



# The Maryland Gazette



from Tuesday February 25, to Tuesday March 4, 1728-9.

(Numb. LXAVII.)

[ From the St. James's Evening Post. Dec. 5. ]

[ From Fogg's Journal, Nov. 9. 1728. ]

The last Mail from France brought over the following Extract of a Letter, which an English Gentleman at Paris has just received from an English Merchant at Bengal, and which is here inserted, to shew that the Custom amongst the Indian Pagans of burning the Widows alive with the Bodies of their ceased Husbands, still continues.

Mr. FOG,  
I Herewith send you a Welsh Inventory, carefully copy'd from an ancient Manuscript, lately come to my Hands upon a particular Occasion. If you think it will be of any Use to your Readers, as it has done several Parts of the Original, you will be pleas'd to send me other



Cannot forbear writing you an Account of a Woman whom I saw burnt a few Days since with the Corpse of her Husband, at the whole Ceremony, with several other English Merchants accompanied the Corpse to the Pile, and holding a green liough

At her Arrival the Bramins gave her Rice of which she eat greedily and plenty. She danced from Time to Time with some of her Friends, smiling, and sometimes laughing decently. When she was sitting, she distributed the Remainder of the Rice, which they carefully preserv'd. She then rose up, and obliged some among them to join Hands and be reconciled. She then sat down, but seem'd to take no more notice than the rest of her Friends. At last some of the Bramins, anointed and painted their Faces, went three Times round the Pile, singing and dancing. At last she came to the Head of the Corpse, with a great deal of Gaiety and laid down her Arms about the Neck and hugging it close, she cover'd it with some dry Wood; her eldest Son then took her Hand and went likewise three times about the Pile, bowing, and put a Torch to her Nose and Mouth. At last he set Fire to the Pile, which she gradually, and protested, that she never felt any Pain, nor utter'd the least Groan or Cry, till she was entirely consumed by the Flames.

N.B. This Ceremony seems to have been used since Tavernier was here, who gave an Account of it. The Woman us'd to accompany the Corpse of her Husband to the Ganges, where they danced up to the Funeral Pile with Flutes, and Hautboys, and plac'd her on a Bed. Then they lay across her, after which her Friends threw pieces of Callicoe, or some Bits of Cloth, upon her. After this was done, the Woman ask'd the Bramins if they had any more Service, if they had not, they gave her all the Tokens with a Piece of Gold, and then bid them set Fire to the Pile, which she accordingly; but before she was cast into the Ganges