

Mr. GREEN,

*Signature and Opportunity may permit, I purpose to announce on a Paper with which you have been pleased to favour the Public, signed A FREEHOLDER. And, as in this I am actuated solely by an ardent Desire of promoting the Welfare of my unhappy Country; hope the following Reflections, which are intended as an Introduction to my former Sentiments, will have a Place in your Gentleman, Sir, yours.*

A NATIVE OF MARYLAND.

THE famous Mr. Addison, than whom, perhaps, no Man ever judg'd better, was of Opinion, 'that nothing could be so dangerous to a Government, and detestable in the Eyes of a good Man, as detamatory Papers and Pamphlets.' His great Writer, whose extensive Knowledge and benevolent Spirit, made the Interest of all Mankind his Care, could with the utmost Regret and Concern, behold that great non-est Nation, which gave him Birth, sacrificed to the mean mercenary Views of low and empty Party Scribes; so, from an Aversion to Writing, from factious Principles, or from desperate Fortune, were incessantly labouring the Destruction of the best Constitution of the known World; and that which is an Aggravation of the Crime, under the specious, pleasing and impudent Pretence of defending it: For to imagine a Selling of Freedom, in the Eyes of all those who actually free, that he who would propose to himself any Access in attempting to cheat an ENGLISHMAN of his Liberty, under a Necessity of first persuading him, that he is already in Danger of losing it.

THIS ever was, and ever will be, the constant Artifice of those, who, out of a counterfeit Zeal for the public Good, endeavour to throw all Things into Anarchy and Confusion; and thence to derive to themselves some Advantage or Glory, from the Want of all worthy Endowments, they could hope to obtain in the Calm and serenity of any settled well-ordered Government.

ENGLAND (says a certain Author) is the Place in the world, where the public Justice is most equally admitted; where the People suffer the least Violence." "We are told (says another) with that Form of Government, which is mentioned as the most perfect, and thought the hardest to be framed, that happy Balance and Mixture of Interests, which comprehend every Interest." In Truth, it is a Government which is the Glory of it's King, the Happiness of it's People, the Reproach of Tyrants, and the Envy of slaves: Yet, which shews the Insufficiency of every human Institution, none, this just, and excellent Constitution, has not at all been able to preserve itself free from the most violent and convulsions; nor even Proof against the little Arts and Pursuits of vile Incendiaries. One would indeed judge, people, blessed with so uncommon a share of Felicity, incapable of having their Senses so grossly abused by Knaves and others, as to become the Tools and Agents of their own Destruction, were not the contrary plainly evinced by many Instances in the English Story.

the Reign of Richard II. the Duke of Lancaster, who larded over all his ambitious Views with popular Pretence of redressing public Grievances. After his death, as a just Reward of his Usurpation, he had the Misfortune of finding the same Game, which he had taught others, upon himself, by those very Men who had paid his way to the Throne. The Insurrection of Wat Tyler, which is one of the most formidable and bloody Rebellions that England ever saw, took it's Birth from a Circumstance yet more inexcusable: Having been guilty of the worst of Crimes, in order to screen himself from the Hand of Justice, he immediately recourse to the invariable and never-failing Method of all Incendiaries, by setting himself up for a Redresser of Wrongs. By this Stratagem he so fully succeeded, that in a very little Time he found himself at the Head of a hundred thousand Men, breathing nothing but Destruction to the Nobility and Gentry, and greedily swallowing this insidious and unheard of Doctrine; 'That all Men, being Sons of God, there ought to be no Distinction; and consequently it is their Duty to reduce the World to a perfect Equality.'

When an unruly Multitude are once thus inflam'd, how eagerly do they listen to any Doctrine, however absurd, to any Schemes or Propositions, however preposterous, to obtain Satisfaction for Injuries which, in their cooler Reflections, they would perhaps find to have existed no where but in the Warmth of their own Imaginations: And what Lengths they will go, what Feats of Madness, Cruelty, and Rapine, they are capable of, to accomplish that End, will evidently appear from the Progress of this Commotion, in which was spilt a Torrent of the best Blood in England; and all the Ravages committed that could be expected from so numerous a Mob, guided solely by their Fury. It is indeed barely possible to have Charity enough for such rash and inconsiderate Men, as to allow, that they who acted unprovokedly thus, in Defiance of all Laws human and divine, and in direct Opposition to common Sense and common Humanity, could have any Relation, save the outward Form, to the human Species! Yet, who were the Authors of this bloody and tragical Scene, this inhuman Butchery of their own innocent Countrymen? Who, but those Englishmen, who justly boasting the Enjoyment of greater Privileges than any People under the Sun, were thence the more tenacious of them, and thence the more easily imposed on by any Suggestions, however false, groundless, and improbable, of the Danger of losing them.

IN short, whoever takes an impartial View of the History of England, from the Norman Conquest down to the present Time, will find, that religious Controversies in general, and a few Instances hereafter mention'd excepted, almost all the Commotions which have happened in that Kingdom, however plausible the Pretences of the Authors might be, were calculated purely to serve particular Interests, and not the Good of Society. A Jealousy for the public Weal is certainly a commendable Jealousy; and when the Liberties of the People are so far invaded, as to render Methods mild and gentle ineffectual, then, and not 'till then, violent Remedies are justifiable. Such were the just Wars of the Barons, in the Reigns of King John and Henry III. by which was obtained not only a Grant and Confirmation of Magna Charta, the Basis and Ground-work of all English Liberty, but moreover a Right in the People to vote by Representatives in Parliament. Such was the timely, tho' perhaps too violent, Stand made to the despotic Government of Charles I. and such the glorious Opposition to the tyrannical Measures of James II. which brought about the happy Revolution.

THOSE therefore, who, from a pure Regard to Liberty and the Rights of Mankind, have in the most perilous Times bravely stood in the Gap of Tyranny, and by their gallant Efforts stemmed the Current of arbitrary Power and lawless Rule, will be eternally remember'd with Veneration and Gratitude by all the Posterity of Freemen. But on the other Hand, to prostitute the sacred Name of LIBERTY to the narrow and corrupt Purposes of particular Leaders, who are not animated by any Zeal for the Community; to wish and seek to be alone happy at the Expence of Thousands; to endeavour to rise by Fraud, and to be exalted on the Ruins of a whole Country; is certainly, of all Villainy and Wickedness, the highest and greatest that the Heart of Man can be capable of.

HITHERTO, in this our Infant Country, we have, I thank God, excepting a very late Instance, enjoyed the Sweetness of a happy and uninterrupted Calm and Repose. Our Situation, and perhaps our Want of Treasure, have serv'd as Bulwarks against Invasions from abroad; whilst an easy contented Frame of Mind, arising from the Concept of Power and Riches, a Happiness unknown to torrid Breasts ever thirsting after new Acquisitions, has been our Security from civil Discord and Commotions at home. The hateful and invidious Task, therefore, of sowing Dissension and stirring up domestic Feuds, seems to have been by Fate reserv'd for Foreigners, Men, who having liberally tasted of that Hospitality, for which this Country is above all others remarkable; shar'd our Property, and partook of every Advantage in common with the Natives; have thus rewarded them with all the Meanness of Ingratitude. The World will, no Doubt, readily judge that I am here complaining of the extraordinary and unprecedented Conduct of a Set of Men, who think themselves injur'd by a late Proceeding of Prince George's County Court: The Magistrates, who in that Case acted under an ample Power lodg'd in them, by as clear and