

VIRGINIA

GAZETTE.

With the freshest ADVICES,

FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.



The VIRGINIA-CENTINEL. N^o. X.

Quis metus, à nunquam dol' tui, à semper inertes Tyrrheni, quæ tanta animis ignavia venit?— Quo ferrum? quidve hæc gerimus tela irrita dextris? At non in Venerem segnes, nocturnaque bella; Aut, ubi curva choros indixit tibia Bacchi, Expectare cupas, et plenæ pocula mensæ: Hic amor, hoc studium

VIRG.

THE Profession of Soldiers, especially at such a Time as this, is not only noble, but benevolent; and worthy at once of universal Honor and Gratitude. They are the Guardians of their Country, and all that is included in that important Word. And therefore, their Merit should not be invidiously depreciated; their Foibles more justly reprov'd; and their Conduct censur'd, by Chimney-corner Politicians, who lie sneaking at Home, in the glorious Ease, and know not their Circumstances, or the Reason upon which they act. While their Character is tolerable, and they in any Measure answer the End of their Profession, their Names should be treated with the utmost Tenderness and Respect.

But Soldiers differ; some will shed their Blood, And some drink Bumbo—for their Country's Good. Some in the Field will nobly risk their Lives; Some Hero-like, will fear, or play at Fears. Some shew themselves the genuine Sons of Mars; Some, brave in Venus' or in Bacchus' Wars, Can shew their Lacerous and drunken Scars.

No Profession in the World can secure from Contempt and Indignation a Character made up of Vice and Debauchery; and no Man is obliged to put such a Character as that. When raw Novices and Rakes, spend thrifts and Bankrupt, who have been never used to command, or who have been found insufficient for the Management of their own private Affairs, are honored with Commissions in the Army; when Men are advanced according to Seniority, the Interests and Influence of Friends, &c. and not according to Merit; when the common Soldiers are abused, in a Fit of Honor or Passion, or through an Omission of Authority; and in the mean Time, perhaps, tolerated or corrected, in Practices really worthy of Correction; when the Military with the brow-beat and the brag, do every noble Achievement, and claiming a share with the Soldier in their whole supply of Honor; when the Officers give their Men an Example of all Manner of Debauchery, Vice and Injuries, when they are talking in Forts, and there dissolving in Intemperance, till they are by the Approach of the Enemy, who could expect to find them no where else; when instead of sea-sailing out the Enemy, way-laying and surprizing them, obstructing their Marches, and preventing their Incursions, they tempt them by their Security and Laziness, to come in Quest of them, and attack them in their Fortifications. — When this is the Case, how can we directly reprove a Nation? What useless Lumber, what an Encumbrance, is the Soldier?

Contra ipse sibi d. j. putat omnia dici.

I would by no Means make the Event the Standard by which to judge of the Measure taken, though it has been undoubtedly the Standard of the Crowd. Successful Rahes will never fail of popular Applause, and unfortunate good Conduct will never escape Censure. But when nothing brave is so much as attempted, but very rarely, or by Accident, or for necessary Self-defence; when Men whose Profession it is to endure Hardships, and encounter Dangers, cautiously shun them, and suffer their Country to be ravaged in their very Neighborhood; then, certainly, Censure cannot be silent; nor can the Public receive much Advantage from a Regiment of such dastardly Debauchees.

“ Shew me one Scar character'd on their Skin; Men's Plish pretend'd to waile but tellom win.” SHAK.

Men of Virtue, and true Courage can have no Heed to enlist, and mingle in such a Crowd. And the fewer of that Character, that may be among them, are in Danger of catching the general Contagion; or of being damped and mortified at the Sight of such Scenes of Vice, Extravagance and Oppression.

Horace, who knew the Estate of the Illustrious Roman Army, in the Period of its highest Glory, and most illustrious Victories, will teach us the Discipline proper for Soldiers.

Anusiam, emittit pauperem pati Robustus acris militibus Condiscat, et Pathe fereat Picti eques metus du bid; Vitamque ubi est in peris gat In rebus

Our hardy Youth should learn to bear What they Want, to run the war-like Steer; To hurt the well-aimed Spear, With pointed Force, and bid the Parthian bleed. In War's illustrious Dangers bold, Inur'd to Summer's Heats, and Winter cold.

But it seems the Delicacy of modern Soldiers cannot bear such hardy Discipline. Their Ease and Pleasure must not be disturbed by the Fatigues and Dangers of the Field or Woods.

* Francis's Translation.

Their Country calls; and see! the Heroes run To save her: if the Game or Dance is done.

Luxury and Sensuality have unmanned many an Army, and enslaved or ruined many flourishing Cities and Kingdoms. Let me enumerate a few Instances, for the Warning of surviving Nations. — The first great Empire of the World, viz. the Assyrian, owed its Destruction entirely to the Luxury of its Prince, Sardanapalus; an effeminate Creature, that never went out of his Palace; but spent all his Time in the Company of Women. Feasting, rioting, and all Manner of sensual Indulgencies were his daily Employ. At Length his Generals cut him off in the Midst of his Debaucheries, and overturned the Empire — Babylon, the strongest City, perhaps, that ever was built upon Earth, was taken in the Night by Surprise, while the King, his Wives and Concubines, with a thousand of his Lords, were carousing in a Debauch, unperceptive of Danger. — The Overthrow of the Persian Monarchy, and the great Victory of Darius, by an handful of hardy Veterans under Alexander the Great, is another striking Instance of the fatal Effects of Luxury — But who would have thought that Alexander himself, with such an Example before his Eyes, would have split upon this Rock? Yet we are told by Justin, “ That he degenerated into the Luxury and Vice of the Persians, whom, by Means of that very Luxury, he had overcome — that he suffered his Army to debauch themselves in the same Manner — that afterwards he gave himself up to the most unexpressly Cruelty against his own Friends, one of whom he murdered for unexpressing himself a little freely concerning his Faults.” — At Length, degenerating into immoderate Intemperance and Drunkenness, he died suddenly in the Midst of a Debauch. A timely Death for the World! For had his Life been prolonged, he would soon have become a mere Nero or Caligula. Whether he was poisoned by some of his Nobles, whom he had offended by his Cruelties, as some Writers affirm; or whether his Death was the Effect of Drunkenness, as others assert; comes to the same Purpose; viz. that he fell a Sacrifice to his own Luxury and Vice. — The Ruins of Tarentum are also a Monument of the same melancholy Truth. — Having imprudently entered into a War with the Romans, which so effeminate a People knew not how to conduct, they called King Pyrrhus to manage it for them; but they soon began to murmur and rebel against him, because, in Order to qualify them for War, he had established an exact military Discipline, and driven them from their Carousals to the Fatigues and Dangers of the Field. Some of them even quitted the City, thinking it to be an intolerable Restraint not to be permitted to live the same idle and voluptuous Life, while they were engaged in War with a powerful Enemy, as they used to indulge themselves in, in Times of Peace and Prosperity. The War ended in their total Overthrow, as might be expected. — The City of the Sybarites was so populous, as to be able to raise an Army of 300,000 Men. Their Luxury and Dissolution of Manners arrived at an almost incredible Height. They employed themselves in nothing but Banquets, Games, Parties of Pleasure and Carousals. Public Rewards were bestowed on those, who gave the most magnificent Entertainments; and even to such Cooks of Genius, as were best skilled in the important Arts of making Improvements in the dressing of nice Dishes, and inventing new Refinements to tickle the Palate. They carried their Delicacy to the monstrous Length of sending out of the City all Manner of noisy Artificers, as Blacksmiths, Carpenters, &c. and destroying all the Cocks, that their downy Slumbers might not be disturbed by any Noise. This unbounded Luxury crumbled them into Factions; and at Length made them easy Prey to a small Army of the Crotonians. — The Application of these Pieces of History is easy; but

Periculosa plenum opus aleæ Tractio

L. & V.

PARIS, May 10.

AS the Court does not yet judge it proper to publish what has been done at Minorca since the Landing of our Troops, the Public knows nothing of what passes in that Island but from private Letters, which do not even agree in the Particulars we are most concerned to know. Some say that the Frenches were opened the 22d in the Night before Fort St. Philip's; others make it two Days later; and there are some who affirm that our Troops made no broke Ground on the 2th, by Reason of the Badness of the Roads, which had prevented the coming up of the Artillery, and other Things necessary in the Operations of a Siege. All that we positively know, is, that our Troops were not lost from the Town of Minorca.

A Camp is to be formed immediately at Boulogne, in Order to cover the French Works for repairing the Harbour of Dunkirk.

May 14. The Report of the Frenches being opened before Fort St. Philip the 24th of the Month was premature, and we learn by a Courier, which the Duke de Richlieu dispatched from thence the 29th, they had that Day only begun to make their Approaches; that the necessary Preparations for the Siege took up a Deal of Time, and particularly that the bringing up the Artillery was attended with extreme Difficulty, neither Horses nor Carts being to be found in the Island, and being obliged, as they advanced, to repair the Roads which the English had broken up; that they were likewise obliged to use all their Art to cover the Men as they worked,

† Dun. vi.

inclusion for: Benedictus of 8 September 1756.