

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

From the Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Advertiser.

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

WHENEVER a diversity of sentiment takes place between your two branches of legislature, respecting the utility, policy, or necessity of any public regulation, it remains solely with you to determine in favour of the one or the other. Both branches originate from you, and from you alone derive all their authority. You are their constituents. The Senate are the *mediate*, and the House of Delegates the *immediate*, representatives of the people. They are both equally bound to speak your opinion, and to carry your will, when known, into execution. Each branch of your legislature is, and ought to be perfectly free and independent of each other; both ought to be subject to, and dependent on you. A great contrariety of opinion has happened between your Senate and the House of Delegates, relative to the tender of a test of fidelity to the disaffected, the consequences of a refusal to take it, and what penalty ought to be inflicted on those who have deserted their country and fled to Britain.

The Senate have twice refused their assent to establish any test of allegiance in this state, and at the last session rejected the bill, intituled, *An act for the better security of the government*, without assigning any reasons for their negative. Your delegates have published the bill for your consideration, and made their appeal to you. It is therefore your duty to approve the one, and condemn the other. Your decision alone can reconcile the difference, and the sooner it is declared the better. Arguments, by way of message, between the two houses, will only increase the breach. Both are riveted in their opinion. Jealousy, suspicion, and animosity, may arise between them, to the grief of the friends, and the joy of the enemies of our common country.—Consider therefore maturely the subject, pronounce with candour and dignity, yet with firmness, your opinion; and be assured that either will cheerfully acquiesce in your determination.

It is an uncontrovertible fact, that each county produces some persons disaffected to the independency of this state, and its present government; it is also a truth, that a few are to be found, not only inimical to its government, but whose residence among us is dangerous to the state. To our internal foes are we indebted, in a great measure, for the present war, the immense expence incurred, and the devastation, ravage, and ruin, suffered by us, in consequence of it. My foul glo's with the warmest resentment against our wicked, perfidious, and cruel open foes, but in a much greater degree accumulates my detestation and abhorrence of our internal secret enemies. Some of them drew their first breath in Maryland; others fled to it as a land of refuge, and have raised themselves from indigence to affluence. The first offices in government were lavished, and the profits of trade indiscriminately bestowed on foreigners. A preference was too generally given to the English and Scotch emigrant, in the appointment to office, and the emoluments of commerce. A native traitor is a villain of the blackest hue; his parricide ought never to be pardoned. Scotch treachery might have been expected, and British enmity may be forgiven. The Scots, transplanted from their own country, are always a distinct and separate body from the people who receive them. The English have the strongest affection to, and pride in their native country; and an huzza for Old England will transport them into a temporary frenzy, and break every tie, human and divine*. These are angels in comparison with our apostate countrymen. A

want of patriotism and virtue, and base ingratitude, may be urged against the one; but against the other, I want language to express their crime. Lost to every sense of virtue, and duty to their country and posterity, they almost sink beneath the dignity of revenge.

Since the late act to punish treason, misprision of treason, and certain misdemeanors, against the government, the tories in this state may be ranked under two classes. The first artfully take care to escape the letter of the law; they conform their public conduct agreeable to it, and are *legally* whigs; they remain the same infiduous enemies as before; with their poisonous doctrines they taint and corrupt the principles of our people; they pretend a fear of our success, and attempt to prove the impossibility of it, by magnifying the wealth and power of Britain. They dread a foreign alliance, and whisper that aid from France or Spain may end in our destruction. They paint, in the strongest colours, our former happiness from our connection with Britain; they deprecate and lament our present wants as intolerable, and describe the hardships we now suffer as miseries to endure for ever. They originally depreciated our currency; they continue the practice, and justify their conduct by the avarice of others, which they first inspired. They increased our distress, by fore-stalling and engrossing the conveniences and necessities of life. They alarm and terrify our people by their daily lies of battles never fought, and victories never gained. The war is to have a long continuance, and the taxes for its support will be enormous. Our independency may produce endless wars among ourselves, and with them a certain loss of liberty is to be sustained from our foreign foes, from an apprehension that imaginary evils will flow from internal divisions. Every base art, which can be executed with impunity, is daily practised by them. Every state has fatally experienced their hypocrisy and duplicity, their baseness, falsehood, and treachery. Your observation will furnish more instances of their ingenuity to injure our cause, and the ill effects which flow from their conduct and influence over their relatives and dependents, and their weak and ignorant neighbours, than I am acquainted with, or can enumerate.

The second class of these miscreants are those who formerly affected the reputation of the *moderate men*, and may now be distinguished under the character of *the neutrals*. Under the garb of moderation, they uniformly opposed every measure as *too violent*; their opinion they esteemed more wise than the general sense of America. Folly and impudence in the extreme! If by moderation they had meant deliberate, prudent, wise and firm measures; and had only opposed injudicious, hasty and rash conduct, I should not only have approved, but have ceased so heartily to despise their assumed character. In truth, this character was fabricated by knaves, adopted by the timid, and passed as current among fools. After the declaration of independence, the men of this cast joined themselves to *the neutrals*. It is a mark of base and abject cowardice for a man, who professes himself a friend to his country, to remain neuter, to stand an indifferent spectator, while his countrymen and the friends of liberty are compelled, by brutal force, to contend for the dearest rights of human nature; meanly, infamously hoping to reap the benefits of success, without risking the danger. No man can now doubt the wicked designs of the hypocritical and sanguinary tyrant of Britain. His venal, servile parliament, have avowed their intentions; absolute, unconditional submission. The galling chains of conquest, or the glorious freedom of independency, await the event of war. Our cause is common; the benefits of success will be shared by all; we are all equally interested, and should all be engaged. Our liberties and properties, our laws and constitution, are invaded by robbers. Not to defend, is to betray. At such a moment, no honest man would remain silent or inactive. The old Grecian law, which forbade any man to remain neuter, in their civil dissensions, was wise and politic. The man, who by his neutrality deserts the cause, is a traitor to his country. I consider every man an enemy to the state, who will not give his assistance to maintain the

* A national reflection is not intended. The observation is true in the general, but many are the exceptions. Lee, Gates, Stephens, Maxwell, St. Clair, McDougall, and many other officers in the army, and gentlemen in the civil departments of the states, are a reproach to their less virtuous countrymen, and worthy of our highest trust and confidence.