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Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 2 February 1788 (excerpt)

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Baltimore county, to his friend in this city.

. . . As to the trumpery which M-rt-n [Luther Martin] has been babbling here, it has had no other effect than to make him still more odious. The people are so affectionately attached to their beloved General, that it makes their blood boil to hear him traduced by such a wretch. But this traducer is so well known here and so thoroughly contemptible, that this is no climate for any calumnies he may sow, to flourish in. He is despised by the good people of Baltimore, and many a time have I heard him heartily cursed by the honest farmers in the country, where his arbitrary proceedings respecting their lands have long since made him obnoxious. I know it would be as much as his life is worth were he to travel through the upper parts of Cœcil county. I have heard a story of him, which, by the way, will shew what a warm friend he is to religious liberty. Some years ago an inoffensive old man, a Quaker preacher, was brought before the court for preaching without a licence, (there being an oppressive and arbitrary law which directed all Ministers of the Gospel to take out licences) the court knowing the religious principles of the society to which he belonged, very readily inclined to dismiss him. The At——y G——l however had no such lenient inclination, and pushed the prosecution with the utmost rigour and malevolence. Upon which the old man, looking at him with great composure asked him, ‘what is thy name friend?’ He told him L-th-r M-rt-n, ‘why then,’ said he, ‘thou art M-rt-n L-th-r reversed.’ The reply diverted the whole court, and the old man was dismissed.”

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