

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

FRIDAY, June 14, 1745.

From the CRAFTSMAN.

THE UNIVERSAL BALLANCE.

BEG Leave to convey, through the Channel of your Paper, an Account of a Machine I have lately invented, which I call the *Universal Ballance*; and which, I doubt not, will be as useful in political Philofophy, as the *Common Ballance* is in mechanical and natural Philofophy.

The *common Ballance* takes only the *absolute Gravity* of a person; but *this* takes the Weight of his *Talents*, his *Merit*, his *Virtues*, and his *Vices*. And, to shew the very great Use that may be made of it, I shall give you a Courie of Experiments, which I have very lately had an Opportunity of making. I weighed all the Advantages we have got by the present War with *Spain*; and I found them just as considerable, as the Measures taken were wise and vigorous. Then I weighed the Advantages we were likely to gain by a Land War, and found them negative to a very great Degree. I weighed the Affair of *Carthagens*; but every Thing was so complicated, that I could make very little of it: The *Admiral's Breeches* weighed very heavy. I weighed 16000 *H—ns* against 3000 *Englisb*; the Ballance was even. Then I weighed their Pay, and to my great surprize, found the *H—n* double. Most of the Officers weighed rather heavier than they should do. I weighed the Promises against the Services of our Allies the *Dutch*, and found to my Surprise of Comparison between the former and latter. Upon weighing the *Dutch*, I could come to no Certainty for a great while; 'til at last, I put into the opposite Scale a Weight which I call *Prevarication*, upon which the Ballance was exactly even: When I put into the same Scale another Weight called *Honesty*; upon which the *Dutch*, as I thought they would, kick'd the beam; but upon adding *Self-Interest* to the *Dutch Scale*, upon which *Honesty* higher than Air itself. Into one Scale I put *England*, into the other all the Powers of *Europe*; upon which I found, that *England* rather over-ballanced: This Experiment pleased me much. Then I put *Ireland* into the *Englisb Scale*, expecting to find a very great additional Weight; but I was deceived, for I think, if there was any Difference, the *Englisb Scale* was rather lighter than before: Upon which, I added a whole *El—te* of the *Empire*; and to my great surprize found, that the *Englisb Scale* lost incredibly by the Addition. Then I weighed the Faith of Nations in Regard to Treaties, and all the Treaties that have been made for these last 40 Years, especially those of our late Minister; the Quantity of them was so great, that I doubted at first, whether or not I should be able to get Weights enough for the Experiment; but this Doubt was soon over, for I presently found that I should be troubled to get

a Weight light enough for them; 'til at last I chanced upon a Bundle of Rushes, which I put into the Scale; but the whole Bundle was too heavy; so I put a single one in, but that was too heavy: 'til at last, I split the Rush in two, and then the Ballance was exactly even.

Just before the Death of that worthy old Gentleman Bishop *Hough*, I had an Opportunity of weighing all the *B—ps*: Into the opposite Scale I put *Translations*, *Commendams*, *Offices*, *Procurations*, &c. In the Courie of the Experiment I observed something very odd: the Scale play'd up and down, as if somebody had been moving it with their Hands: At first I wondered at it, but upon surveying the Scale, in which were the *B—ps*, I saw *old Hough* stepping in and out, as I thought, for his Diversion; upon which I walked up to him, made him a very reverend Bow, and told him, that his Merit was so well known to all the World, that it was Matter of Curiosity to weigh him, and therefore I desired he would be pleased to step out of the Scale: he complied with the Request, and suddenly stumbled out; upon which, up flew the Scale of *B—ps*. After this, I put into one of my Scales four *Justices of the Peace*, two of which were of the *Quorum*; into the other, 16 jolly Parochial Priests, which did not weigh up the *Justices*; then I added 240 Volumes of their Sermons; they did not do; then one of *Barron's* Sermons, which increased the Weight prodigioufly; and by the Addition of one *Country Curate*, the Scales were so near an *Equilibrium*, that a *Bottle* and a *Pipe of Tobacco* turned either which you pleased. Then I put into one of my Scales 25 *Petits Maitres*, collected from the Stage and Boxes in *Dunry-Lane Play-House*; 9 of them had been great Travellers, and had slept in a Post-Chaise over most Parts of *Europe*; the other 16 had been bred up under their Mothers; but the Experiment had like to have prov'd fatal to them all; for I having just taken a Pinch of *Rapee Snuff*, unluckily sneez'd into the opposite Scale, which gave them such an unexpected Toss, that they all came tumbling from the Ceiling down to the Floor; and such a Medley was there of *Sighs* and *soft harmonious Groans*, such a Confusion of *Toupees*, *Black Bags*, *Ramillies*, *Majors*, *Spencers*, *Night-caps*, *Hats* and *Feathers*, *Muffs*, *Picktooth-Cases*, *Tawc-ers*, *Snuff-boxes*, *Patch-boxes*, *Pill-boxes*, *Lavender-bottles*, &c. that the Chaos was a Fool to it. Then I proceeded to make some Experiments upon the *S—tors*: I weighed all the *Aye* and *No* Men together; their Weight was, as to the Number of *Pounds*, uncertain; *Grains three* (of *Senf*, as I took it), a vast Number of *Pennyweights*, but no *Scruples* at all.

Then I weighed the *Patriots*, particularly a tall thin Man, that you would not think weighed an Ounce; then one who is remarkable for *speaking well*; another *honestly*; another, whose

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