

rupted.—Oh that I could once see that great man, in whole presence all the monarchs of the world must hide their *diminished beads*! But if I enter on this subject, I shall leave no room to say with how much respect and gratitude I feel myself sincerely yours."

ANNAPOLIS, May 12.

Fourth Congress of the United States.

At the first session, begun and held at the city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania, on Monday the seventh of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.

An ACT Supplementary to an act, entitled, An act to provide a naval armament.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the president of the United States be authorized to continue the construction and equipment, (with all convenient expedition) of two frigates of forty-four and one frigate of thirty-six guns, any thing in the act, entitled, "An act to provide a naval armament," to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That so much of the sum of six hundred and eighty-eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight dollars, and eighty-two cents, which by the act of June the ninth, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, was appropriated (to defray the expences to be incurred pursuant to the act to provide a naval armament) as remains unexpended, as well as the sum of eighty thousand dollars which was appropriated for a provisional equipment of galleys, by the before recited act, be appropriated for the said purposes.

And be it further enacted, That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to cause to be sold, such part of the perishable materials as may not be wanted for completing the three frigates, and to cause the surplus of the other materials to be safely kept for the future use of the United States.

JONATHAN DAYTON, Speaker of the house of representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice president of the United States, and president of the senate.

Approved, April the twentieth, 1796.

GEO. WASHINGTON, President of the United States.

Deposited among the rolls, in the office of the department of state.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Secretary of state.

To the PRINTERS.

ON perusing your paper of last week I discovered, under the signature of Quintilian, a publication which seemed to be intended as an address to the students of law in this city. From the singularity of its contents, and from the scurrilous language in which they are addressed, I am induced to submit to the public consideration, and to the students in particular, a few strictures upon it. As Quintilian has arrogated to himself a right of censuring the conduct of these respectable young gentlemen, and having an equal claim to the liberty of the press with himself, I have undertaken to offer some few remarks upon the nature of his publication.

That his language is unpolite in the extreme, is too obvious to require any illustration, and it is sufficient to rouse the indignation of every student who possesses the smallest spark of sensibility, or who has not entirely renounced all pretensions to character. Quintilian does not stoop to argument. The whole is dogmatical and authoritative. But before any writer has the presumption to appear in a paper, whose object is the diffusion of rational entertainment, it is his business to be acquainted with the strength of his own genius; and when such writers as Quintilian intrude upon the public, it becomes the duty of every lover of truth to expose the fallacy of their doctrine. Such productions as Quintilian's will never, I am sure, meet with a favourable reception from a candid and enlightened community. Although Quintilian has adorned his composition with the names of such celebrated rhetoricians, yet from the glaring defects in his style, and the improprieties of his phraseology, it may fairly be concluded, that he has never penetrated beyond the title page of either. Besides, the very act of introducing them (unfortunately for him) betrays the imbecility of his judgment; for the mere insertion of such admired critics naturally summons to the readers recollection their rules of criticism, which serves to render the contrast more striking. Quintilian, I find, deals plentifully in universal propositions. Situated probably in some obscure corner of Annapolis, his genius ranges over the whole surface of the continent, and although his mind is so unlimited in its operation, yet I am at a loss to divine how he could have acquired information that there are no societies of this nature established in any part of America. Quintilian ought to have reflected upon the vast extent of America before he had hazarded such an assertion.

If Quintilian has ever received an academical education (which from his publication may be reasonably disputed) he must be acquainted with the rules by which these seminaries are regulated. A certain plan of instruction is laid down, from which there can be no departure. Every hour of a student's collegiate life is spent in acquiring a knowledge of the arts and sciences. Would Quintilian then seriously recommend to him, that as soon as he has entered the door of an attorney's office, before he has perused Blackstone's Commentaries; before he has even perfectly learned the distinction between plaintiff and defendant, or the most common terms in law, would Quintilian, I say, advise students in these circumstances

to form a society for the purpose of exploring the intricate labyrinths of legal truth? Such doctrine carries absurdity upon the very face of it.

After all, candour obliges me to confess, that I am no enemy to such associations. The advantages which flow from them, if established upon proper foundations, must be important, must be salutary indeed. They have been felt and acknowledged by many. Nevertheless I contend (although I hazard the charge of presumption in opposing the judgment of Quintilian) that such societies, if formed at too early a period, will be followed by the most prejudicial consequences. Universal experience will fully evince the propriety and truth of this assertion. We all know with what wonderful facility bad habits are acquired before the judgment of young men is in some degree matured, and when once contracted, every man must have felt the difficulty of surmounting them. I sincerely lament, that my occupation in life will not afford me greater leisure for a more minute examination of the sentiments of the Roman advocate and orator; but should the remarks already suggested have any influence on your conduct, I shall think myself amply compensated for the time and labour which have been sacrificed to the subject. Before I conclude, however, I must solicit your most serious attention to the following observations. I am as well acquainted with your progress in the study of law as Quintilian can possibly be, and therefore entreat you to postpone the formation of such a society until you have made farther progress in your studies. He, who has hitherto so generously patronised institutions of this nature, and to whom the debt of gratitude is due for his past favours will, no doubt, aid your feeble exertions with as much cheerfulness at any future as at the present period.—Let each student judge for himself.

\* Quintilian.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

The INQUISITOR, No. II.

Quid faciam prescribere.

HORACE.

EVERY man, however insignificant his profession or employment, from the mechanic to the poet, feels an anxiety for the welfare of his own productions, and their favourable reception in the world. But although their anxiety may have so universally pervaded the world, none, I believe, feel it to so great a degree, as authors; but more particularly in their entrance into the literary world. At this time, when so much depends upon the manner in which their work is conducted, and when unaccustomed to those cares which are attendant upon authorship, and which habit must allighten, their mind is more open to timidity and fear; every circumstance, however slight, is sufficient to create in them terrors, and every object of dread is magnified. However ardent the mind may be; however pushed by the desire of praise; and however the novice may have been elated with the certain success of his work; when he beholds criticism in dread array, standing forth to mark down every stain, and to observe every moat, and envy, if their work may be consistent with perfection, ready to cover it with the most severe opprobrium, he will, I believe, readily confess the pains of authorship are nearly on an equilibrium with the chances which it affords of obtaining the applause of the world.

From these circumstances the public will not be surprised when I inform them, that my entrance into authorship has been marked with the same fears and apprehensions which has marked that of others; to me the fears of criticism have been equally great; and by me the contempt of the world has been equally feared.

Sometimes, however, when I look into the authority of those who have assumed, under the title of critics, the power of stamping every work with their approbation or censure, and ask whence they derive their power, I find it built upon so slender a foundation, and this query so difficult to be solved, that I have almost been prevailed upon to suspect that those terrors were more owing to the foolish timidity of the writer, than to any real cause. There is, however, a certain effect which their opinion has upon that of the world, that upon whatever foundation their authority may be placed, or whencesoever derived, it is necessary to obtain their favour. Every person who may have emitted an *acrobat* or *epigram* to the world, through a magazine, now assumes the right of dealing out his criticism with the most lavish hand; and a reverend moralist says that criticism has become a topic of even tea party assemblies; and that it is not uncommon for ladies who can hardly write their names, or indite a *love letter*, without the assistance of Entick's dictionary, to decide upon the merits of a poem, or any new publication, with all the authority of Aristotle, or the foolish virulence of Zoilus. I indeed have been informed, by a worthy correspondent, that an inquisition has been held over my first number by an association of *Grammaticasters*, and that I may expect to see the celebration of an *auto da fe* upon my two numbers on the following week. I have been induced to believe that remarks of this nature from persons like these, are indeed the strongest tokens of worth, wherefore I most humbly offer my worthy inquisitors my most hearty thanks for their unkind opinion, and hope they will do me the honour to continue it.

When we are in danger, not only of the most severe persecutions of the male sex; but also in danger of meeting the frowns of the angelic fair, what heart can be free from the strongest emotions of fear? What writer can be so insensible, as not to be agitated by the most violent terrors? What aid can the most stoical philosophy bring in to us, when opposed to those, the most divine of all our creator's works!

I am lead more strongly to fear the attacks of criticism from the variety and diversity of tastes which a periodical work has to satisfy. How diligent forever the writer may be, let him cull from the gardens of morality and amusement whatever subjects may be most pleasingly instructive and entertaining, and let him deliver them in a style however suitable, yet his labours will prove unsatisfactory to a part of his readers; to some he will appear too sentimental; to others too gay; a third desires that his papers may be interspersed with politics; and a fourth wishes him to give cut upon some topics of fashion. In so great a variety of tastes, where it is impossible to please all, I have resolved (wherein I am happy to find myself supported by a great authority) to indulge a little my own taste.

In a conflict with so many difficulties, I have determined, however my papers may be criticised, however I may meet with the frowns of some, and however I may be loaded with the opprobriums of others, ever to take the side of virtue and innocence, and to act upon the principles of honesty alone; so that when I come to settle accounts with the public, I shall feel myself free from the internal stings of a convicted conscience, and I shall be able to review my labours with the pleasing happiness that I never gave

To virtue scandal, to innocencè a fear,  
Or from the meek ey'd virgin stole a tear.

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To be SOLD, for CASH, to the HIGHEST BIDDER, on Tuesday the 31st of May next, on the premises,

THAT valuable FARM, containing about 84 acres, formerly the property of WILLIAM IJAMS, of George, lying in Anne-Arundel county, about twelve miles from Annapolis; and three from Queen-Anne; it is deemed unnecessary to give any further description, as it is expected thole inclinable to purchase will view the land, which will be shewn by Mr. THOMAS RICHARDSON, living thereon. Sale to begin at 11 o'clock.

1007/6 WILLIAM WELSH.  
May 2, 1796.

To be SOLD, to the HIGHEST BIDDER, on Monday the 16th day of May, 1796,

THE HOUSE and LOT lately occupied by Mr. ISAAC M' HARD, on East-street, containing about three quarters of an acre. The terms will be made known on the day of sale, by

BURTON WHETCROFT.  
Annapolis, May 10, 1796. *m. Dawson*

To be SOLD, at PUBLIC SALE, the first day of June next, (if not sold at private sale before that day) at the late dwelling of STEPHEN STEWARD, on West river,

SEVERAL tracts of land, adjoining each other, lying on Deep Creek, in the Swamp, containing upwards of 600 acres, with all necessary improvements thereon; a lot of land containing 49 acres, lying in the Swamp; one tract containing 87 acres; one tract containing 27 acres, the greatest part of it in timothy; two lots, part of Anne-Arundel Manor; one of 83 acres, the other 96, all the above parcels of land lay in the neighbourhood of West river, and are valuable. One tract of land, lying near Herring Bay, containing 100 acres. The above lands are sold for the benefit of the creditors of the late Stephen Steward, sen. A liberal credit will be given to the purchaser or purchasers, on giving bond with good security, but no conveyance to be executed until the purchase money is paid. The title is unquestionable, the lands being sold under deeds from the heirs at law, and with the consent of the judgment creditors.

1007/6 BENJAMIN HARRISON.

CHARLES FARIS,

Clock and Watch-Maker,

HAS received an assortment of gold and silver warranted Watches, gold, gilt, and steel Watch Chains and Seals, plated Casors, Candlesticks and Salts, with many other articles in his line, which he will sell low for cash.

Annapolis, May 11, 1796. /

NOTICE.

THE COMMISSIONERS of the TAX for Prince-George's county will attend at Upper Marlborough, from Monday the sixth day of June until Wednesday the twenty-second of the same month, in order to make such alterations as have taken place in the property within the said county since their last meeting.

SAMUEL HEPBURN, Clerk.  
April 18, 1796. 1007/6

ALL persons indebted to the estate of SAMUEL HANSON M'PHERSON, late of Charles county, deceased, are requested to make immediate payment, and those who have claims against said estate are desired to hand them in, legally attested.

ELIZABETH M'PHERSON, Administratrix,  
WILLIAM H. M'PHERSON, Administrator.  
May 7, 1796. /

THE creditors of Mr. JAMES PATTISON, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, are requested to exhibit their claims, properly authenticated, to the subscriber, living in said county, on or before the first day of September next, and those indebted are requested to make immediate payments, to

JACOB PATTISON, Administrator.  
May 11, 1796. 1007/6