

Martin's North-Carolina

G A Z E T T E.

TROS TYRIUSVE MIHI NULLO DISCRIMINE AGETUR. VIR.

[VOL. II.] NEWBERN, AUGUST 1, 1787. [No. 83.]

M A R T I N

I BELIEVE there is no man, however indifferent about the interests of this country, who will not readily confess that the situation to which we are reduced, calls for the exertion of all the vigour and wisdom that is amongst us, to remedy the present evils, and to prevent the impending mischiefs which threaten. It will be allowed, that he who resolutely sets himself about it gives the best evidence of his attachment to the state; and though he should not succeed in his intention, yet the hints he may suggest may probably induce others more capable, to engage in the arduous undertaking.

I have been surprized that in those times of difficulty and danger, when the minds of men were generally agitated, that our Constitution was made so complete as it now stands, and I have wondered when all is peace and serenity, that some steps have not been taken to propose a revision of it, by a representation chosen in a general convention of the people, without which, whatever necessary measures might be recommended, no CONSTITUTIONAL friend of his country would wish to see them adopted, as no innovation, nor any LEGAL alteration, however beneficial, can be made, but by the concurrence of the same power which ALWAYS exists, and originally delegated the right.

It has been asserted, by a celebrated political writer of the present day, (Dr. Price) whose genius and judgment have been equally admired in Great Britain and America, that great evils must result in any country, where the representation is unequal and defective. England, says he, has proved, exhibits a melancholy picture of

this truth, and although she can never be destroyed, yet her subjects probably groan under the most oppressive taxes that ever loaded a free people. The same cattle will eternally produce the same effect. The nation or state therefore who will not profit by the example of others must share a similar fate; it assembles with itself, and pays no tribute to the memory of those illustrious patriots, whose blood was mar cipated it from the oppression of a power, that sought to enslave them.

That there is a defect in our present state of representation must, I think, be admitted, and although great deference and respect is due to the legislative body, yet it is not to be denied that it appears that some of the proceedings of the two last General Assemblies, were OUTRAGES upon the Constitution and VIOLATIONS of the rights of the citizens, all which I humbly ascribe to the want of an EQUAL representation of the people.

But, it may be objected that there is no inequality, because the second article of the Constitution declares, that there shall be one Senator chosen annually for each county, and the third, that the House of Commons shall be composed of representatives, chosen in the same manner, two for each county, and one for each town specified, so that the number for each place being the same the representation must be equal. But, this apparent equality, if properly considered and reflected upon without prejudice, will be found in a political point of view extremely inadequate and requiring an amelioration, more than any other part of our government, or constitution. The number of people does not, under my idea of equal representation, constitute the reason as to how many

Handwritten note: *Handwritten*