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T H E

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MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, O C T O B E R 2, 1783.

To the PRINTERS of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

BE G leave, through the channel of your paper, to offer to the public some observations on what has been long the general topic of conversation throughout this state; I mean the present distressed situation of our troops; in the course of which I shall endeavour to enquire, how far the aspersions cast on the civil department are founded on facts, and how far they may be attributed to prejudice and misapprehension.

The general and popular remark is, that the civil list engrosses so much of the public money, as to leave little or none for the payment of the army. On the contrary, the advocates for the other party allege, that the salaries of the civil officers are barely competent, and in some cases not sufficient for their support. It is impossible for those who live at a distance from the seat of government, to obtain such a thorough knowledge of these matters, as would enable them to decide with precision on the subject; and as that is at present my case, I shall form my sentiments from such facts only as are undeniable, and universally known.

In forming a comparison of the situation and merits of these different classes of men, the following state will, I imagine, be found just.

The military gentlemen have, by the nature of their service, injured their fortunes, endangered their lives, and in many instances ruined their constitutions. Those of the civil department have, I apprehend, encountered no such difficulties; their vicinity to the places of their abode has frequently enabled them to join an attention to their private affairs to the execution of their public duties. Their lives have been free from danger, and their constitutions unimpaired. Let us now take a review of the advantages they have respectively enjoyed, and the recompence they have received. It is a melancholy truth, that the troops have long been deprived of their just wages; that many officers have expended their private fortunes, to enable them to continue in the service; and that the extremities of want have been suffered by the soldiery. I content myself with this short view of their distresses, as it would exceed the bounds of my present design to particularise their sufferings, or enter fully into a consideration of the causes of them. They have been stated at large to the legislature in remonstrances, to which little attention has been paid. I do not pretend to assert, that the civil list has always been punctually paid; but I may venture to pronounce, that their arrears bear no resemblance to those of the army, and I believe the public will join with me in imagining, that if they had, it would have been difficult to have kept the wheels of government in motion. I have frequently heard it observed, that there was a necessity of paying the civil officers, in order to enable them to maintain their dignity, and reside in Annapolis, where the duties of their offices required their attendance; and it is pleasant to hear their adherents observe, that four hundred pounds per annum is not a sufficient sum to support them in the genteel style of life to which they are entitled. I would ask these gentlemen, how the officer, who went to the southward in the spring 1780, and but lately returned, could support himself on two or three months pay? It has likewise frequently happened, that officers have, in the performance of their duty, been obliged to remain at Annapolis, and when they have been ordered to march, obtained from the assembly such trifling sums as bore no proportion to the expenses they had incurred.

It has been alleged, that the troops of this state have been better provided than those of many others. It may probably be the case. But though I am ready to acknowledge, that some disposition has lately been shewn to relieve them, it is certain that much yet remains to be done. A number of the certificates granted for the sums lost by the depreciation of our former pay, remain in the hands of the first proprietors, for the payment of which I believe there are no funds left. Those which were provided for their redemption have proved insufficient, although one of the manors was sold much above its real value. Interest is due on them for three years, the neglect of the payment of which, and the little disposition shewn by the assembly to render them valuable, has probably induced many of the soldiers to part with them for a trifling pittance, and to sacrifice the hard earned reward of their labours, to enrich those who were so ungenerous as to take advantage of their necessities. It is to be wished that the assembly would in future put a stop to the issuing of certificates of any kind to the soldiery, as they are sure to be attended with similar consequences. For a proof of this, I need go no further than the late negotiations of the financier's notes, and those issued by the intendant of this state. The yearly pay of our troops must, I presume, from their numbers, exceed the amount of the civil list; yet in the act for the supplies of the present year, one fifth only of the taxes to be raised is appropriated for the payment of the army. There are many persons notwithstanding, who, while they pretend to acknowledge the justice of our complaints, profess that the state is making every exertion in our behalf, and that it is out of their power to do more for our relief. But let us see how this fifth part is to be applied. It is to go to the continental treasury, from thence to be distributed to the army; and how small a share we shall then get may be easily supposed; besides the difficulties which attend the negotiation of the financier's notes, which seem to

be the only pay we can at present expect. As the assembly will soon sit, I offer the above remarks to their consideration, and shall take the freedom of mentioning those measures which I think our situation demands.

The payment of the interest due on our certificates, and establishing some fund for their redemption, is, I should suppose, indispensably necessary, if we are ever to be benefited by them.

I would ask any impartial man, Why the interest of certificates from the treasury should be paid, and the certificates themselves taken in payment of taxes, while ours are totally neglected.

As the taxes are now collecting, may not a part of them be reasonably expected to contribute something towards a settlement of our arrears?

Should the assembly think such a step advisable, I would recommend to them to act with firmness and resolution; to know what sums are in the hands of their public officers; and to give positive directions for the payment at a certain time, whereby the inconvenience of notes may be avoided, much needless trouble prevented, and the officers and soldiers provided, without the mortification of continual solicitation and expence.

An OFFICER of the MARYLAND LINE.

Anne-Arundel county, September 21, 1783.

P A R I S, April 18.

MR. ANTHON is just arrived from Vienna with his wonderful automaton which plays at chess. This machine represents the figure of a man in natural size, in Turkish dress, sitting behind a table upon which the chess are standing. He plays a game with any person in the company. Before he begins, Mr. Anthon opens the lower part of the table to shew the interior machinery, which consists in wheels, cylinders and springs of all kinds. After having shut the table the automaton begins the game, extending his hand to one piece, taking it with his fingers and transporting it upon another place, after which he opens his fingers and draws his hand back to rest it upon a cushion which lays before him. When he gives check to his adversary, he makes it known by three signs with his head for the king, and two for the queen. If his adversary by mistake or design makes a false step, he shakes his head, and taking the stone, which was wrong, he puts it back in its old place, but then his adversary is not allowed to play a second time, but the automaton continues the game. When one of the players is checked, he retires to continue and shakes his head. It must be observed that he plays extremely well, and that a common player will certainly lose the game with him.

The author of this master-piece of human ingenuity, is a major-general in the Austrian service.

H A L I F A X, August 8.

Wednesday last the Hessian regiment de Seitz, together with the whole of the German troops stationed in this garrison, sailed from hence for Bremerliche, in Germany.

B O S T O N, September 8.

Extra of a letter from Machias, dated Aug. 12.

"Mr. Albee has made application to colonel Stilman for powder for the Indians, and has received 17lb. which he is to return or account for.—Alto, he informs me, that he understood that there had been a dispute between the Indians at St. John's, and the new settlers (not to call them refugees) in Nova-Scotia, in which there fell six of the former, and eight of the latter: this he had from a man he saw at Quody, from St. John's.—It is expected that a number of families will soon be at St. Andrew's."

A number of families from Baguaduce is expected every hour, to settle a township at St. Andrew's:—if some steps are not soon taken by the states, to prevent those pests of society settling in the bay of Passamaquoddy, all that advantageous part of the country for fishing, lumber and fur, will be settled by British subjects. The threats already have out by some wretches, demonstrate, what the subjects of the United States may expect. This settlement is twenty miles westward of the river St. Croix.

September 11. The infamous Samuel Ely, after having for a long time disturbed the peace of the community as much as was in his power, was a few days since taken up for horse stealing.

W O R C E S T E R, (Massachusetts) Sept. 6.

His excellency the governor has issued a proclamation offering a reward of one hundred pounds for the discovery of the author or authors of an anonymous letter, found at the door of one of the proprietors of the long-wharf, in Boston, threatening to let the wharf and stores on fire, unless all shop-keepers, retailers, grog-sellers, &c. cease to continue thereon.

P R O V I D E N C E, September 9.

Extra of a letter from New-York.

"No news here but that of evacuation. This is hourly talked of, and occasions a variety of physiognomic, laughable appearances.—Some look smiling, others melancholy, a third class mad. To hear their conversation would make you feel merry; some there are who represent the cold regions of Nova Scotia as a new-created Paradise, others as a country unfit for any human being to inhabit. Tories are vexed with tories, they curse the powers to whom they owe allegiance, and thus render themselves rebellious; they profess won-

derful concern about the new states, apprehensive we may in time get to wrestling with and boxing each other till the blood comes. —, who from peddling in their own country have made fortunes here, mean to stay; while hundreds, of ten thousand times more virtue, are obliged to fly."

N E W - L O N D O N, September 12.

Last Saturday, being the 6th of September, completed two years since an army of the British troops under the command of that infamous traitor to his country, Benedict Arnold, plundered and burnt the towns of New-London and Groton, and massacred the garrison of fort Griewold: on this occasion, a well adapted discourse was delivered in said fort to a large and affected auditory by the reverend Mr. Hart of Preston, from the following words. "Then Abner called to Jacob and said shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end?" ii Sam. 2. 26.

H A R T F O R D, September 15.

By a gentleman who has just arrived from Port Roseway, in Nova Scotia, we are favoured with the following authentic intelligence.—That the refugees who have gone there are in great distress.—They have no provisions except what they are supplied with from their royal master's stores.—The country is so rocky, cold and barren, that they will not be able to raise provisions enough to support those that have already arrived there.—One half of those that arrived there in the last fleet from New-York, are gone off in order to seek shelter at some other place.—They have not one house built and finished in their metropolis, (Shelburne) but are obliged to live in sheds built with barks and a few boards.—There are now about 1500 refugees there, one half of which are negroes, who have begun to be mutinous, and threaten to murder the white inhabitants: a number of British troops are gone from Halifax to protect the loyalists from the insults of the servants they have induced to abscond from their masters in the United States. An American vessel arrived there a few weeks since, the captain of which thought proper to keep the United States colours flying in the harbour; on the inhabitants seeing them they went on board and ordered him to strike them, but he not being willing to comply with their request, they (after abusing him and his hands greatly) hauled them down and tore them in pieces.

There is now at Halifax part of 10 British regiments, some of which are soon to be discharged.—Six regiments more are hourly expected there from New-York.

The Torbay, a 74, and the Cyclops frigate, are gone home in order to be condemned.—The Torbay is the oldest ship belonging to the British navy. They discharged ten Americans in Halifax, that had been taken three years ago, and obliged to do duty on board the Torbay ever since, but the captain was so generous as to give them an order to receive their whole pay. Four of them belonging to Connecticut.

N E W - Y O R K, September 13.

By a gentleman just arrived from Canada, who came over the Lakes, we learn, that the great house, or magazine, situated within the fort of St. John, on Lake Champlain, was set on fire by a flash of lightning, on Saturday evening, the 23d of August, and, together with the stores that were in it, consumed to ashes, except about 600 barrels of gunpowder in a vault under the house, which received no damage; the garrison, dreading an explosion, fled to the woods, a few miles above and below the fort, till Sunday morning, when returning to clear away the rubbish, they perceived fresh danger, and retired again more alarmed than before; but no accident happened on that day; and on Monday morning about 10 o'clock, the garrison returned, and were employed under the direction of the commanding officer, the chief engineer, who arrived from Montreal, and the commanders in the Lake service, in clearing away the rubbish, collecting such materials as were not of an inflammatory nature, and getting all things into order. The intrepidity of two British soldiers deserves particular notice; the covering of a small store-house, containing filled bombs, cartridges, &c. within a few feet of the great house, during the conflagration, had taken fire, yet they had the resolution to strip off such part of the shingling as was on fire, and extinguished it, and the wind blowing a contrary way, the house was saved; and on Monday afternoon, when our informant left it, no apprehension of danger remained.

Sept. 14. Lord John Cavendish, on the 24th of June, moved the house of commons to the following effect: "That leave be given to bring in a bill to appoint commissioners for examining into the situation of those loyalists that have suffered during the late troubles in America."

Private intelligence from London.

"Advices from Paris, of the 19th instant, state in the most positive manner, that the first of July is now appointed for putting the last hand to the definitive treaties, every concomitant difficulty being now entirely removed. The same advices add, that the Dutch have at last agreed, that the English shall retain Negapatam, on the coast of Coromandel, on condition that every thing else remains in the same state as before the war." Sept. 17. Last Monday morning sailed for England the ships Success and Lady Amherst; also for Nova-Scotia, a fleet of vessels, which, with those embarked on three others not yet sailed, will have carried off eight thousand souls, and large sums in cash and dry goods.