

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, January 2, 1752.

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A late Act of Parliament being made, for altering the Style, and correcting the Calendar, which relates to all the Dominions of Great-Britain, we imagine Nothing can be more proper to give to the Public at this Time.

An ACT for regulating the Commencement of the Year, and for correcting the Calendar now in Use.

WHEREAS the legal Supputation of the Year of our Lord in that Part of Great-Britain called England, according to which the Year beginneth on the Twenty-fifth Day of March, hath been found by Experience to be attended with divers Inconveniencies, not only as it differs from the Usage of neighbouring Nations, but also from the legal Method of Computation in that Part of Great-Britain called Scotland, and from the common Usage throughout the whole Kingdom, whereby frequent Mistakes are occasioned in the Dates of Deeds, and other Writings, and Disputes arise therefrom.

And whereas the Calendar now in Use throughout all his Majesty's British Dominions, commonly called *The Julian Calendar*, hath been discovered to be erroneous, by Means whereof the Vernal or Spring Equinox, which at the Time of the General Council of Nice, in the Year of our Lord Three hundred and twenty-five, happened on or about the Twenty-first Day of March, now happens on the ninth or tenth Day of the same Month; and the said Error is still encreasing; and if not remedied, would, in Process of Time, occasion the several Equinoxes and Solstices to fall at very different Times in the Civil Year from what they formerly did, which might tend to mislead Persons ignorant of the said Alteration.

And whereas a Method of correcting the Calendar in such Manner, as that the Equinoxes and Solstices may for the future fall nearly on the same Nominal Days, on which the same happened at the Time of the said General Council, hath been received and established, and is now generally practised by almost all other Nations of Europe.

And whereas it will be of general Convenience to Merchants, and other Persons corresponding with other Nations and Countries, and tend to prevent Mistakes and Disputes in or concerning the Dates of Letters, and Accounts, if the like Correction be received and established in his Majesty's Dominions;

May it therefore please your MAJESTY, That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted, by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That in and throughout all his Majesty's Dominions and Countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, belonging or subject to the Crown of Great-Britain, the said Supputation, according to which the Year of our Lord beginneth on the Twenty-fifth Day of March, shall not be made use of from and after the last Day of December, 1751; and that the first Day of January, next following the said last Day of December, shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year of our Lord 1752; and the first Day of January, which shall happen next after the said first Day of January, 1752, shall be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year of our Lord, 1753; and so on from Time to Time, the first Day of January in every Year, which shall happen in Time to come, shall

be reckoned, taken, deemed, and accounted, to be the first Day of the Year; and that each New Year shall accordingly commence, and begin to be reckoned, from the first Day of every such Month of January next preceding the Twenty-fifth Day of March, on which such Year would, according to the present Supputation, have begun or commenced: And that from and after the said first Day of January, 1752, the several Days of each Month shall go on, and be reckoned and numbered in the same Order; and the Feast of Easter, and other Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall be ascertained according to the same Method, as they now are, until the second Day of September, in the said Year 1752 inclusive; and that the Natural Day next immediately following the said second Day of September, shall be called, reckoned, and accounted, to be the fourteenth Day of September, omitting for that Time only the eleven intermediate Nominal Days of the common Calendar; and that the several Natural Days, which shall follow and succeed next after the said fourteenth Day of September, shall be respectively called, reckoned, and numbered forwards in Numerical Order from the said fourteenth Day of September, according to the Order and Succession of Days now used in the present Calendar; and that all Acts, Deeds, Writings, Notes, and other Instruments of what Nature or Kind soever, whether Ecclesiastical or Civil, Public or Private, which shall be made, executed, or signed, upon or after the said first Day of January, 1752, shall bear Date according to the said new Method of Supputation, and that the two fixed Terms of Saint Hilary, and Saint Michael, in that Part of Great-Britain called England, and the Courts of Great Sessions in the Counties Palatine, and in Wales, and also the Courts of General Quarter Sessions, and General Sessions of the Peace, and all other Courts of what Nature or Kind soever, whether Civil, Criminal, or Ecclesiastical, and all Meetings and Assemblies of any Bodies Politic or Corporate, either for the Election of any Officers or Members thereof, or for any such Officers entering upon the Execution of their respective Offices, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, which by any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage within this Kingdom, or within any other the Dominions or Countries subject or belonging to the Crown of Great-Britain, are to be holden and kept on any fixed or certain Day of any Month, or on any Day depending upon the Beginning or any certain Day of any Month (except such Courts as are usually holden or kept with any Fairs or Markets) shall from Time to Time, from and after the said second Day of September, be holden and kept: upon or according to the same respective Nominal Days and Times, whereon or according to which the same are now to be holden, but which shall be computed according to the said new Method of numbering and reckoning the Days of the Calendar as aforesaid; that is to say, eleven Days sooner than the respective Days whereon the same are now holden and kept; any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And, for the continuing and preserving the Calendar, or Method of Reckoning, and computing the Days of the Year in the same regular Course, as near as may be, in all Times coming; Be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Years of our Lord 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300, or any other hundredth Years of our Lord, which shall happen in Time to come, except only every fourth hundredth Year of our Lord, whereof the Year of our Lord 2000 shall be the first, shall not be esteemed or taken to be Bissextile or Leap-Years, but shall be taken to be common Years, consisting of 365 Days; and no more; and that the Years of our Lord 2000, 2400, 2800, and every other fourth hundredth Year of our Lord, from the said Year of our Lord

2000 inclusive, and also all other Years of our Lord, which by the present Supputation are esteemed to be Bissextile or Leap-Years, shall for the future; and in all Times to come, be esteemed and taken to be Bissextile or Leap-Years, consisting of 366 Days, in the same Sort and Manner as is now used with respect to every fourth Year of our Lord.

And whereas according to the Rule prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, Easter day is always the first Sunday after the first Full-Moon which happens next after the One and twentieth Day of March, and if the Full Moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter day is the Sunday after; which Rule was made in Conformity to the Decree of the said General Council of Nice, for the Celebration of the said Feast of Easter: And whereas the Method of computing the Full Moons now used in the Church of England, and according to which the Table to find Easter for ever, prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer, is formed, is by Process of Time become considerably erroneous: And whereas a Calendar, and also certain Tables and Rules for the fixing the true Time of the Celebration of the said Feast of Easter, and the finding the Times of the Full Moons, on which the same dependeth, so as the same shall agree as nearly as may be with the Decree of the said General Council, and also with the Practice of Foreign Countries, have been prepared; Be it therefore further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Feast of Easter, or any of the Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall, from and after the said second Day of September, be no longer kept or observed in that Part of Great-Britain called England, or in any other the Dominions or Countries subject or belonging to the Crown of Great-Britain, according to the said Method of Supputation now used, or the said Table prefixed to the said Book of Common Prayer; and that the said Table, and also the Column of Golden Numbers, as they are now prefixed to the respective Days of the Month in the said Calendar, shall be left out in all future Editions of the said Book of Common Prayer; and that the said New Calendar, Tables, and Rules, shall be prefixed to all such future Editions of the said Book, in the Room and Stead thereof; and that from and after the said second Day of September, all and every the fixed Feast-days, Holy-days, and Fast-days, which are now kept and observed by the Church of England, and also the several solemn Days of Thanksgiving, and of Fasting and Humiliation, which by Virtue of any Act of Parliament now in being, are, from Time to Time, to be kept and observed, shall be kept and observed on the respective Days marked for the Celebration of the same in the said New Calendar; that is to say, on the same respective Nominal Days on which the same are now kept and observed; but which according to the Alteration by this Act intended to be made, as aforesaid, will happen eleven Days sooner than the same now do; and that the said Feast of Easter, and all other Moveable Feasts thereon depending, shall, from Time to Time, be observed and celebrated according to the said New Calendar, Tables, and Rules, in that Part of Great-Britain called England, and in all the Dominions and Countries aforesaid, wherein the Liturgy of the Church of England now is, or hereafter shall be used; and that the two Moveable Terms of Easter and Trinity, and all Courts of what Nature or Kind soever, and all Meetings and Assemblies of any Bodies Politic or Corporate, and all Markets, Fairs, and Markets and Courts thereunto belonging, which by any Law, Statute, Charter, Custom, or Usage, are appointed, used, or accustomed to be holden and kept at any Moveable Time or Times depending upon the Time of Easter, or any other such Moveable Feast as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, from and after the said second Day of September, be holden and

and kept on such Days and Times whereon the same shall respectively happen or fall, according to the happening or falling of the said Feast of Easter, or such other Movable Feasts, as aforesaid, to be computed according to the said New Calendar, Tables, and Rules.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Meetings of the Court of Session, and Terms fixed for the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, and the holding and keeping of all Markets, Fairs, and Marts, whether for the Sale of Goods or Cattle, or for the hiring of Servants, or for any other Purpose, which are either fixed to certain Nominal Days of the Month, or depending upon the Beginning or any certain Day of any Month, and all Courts incident or belonging to, or usually holden or kept with any such Fairs or Marts, fixed to such certain Times as aforesaid, shall not, from and after the said second Day of September, be continued upon, or according to the Nominal Days of the Month, or the Time of the Beginning of any Month, to be computed according to the said new Calendar; but that from and after the said second Day of September, the said Courts of Session and Exchequer, and all such Markets, Fairs, and Marts, as aforesaid, and all Courts incident or belonging thereto, shall be holden and kept upon, or according to the same Natural Days, upon or according to which the same should have been so kept or holden, in case this Act had not been made; that is to say, Eleven Days later than the same would have happened, according to the Nominal Days of the said New Supputation of Time, by which the Commencement of each Month, and the Nominal Days thereof, are anticipated or brought forward, by the Space of Eleven Days; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And whereas, according to divers Customs, Prescriptions, and Usages, in certain Places within this Kingdom, certain Lands and Grounds are, on particular Nominal Days and Times in the Year, to be opened for Common of Pasture, and other Purposes; and at other Times, the Owners and Occupiers of such Lands and Grounds have a Right to inclose or shut up the same, for their own private Use; and there is in many other Instances a temporary and distinct Property and Right vested in different Persons in and to many such Lands and Grounds, according to certain Nominal Days and Times in the Year: And whereas the anticipating or bringing forward the said Nominal Days and Times, by the Space of Eleven Days, according to the said new Method of Supputation, might be attended with many Inconveniencies:

Be it therefore further Declared, Provided, and Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to accelerate or anticipate the Days or Times for the opening, inclosing, or shutting up any such Lands or Grounds as aforesaid, or the Days or Times on which any such temporary or distinct Property or Right in or to any such Lands or Grounds as aforesaid is to commence; but that all such Lands and Grounds as aforesaid shall, from and after the said second Day of September, be, from Time to Time respectively opened, inclosed, or shut up, and such temporary and distinct Property and Right in and to such Lands and Grounds as aforesaid, shall commence and begin upon the same Natural Days and Times on which the same should have been so respectively opened, inclosed, or shut up, or would have commenced or begun, in case this Act had not been made; that is to say, eleven Days later than the same would have happened, according to the said New Account and Supputation of Time, so to begin on the said fourteenth Day of September, as aforesaid.

Provided also, and it is hereby further Declared and Enacted, That nothing in this present Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to accelerate or anticipate the Time of Payment of any Rent or Rents, Annuity or Annuities, or Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which shall become payable by Virtue or in Consequence of any Custom, Usage, Lease, Deed, Writing, Bond, Note, Contract, or other Agreement whatsoever, now subsisting, or which shall be made, signed, sealed, or entered into, at any Time before the said fourteenth Day of September, or to accelerate the Payment of, or increase the Interest of any such Sum of Money which shall become payable as aforesaid; or to accelerate the Time of the Delivery of any Goods, Chattels, Wares, Merchandize, or other Things whatsoever; or the Time of the

Commencement, Expiration, or Determination of any Lease or Demise of any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, or of any other Contract or Agreement whatsoever; or of the accepting, surrendering, or delivering up the Possession of any such Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments; or the Commencement, Expiration, or Determination of any Annuity or Rent; or of any Grant for any Term of Years, of what Nature or Kind soever, by Virtue or in Consequence of any such Deed, Writing, Contract, or Agreement; or the Time of the attaining the Age of One and twenty Years, or any other Age requisite by any Law, Custom, or Usage, Deed, Will, or Writing whatsoever, for the doing any Act, or for any other Purpose whatsoever, by any Person or Persons now born, or who shall be born before the said fourteenth Day of September, or the Time of the Expiration or Determination of any Apprenticeship, or other Service, by Virtue of any Indenture, or of any Articles under Seal, or by Reason of any simple Contract or Hiring whatsoever; but that all and every such Rent and Rents, Annuity and Annuities, Sum and Sums of Money, and the Interest thereof, shall remain and continue to be due and payable; and the Delivery of such Goods and Chattels, Wares and Merchandize, shall be made; and the said Leases and Demises of all such Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, and the said Contracts and Agreements, shall be deemed to commence, expire, and determine; and the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments shall be accepted, surrendered, and delivered up; and the said Rents, and Annuities, and Grants for any Term of Years, shall commence, cease and determine, at and upon the same respective Natural Days and Times, as the same should and ought to have been payable or made, or would have happened, in case this Act had not been made; and that no further or other Sum shall be paid or payable for the Interest of any Sum of Money whatsoever, than such Interest shall amount unto, for the true Number of Natural Days for which the Principal Sum bearing such Interest shall continue due and unpaid; and that no Person or Persons whatsoever shall be deemed or taken to have attained the said Age of One and twenty Years, or any other such Age, as aforesaid, or to have completed the Time of any such Service, as aforesaid, until the full Number of Years and Days shall be elapsed on which such Person or Persons respectively would have attained such Age, or would have completed the Time of such Service, as aforesaid, in case this Act had not been made; any Thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

H A G U E, August 31.

THE following is an Extract of a Letter from Madrid, dated August 20. "People have for a long Time past, talked as though a good Understanding between this Court and that of Great Britain would never be perfectly well established till the latter should consent to restore Gibraltar to Spain. Our Ministers have very often insinuated this to those of his Britannic Majesty, as well here as at London; but these last have always hitherto turned a deaf Ear thereto. It nevertheless now looks as though there were some Change in this Respect, and that Mr. Keene had received instructions relative thereto. It cannot be said what they precisely are, but People of the justest Way of Thinking here are generally persuaded, that, without this Restitution, the English will never obtain such a free Navigation to the West Indies as they are desirous of, notwithstanding the great Abilities of Mr. Keene, and the Pains which he takes to cause the Negotiation to succeed with which he is charged." Though 'tis much doubted here whether the Court of Great Britain will ever restore Gibraltar, yet there may, possibly, be some Foundation for the above recited Letter from Madrid; if any Dependence may be had on some received from another Place, importing, that Spain is upon the Point of entering into a strict Alliance with the Courts of Vienna and London; that those of Naples and Parma will likewise accede thereto; and that it is not doubted but the King of Sardinia will do the like. These Letters add, that France is far from being in the same Esteem and Credit at the Court of Madrid as heretofore.

Extract of a Letter from Rome, August 8.

Besides the great Damages that were sustained at Nocera, through the Earthquake that happened on the 26th of July last, the City of Gualda, (not to mention some of the other Places near it) suffered extremely by that fatal Accident: All their

Steeple, two only excepted, were totally demolished; the Convents of St. Francis and St. Augustine were almost laid in Ruins, two Nunneries were render'd altogether unfit to be inhabited; and in short, two thirds of the whole City were absolutely destroyed. Ten Persons have been since dug out of the Rubbish, and there are several others missing. All the Inhabitants were glad to fly for Safety into the open Fields, and to make themselves what Conveniences they could, in that Extremity, for their Repose a Nights. As they were soon, however, destitute of Provisions, the City of Nocera, notwithstanding their own calamitous Condition, sent two Deputies with proper Relief for their poor disconsolate Neighbours. The Prioral Palace, the Secretary's Office, &c. all fell in directly, and their Papers were irrecoverably lost in the Rubbish. In short, there are at present but very few Houses standing in all Gualda, and those that remain seem in a very tottering Condition. Their Misfortunes are indeed already very deplorable, but their Fears are notwithstanding far from being over. The Inhabitants are still under as great a Pannic as before, since their Ears are continually affected with a rumbling Noise in the adjacent Mountains; and sometimes they are terrified with Cracks, as loud as the Discharge of so many Muskets. Thanks to Providence! we have felt the Shocks of it, without any considerable Damage done in any Part of our City."

L O N D O N, August 19.

Extract of a Letter from CORNWALL, June 20. LAST Thursday, the 17th Instant, about Noon, in a violent Storm at South, a Brigantine from London for Penzance, with a valuable Cargo, was driven ashore near the Port of Loo in this County. The Men unhappily took to their Boat too soon, and perished, every Soul, in a few Minutes. The Surveyor of the Customs and assistant Officers endeavoured to secure the Cargo and Materials of the Ship for the Claimants. But the Persons (their Townsmen and Neighbours) whom they would have appointed as a Guard to keep off the Country from the Wreck and who would have been well rewarded for their Trouble, thought it more gainful to rob for themselves than to save for the Proprietors: They entered into an iniquitous Confederacy, and with other Villains secured a good Quantity of valuable Effects. The Shore was soon crowded with a Multitude of People from the Towns, Villages, and Parishes adjacent, and every one laid violent Hands on whatever he could meet with. The Officers dared not, without manifest Danger of their Lives, make any Opposition to these tumultuous and outrageous Proceedings; more especially, as spirituous Liquors were Part of the Cargo. It is a Pity, that the Country Gentry do not exert themselves on these Occasions. Their Presence, Reproof, and Menaces would carry some Weight.

I was a melancholy Spectator of this dismal Scene. But I held my Tongue and spake nothing. I refrained even from good Words: But it was Pain to me: My Heart was hot within me. To dissuade, would be vain; to upbraid, would provoke; to threaten, would be dangerous. I knew not which was greater, my Grief or my Indignation; Grief—to see a fine Vessel, richly freighted, dashed against the Rocks, and my Fellow Mortals plunged by the merciless Waves into sudden, untimely, and perhaps unprovided Death; Indignation—to behold my Fellow Christians (if they may be called Christians) express in their Countenances a ghastly Joy at this awful Calamity, and fall on the Spoil, like hungry Tygers on their Prey, with brutal Violence and insatiate Greediness. Men and Women ran eagerly to plunder, and carried off, not only on their Shoulders, but, surprizing Impudence, hard'n'd Villainy! Even on Drays and Horses, the Goods and Materials, as unconcerned and bold, as if they had bought them at a Price. Even Children were proud to stagger under the Burden of a painted Board. So soon are they initiated by their wicked Parents (bless'd Education!) into the Art and Science of Thievery and Pillage, and their tender Minds insatiate with the Love of Plunder! I cannot but think, that the brutal Behaviour of the meaner Sort of our People is in a good Measure owing to the pernicious Practice of Smuggling. They are so used to Night Work, habituated to a Defiance of Authority, and Contempt of the Law, and generally more or less so inflamed with spirituous Liquors, that they are ever ready to perpetrate any Villainy, that their violent Temper or Love of Lucre shall prompt them to.

I cannot forbear mentioning one Thing I took Notice of, which gave me much Concern. Some reputable Farmers and Tradesmen, in other Respects of insufferable Behaviour, and in so easy Circumstances as to be above the Temptations to which the poorer

are exposed, were at a greedy of the Spoil, as the Country. Such Perjury had Principles, as this Paper shall happen these Men, let me beg their Hands on their they have done as the other, if their Barns are by a Storm, or their Rooms on Fire, they wish that their Neighbours their Distress, should be Corn, &c. for their own not but condemn such and unchristian in other They are the Men.

The amazing Insensibility of some Sailors, unnoticed and unaccounted for in Ships, and Waters, should of all to engage in such inhumanly busy on this melancholy remind them, that the and righteous. And the wine Judgments repay

Extract of a Letter "On Friday a Court his Majesty's Ship the President, on a Sailor, and disobeying Committed to have twenty and Sloop in Commission. Extract of a Letter "As several of you acquainted with the M whipt from Ship to Sine will not be Dis the Person mentioned

"On Monday a Signal was made from Admiral Hawke's Ship, a blue Pendant was for a Boat from with a Lieutenant at each, to attend the 10 o'Clock the Prisoner march, and put on both Waistcoat and Shirt Pole fixed to some which the Marshal, the Sentence executed Drummer; then the was read.

When that was over stood ready with a ten Lashes on his back of the Boats shot a he in Tow; the Boats. Ship, the Drum beat Cuckolds, &c. In from Ship to Ship, was read, and he re Lashes, the Drum being one Ship till they came along Side each call'd on Deck to see had suffer'd at each two Hours, some lying he was put on board Tuesday Morning he Lashes, and in the fore. He received in being Eleven Ships in standing he was very winch or cry Oh!

Extract of a Letter "The present Circumstances indicate to us an ap The People of Speculation know, whether the Success between Russia and between Great Britain judges according to the all agree, that a War one as will become general. The Advices which inordinate, that, though Appearance of a Peace seems to be a secret principal Powers in these Advices at the shall see Extraordinary proaching Diet of the the Articles which will cover, whether the Peace in respect to the De justly founded. Th