

No. 312.

T H E

# M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

W E D N E S D A Y , April 17, 1751.

*From the General Evening-Post, December 26, 1750.*

**A**T a Time, when Robberies are become so frequent; and it gives some Hope, that the Reward lately promised for the discovering and bringing such Offenders to Justice, may have the desired Effect; it must give all good Subjects no little Concern to read the following Paragraph in the Paper of this Week; viz. "We hear that proper Workmen have surveyed a Spot of Ground near the Mint in Southwark, on which is to be built a Prison for Felons; which is intended for the Use of the New-Goal, that Prison being at this Time very full of Prisoners."

When I read the first Words of this Paragraph, I was in Hopes to find, that a Prison is to be built for those Felons, who shall be found guilty of Death, wherein they shall be kept to hard Labour.

It will be objected to this, That if the Punishment of Death itself will not deter Men from committing Robberies, how much less will the Confinement to hard Labour produce that Effect?

To this I answer; let a Trial be made of it. Let those Felons be allowed no more Provision, than what is absolutely necessary; and let no Person whatsoever, besides their Keepers, be suffered to visit them.

What a melancholy Consideration is it, both upon a Civil and a Religious Account, to reflect, That no less than sixteen Felons are to be executed next Monday! I heartily wish, that they may be relieved, till a proper House for their Confinement can be had.

Is it not certain, that so many Hands will be saved, that may be employed for the Good of the Nation, suppose in providing Materials for the Herring Fishery? Is it not probable, that the Souls of these poor Creatures may be saved, by being brought to a Sense of their Wickedness, before it is too late to think of it, and to repent. Some perhaps, will reply to this, That they may be saved, if they repent just before their Execution. But I am very sure, those, who say this, must either make a new Gospel, or corrupt the old one.

It can be no great Expence, to provide such a Prison. And I dare engage Thousands of good Subjects, and good Christians will contribute towards it.

Let wilful Murder be punished with Death. Both the Law of Nature, and the Law of God, expressly require and command it.

But let not Men suffer Death for mere Trifles, in themselves; allow they are not such in their Consequence. The same Punishment must be insisted on all Felons, in order to deter all.

We have had sufficient Proof and Experience, that the Punishment of Death carries little or no Terror with it; whether it be, that many escape out of Goal; or for want of sufficient Evidence, or that they know they shall be assured of Salvation in another Life, if they confess their Crimes before some Minister, who attends them, but a few Days before their Suffering.

Is it not then wise, is it not necessary, that some other Method be thought of, rather than behold the dismal Spectacle of so many unhappy Criminals, at so many stated Times in the Year, drove in Carts to Execution?

Pardon me to say. — It is a Reproach to a wife and Protestant People! It is a Reproach to our Holy Religion.

Is it not a melancholy Scene to see the Crowd of Spectators that attend at these Executions and for what? To take Warning by their sad Example & No! — But to be hardened to commit the like Crimes, when they see such Numbers

die, in Peace and Tranquillity, without the least Remorse, from a false Hope of Salvation, that is given them, by those who should know better.

For these, and for many other Reasons that may be assign'd, which would take up too much Room in your Paper, and therefore are omitted, I trust what is here said will be taken into Consideration by those Persons in high Stations, whom it concerns to think seriously of it.

Let those unhappy Wretches now under Sentence of Death be spared; they are, every one of them, unknown to me: I plead their being exempted from Death—for the good of my Country;—for the Honour of Christianity;—and in pure Compassion to the Souls of Men.

PHILANTHROPOS.

*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Delaporte, Hair Merchant, who is now at Life in France, to his Friend in London, dated October 9, 1750.*

"We have received several Letters in this Town from Paris, giving an Account of the following uncommon Accident that happened there; viz. Two young Gentlemen went into a Tavern, and called for a Bottle of Wine, each drank off a Bumper: About half an hour after, the Drawer going into the Room, found them both dead, and stiff in their Chairs, and the Commissaries being sent for to examine into the Affair, asked the Landlord, if he would drink of the same Wine? To which he replied, he would drink a Gallon, and accordingly he took a Bumper; then they desired he would show them his Cellar, which he complied with, but had not gone above half Way, before he dropped, and instantly died. When the Officers came to the Case, which was a fresh Tap, they drew the Liquor out, and found in the Bottom a large Load, that weighed Seven Pounds."

### L O N D O N.

Nov. 16. There is a Report, that the Right Honourable the Earl of Harrington will resign, and have a Pension.

Nov. 12. The learned World has been long in doubt with respect to the Truth of the Accounts given by the Northern Historians, of a Colony anciently settled in Greenland, which lies on the North West Side of Davis's Straights, but we learn by a private Letter from Copenhagen, that the Missionaries residing in that Country have at length discovered on the other Side of the Mountains, a numerous Colony that appear to be Christians, and by their frequent Use of the Sign of the Cross, plainly prove that they are Descendants of Persons who settled there before Luther's Reformation, which has occasioned much Speculation in Denmark, where a farther Account of this Matter is very impatiently expected.

Nov. 15. We hear, that on repairing a House lately inhabited by a Person who was in a public Post in this City, and is now dead, amongst other Papers concealed behind some Wainscot, there was found a Colonel's Commission from the Pretender, bearing Date in the Time of the Rebellion, and empowering the said Person to raise a Regiment in the City for his Service.

Nov. 20. We hear from Bordeaux, that the Integers of that City having discovered enormous Frauds committed in freighting of divers Vessels, whose Cargoes had been insured, and that this kind of Villainy had been carried to such a Pitch as to lose, with a premeditated Design, one of those insured Ships called the Vigilant; the said Integers applied for Justice to the Admiralty of Guenne, and having fully proved the Frauds in question, the Admiralty sentenced James Dodman, late Master of the Vigilant, to be hanged. Three other Fellows, namely, Delhais, Delvriert, and Salcedo, who had put Goods of little Value in the Room of the Merchandizes that were insured