

T H E No. 318.  
M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E.

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, May 29, 1751.

*From the London Evening-Post, of January 19.*

*For the Nobility, Gentry and Commonalty, of the United Kingdoms of England and Scotland, &c.*

The humble Petition of the British Mariners, of and belonging to his most gracious Majesty's Royal Navy, in Behalf of themselves, their Wives, Widows, Children, and Executors; and of the Friends and Relations of all those miserable Wretches, their Brethren, who have been executed for Frauds, Robberies, &c. since the Conclusion of the War, most humbly sheweth,

*Imprimis,*

**T**HAT we your Petitioners, fill'd with the highest Esteem and Affection for his Majesty's Person and Government, and at the same Time being truly sensible of your Goodness and Humanity, do with the utmost Submission presume to lay before you the great Hardships we at present labour under, and the deplorable Situation to which we are reduced from the Non Payment of our Wages; as it is from you, or the most considerable Part of you, we must hope for Redress. Whether these long and large Arrears are owing to the sinking State of the Finances, or to any unnecessary Embezzlement of the publick Treasure, or to what other Cause, you also, or the most considerable Part of you, will, at your next Meeting, be able to determine.

II. We your Petitioners being credibly informed by you, Sir, that as the Wealth of this Nation is founded upon Commerce, so the Strength and Importance of it depends upon the good Condition of the Navy, which is, and ought to be, the principal Care of those, whose Province it is to steer the Helm of State: But alas! Let the Condition of our Shipping be ever so good, while proper Hands are wanting to work them, they will be set at nought by Foreigners, and look upon the Natives as useless Incumbrances: And how can it be expected that any able bodied Seaman should cheerfully hazard his Life, and waste the best of his Days on the mercile's Ocean in the Service of his King and Country; when if he should have the good Fortune to escape Danger, he is sure to be deprived of the just Reward of his Toil? When he beholds the Resources of national Wealth arising from Navigation and Industry, become every Day more and more precarious, and a very useful Part of the Nation made Slaves, that the other may be Lords?

III. Your Petitioners likewise beg Leave to relate one shocking Circumstance, which they themselves have lately observed, namely, That there seems to be a Conspiracy among certain Persons against their whole Fraternity. Such a Scorn has been manifested for their Persons, such Contempt for their Complaints and Remonstrances, such Measures have been apparently taken to distress them, that they begin to look upon themselves to be totally neglected, or purposely discountenanced and impugned. Add to this the long Journeys many of them are obliged to make, their tedious Attendance to no Purpose, and being at last compell'd to sell their Tickets at less than half the Value, which they look upon to be such signal Instances of Oppression, as make them imagine they are of the Tribe of Isachar, typified by the Ass couching between two Burdens, namely, Slavery and Poverty.

IV. We your Petitioners, seriously reflecting upon the immense Treasure which was brought into these Kingdoms thro' our Means during the late War, and duly considering how much our common Enemies were distressed thereby, had the strongest Reason to hope, not only for the prompt Payment of our Wages, but also for our several and respective Shares of

such Prizes, as were granted to us by his most gracious Majesty's Royal Proclamation before the Commencement of the said War, that our Courage might be excited for the Honour of the British Nation, by the pleasing Prospect of bettering our Fortunes if we happen'd to survive. But alas! We now find, tho' too late, that these were only Golden Dreams, and that his Majesty's magnanimous Intensions are frustrated by his Subordinates. For many of us are deprived of a Part, and not a few of our whole Prize Money, by the Fraud and Artifices of our Commanders; nor can we so much as obtain our stipulated Pay for immediate Subsistence.

V. Your Petitioners must once more beg your Patience, while they expatiate a little further upon the Particulars which have been so long complain'd of, and so evidently require the speedy Redress. And here we are unwillingly oblig'd to open a Scene that would move the Millstone Heart of a Tyrant to Compassion. We are shock'd with Horror to see such Numbers of our Fraternity he Raving in the several Prisons throughout this Kingdom for Debt, whose gallant Behaviour on another Element, entitied them to a much better Fate. We are struck with deep Remorse at the miserable Condition of many of our Wives and Daughters, who have turn'd common Prostitutes for Want of Sustainance. We mourn the Loss of Numbers of our Children, who have perish'd with Hunger! We are griev'd to the Heart for the ignominious Deaths of many of our Fellow-Sufferers, who, driven into Despair through mere Necessity, have run headlong into Male-Practise, purely to keep themselves from starving, and made their Exits at the Gallows, &c. All which Mischiefs had been prevented, could they have enjoy'd their respective Properties, and received in due Time the just Reward of their Labours.

Lastly, We your Petitioners most humbly hoping that these our Grievances will be look'd upon as Grievances of no small Importance, but as require the joint Concurrence of the whole Kingdom to rectify, have therefore implored the Assistance of every Individual therein; being taught to believe that no well meaning Member of the Community, if the Increase of publick Happiness claims the least Part of his Attention, will be silent or indolent on this melancholy Occasion.

*And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.*  
Jan. 15. The BRITISH SEAMEN.

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*Last Friday arrived in South River, the Peggy and Nancy, Capt. Isaac Johns, from London, by whom we have the melancholy Account of the Death of our late most valuable Prince FREDERICK, on the 20th of March last.*

L O N D O N, March 23.

**W**E hear that his Royal Highness's Illness was first occasioned by taking Cold in Kew-Gardens about three Weeks since, and being increased by coming on Tuesday evening from the House of Peers, when extremely warm, with the Windows of the Chair down, he was seized with a Pleurisy; and as his Highness was judged in too weak a State to bear farther Bleeding; he was immediately blistered; and thought to be in a fair Way of Recovery till Wednesday Night last at Nine o'Clock; when we can assure the Public, from undoubted Authority, that his Royal Highness thought himself pretty well; but about a Quarter before Ten he was seized with a Pain in his Breast; upon which he expressed he had never felt any Thing like it before; and complained that he perceived an unusual Smell, like that of a dead Corpse; he then immediately threw himself back and expired, to the great Astonishment and Grief of his most excellent Princess, who was present, and