

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, DECEMBER 28, 1786.

To the D E L E G A T E.

" 'Tis doubly vile, when, but to shew your art,
 " You fix an arrow in a blameless heart.
 " Oh, lost to honour's voice,—Oh doom'd to
 " shame—
 " Thou fiend accurs'd,—thou murderer of fame.
 " Fell ravisher, from innocence to tear
 " That name, than liberty, than life more dear.
 " When shall thy baseness meet its just return,
 " Or what repay thy guilt, but endless scorn;
 " And know, immortal truth shall mock thy toil,
 " Immortal truth shall make the shaft recoil,
 " With rage retorted wing the deadly dart,
 " And empty all its poison in thy heart."

A MAN who is conscious of having lived without reproach, who has uniformly supported the character of a man of honour and a gentleman, and has given no just cause of offence, or room for censure, may reasonably expect to be left to the quiet enjoyment of his own pursuits, and to avoid the rage of slander and abuse.

What then must be his astonishment, when a man of rank and importance in the State, wantonly and unprovoked rises up against him, and endeavours to destroy his reputation by the foulest calumny, and the most infamous falsehoods?

This worthy action has been yours. In the Maryland Gazette of the 23d of November, I find myself attacked in the most violent and unprecedented manner, accused of being the concealed author of a publication, in which I had no concern, and loaded with such a degree of abuse, as hardly any offence could merit.

As the paper was at that time taken up, I had recourse to a short reply in a hand-bill, in which I contented myself with denying the charge on which you pretended to ground your resentment, and with informing the public, that you was a calumniator and a liar.

I have now an opportunity of replying in a fuller manner, and although the mere addressing you by the above epithets may have failed to work any reformation in a man so hardened in baseness, and so hackneyed in abuse, we may surely look forward to some degree of remorse, some symptom of shame, when your title to them is plainly shewn, when you stand forth, incontrovertibly a liar, when your calumny is discovered to be of the basest kind, and no subterfuge or excuse is left you to palliate your conduct.

I shall not enter into the merits of the Citizen's publications:—It is the business of the Citizen himself to support them; he is, by birth, by constant residence, and by connexions and property, interested in the welfare of Annapolis, and entitled to offer his sentiments to his fellow-citizens on political subjects; it is a task which I had not the same inducements to undertake, and it is not improbable, that this consideration had some influence among your motives for singling me out, as the officious adviser of the Annapolitans. You have at all events had the address to fix your suspicions on a man unconnected, without protection, and whose defence must rest entirely on his own powers.—So far you have wisely taken your ground; but remember Sir, that if to these powers, (small as you suppose them) I can draw the aid of innocence, if an unstained life presents no vulnerable point, but confines the assailant to inventions which refuse themselves in the uttering, I shall remain uninjured by any thing which your malice and hatred can devise against me.

Had I been the author of the publications under the signature of the Citizen, I know of nothing in them which would have induced me to conceal it; but when I do write, it is for myself, and I have never yet published any thing *under a mask*, or without leaving my name to be given up by the printer, if it was necessary.

You observe, in the opening of your performance, that you had been mistaken in your opinion of the author of the Citizen, and by a description, the intent of which no one can mistake, fix upon me as the real author.

The assertion Sir is false, it is malicious and improbable, and to give it any degree of credit, it might have been expected that some shew of reason, or some cause of suspicion, would have been produced, or, if any scoundrel of your acquaintance had given you such information, that an attention to your own character, would have induced you to give his name, and let the weight of such a falsehood rest upon him instead of yourself; if you had such an informant, I call on you to produce him; he may perhaps be within the reach of a proper mode of reformation; but if (as I suspect) you are the sole in-

ventor, the disgrace and infamy must be all your own.

Unsupported as your allegation stands, a bare denial of it would be sufficient with candid and liberal minds, but I think it proper to adopt further measures for my vindication, and the satisfaction of the public.

In the same paper with this publication, you will find the real author of the Citizen offering to avow himself; he is known to be a gentleman of reputation, and his declaration will be sufficient to acquit me in the fullest manner of the charge which you have made against me; I shall likewise, in addition to his testimony, offer my own on oath. These proofs will surely be sufficient to combat your mere assertions, or the information which (if you had any) must have proceeded from a scoundrel, who will not dare to avow himself the author of so absolute a falsehood.

Maryland, ff. December 25, 1786, came before the subscriber, one of the judges of the general court for the said State, William Kilty, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that he was not the author of the late publications in the Maryland Gazette under the signature of A Citizen, or of any of them, or of any part of them, or of any of them.

A. C. HANSON.

If you have any thing that carries the appearance of proof to counteract this, I call on you to produce it, or get any rascally informer to produce it.

I know it to be out of your power, and on this state of the case, I appeal to your friends, to your blind admirers and idolaters, and even to yourself, if the truth is to be wrung out of you, whether you are not a scoundrel, a liar, and a calumniator, of the most diabolical stamp.—It must be acknowledged that you are,—and, that even a life of virtue, if it were possible for you to lead it, would not efface the remembrance of so black an assemblage of vices.

I consider it as my great happiness, that I am too well known in this State to be within the reach of your malicious intentions, and that if your calumny obtains any belief, it must be among those who are unacquainted with either of the parties, but even with them, the charges are too extravagant, and too obviously malicious, to require a moment's consideration: Your observation in the beginning of your address, your remarks on the history of the session, and the account you have given of my principles and disposition, are of this stamp: That any man should have the wickedness and audacity to invent such horrid accusations, so distant even from the semblance of truth or possibility, is to me almost inconceivable; I, Sir, have the charity to think them too black, even to be made against you.

Not content with this vile attempt on my character, you have undertaken to give an account of my life, &c. an account in which falsity, meanness, black-guardism and folly, struggle for pre-eminence, and form such a compound as must excite the abhorrence and detestation of all good men; if you have not depended on your own invention, but have had an informer on this subject, I call on you to produce him likewise; I may probably have it in my power to give a check to the exercise of his communicative talents.

I request the public to attend to my account of myself. In April 1778, I was desirous of joining the American army, and after obtaining letters of recommendation from Dr Edward Hanson, with whom I had studied physic, and from other gentlemen of the most respectable characters, I proceeded to Wilmington, in the Delaware State, with a view of being appointed a surgeon's mate, a station which I thought suitable to my age and experience in the medical profession. This appointment I immediately obtained in one of the regiments of this State, and without any intermediate absence, exercised the duties of it till April 1780, when, on the resignation of the surgeon of the regiment, I was promoted to fill the vacancy, and continued to act as surgeon until I was made a prisoner at the battle of Camden; for a considerable time after, I was employed in the necessary duties of attending our own soldiers who had been unfortunately wounded and captured in that engagement. In the spring 1781, I had permission to return to this State, where I have since resided, as the circumstance of my not being exchanged, prevented my joining the army again.

The observations which you have made on the opinion of the hospital surgeons, and others, of my abilities and conduct in the station I then filled, might possibly, if not contradicted, obtain some credit among those to whom I am unknown.—To guard against this danger, to shew that they are your own despicable inventions, and to place your

falsities in the strongest light, I have obtained the following certificates:

I hereby certify, that I acted as surgeon to the first Maryland regiment near four years; that early in the year 1778, I became acquainted with Doctor William Kilty, and was in intimacy with him upwards of one year, till my resignation in 1779; that during this term, he was surgeon's mate to the fifth Maryland regiment; that by reason of sickness, occasional absence, and detached services of the regimental surgeon, the whole duty of visiting and attending the sick of the regiment, generally devolved upon him; that Doctor Kilty paid regular and constant attention to the cures of his profession, in punctual attendance on the sick; that in dangerous and difficult cases he generally called in the advice of older surgeons; that, in his medical capacity, he gave satisfaction to the officers and soldiery of his regiment generally; and that he was much esteemed by the officers of the Maryland line, hospital and regimental surgeons, as an uniform, agreeable, and sensible man.

Certified this 26th of November, 1786, by
 MICHAEL WALLACE.

Mr. William Kilty, having applied to me for testimonials of his service while he acted in the army; as he was generally under my command, I had frequent opportunities of observing his conduct, and always found that he discharged the duties of the several stations which he filled with the strictest diligence and attention.

Mr. Kilty joined the Maryland line in the capacity of a surgeon's mate in the year 1778, and acted as such until he was appointed a surgeon of one of the Maryland regiments in the year 1780, in which station he continued until the conclusion of the war, without an imputation, that ever I heard of, against his character or profession I skill.—In justice, therefore, to his merit and services, I have ever understood that he possessed the confidence, and merited the esteem, of the officers in general of the line, in an equal degree with others of his rank and profession.

Nov. 26, 1786 W. SMALLWOOD.

Let me now take up this part of your publication, and see how far it accords with my opinion of you.

You cannot, surely, have the frontiery to oppose your ridiculous assertions to the respectable testimonials which I have obtained: Here then, as before, you must be considered as a scoundrel, here you must be considered as a base calumniator, and here you must stand forth a most impudent and abandoned liar, with this aggravation, that as you was not personally interested in the subject, your observations on it tend more forcibly to shew the internal rancour and malignity of your disposition.

After these scandalous aspersions on my conduct in the army, you have thought proper to pursue me to this State, and to give such an account of my circumstances, as many of your nearest friends could have informed you was founded on the most absolute falsity, and which you could not yourself have believed.

Can you now Sir, without a blush, look back on this catalogue of your vices? Can you arm yourself against these proofs of your depravity, which a reproaching conscience must convince you are not so be refuted?

" Hail thou no feeling ye: Come, throw off pride,
 " And own that baseness which thou can't not
 " hide;
 " Even you, who never wish'd behind to stay
 " When folly, vice and meanness, led the way,
 " Must blush, when you are told by truth and wit,
 " Those actions which you blush'd not to commit.
 " Men, the most infamous, are fond of fame,
 " And those who tear not guilt, yet flout at
 " shame."

You have some friends and admirers who proclaim your virtues, and are surpris'd that the world does not do justice to your merit; one, in particular, has raised you above the level of human nature, and given you qualifications that few indeed in this world can possess; should it not be your care, Sir, to set up to this exalted character, and should you not make some endeavours to justify to favourable an opinion, and to preserve your reputation that your friends may preserve their credit; where is now your humanity? Where are now your other heavenly virtues? Your friend may still imagine that he blackens them, but an impartial world will see you blackened with the opposite vices: Had your assertions been true, had I been the author of the Citizen, and the subject of your resentment, a man of humanity, or even of common feeling, would not have meditated so deep an injury in return. There are some moments in which the suggestions of pas-