

To the CITIZENS of ANNAPOLIS.

THE Delegate is under some small obligation to the Citizen for making his objections to him in so public a manner, and thereby affording an opportunity of refutation—the other agents and emissaries of the party, in opposition to the Delegate, shot their poisoned arrows in the dark, disseminated their slanders in private, and precluded all possibility of detection—The leaders of the party may boast great management and skill in electing, but to every dispassionate observer their conduct must appear destitute of candour, generosity, and justice to the Delegate, and the city—it cannot be denied, that the citizens were taken by surprise, many of whom were solicited and urged, without the least time for reflection, to plight their honour to vote for the gentleman proposed—treats and carousals immediately followed, to keep their bodies and minds heated, and to hold them to promises rashly given—fallacious arguments were urged at these nocturnal meetings to mislead and deceive; misrepresentations were openly made, and falsehoods sily insinuated to those, on whom they would operate.—When requested to attend a public meeting to afford an opportunity of making any objections against the public conduct or character of the Delegate, the voters for the new candidate were desired, and prevailed on not to appear—contrary to all former practice, on the morning of the election, the voters for the new candidate were assembled and paraded in a field near the city, and their flanks being guarded by truly subalterns to prevent desertion, they were marched from thence to the front of the Stadt-house, and to waste time, some half scores were occasionally smuggled in to the polls, while the main body were stationed behind the Stadt house to conceal them, until the Delegate and his friends had departed from the hustings—by these manœuvres all means of information was prevented, and by this conduct the seditious designs of the leaders of the party prevailed—the mechanics and tradesmen, when too late to give efficacious opposition, will discover their error, and the next attempt (if any prospect of success opens to their views) will be to discard and disgrace my colleague.

The ignorance, vanity, and insolence of the Citizen, is almost unexampled in this country; his ignorance has already been exposed, and must appear on the slightest perusal of his publications—hear the vanity of this scraper of cat-gut, "the world will believe him, when he declares on his honour, &c."—If he should appear in a public capacity, he shall carry in to the service of his country a pure and honest heart— "he merits the confidence of his country,"—he has devoted his youth to the acquisition of knowledge, "he is esteemed by every honest man, to whom he is known,"—for an unknown person thus to talk is truly laughable; only let him pull off his mask, and the public will judge of his pretensions.

The Delegate is not to expect the forgiveness of the Citizen for accusing him of a breach of veracity—alack and a well aday! to convince the world, how sincerely the Delegate despises his resentment, he charges him with a violation of truth in the following particulars, and will not retract them, although the Citizen should appear in *prop. person*, nor will the Delegate, if in his power, claim any protection from *privilege*, as meanly and falsely alleged by the Citizen—1. The Delegate solicited the Annapolitans to appoint him their elector of the senate; it is not true—2. The Delegate supported the conduct of the late intendant of the revenues; when in fact he only justified it, so far as it was arraigned by a committee of the house of delegates—3. The Delegate aimed at the continuance of the intendant's office with *outrgrown powers*; whereas he was only for vesting it with such, as were necessarily incident and requisite to secure the collection of the revenue—4. The Delegate was for continuing the said office from a *partiality to the officer*; he proposed the office, before a conjecture could be formed as to the person; this assertion is base and false.

"Nature and education has rendered the Citizen inferior to the Delegate in ungenerous invective"—What a despicable subterfuge for commencing and continuing a personal attack, and pouring forth a torrent of abuse.—Hear his unparalleled insolence—1st. "The Delegate is bent on an emission of money, the exoneration by the state of the British debtors, and the revival of the intendant's office, and will sacrifice every obstacle to their accomplishment"—2. "The Delegate entertains prejudices against particular members of the senate, which have tainted his mind with ungenerous malevolence, so that he cannot discharge the duty of an elector from a bitterness of heart."—3. "There is no man breathing talks more of honour and integrity than the Delegate."—4. To prevent the senate from *ebalking out* one of his favourite schemes, the Delegate would have construed into a money bill whatever was sent by the senate."—5. "Shall the glorious struggle for independence and its attainment terminate in the exaltation of the Delegate to supreme power."—6. "It is the ruling passion of the soul of the Delegate to govern the public councils of the state, and the Delegate never had a wish more at heart, than to be an elector of the senate."—There is not a particle of truth in any one of these assertions; they flow from an uncommon malignity of nature.—To this very polite catalogue of vices and follies, the Citizen adds, "There are three things, the honour, integrity and impudence of the Dele-

gate, which make the creature truly insufferable."—What a slight of nonsense! Impudence indeed will render any one contemptible, but it remains for the Citizen to explain, how the honour and integrity of a man can make him insufferable.

How could the Delegate expect to escape, when the electors of the senate, and the house of delegates are equally the objects of the Citizen's illiberal censures?—1. "The Delegate has carried all his grand leading points in the house of delegates; it is only necessary to procure a *proper senate*, to effect which purpose nothing appeared to the Delegate more effectual, than to obtain a seat among the electors, not only to secure his own seat in the senate, but that his influence might be exerted in giving to that body the form, which would best answer his political views."—2. "In declamatory speeches, where assertion passes for proof and argument, the Delegate bent the yielding house of delegates to all his purposes."

I have tired myself and I fear my readers.—It would exhaust the patience of a Job to notice all the puerilities and absurdities of the Citizen; he is the poorest Wight, that ever presumed to advise on political measures, or decide on public characters; but in these times the most ignorant are generally the most decisive in communicating their sentiments on the very complicated subjects of political controversy—Every boy, who has only learned the first rudiments of Latin or French, every student of the law, though in his noviciate, especially if he has acquired the art of dancing and fiddling, conceives himself fully qualified to be a senator, or councillor, or to dictate on the propriety and nature of political measures.—If the Citizen declines any further appeal to the public, on this occasion, and wishes to establish a literary character, he may employ his pen in writing the history of the next session of assembly, and from the example of a brother dancer, lay the public under contribution for the purchase of another catchpenny.

The Delegate wishes to possess the esteem of the public, but he has never pursued any suitable method to obtain it.—He would not willingly make one good man his enemy, and as for the unworthy, he despises their envy and malevolence.—The calumnies of envy, ignorance and impudence must ever be sustained by the man, who dares to stand forth in opposition to the designs of party, and the views of ambition, or avarice.—He relies on the favour and protection of the public, from their opinion of his integrity and zeal in their service; but if disappointed, he prefers the approbation of his own heart, and the comforts of a clear conscience to the plaudits of millions.

A DELEGATE.

Annapolis, September 11, 1786.

THE printer to the state begs leave to inform the public, that the collection of laws, which he is now printing agreeably to the directions of the legislature, is in great forwardness; at the same time he requests those gentlemen who still have his subscription papers, to return them as soon as possible. From the great utility which this work is generally expected to possess, he flattered himself that the number of subscribers would have been very considerable; but in this he has been deceived, as well as with respect to the magnitude of his undertaking. Although this work comprehends little more than the laws of this state since to recent period as the year 1763, the size of the volume will be such as cannot fail to induce a favourable opinion of his terms.

All public publishing laws are printed at large, except those whose operation is past. Of the latter kind, and of those laws which have expired, or have been repealed, and under which rights have been acquired, or any thing important has been transacted, a full and faithful abstract is given of, at least, the most material parts. Laws not deemed public, but interesting to great bodies of men, are likewise published at large. Laws respecting parishes, schools, and small societies, or towns, &c. are only abstracted, as also are some temporary or repealed laws, merely because they are singular in their nature, objects of curiosity, and capable of suggesting hints to future legislators. As to laws merely relating to individuals, &c. the titles only of them are given.

The following abstract is given by way of specimen not only of the nature of the performance, but of the type used for abstracts. The type used for the acts at large is equal in goodness to this, and of the size used in Bacon's laws.

C H A P. XXIII.

An ACT for the emission of bills of credit not exceeding two hundred thousand pounds, on the security of double the value in lands, to defray the expences of the present campaign.

At the time of passing this act, a British army, under the conduct of an enterprising spirited commander, had pushed from Charleston into Virginia; and his purpose appeared to be, that of over-running the country, subverting the new governments as he passed along, and, at length, forming a junction with the main army from New-York. At no stage of the war did our affairs, particularly with respect to this state, wear a more threatening aspect. The continental treasury was empty. The scheme for calling in bills of credit, at the rate of forty for one, had not only effectually stopped their circulation, but made an impression on the minds of the people extremely unfavourable to paper credit in general, and hence an amazing depreciation of the two recent state emissions had

taken place; but had they been equal in value to specie, the state at this time had but a small sum at command, and was destitute of every other money. The practice of seizure under law, had been carried as far as could be submitted to by a free people. In this alarming situation, the idea of a new and better emission, suggested itself as the only expedient for enabling this state to contribute its part to the support of the common cause, and to provide for its own internal government and defence.

It was imagined, that to the total want of funds for the continental emissions, and the precariousness of the funds destined for the redemption of the two state emissions, together with their relation to, and connexion with, the continental money, might justly be imputed their want of success. It was therefore determined to provide the most ample and undoubted funds, and to take such measures as would render it impossible for the projected emission to fail.

By this act, bills of credit to the amount of not more than £. 200,000, of various denominations in dollars, are to be emitted immediately, and shall not continue in circulation more than four years; every holder of the same, being entitled at any time between the 25th of December, 1784, and the 25th of June, 1785, to bring them to the treasurer of the western shore, and to receive in exchange gold or silver at certain rates herein specified, being the same, in most respects, with the rates at present established.

For the redemption of these bills, there is in the first place imposed a tax, payable in specie or in the said bills, of 3/9 in the £. 100, according as property may be valued for three successive years, to be collected and paid into the treasury, with other public taxes, by the 20th of September in 1782, 1783, and 1784. In the next place, British property, to a very great amount, is directed to be sold by the commissioners. Each purchaser is to give bond for double the purchase money, with two securities, for the payment in specie, or in the said bills to their actual value, of one third, with interest, on the 1st of September in each of the aforesaid years; and upon failure of payment, the treasurer is to direct the clerk of the general court for the respective shore, to record the bond, and issue execution, on which shall be levied, in specie, or bills to their actual value, the money due, with the costs accruing. Thirdly, Persons in each county are appointed to receive subscriptions of the following nature: Any person may subscribe a sum, not less than £. 100, payable in specie, or in the said bills, by the first of November, 1784, specifying at the same time a particular of freehold estate, or real chattels, to the amount according to the assessment, of double the sum subscribed. All such subscriptions are to be lodged with the treasurer, and shall bind the estate in whatever hands it may fall; and the subscribers may at any time pay in their subscriptions, and be entitled on the day of payment to receive the principal, in specie, and an interest of eight per cent. and shall thereby exonerate the lands which they made chargeable; and any other holder of the bills may at any time bring to the treasurer not less than £. 100, and be entitled to receive the principal in specie at the period of redemption, with an interest of six per cent.

But these bills of credit are not to issue beyond the sum which the bonds and subscriptions lodged in the office shall amount to, nor shall they be paid by the treasurer but at a value equal to that of specie. One fifth part of them are appropriated to the defence of the state, and the residue are appropriated, under the orders of the executive, to the purpose of defraying the expences of the campaign, hereafter to be incurred.

On the 1st of October, 1784, all accounts relative to the emission are to be closed, adding the interest growing due on the 25th of December, to those who have carried bills into the treasury and taken receipts, deducting every thing received on the bonds, and from the tax, and from subscribers. The balance is then to be struck and apportioned amongst the unpaid subscriptions; and public notice in the papers shall be given of the proportion per centum which each subscriber has to pay. If this be unpaid on the 1st of November following, the treasurer is immediately, under hand and seal, to certify the particular charged by each subscriber, the sum he subscribed, and the sum due, which last he shall direct the sheriff to levy, by a sale of a sufficient part of the land. The sheriff is immediately to set up a copy of the said certificate at the court-house door, giving notice of the time of sale, which shall not be less than 10, or more than 20 days afterwards; and the sheriff shall pay the sum due to the treasurer in specie, or in bills, within 15 days after the time appointed for the sale, or he shall himself be chargeable with double the sum.

It evidently appears, that the principal design of the legislature was to procure a loan, to the

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