but see the unbiassed sentiments and reasons of the citizens in their petition, to the last assembly, against an emission; and if you had heard the very learned, sensible, and judicious arguments of the two conspicuous members of the senate, against the measure, I do not believe there would be one wise man among you in favour of it. Indeed it is confidently asserted, in this city, that the people at large, though they were some time past clamorous for an emission, are now entirely satisfied of the impolicy of it; and now think the welfare of the state depends on electing such persons only for the senate, who they know will, at all events, oppose it. The great argument urged for an emission is now given up by its warmest advocates; and experience, the only test of any political plan, has proved how egregiously they were mistaken. They with impudence asserted, that there was a great scarcity of specie, and that the people could not pay their taxes, and private debts, unless enabled by the means of paper money issued on loan. The very few suits for trifling debts in the general court, and some of the county courts, and the small number of executions consequent sales of property, evince that the suggestion was without any foundation. The public taxes we all know are very inconsiderable, and must cease of course in a few years. Any sum of specie can be obtained on loan, in this city, and its neighbourhood, at the moderate premium of 25 or 30 per cent. if the borrower has real estate, and can give good personal security. What more can any reasonable person desire? If the borrower gives his bond for £.100, and receives £.75, he can with that sum purchase state certificates for £.100, with six years interest; and make 36 per cent. It may be imprudent for debtors to borrow on such terms, but they are few in number, and of the lower class, and not worthy the attention of men of property, much less of the legislature.

You ought not to give your vote for any one to be an elector of the senate, who is in favour of an office to superintend the collection and expenditure of the public revenue; and more particularly you should carefully avoid choosing any one, who thinks the late intendant a fit person to execute the duties of such office; for such elector will not vote for the two conspicuous and valuable members of the senate; but he will vote for those only who will continue the office, and re-appoint the late intendant, and that too with overgrown powers. I tell you, my dear deluded countrymen, that the office is unnecessary, and would cost above £.700 a year; and, if necessary, the late intendant is the most unfit person in the whole state to be entrusted with it; although both branches of your legislature concurred, for four years, in a different opinion. If alleged by the advocates for the office, that a similar establishment is made in every government, and appears proper