

# NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE

OR

## IMPARTIAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WEEKLY GENERAL ADVERTISER.

Among the useful Inventions of Man, there is none more to be admired than the Art of Printing; by Means of which, useful Knowledge is communicated more expeditiously, than in any other Way; therefore the Press ought ever to be encouraged and supported, particularly by FREE CITIZENS, and PROFESSING CHRISTIANS.

1784.

THURSDAY, September 2.

Price Eight-pence.

MR. PRINTER,

**T**HE condition of public credit in this State, claims the attention of every citizen. The creditors complain that hard money certificates do not pass at their nominal value, while the mass of our fellow citizens complain that those certificates are valued as hard money in payment of taxes, when it is certain that the public has never received a valuable consideration for them. When parties differ so much we are apt to suppose that the truth lies between them and it is certainly the duty of every honest man to examine this case very attentively. If the holders of hard money certificates have done personal services, or given property to the public, to the full value of those certificates, as they are rated in silver, then it will follow that the State is bound to call in the whole of those certificates, by a hard money tax, at their nominal value. But if it is true, that hard money certificates had depreciated before they were issued, and that the appraisers of horses, cattle, &c. furnished for the use of the State, made allowances in their own minds for such depreciation, and valued the articles higher in proportion, then it will that *such certificates should be considered as conditional or State money, and should be rated according to some scale of depreciation.* The first of these positions will certainly be admitted without any dispute, for no man will say that we ought not to pay the value of what we have received. But the other position ought to pass with the same currency, for no man, or at least no honest man, will say that we ought to pay more than the value of what we have received. Is it true, that hard money certificates like other public paper, had depreciated greatly before the end of the war. In answer to this question, it will be generally admitted that the man who had a hard money certificate for one hundred dollars, could not sell it towards the end of the war, for more than fifteen or twenty dollars; and it is said that the appraisers in some parts of the country, had respect to this rate of exchange, and that they valued property so high that the certificates might sell for as much hard money, as the property was worth; for instance, a horse which might have been purchased for twenty five or thirty pounds in silver, when taken into the service, was valued at one hundred and twenty, or one hundred and fifty pounds. And most other valuations were made in the same manner; this might have been well enough for the time past, because it enabled the party to negotiate his certificate for the value of his property, but it cannot be proper for the present time, because we are now going to call in those certificates, and it is not just that we should sink them at their nominal value, while other paper is sunk according to its depreciated value. If any person should ask what are we to do in this case: we shall reply in a few words, let us try to do justice. And while we give the public creditor the full value of his property, let us not oppress the people. Let certificates which have been in circulation, and have changed their owners, be valued like paper money, according to the average value at which they have passed through the country; which may possibly be at five or six for one. As for those certificates, which remain in the hands of the original owners, they may be treated differently, but in such a manner as to agree with the most perfect justice. Two commissioners may be appointed for each district, to be sent from a distant part of the State, these commissioners may review the charges, comparing the sums mentioned in each certificate, with the articles for which the certificate was granted, by which they may find what was the general depreciation of hard money certificates, in different

counties, for it varied greatly in different parts of the State. The true value of certificates which have not changed their owners, may thus be fixed, and new certificates be granted. It being provided that every certificate which is not reexamined, shall be deemed subject to the general depreciation.

In a few weeks the commissioners might finish their scrutiny, it would be attended with some expence, but it would be followed by great savings, and by the general regulations on the head of hard money certificates, the public would be relieved from very large taxes, which are now going to be paid for the sole emolument of speculators; perhaps some person who is better used to public accounts, may propose a more easy mode of regulating those certificates: it is to be wished that some plain, honest regulations may be made, since it is generally admitted that some thing ought to be done.

One of the people.

### FOR THE NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

**T**HE Revd Mr. MURRAY, in his history of the war in America (speaking of the war between the *Islanders* (in 1638) and the *Colonists*, says—“The people of New-England at this time made an observation with regard to the State of their affairs, which perhaps will hold in general with regard to all countries in the same situation. They took notice, that till once they began to reform their manners, and observe the institutions of the gospel with more exactness, that they never prospered in pursuing this war; but after they began in earnest to reform abuses, and observe the moral institutions of God as a necessity, their affairs took quite a different turn, and they prospered in their undertakings.”

This observation, or the doctrine it teaches, is supported by thousands of instances recorded in history: And that, “before a people can rationally expect to be prosperous and happy, they must first become virtuous,” hath been, time immemorial, the remark of every moralist.

Such respect have we for the Antients, that we give implicit assent to most of their adages: but this, though among the most important, we unhappily disregard. Yet perhaps there never was a time, when (politically speaking) a reformation of manners was more essentially necessary than at this eventful period.

My observation is general, and not aimed at any individuals, or particular class of men. But yet if the cap should fit any one, let him wear it, and much good may it do him.

C.

TO THE PRINTER of the NORTH-CAROLINA  
GAZETTE.

SIR,

Your publishing the following may be of service to some of your readers, and fulfill my promise to the Captain of a Sloop of War.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient

JOHN ALDERSON.

July 15th 1784.

**O**N the 17th day of May last I put into *Bassett's*, *St. Kitts*, in the *Brig Catherine*, being in great want of water, to get a small supply; and took that opportunity of going on shore to negotiate a bill

of exchange; the *Brig* lying off and on for five hours, as I did not wish to meet an anchor, being just returned on board my vessel, in the evening her head off shore, at least a mile without the anchoring. I discovered a boat stern rowing towards us, she appeared to belong to a ship of war; on this I shortened sail until the boat came along side, and an officer came on board, when the following dialogue ensued between the officer and myself.

Q. What vessel is this? A. The *Catherine* from *Guadaloup*. Q. Are you the Captain? A. In place of a better, Sir. Q. What colours are you under?

A. French colours, Sir. Q. What is your business here? A. Being in distress for water, I put in here to get a supply, and have taken this opportunity to regulate a bill of exchange with *Mr. Samersfall*. I propose to water at *old Road* in the morning, and shall depart immediately.

Q. What colours do you say you are under? A. French colours, Sir. Officer a rebel more likely.

A. Sir I wear French colours, and have a French Officer.

Officer, a pretty rascal to be a French man; I know, or at least I believe, you to be a dam'd Yankee rascal. Well Sir, you say you are under French colours, and, as a French man, by God you shall not lie in this bay.

Answer, Sir I have French colours, and honour the nation; you may consider me what you please; but I am in distress for water, and wish to be permitted to water at the usual place, *old Road*.

Officer, by God you shall not lie in this bay, either as a French man, or as a Yankee, therefore immediately make sail, or I will anchor your vessel under the sloop of war's stern, and cause you to undergo the operation of a court of vice admiralty.

Answer, Sir I am in distress for water, it is for that and that only I wait, here I shew my colours, which are those of a civilized nation, and as such I hope to be treated; if it is contrary to any British law to afford water to a foreigner in distress, I am not apprised of such law; but whether or not, I cannot go to sea without water.

Officer, You say you are in distress for water. Heave about, stand close in with the sloop of war, and I will send you two puncheons between the hours of eight and nine, which when you have received, make sail immediately. On saying this the officer went into his boat and left us. Agreeable to his directions I lay close in with the sloop of war until 9 o'clock, no water was sent, I lay until past ten, no water; all lights out in the harbour. I then stretched to sea, taking such measures as to be in with the shipping by sunrise in the morning. Still no appearance of the sloop of war's boat. I went on board to enquire whether I might expect the water, or not; and if not, to ask permission to get water at *old Road*. On my getting on board the sloop of war, I found that the officer who boarded me, the preceding evening, was the Captain. I immediately told him my business; upon which, the following conversation ensued.

Captain, Pray why did not you lay near the ship, as I directed you last night?

Answer, Sir you told me that between the hours of eight and nine the water should be sent on board. I lay almost within hailing, my lantern hoisted until after 10 o'clock, and until all lights were doused in the harbour; then stood off, judging that you chose to send in the morning.

Captain, I believe you are a dam'd Yankee rascal, and you shall have no water from my ship.

Answer, Sir it was your own offer; though you do not choose to supply me, I hope I may be permitted to water at the usual watering place.

Captain, No by God you shall not but if you are in distress, you may anchor under my stern, which