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# MARYLAND GAZETTE,

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

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From a late MAGAZINE.

*Mr. ARCHIBALD BOWER's Motives for leaving his Office of Secretary to the Court of INQUISITION at Macerata in Italy. With the Difficulties he met with in escaping from thence.*

**M**R. Bower says, that what first occasioned him to contrive his Escape from the Inquisition, was the Cruelty exercised there, particularly on two Gentlemen, whose Stories he thus relates.

Information having been given to the Inquisition at *Macerata*, that a Gentleman had been guilty of speaking disrespectfully of their Office; all imaginable Diligence was used to discover him; and Advertisements fixed up at Rome, and other Places, describing him to be a tall black Man, with an Impediment in his Speech.

One of their Emissaries happening to be at *Florence*, in the public Walks, met with a Person, whom he thought answered the Description. Accordingly, he spared no Pains to insinuate himself into his Acquaintance; and succeeded so far, that the Gentleman, finding him to be a Stranger, offered to shew him the principal Curiosities of the Place; and entertained him at his House, in a free and hospitable Manner.

After some Time the Stranger told him, that he hoped he would suffer him to return the Obligation, by accompanying him to *Rome*; and passing some Days with him at his Seat, in the Neighbourhood of that City; where he found the Gentleman had never yet been.

Accordingly, they set out together, and instead of carrying him to any House of his own, he led him directly to the Palace of the Inquisition at *Macerata*, where, after bringing him to the great Hall, he desired him to amuse himself with the Paintings there; and excuse his leaving him a little, to give the necessary Orders in the House.

Whilst he was thus admiring the Grandeur of the Place, and suspecting, from the Richness of the Furniture, that he had not treated his Friend with the Respect that was his due, he observed several Persons peeping one by one at the Door, and staring him full in the Face.

Upon this, seeing no Sign of his Companion's Return, he began to suspect some Treachery, and was just stepping out, when a Person came up to him, and enquiring where he was going, told him, that Nobody was suffered to depart thence; that he was now in the Hall of the Inquisition; and must certainly have been guilty of some great Crime, or he would not have been brought thither.

Immediately he was thrust down into the Dungeon, where, after being fed for a Week with Bread and Water, he was brought up in the Middle of the Night, to a Room hung with black, where the Council of the Inquisition was sitting, (one of which was Mr. Bower himself) where he was told, by the Inquisitor General, that he must certainly have been guilty of some great Offence; for the Holy Inquisition never accused any one rashly, so that he must consider what it was, and impeach himself.

Upon his protesting his Innocence, he was prepared for the Torture, which was inflicted in this Manner. The unhappy Man was stripped naked, and by means of four Ropes which ran upon as many Pulleys, at each Corner of the Room, his Arms and Legs were extended, within one Degree of breaking; and he was laid upon his Back, with an Iron Spike fixed under him.

In this Condition he lay for some Time, in extreme Anguish, but still refusing to accuse himself, he was remanded back to his Dungeon, where he had not been long, before

the Inquisition, having dispatched an Express to *Rome*, with their Suspicions, that from this Resolution, and other Circumstances, he could not be the Man they imagined, received for Answer, that they need give themselves no farther Trouble about him, for that they had discovered the true Offender; upon which this Gentleman was discharged, after they had given him an Oath of Secrecy. But the Hardships under which he had laboured, and the Torment he had suffered, had so far deprived him of the Use of his Faculties, that he continued the remainder of his Life senseless and distracted in the Neighbourhood of *Macerata*.

This, Mr. Bower says shock'd him extremely. But what determined him to leave them, when Opportunity offered, was the following Affair, which he relates thus.—As a Nobleman (a Friend of his) who was just married, was walking in his Garden with his Lady, two Capuchin Friars pass'd by with their Feet and Heads bare, and the mortifying Garb of their Order. When they were got to some Distance, and, as he thought, out of Hearing, he express'd to his Wife his Surprize, that any Person could be so far insatuated, as to believe, that such a particular Dress could be meritorious in the Sight of God.

Unhappily for him, he was overheard by the Friars, who made their Report to the Inquisition, Mr. Bower, as one of the Inquisitors, was ordered to take a sufficient Guard, which they always had in waiting, to bring his unfortunate Friend before them.

About the Middle of the Night, he and his Attendance appeared before the Nobleman's Door; when, upon their knocking, a Servant look'd out of the Window, and enquiring who was there, was answered, *The Holy Inquisition*: Upon this, knowing the Consequence of a Refusal, he hastened down, opened the Door, and conducted them into the Bed Chamber, where the new married Couple were fast asleep.

The first who wak'd was the Lady, who seeing such a Crew of Russians in the Room, screamed out, for which, she was saluted by one of them with a Blow on the Face, that made the Blood gush out.

This wak'd the Husband, who being very much surprized at what had happened, casting his Eyes on Mr. Bower, cry'd out, *Ah, my Friend, is it you? Yes, he replied, it is; and you must immediately rise and follow me*. This he soon complied with. Accordingly he was conducted to the Inquisition, where he was told, he was certainly guilty of some great Crime; and that he had a Week given him to recollect himself what it was and so accuse himself.

All that Time he was confined in a Dungeon, and fed with nothing but Bread and Water in order to weaken him, and render him less able to undergo the Torture.

At the End of the Week he was brought in the Night, before the infernal Tribunal; And so altered, that he was scarce known to be the same: And upon his declaring that he was not conscious of any Thing culpable, he was led to the Torture, which was thus inflicted on him.

By means of four Cords, which came over four Pulleys, at each Corner of the Room, and met in the Center, he was hoisted up to the Ceiling, where, by a sudden Jerk, all his Bones were dislocated.

After he had hung some Time in this deplorable Condition, the Inquisitor General thinking he had not yet suffered enough, commanded them to slacken the Cords, in order to let him fall with a Shock to the Ground. This, after what had been done before, is thought to be one of the greatest Torments that Humane Nature is capable of sustaining. But when they