

The Public
OR,
Freeman's



Register:
THE
Journal.

From SATURDAY September the 10th, to TUESDAY September the 13, 1763.

The WATCHMAN.



ANY and various are the Titles which sundry Authors have given to the Papers, whereby they proposed the Emolument, Instruction, or Entertainment of Mankind. *Spies, Spectators, Guardians, Tatlers, Inspectors, Craftsmen, Monitors, Preceptors, Drapers, Ticklers, Farmers, Censors, Humanists, Concoctors, Shepherds, Worlds, Adventurers, Ramblers, Britons, and North-Britons.* &c. &c. have succeeded in Order, though All have not been so happy as to survive.

THE Editor of the present Paper, leaving All and Each of his Predecessors, in the lawful Possession of their respective Rights and Titles, hath fixed on that of the WATCHMAN, as well for its Novelty, as for its Pertinence, to the Intention of the Matter that it is to convey.

THOUGH the WATCHERS, whom the People chuse for themselves, or, rather, whom their Governors and Guardians are pleased to chuse for them, are, generally, a Pack of the most careless and crazy Fellows that Antiquity can furnish, and often likelier to join in plundering, than protecting Us; their Department and Duty, however, is of no small Importance. A sleeping Nation is entrusted to their Care. They are to wake when all Eyes close. They are to watch for Those, who are too drowsy, or too stupid to watch for themselves; and though they are not appointed, nor equal to the Task of defending the Public from nightly Assaults, They ought to give the Alarm, and rouse all honest Folk to their own Defence, when any Matter of Peril or Hostility is at Hand.

If the good Man of the House had known what Hour the Thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his House to be broken through.

FORASMUCH as, from a Habit of Watching, and nocturnal Lucubration, I have learned, of a long Time, to turn Night into Day, I have in consequence, done myself the Honour to conceive, that I was equally qualified, with any of my Cotemporaries, for this very important and rational Post.

HOWEVER, as I deemed it more becoming, to be invited, than to obtrude myself, unasked, into Office, I have waited Years after Years, and have given many Hints, to Court and to Country, to Potentates and to People, of my Talents and Capacity for their Service in this Way. But, the Truth is, however wonderful it may appear, that I could not prevail upon Others, to judge of me quite as favourably as I did of myself. Some, moreover, told me, in a surly Tone enough, that they did not chuse to be disturbed; and, that they would rather risk their Property, than be plagued with my Impertinence. And, further, my best Friends warned me of the perilous and impending Consequences of such a Post, and assured me, that All, whether High or Low, would unite for my Destruction, who, themselves chose to watch, in order to prey upon Those who slept.

THUS admonished, and duly cautioned, I propose to make my Excursions but very little further, than what may serve to indulge my own Curiosity, and to give me a little Insight into what is doing, in the midst of so wide a World, during the Times of its being benighted. As for those formidable Personages, with whose Enmity I am threatened, I intend to give them as little Umbrage, or Offence, as pos-

sible; but I promise, at the same time, that I will neither join, nor abet them, nor even keep a Correspondence, or make any Compromise with them; till they weigh me out an equal Portion of the Spoil in one Scale, against the Opinion that I hold of my own Merits in the Other.

IN the mean time, if I may be of Service to any honest Neighbours, in giving them Notice of the Weather, or in telling them it is time to awake, I shall not think my Office useless, or my Time misemployed: But, should I be admitted to the Office, and Honour of the Goose, *who saved the Capitol*, Sublimi feriam fidera vertice.—It would be the highest Effort and Scope of my Ambition.

The Committee of the FREE PRESS, having approved of the following Admonition as pertinent to the late troublesome and turbulent Times in this Kingdom, in order to give it a more general Circulation, have ordered it to be re-printed and published in this Paper.

The TRUE FRIENDS of LIBERTY: To the WHITE-BOYS of the SOUTH; The OAK-BOYS of the NORTH; and the LIBERTY-BOYS of DUBLIN.

Countrymen, Fellow-Citizens!

HERE are several among us who are true lovers of LIBERTY, who wish well to the PEOPLE, and to the CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE; who would heartily join with you in reclaiming any of your RIGHTS, in redressing any of your GRIEVANCES, if any such there be; and yet who greatly disapprove of your present Excesses.

LIBERTY is like a CANNON, when it is temperately charged and duly directed, it hath its fullest Power and Efficacy, it must attain its Point, and can hurt None but the Enemies at whom it is levelled: But when it is overcharged, it bursts its Bounds, misses wholly of its Aim, slaughters none but Friends, and from that Moment becomes powerless and useless, till broken and bruised to Pieces, and melted and cast anew.

LIBERTY, again, may be likened to a fine managed and mettled Horse. While he continues under Government, he keeps to the Road of Law, reaches the appointed Journey, and is carefully dressed and fed at every Stage: But, when he discharges himself from the Rein and the Rider, he leaps the adjoining Fences, flies wantonly abroad, tears up the Meadows and Corn-Fields that were intended for his own Sustentance, and becomes the Companions of the wild and bleak Elements; till, being caught, or reduced to Submission by Famine, he is no longer trusted, pampered, or spared; but chained to the galling Yoke, and driven forward by the Gad and the Lash.

WHAT are you about, Friends, or what would you be at? Are you agreed in these Matters among Yourselves? Or, why did You not address your Complaints to Government, before You arrogated all Power to your own Hands, and cast off all Allegiance and Respect to your Rulers?

WHAT, think You, is likely to be the Consequence of these your Tumults and Riots? of your trampling on the Laws by which You look to be protected, and of your destroying the Peace of the Country and of the City wherein you dwell?

HAD Any of our Governors, or Great-Men, daringly entered on your Liberties with a high and powerful Hand; had they broke open your Houses; demolished the Instruments of your Trade; cut the Products of your Industry and Ingenuity to Pieces; violently seized

and abused your Fellows; dragged some through the Mire; and hanged up Others, without Examination, Trial, or Hearing; would You not have cried out, to Heaven and Earth, against such Tyranny and Barbarity, against these Breaches of every Law, and Outrages on every Duty, whether human or divine?

AND yet, Countrymen and Fellow-Citizens, All This, in every Article, is what You have actually done or attempted to do, though no Worse could be done or attempted by any Hottentots or Savages that ever inhabited the Wilds of Africa, who never entered a Court of Justice, or heard the Toll of a Bell.

WHAT sort of a Land is this we live in? Have we no Humanity, no Urbanity, no Government among us? Can the Name of a Country, or Rights of a Constitution be now said to remain to Ireland? Or, how shall we expect to have our own Lives, Liberties, and Properties protected by Law; while, in avowed Violation of every Law, we openly assail the Lives, Liberties, and Properties of our Fellow-Subjects?

THERE are no Men upon Earth, Friends, who love and who *but* LIBERTY so much as we do. Who love so much to be free from the Encroachments of Others, who hate so much that Others should be free from our own Encroachments. The People are like the smaller Tyrants of the Waters; while, with a Conscience undisturbed, they devour the Spawn of their Species, yet they abhor any Trespass on their own Persons, and piously petition the Goddess LIBERTY to preserve them from the wicked Jaws of the mightier Shark and Crocodile.

WHAT then can LIBERTY do on this contradictory Occasion? For she cannot possibly grant a Privilege from Oppression, and at the same Time grant a Privilege to oppress.

KNOW you not, Friends, that LIBERTY can only lie, where All are restrained from doing Injury to Any? For, if Licence may be permitted to Any, why not therefore to All? And, where All would encroach, All would likewise be encroach'd upon; and Freedom and Property would cease throughout the Earth.

WHEREFORE, whoever openly trespasses, on the Privileges of Others, declares himself an Enemy to the Laws of Society, and the Rights of Mankind.

BUT, let it be!—Since nothing but Riot, Uproar, and utter Anarchy can please; let us no longer have any Country, any Constitution!—Let the Bloody and maddening Spirit, of the First-Born Cain breathe through the South, through the North, enflame Country and Capital!

GRACIOUS HEAVEN prevent, or, at least defer those Days.

When *Ata*, hot from Hell,
Shall in these Confiners, with a Monarch's Voice,
Cry Havock! and let slip the Dogs of War;
That these foul Deeds shall smell, above the Earth,
With Carrion-Men, groaning for Burial!

COUNTRYMEN, COUNTRYMEN! at this Moment are we forging, at this Moment are we preparing double Bits for our own Mouths, and double Burdens for our own Backs. At this pernicious Moment are we framing and soliciting new RIOT-ACTS, and new MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS for wretched Ireland; new Restraints and Grievances for an unruly People whom their King cannot govern, and whom their God cannot please.

OFTEN have you heard us utter the SACRED NAME OF LIBERTY, often have we instructed you in the due Sense of your Rights and Privileges, of