

July 18th. 1766.

TO THE PUBLICK.

I waited upon Mr. *Jonas Green* the Printer of this Province, with the following Vindication of myself, from the Aspersions of Messrs. *Walter Dulany*, *M. Macnemara*, *Geo. Stewart*, *John Brice* and *U. Scot*; published against me in the *Maryland Gazette* Extraordinary of *June 19th. 1766* but he refused to give it a Place in his Paper; 'This partiality of the Press in Receiving and Publishing the most inveterate and false Reflections against me, striking at my Reputation and exposing me to Contempt, and Refusing me the Liberty of a Vindication, upon the pretence "That there were so many Personal Reflections in it, as he was *sure* would, Subject him to Prosecutions, and the Dislike of *many* of his FRIENDS." when the Press has been open for my Enemies to reflect both upon my *private* and *publick* Life, in the most cruel and severest Manner, has reduced me to the Necessity of taking this Step of Clearing myself to the World.

S A M U E L CHASE.

Messrs.

Walter Dulany
M. Macnemara
Geo. Stewart
John Brice.
U. Scot.

G E N T L E M E N,

THE Value, which every Man should set upon his Reputation, induces me to take this public Notice of the virulent Reflections, you have thrown out against Me. in the Conclusion of your last controversial paper with the Grand-Jury of this City: And if that Temper of Mind, which makes up your distinguishing Characteristic, had equal Existence in Me, I would in my Turn mark you out to the World in the ludicrous and ignominious Colours, You have been pleased to represent Me: But I mean not here in Imitation of yourselves, *to rail, lie, and expose*—that noble Employment, and solid Amusement, I leave to Men of your illustrious Characters! I have Nothing in View but the Vindication of Myself from the foulest Abuse, that Malice could invent: Permit Me then, Gentlemen, to expostulate with You, upon the Ground of your infamous Aspersions, and I promise to do it with all the Temper and Coolness, that you have a Right to expect from a Man, whom you have wantonly injured, vilified and traduced.

I do not know, whether the Publick will expect, that I shall enter into a Vindication of Myself from your general Scandal of being "a busy, restless incendiary,—a kindler of *Mobs*—a foul mouth'd and inflaming Son of Discord—*Faction*—a common Disturber of the publick Tranquillity"—which, Gentlemen, you have, with so much Spirit and Decency, furiously charged upon me. Is this Language the Effusion of publick Spirit and injured Magistracy, or the Venom of Revenge, and Rage of Malice? If you had any Foundation in Truth for such atrocious Calumny and Inveective, why did you not particularize the *Mobs*, I have led, or singled out an Instance in which I have played the Villain in spreading *Discord* and *Faction*, and Disturbing the *publick Tranquillity*? But this was inconsistent with your base Designs: You well knew, I could then meet you upon your Aspersions, with such Proof, as would give the Lie to your Scurrility, and expose you to the Ridicule and Contempt of every honest Man. I admit, Gentlemen,—if such part of my Conduct you mean—that I was one of them, who committed to the Flames, in Effigy, the Stamp—Distributor for this Province, and who openly disputed the Parliamentary Right to Tax the Colonies.—While you—to do you Justice—Skulked in your Houses—some of you asserting the Parliamentary Right, and esteeming the Stamp Act a beneficial Law.—Others of you meanly grumbling in your Corners, and not daring to speak out your Sentiments. I admit further, that when the Sons of Liberty met here from the different Counties of the Province, I heartily concurred in the Measures then adopted to open the publick Offices. Is this, Gentlemen, the Ground of your Displeasure and Virulence? Is it *Faction*, *Sedition*, or an Infringement upon the *publick* Peace, openly to controvert the Parliamentary Right to Tax the Colonies? Was it a *Mob* who destroyed, in Effigy, our Stamp—Distributor? Was it a *Mob* who assembled here from the different Counties of the Province, and opened the publick Offices? Whatever ridiculous Vanity may whisper in your Ears, or that Pride and Arrogance suggest, which is natural to despicable Pimps, and Tools of Power, emerged from Obscurity, and basking in proprietary Sun shine, in spite of such Vanity and Pride, you must confess them to be your SUPERIORS, Men of Reputation and Merit, who are mentioned with Respect, while you are named with Contempt, pointed and hissed as Wretches.

— Fruges consumere nati,
born but to eat, and ——— flink.

BUT, Gentlemen, give Me leave to say, your Venom flows from *personal Difference*, not *Love of Justice*. The *Mobs*, you speak of, were the People of this City, who opposed you, my good Friend, Mr. *Walter Dulany*, and you, my generous Benefactor Doctor *George Stewart*, at your respective Elections for this City. I am far from wondering that your Malice, * *Honest Stewart* has been kept alive to this Day.—Envy is a restless Hag.—

* The honourable Epithet given Dr. *Stewart* by the late *Mr. Calvert*, for the Services done the Lord Proprietary by him, while a Representative of this City,

Station! The Place was offered to Mr. *Paca*, and he refused to accept of it: The Place was offered to Mr. *Brice*, and he also refused to accept of it: *Then*, and not before *most noble Benefactors!* Your Bosoms glow'd with Compassion for Me!—And is *this* your *best* benevolence? What Man, that possesses the Feeling of a Man, would not blush, to found a Claim to *Gratitude* upon an Act of *Necessity*? The Intention only gives Virtue to the Action: And upon that Principle, Gentlemen, you are not entitled, even to my Thanks for your Appointment. But what are the Profits of this lucrative Office? What *Benefit* have I got from the Possession of it? What Person, that knows the short Extent of this City, the small Number of its Inhabitants, and the general Circumstances of Offenders, will credit the mean Insinuation, and palpable Falshood, that I am indebted to you, for “*my best Bread*.” I have held the Office of Prosecutor for *five years*—and don't you think that the Publick will laugh at you, and entertain proper Sentiments of your *Work*, when I solemnly declare, that the whole Amount of the Monies, I have received, during that Time, is short of FORTY POUNDS: And, but for the general Deception of the Citizens, who acted in Consequence thereof, without any Restraint from the By-Laws, apprehending an End of the Corporation as a Body politick, from the Neglect of the Mayor's Court, for the Space of two Years, *so fit and do Business*, the profit of my *very lucrative* Station would have fallen short, even of TEN POUNDS *Current Money*: Which is about the Ballance left for my *five Years Practice*, after deducting the *Harvest* of that memorable Court, when you *suddenly* resumed the Reins of Authority, and enforced the Bye-Laws. Such Gentlemen, is your *Benevolence*!—Such the *Bread* I have taken at your Hands: and such your *Pretensions* to my *Gratitude*? But when you speaks of my *Bread*, perhaps you hint at the Difference of our Circumstances—*in Comparison* with the Fortunes of some of you, my *Purse* is very small—*but, Gentlemen, you know very well*—and it is your *Mortification* and my *Pride*—that my Practice in the Courts—*not your contemptible Mayor's Court*—furnishes Me with such a genteel and independant Living, that without fear of *tyranny*, or *uneasy Apprehensions* I can treat with Contempt the *FAT PIMP*, and give him *freer* for *freer*.

But I am charged as a Favourer of the Stamp-Act, and in proof is urged an Extract from a *late celebrated Speech* I made. What Falshood, Gentlemen, can be too big for your Utterance? Did you think, that the Publick would credit such a flagrant Lie? What has been the constant Tenor of my Conduct from the first News of the passage of the Stamp Act? Who burnt in Effigy, the Stamp—Distributor for this Province? I appeal to them for my Opinion of the Parliamentary Right—Who continued their Practice in *Fredrick County Court*, without Regard to the Stamp-Act? I appeal to them, and the Bench for my Opinion of the Parliamentary Right—And for the Fines incurred by my Practice during that Time—*who opened the publick Offices of this City, and obliged the Officers to proceed in the Execution of their Offices?* I appeal to them for my Opinion of the Parliamentary Right. And for *once* Mr. *Brice*, and Doctor *Stewart*—if Justice for an Individual, whom you profoundly hate, has any Seat in your Breasts—*extend that Justice to Me: What were my Sentiments of the Parliamentary Right, when I applied with the Sons of Liberty to the Provincial Bench, to open the Provincial Office, and proceed to Business? Did I not publicly deny the Authority of Parliament to Tax the Colonies? Why, then, shamefully Abandoning the Truth, do you lend your Names to give Sanction to that false Assertion, that “upon proper Considerations” would most dutifully defend the Stamp Act, as a regular and constitutional Exercise of Parliamentary Power?*—What Act have I done—*point it out*—that will justify such Sentiments of Me? *But my celebrated Speech* is urged in Proof. Permit Me, Gentlemen to explain that *celebrated Speech*, and convict you of the foulest Partiality, and the most rankled Malice, that ever possess the Human Heart.

At the Session in *May* last on the second Reading of the Bill “Entitled an Act for Reviving and Continuing of Actions and Process in the several Courts of Law of this Province” a Question was put, “That the Sheriffs be not answerable or further amerced, for not bringing Defendants into Court, in Actions wherein Amerciaments were entered at *August* Court, where the Defendants have run away or absconded out of their Counties, after the first Day of *November* last, and before the making of this Act.” And after Debate it

was resolved by 22 against 14, that “The Sheriffs be answerable.”

It was contended by the Gentlemen on the Affirmative Side, that as a Loss must happen, by a Revival of the Suits, it would fall more equitably upon the Sheriffs, who had incurred the Amerciaments from a Neglect of Duty to bring in the Defendants, according to the Return of their Writs, than upon the Plaintiffs, who had been Guilty of no Laches; and that the Sheriffs might take their Remedy upon the *Bail Bonds*. I differed in Opinion, and argued, that the special Bails in Court, and Securities upon Bail Bonds, should not be distinguished, when under like Circumstances: That as the special Bails in Court had been relieved by a Proviso, in the Act, so I contended the same Provision should be made for the Sheriffs, and Securities in Bail Bonds, tho' taken for the Appearance of Defendants to *any* Court. I urged it would be hard to burthen the Sheriffs with the Debts and Costs: For after the Acceptance of a Bail Bond, and which the Sheriffs are obliged to accept, if sufficient, the Defendant is discharged from Custody, and the Sheriff cannot afterwards apprehend and force him into Court, but is left to his Remedy upon the Bail Bond; and that moreover, the *November* Courts being shut up, they could not bring the Defendants in: I urged it was equally hard upon the Securities in Bail Bonds, to be left open to the Sheriffs: For it is the Practice with Us, upon the Non-appearance of a Defendant, to enter a small Amerciament upon the Sheriff, conditional to have the Defendant the next Court, and then the Securities upon the Bail Bonds either bring him into Court, Or become his special Bail, and make a surrender at a succeeding Court, if they think proper: And therefore, that they should be provided for equally with special Bails, as they were stript of the Benefit of becoming Bail, and making that Surrender by the Stamp-Act, and Occlusion of the Courts. I then argued to call upon the Sheriffs for the Debts and Costs, or to force them upon the Securities in the Bail Bonds, where the Appearance of the Defendant, or his Securities becoming Bail for him, and afterwards making a surrender at a succeeding Court, had been rendered impracticable, was to insist upon the Stamp Act, which had created that Impracticability, and therefore “that the SHERIFFS upon Suits against them for the Debts and Costs for which they were amerced, to prevent a perpetual Imprisonment of their Persons, and to save their Families from Beggary and Ruin, would in such peculiar Circumstances be justified in availing themselves of the Stamp Act; that a Lawyer in such peculiar Circumstances would be justified in pleading of it, and that no Court would refuse the Plea.”—upon the Principle, that as the Plaintiff made his Claim, from the Necessities introduced by the Stamp-Act, the Sheriffs would only be put upon an equal Footing, in being admitted the plea of the Stamp-Act, to shew the Impossibility of bringing the Defendants into Court, when shut up; and the insufficiency of their Remedy upon the Bail Bonds rendered void, from the Impossibility, that the Securities could become special Bail at the *November* Court, and make a Surrender at the succeeding Court, pursuant to the Practice established among Us. This I do most solemnly declare to be the Substance of that *celebrated Speech* I made; and I appeal for the Truth of it to the Members of the Lower House then present; and from the Nature of the Point in Question, and the Tendency of the Arguments, I submit to every impartial Man, whether I could mean a Defence of the Stamp Act “as a regular and Constitutional Exercise of Parliamentary power!”—What Candor, Gentlemen, prevented your Discovery of the real Occasion of my celebrated Speech, or what Malice recommended a Concealment of it? Surely you will stick at NOTHING to perpetrate your Schemes of Revenge.

BUT, Gentlemen, before you cast Reflections, pull the Mote out of your own Eyes. Did not you, Doctor *Scot*, openly assert the Parliamentary Right, and urge the Stamp Act as a beneficial Law? Did you not, every Day, combat in Argument, the Opposition made to the Parliamentary Right? Why then do you object *this*, as criminal in Me, which you have adopted as justifiable in yourself? But you may answer, you have changed your Sentiments: Strange! That you should Curse *this* to Day, which but Yesterday received your Benediction! What, Sir, brought about this prudent Change of Mind?—You saw the universal Opposition—the Fate of those Miscreants, who accepted the Stamp Offices.—but what was an irresistible Proof of your Error in Judgment you saw the Pamphlet Entitled *The Considerations*, &c. and you knew

THE People rejecting you,—as unfit for their Confidence and Trust, which you had repeatedly betrayed, elected Me in your Room. I am not ashamed to own, that I exerted Myself, in Opposition to you. It was my Opinion, that a Man without *Merit, Integrity, or Abilities*, was totally disqualified to be the Representative of a Free People. You had *Nothing* to recommend you, but—proprietary Influence, Court Favour, and the Wealth and Interest of the Tools and Sycophants, who infest this City. pray, Sir, what *Catalogue of eminent Qualities*, mark and distinguish your Character?—*a Man in Universal Odium*—*except into the Province from a Foreign Dungeon*—*raised by the Hand of Charity*—and by *Cripping, and Fawning, and Pimping, and Lying*, sneak'd into Proprietary Notice.— You have, Sir, upon the Strength of Court Influence, been a Representative of this City, for several past Elections.— Will you be pleas'd to furnish the Publick with a *Catalogue* of the Services you did your Country in that Station: Swell up your *Catalogue* to Volume, I can still boast more—the single Service, I did my Country, in polling against, and defeating you in your Election, will weigh down every publick Benefit, you have done, even counting, if you will, from the first Moment, you crawled here, and cleans'd yourself of your filthy Rags, up to your present elevated Sphere of “One of his *LAKESHIPS Judges of the Land OFFICE*.”

AND is it *Love of Justice*, Mr. Dulany, that has placed you among the Number of my Enemies? What was the Opinion, you entertain'd of Me when we went, Hand in Hand, in the Opposition to our Adversary Doctor *Stewart*? Did you not, in your *respectable* Judgment, esteem Me for the preferable Man for one of the Representatives of this City? Did you not hold him, in that Contempt, which every Man then did and must still hold him? What Homage, what Bending of the Knee, what Condescension has worked so powerfully upon your Affections, as to induce a Reconciliation and a Change of Sentiment of him? Or what *Reformation*, do you mark; that demands your Compassion for him, and Leave to shine with you, in the Publick Gazette, in Vindication of *injured Merit, and Reputation*? And what Fault, Sir,—disclose it to the World—can you object to my Conduct, as merits the *heavy Punishment* of being expelled from your Arms, and blotted out from the Number of your *Worshippers*? I beg permission to freshen up your Memory: After We were elected Representatives for this City, your Seat became vacant by your Acceptance of an Office, under the Government: I oppos'd your Re-election: I did it upon the Principle, We made our Opposition to our Adversary Doctor *Stewart*: The Motto of our Flag, and the general Voice, was NO PLACEMAN, I deem'd it absurd and inconsistent Conduct to cut about and Vote for a *Placeman*—— tho' recommended with a *Catalogue* of YOUR *eminent Qualities*. You were re-elected by mere Chance— but upon a Petition from the Citizens, complaining of an undue Election, you were again discharged from the House, and another Gentleman chosen in your Room. I was unfortunately of *that Number*, who were of Opinion, your Election was void, and voted accordingly. This, Sir, is the Cause of your Resentment against Me: And hence that pious Christian Resolution— extremely becoming a Gentleman of your amiable Character— to ruin my Reputation, and make a Sacrifice of Me.

BUT, Sir, I laugh at your *Folly*: Tho' from the bottom of my Heart I pity your *revengeful Temper*. You may *rage*, and *foam*, and *gnash your Teeth*— but it is a Misfortune you must lament, I am far out of your Reach.

As for you, Mr. *Brice*. The Difference, subsisting between Us, is so well known here, that your Aspersions will have but little Weight. Your Passion for Wealth must naturally flame into Resentment, upon an Opposition or Disappointment of your Schemes of Property. Ask your own Heart, whence your Spleen and Bitterness against Me? Can you alledge any other Reason, but that of *Resisting your Personal Strength*, which you exerted to put Me aside, while I made Application and obtained a Proclamation Warrant for a Tract of Land, which you had fix'd a *ignominious Eye* upon, and endeavour'd to affect by the same Method? It was this, that drew upon Me your Resentment: For from that Time I have constantly met with your *formidable* Frowns and Opposition.

I might, Mr. *Deor*, pass over you without a single Observation, the People of this Province are so extremely well acquainted with the happy Figure, you make among Us, that

your *Invectives* can as little affect my Reputation, as the Thundering Bulls of the Pope of Rome, or how natural it is for the Wretch, that has just lifted up his Head from obscurity to swell, and talk big of Himself! Is it not amazing Presumption that you, Sir— thou Pink of Modesty— should trumpet forth even from that *pure and immaculate Fountain of Truth* your— OWN MOUTH! That you are one of the *BETTERS* of this City! when, but a few Years ago, your sole Dependence was the *Glisten Pipe*, and your Situation that only of a *penniless Emigrant* driven from Home by Poverty to seek for Subsistence abroad. And Thou *deep Politician*! How prudently have you since quitted the difficult Study of *Hippocrates and Galen*, and the *disagreeable* Administration of the *Glisten Pipe*, and prudently embark'd in the more *profitable* and *honourable* Employment of Dancing Attendance, and Fawning upon the Great? How well adapted to this *prudent* Scheme of Life is your *affected Wisdom*, *great Gravity*, and *low, deliberate Voice*! you have, indeed, play'd off your Address, and natural Talents, to the best Advantage:— yet in your most joyous Moments— when counting up the exorbitant Profits of your Offices, of Clerk of the Upper-House of Assembly, of his Lordship's Council, and Examiner General of the Province— do you not feel a poignant Compunction for the Prostitution of your Freedom for dirty Gold? does injured Liberty never rise up in View, and awfully reproach you? But, Sir, with all your Wealth, you are a wretched *Dependant*: Your Name was demanded in the Gazette: It was the Command of your *Master*, who out of Compassion to the miserable Abilities of your Party, has Commenced your *Patron and Penman*.

THE Consequences of a bad Life, Mr. *Macnemara*, which have reduced you to a *servile Dependency*, prevent many Observations upon your Conduct. Are you too, Sir, among the Number, who proclaim Me, “*unworthy of every Kind of publick Trust*?”— Certainly that Man, who can discard the Trust of Nature for a Brothel, can have as little Merit for the publick Confidence. And do you too, Sir, infamously Charge Me with want of *Virtue and Integrity*? And with a *Versatility of Principles*?—— It is with Pain, I remind you of the unhappy Circumstances of your Children, reduced to Beggary, by your continued Round of *Vice, and Folly, Drunkenness and Debauchery*. Driven from the Bosom of that Parent, who, from the Ties of Nature, should nourish and support them, they eat their Bread under the Roof of the charitable Stranger! Is it *Virtue*, or *integrity*, or a *Versatility of Principles*, that have extinguish'd the Feelings of Nature, and deadened all the Sensibility of the Father? What pleasures, can You find in the Harlots Embraces, to induce you to fling from your Arms, your Infants in Distress, and weeping at the Feet of Charity? Peace be to your Heart, if Peace can find Existence there.

HAVING thus, Gentlemen, shewn the real Motives of your Scandal and Abuse, I shall beg your Patience, while I apply Myself to your Charge of *Ingratitude*, and what you mention, as an Extract of “*A LATE celebrated Speech* I made, respecting the Stamp Act.

I must, Gentlemen, confess, I am truly confounded at the matchless Assurance, with which, you have published to the World the most palpable Falsity, you could possibly invent that, “*to your Appointment I was for some Years indebted for my best bread*”: And equally false, and malicious, is that virulent Assertion, that “*like the Viper I would Sting the Bosoms, which had warmed Me into Life*.” Surely, that Man must possess the most despicable Meaness of Heart, who expects the Returns of Gratitude, for a *reluctant, insignificant Benefit*! But what must be the Composition of the Soul of that Wretch, who boasts a Benefaction, in the Doing of an Act of *Necessity*, without Choice, or the most distant Intention of Conferring a Profit? I admit Gentlemen, that to your Appointment I was Indebted for the Professor's Place of the Mayor's Court of this City, — and do you, for *this*, assume the sacred Name of *Benefactors*, and affect the Parent—Bosom, which has given Nutriment to my Existence? When you confer'd upon Me, that honourable Appointment, did *Benevolence*, and a *tender Solitude* for my Happiness suggest the *Charity*, or did *Necessity* induce the Act? Let the Fact be stated.— In 1761 I qualified in the Mayor's Court, the Bar then consist'd of three Practitioners, Messrs. *William Pace, John Brice Junior* and Myself, all of Us Students of the Law, under Gentlemen of this City, who qualified merely for Improvement, without the remotest View of Profit: The Professor's Place was vacant, at the Time of my Qualification, by the Death of an *Ordinary Keeper*! Who filed that *lucrative* and

the Author. Thou Wretch, and Dependant, first
purge thy own Heart before you cast Reflections upon others.

AND was it consistent in you, Mr. *Beck*, and Doctor *Stewart*,
to asperse Me as a Defender of the Stamp-Act? What was your
Answer to the Sons of Liberty, when they applied to you to
open the Provincial Court? You objected your Abhorrence
of Perjury: That you were sworn to Execute the Laws: And
hoped more Humanity from the Sons of Liberty than to
force you to the Guilt of Perjury. Was not this an open
and publick Avowal of the Parliamentary Right? Does your
Oath extend to the Execution of unconstitutional Laws, or
not? If not, then you must have deemed the Stamp-Act, a
Constitutional Law, or how could you incur Perjury in acting
in Disobedience to it? And may we not thence conclude, that
there are at least *TWO* Judges in America, who, upon real Principles
of Duty, "would most dutifully defend the Stamp Act, as
a Regular and Constitutional Exercise of Parliamentary
" Power!"

Thus, Gentlemen, I have endeavoured to vindicate myself
from your Aspersions and Scandal: Expressions may have
fallen from Me, possibly, not Consistent with your *Delicacy*:
I shall make no other Apology, than that a Man must be dead
to all Sensibility and Feeling, who can calmly oppose the
Shouts of Malice, dipping the most fatal Poison, and aimed at
his Reputation.

I am

Gentlemen

Your Humble Servant,

SAMUEL CHASE.

ANNAPOLIS, July 16, 1766.

This was NOT Printed by Green