

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

To the Writer who styles himself a CAROLINA PLANTER.
S I R,
NEWBERN, Dec. 18.

DISGUIsing yourself under the respectable name of a planter, you have acted the part of an assassin. Your invenomed weapon is aimed at your neighbours reputation, a part in which a man of honour would feel himself as sensibly wounded, as if you had plunged a dagger in his bosom. But fortunately your abilities to do mischief are not equal to your inclinations. Those who have read your performance, dispise its malignity, while I, perfectly acquainted with the author, pity his imbecility, and lament that the last stage of human nature is sometimes second childhood.

Trade Sir in the best regulated states has ever been considered as the principal source of national riches and grandeur, I might add also, of freedom and safety. Cast your eye for a moment on the little island from whence you emigrated, contemplate the power it arose to in a few centuries, and remember that the best authors ascribe it to an extension of commerce. The same cause has produced the same effect in other countries, and notwithstanding your endeavours to bring it into disrepute, I am not without hopes of its flourishing even here.

Too many of our sister states are at this time reduced to the most pressing necessities by only a few months stoppage of trade. Ours meeting with less interruption, not only prevents the like distresses among ourselves, but enables us to lend a helping hand to our neighbours. Trade supplies all ranks of people with the most necessary and comfortable articles of life, it stimulates the planter to industry by affording a market for the produce of his labour, and it gives bread and employment to thousands that would otherwise be burthenome to society.

If then trade is so essential to the happiness and well being of a state, Merchants, methinks, cannot be wholly unuseful, their property and credit support it, their experience, spirit for adventure, and industry extend and conduct it to advantage. In support of government they bear at least their proportion. In prosecuting the war they do more, many of them at their own risque and expence, having armed, manned, and sent forth private ships to harrass and distress the enemy.

Notwithstanding these truths obvious to every thinking man, you with equal impudence and ignorance have arraigned them at the tribunal of the public as men pernicious to society, not to be distinguished from Tories, friends to no country, profit being the sole object of their adoration. That they would starve their countrymen by the exportation of provisions,—have bad hearts, cowardly spirits, in short that they are little better than the pest of society, calling on the legislature to interpose and prevent the deep-rooted evils which flow from this unprincipalled gang of merchants, suggesting at same time for the government of that honourable body, that the Carthaginians had provided different residences for their merchants, the Grecians had kept them without their walls, ancient laws disqualified them for civil offices, and your favourite Saint had ordered them to be cast out of the church. All this Mr. Carolina planter, beside something in latin, you in your great wisdom have been pleased to submit to public consideration, in full hope and confidence no doubt, that the merchants, through the irresistible force of your reasoning, would shortly be turned out of the churches and cities, and civil employments, and, marked by the infamy of their profession, remain hence forward the scorn of mankind.

It is really laughable that you, only the other day a merchant, and who continued such untill a diminution of capital and credit obliged you to change employments, should now devote your evening hours to calumniate a profession, to which you can seriously have no other objection, than your want of abilities to succeed in it.

Your asserting that merchants depreciate the value of our currency, is to the last degree, absurd. If you, or others through the instigation of such incendiaries as you, could provoke the

merchants to lay up their vessels and shut up their stores, it would soon be discovered that our currency would loose a part of the value it now retains. When salt and other necessaries of life, could not be purchased at any price, the value of money would of consequence sink in the estimation of those who possessed it.

It is equally as absurd to say that the price of provisions is kept up by the merchants. On the contrary those who bring provisions to market, fix the price, and the merchants in common with others are obliged to submit to it.

What I have offered in favour of the merchants, is not intended to extend to monopolizers and fore-stallers, should such be among us, creating artificial scarcities, and taking advantage of people's necessities, they ought to be suppressed; if we have laws to punish such offences, the gentlemen with whom the executive powers are intrusted, will doubtless do their duty without your interference. If we have no such law in being, our representatives who feel in common with the people at large, are the properest judges of its expediency.

The stigma you would fix on the merchants by so often applying to them the hacknied term TORY, is the strongest proof of an illiberal mind. The trade of America having been long ingrossed by your countrymen, we ought not to be surpris'd, that at the commencement of the present war, a greater proportion of traders than of any other profession refused their assent to the prevailing measures, most of them have since either been sent off or voluntarily quit the state; such as remain, have from the earliest stage of the contest, given proofs of their attachment, a few individuals excepted, and those having entered into the most solemn obligations for their future allegiance, will, by every generous American be considered as friends so long as their conduct corresponds with their assurances. Yet, as the power of investigating the human heart is confined only to him who made it, possibly some of those reprobated mortals may still be among us, secretly endeavouring to promote the cause of their despotick master, or under the masque of patriotism may create jealousies and suspicions, by public declamation, and render him service in that mode.

Permit me to make one observation and I will take my leave of you. Few men endued with the common gifts of nature, but might fill some one of the various employments of life, with tolerable reputation. The lowest order of mechanicks as well as the plow-men, are valuable members of society, and when peaceably and industriously employed, deserve the esteem of the most dignified person in the state. But when such mistake the bent of their genius, forget the want of education, and publish *Lucubrations* for the entertainment or instruction of mankind, they are laughed at for their folly and despised for their presumption.

A MERCHANT.

BOSTON, Nov. 12.

LAST Thursday morning the ship Syren of 28 guns, one transport ship, and a schooner, ran ashore at Point Judith. The two last were taken, with about 40 prisoners, one man killed, and 4 wounded. It was expected the Syren would give up as soon as an 18 pounder fired upon her, which would be ready the next morning.

By two gentlemen of undoubted veracity, who arrived in town last evening from New-London, which place they left last Friday, we learn that the Syren frigate, above mentioned, was entirely bulged, and that our people had made prisoners of the crew, consisting of about 180 men, and had also secured her guns, &c. to the value of about 60,000 l. lawful money.

On Thursday last arrived at Cambridge Lieutenant General JOHN BURGOYNE, with the British, and on Friday the Hessian troops, in the full power of health, who lately surrendered themselves prisoners of war at the Northward, to the brave and intrepid Major General Gates, whose name ought to be retained with gratitude in the breast of every American.

Monday last arrived at a safe port at the eastward a prize brigantine, double decked, from London, bound to Halifax, tak-