Hampshire Gazette

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HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 6, 1786.

To the Public.

BY the advice and encouragement of a number of Gentlemen in this County, the Subscriber has established a *Printing Office* in Northampton, where printing of all kinds usual in America will be performed with care and dispatch.

In a country like this, where our national character and happiness so entirely depend upon a general diffusion of knowledge among the people, the extensive advantages of such periodical publications cannot be too often explained or too highly estimated.—The United States of America owe their existence as an empire to that superior degree of knowledge which the people at large have enjoyed and maintained through every period of their progress, from the first settlement of the country to the late revolution. In no country have the rights of mankind been more generally understood, and more rationally and systematically maintained. It is well known that the establishment of schools in every part of the country and the circulation of News-Papers, are among the principal causes which have led us to our present situation: the danger is, that the enjoyment of peace and tranquility will produce inattention to these subjects; that when the feelings excited by our troubles have subsided, our minds will sink into that indolence which is natural to such a state, our children will grow up in ignorance, and ignorance is the parent of slavery and all the national vices which mark the decline of empire.

Whatever may be the fate of the Subscriber in his attempt, the establishment of a press in this town certainly promises many advantages to this part of the country. The greater part of the extensive and flourishing counties of Hampshire and Berkshire, are much more commodiously situated to receive their communications from this office than from any other, while increasing the number of presses in the country, will probably increase the number of readers and writers, an object to be desired by every friend of liberty and literature.

WILLIAM BUTLER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JAMES BOWDOIN, Esquire,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS information has been given to the Supreme Executive of this Commonwealth, that on Tuesday last, the 29th of August, being the day appointed by law for the sitting of the Court of Common Pleas and Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at NORTHAMPTON, in the County of HAMPSHIRE, within this Commonwealth, a large concourse of people, from several parts of that county, assembled at the Court-House in NORTHAMPTON, many of whom were armed with guns, swords and other deadly weapons, and with drums beating and fifes playing, contemptuously and open defiance of the authority of this Government, did, by their threats of violence and keeping possession of the Court-House until twelve o'clock on the night of the same day, prevent the sitting of the Court, and the orderly administration of justice in that county:

AND WHEREAS this high-handed offence is fraught with the most fatal and pernicious consequences, must tend to subvert all law and government; to dissolve our excellent Constitution, and introduce universal riot, anarchy and confusion, which would probably terminate in absolute despotism, and consequently destroy the fairest prospects of political happiness, that any people was ever favoured with; and which this people will realize, if they do not suffer themselves to be misguided by the machinations of internal real enemies, who treacherously assume the character of their best and most zealous friends:

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the council, to issue this proclamation, calling upon all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Grand-Jurors, Constables, and other officers, civil and military, within this Commonwealth, to prevent and suppress all such violent and riotous proceedings, if they should be attempted in their several counties.

AND I DO hereby, pursuant to the indispensable duty I owe to the good people of this Commonwealth, most solemnly call upon them, as they value the blessings of freedom and Independence, which at the expence of so much blood and treasure they have purchased——as they regard their faith, which in the sight of God and the world, they pledged to one another, and the people of the United States, when they adopted the present Constitution of Government——as they would not disappoint the hopes, and thereby become contemptible in the eyes of other nations, in the view of whom they have risen to glory and empire——as they would not deprive themselves of the security derived from well-regulated Society, to their lives, liberties and property; and as they would not devolve upon their children, instead of peace, freedom and safety, a state of anarchy, confusion and slavery,——I do most earnestly and most solemnly call upon them to aid and assist with their utmost efforts the aforesaid officers, and to unite in preventing and suppressing all such treasonable proceedings, and every measure that has a tendency to encourage them. And the Attorney-General is hereby directed to prosecute, and bring to condign punishment the Ringleaders and Abettors of the aforesaid atrocious violation of law and government; and also the Ringleaders and Abettors of any similar violation in future, whensoever or wheresoever it shall be perpetrated within this Commonwealth.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this second day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By his Excellency's command.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Establishment of the Worship of the DEITY, essential to National Happiness.

Pluſque boni mores,
Quàm bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS.

BY AN AMERICAN.

"RELIGION!"

Without thee, what were unenlighten'd man!
A savage roaming through the woods and wilds,
In quest of prey; and with the unfashion'd fur
Rough clad; devoid of every finer art,
And elegance of life. Nor happiness
Domestic, mixt of tenderness and care,
Nor moral excellence, nor social bliss,
Nor guardian law, were his.
Nothing, save rapine, indolence and guile,
And woes on woes, a still revolving train,
Whose horrid circle had made humane life,
Than non-existance worse; but taught by thee,
Ours are the plans of policy and peace,
To live like brothers, and conjunctive all,
Embellish life. THOMPSON.

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

YOU are pleased to ask my opinion on the sentiment expressed in Doctor Price's observations respecting the "article of religious liberty;" and whether there may not be an establishment of religion consistantly with the civil and religious rights of all denominations; and the expediency of such an establishment in these States?

I submit the subsequent thoughts to your candour.

Doctor Price by his generous and disinterested labours in the cause of human nature, merits the applause of all the friends of civil and religious liberty in the world, and especially in every American. I esteem it a special favour that he and other foreigners of enlarged minds have given us their enlightened thoughts on the momentous subject of government, and the permanent foundation of such a system of regulation as shall tend to make wise and happy, present and future American generations. May we profit by their labours!

We need the assistance of the wise and good, as well as the smiles of an omnipotent providence, to lay firm and lasting the basis of the most glorious empire on which the sun ever shone.

Happy land of universal liberty! Thrice happy thy future sons, if wisdom direct and establish the councils of their fathers! While the subjects of European monarchies pine in ignominious vassallage, and look up from a humble distance, to their haughty lords and oppressors, the free born American smiles with conscious dignity and independence, in the possession of the rights and privileges of a man, and is eligible to the office of honour and influence in the road of merit, depending not on the capricious whim of a despotic prince, or his favourite, but on the uncorrupted voice of his fellow citizens.

May Americans by their wisdom and virtue forever merit those high encomiums which the enlightened [illegible] upon them.

Europe has for ages groaned under ecclesiastic oppression; in [illegible] of tyranny in church and [illegible] have in time past revolted [illegible] roused to seize the prize of state. The [illegible] generally fallen on two evils, from oppressive influence, and the power of [illegible] or, as the consequence, who has [illegible] veted their chains. 'Incidit in Scylla[illegible] vitare Charibdim.' Happily we have [illegible] gulf, without feeling the rub of tyranny, or whirlpool of anarchy; and our war-worn b[illegible] has reached the fair haven of peace. The h[illegible] and burden is past, but the work of the day is yet to be finished. We have to seize the advantages which providence hath put into our hands, and to turn them to the public good.

Such is the state of human nature, that the sanctions of religion are necessary to give energy to law. 'Mankind are held back from wrong by the commanding awe of a power, infinitely superior to the power of their own creating;' and are excited to the practice of the moral and social virtues, by the animating hope and assurance of future approbation and reward.

Doctor Price passes over in silence, a point I conceive essential to the future prosperity of [illegible] states, that is, the support of the public wo[illegible] of the Deity; I mean not the establishment [illegible] any one sect or denomination, accompanied [illegible] with an exclusion or toleration. Uniformity [illegible] mode or sentiment is not to be expected. [illegible] most all the different sects into which Chr[illegible]dom is divided, are scattered throughout the [illegible]tinent. No one state is uniform, either in t[illegible] or modes of worship, and therefore no one [illegible]nomination can be established on the princ[illegible] of equal liberty.

The magistrate steps out of the line of his [illegible]ty the moment he establishes his opinion as the standard of orthodoxy; because in his religious notions every man is his own judge, and his respective opinions falls not under the cognizance of human laws. In this respect the constitutions of the American states have shewn a noble freedom from the shackles of human inventions in religious matters, unparalled by other nations: but in order to shun the dangers which religious establishments have brought upon mankind, we cast off all religious worship, or leave it to the option of individuals at large, whether public worship, or relig[illegible]

ous instruction shall be suppofed at all ; I conceive is making it an offering to the fhrine of liberty, as is inconfiftent with national exiftence, or at leaft with public order and happinefs.

All nations, heathen as well as chriftian have ever maintained the worfhip of the Deity. The Greeks and Romans, had their public facred days devoted to the worfhip of their deities and to the inftructions of morality. They had their priefts, haruspices and prophets, who taught the knowledge of the Deity, inforced the practice of virtue and pointed out the dangers of vice, by conflderations drawn from a future ftate of retribution. Their fables of Tartarus and Elyfium and the fentence paffed by the Judges on departed fpirits, according to their good or evil conduct in this world, were mighty incentives to a virtuous life, and neceffary aids to civil government.

Lycurgus and Solon, Romulus and Jeroboam, thofe founders of nations, faw the neceffity of calling in the aid of religion to give ftability and duration to their new erected empires ; and without it their political plans would have proved abortive ; human nature is ftill much the fame, and the the aids of religions as neceffary in forming empires in modern, as in ancient times.

I am, &c.

From the H E R A L D.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and upon the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular : addreffed to the freeholders of the County of Hampfhire.

NUMBER I.

My Brethren,

COUNTY Conventions are a body unknown to the conftitution of this Commonwealth. Were they properly conftituted, we fhould have the qualifications of the electors and elected clearly pointed out : the manner of chooling them & their bufinefs defined. Not a fyllable of this kind do we read in our laws or form of government. Thefe conventions are void of all authority, and when they aflume to give law or direction to the people or to any branch of government, they ufurp the lawful powers of the legiflature and are guilty of injuring the majefty of the people. The conftitution fays, that the people may meet together in a peaceable and orderly manner, to addrefs and petition the legiflature, and to remonftrate againft injurious meafures of government. This is the tenor of that article of the bill of rights out of which, in pretence, County Conventions take their growth. The framers of our conftitution intended to infure that unalienable privilege as a free people, to

[illegible] the feat of govern-
[illegible] to difappointed
[illegible] and
[illegible] and feek a redrefs of all their
[illegible] ftitution never defigned, to
[illegible] public conduct, [illegible] repreſentative body to act
[illegible] ; but the con[illegible] matters ; It had provided
[illegible] a fubordinate ſtriking an equal and ad-
[illegible] people in [illegible]ation in the legiſlature, which
[illegible] effectually [illegible] the image and creature of the
[illegible] ive reprefe[illegible] But yet County Conventions are
[illegible] conſidered in themſelves as a tumultuous
[illegible] ely aſſembly ; ſince the conſtitution does
[illegible] prohibit county meetings, however when met,
[illegible] are individuals ſtill, and have no manner of
[illegible] rity from the choice of town meetings, their
[illegible] gs are obligatory only as they carry light and
[illegible] action with them, and are of the ſame nature,
[illegible] ought to have the ſame effect and influence,
at the opinions of any other body of men may have upon our meaſures. The Convention which aſſumes a greater power than to inform others, does evidently uſurp the rights of the people ; they betray their ambition and luſt of dominion, and ſhould be watched as rivals and oppoſers of the ſupreme authority of the ſtate ; as thoſe who have a deſign upon the majeſty of the people entering in the legiſlature. Such an aſſuming invention, is managed by men who intend to lead the people to an undue ſubmiſſion to them-ſelves for a conſtitutional authority in a republic ſtate is never attacked but by thoſe who have merit to be appointed to govern, and ſelf-opinion enough to think themſelves qualified for rulers, and have their breaſts fired with ambition to puſh them on to indirect, and violent meaſures, to gain the conſent of miſinformed people, to uſurp authority of the community and wreſt their conſtitutional privileges out of their hands. But the queſtion arifes, why are not County Conventions conſtitutional, when they may allowedly aſſemble without violating the conſtitution ? I anſwer that they are both unconſtitutional and ſeditious, when they once aſſume to controul the meaſures of the country, and to form rules for the conduct of the people at large. For meaning the conduct of the people at large. For when they meet to talk upon meaſures of government, and not to decide poſitively upon them, but merely to refer to the wiſdom of their brethren, they may not do hurt ; it is poſſible, in ſome caſes they may do good, whether enough to counterbalance the expence, is a queſtion. But the danger of their feeling ſelf-conſequence, and their breſtfires, and thence invading government, ſhould render ſuch meetings rare and ſuſpected ; from ſuch bodies as in free ſtates ſpring tyrants and oppreſſors, to ſubvert all their valuable privileges at once. If theſe bodies were conſtitutional, we ſhould read of them in our conſtitution ; a conſtitution framed by the wiſdom of the commonwealth, and ſolemnly ratified by the perſonal voices of two thirds of the freemen. Therefore for any County Convention to vote that they are a conſtitutional body, meaning by ſuch vote, that they are approved or named by the conſtitution ; or that they have any degree of power or authority over the people ; or to order what ſhall be done ; or to demand payment for their ſervices ; or that they have any power ſimilar to that of a town-meeting to inſtruct their repreſentatives, to aſſume ſuch power is a vile encroachment. Take care of them freemen, they deſign to overthrow your ſecurity and authority, and to ſtrip you of an inheritance bought at an invaluable price of treaſure and blood. But if a County Convention, when they voted their meeting to be conſtitutional, mean that they have a right to meet, and talk and adviſe together upon public matters ; and that no one has a right to treat them on that account, as diſturbers of the peace, their vote is innocent although without ſignification. A B and C have the ſame right to meet and reſolve, and their vote has an equal importance and ſignification. There may be matters of a county concern, which may render a meeting of the committees of the ſeveral towns proper and uſeful, but in more general matters ; beſides the hazard of ſuch conventions from the ambition of the human heart, they are unneceſſary and expenſive ; and therefore with much more conſtitutional authority than is veſted in a County Convention ; with much more modeſty than they treat two thirds of the freemen of this commonwealth, when they ſay, "The Senate is a uſeleſs branch of the legiſlature," I reſolve, that County Conventions are a uſeleſs branch of civil ſociety, and every man has a right to reſolve in the ſame manner : they are unneceſſary, as our towns have a conſtitutional right to chooſe and ſend men to the General Aſſembly, with governmental powers to make and repeal laws, to alleviate burdens and redreſs grievances. In the legiſlature the people are equally and fairly repreſented ; their Repreſentatives have effectual powers ; the towns chooſe the Governor and Senate ; the government is their own work, and fathioned at their will ; but our towns cannot make a county repreſentation of a legal kind. County Conventions are uſeleſs, as the Legiſlature cannot treat with them as a corporate body, or the conſtitutional agents of the people, unleſs they violate our glorious conſtitution. County Conventions are dangerous as they open a wide field for wicked and deſigning men, where the proper means of directing their artifices is neceſſarily wanting, to miſrepreſent public meaſures, and thus to excite a falſe alarm in the minds of the people ; they are dangerous as they are employed to perplex and embarraſs government, by amuſing and perverting the minds of many inattentive though honeſt people ; they are dangerous as they are the refuge of diſcontented and diſhoneſt men, from neceſſary and juſt authority, and the payment both of public and private debts ; they are an intolerable grievance, as they create needleſs expence in a time when neceſſary burdens are equal to the ſtrength of the people ; they are too often ſeducers of the affections of miſinformed people ; "they ſtand in the gate and ſay, O that we were made judges in the land, that every man which hath any ſuit or cauſe might come unto us, and we would do him juſtice. And when any man comes nigh unto them to do them obeiſance, they put forth their hand and take and kiſs him ; thus they ſteal away the hearts of the men of Iſrael." County Conventions have proved the occaſion ; ſome of the members have been the fomenters of riots and tumultuous riſings of the people ; they were the baneful forerunners of thoſe diſtreſſing miſeries, which three or four years ſince coſt this country ſo much vexation and expence ; thoſe miſeries are the real cauſe of a great part of our preſent poverty and particular embarraſment. Therefore my countrymen, fix a jealous eye upon County Conventions.—I have more to ſay by and by. I am brethren your ſincere unſhaken friend.

AN OLD REPUBLICAN.

To the Honourable the Governor, Senate, and Repreſentatives of the Commonwealth of Maſſachuſets.

The PETITION of Robin Hood---humbly ſheweth.

THAT although your petitioner has annihilated the Court of juſtice in the County of Hampſhire, and has thereby freed himſelf from all danger of the goal, and of being accuſed of deceiving the ſouth goaler to get out of goal, when confined in it ; yet he ſtill finds he is in want of many of the good things of life, many of which he is entirely deſtitute of, and others he enjoys in a very ſcanty proportion, when compared with his deſires.

Your petitioner therefore, prays your Honours to take his preſent unhappy circumſtances into your wiſe conſideration, and grant him to live without fear of his conduct being condemned and he puniſhed,---may all people henceforth, as has acted honeſtly and for the public good, and be ſtill encouraged by and by induced to improve him in all matters of any conſequence to the diſtruction of ſociety and mutual compact ---and may his private fortune be enlarged, his houſe be made more large and elegant, and his furniture grow proportionate to ſuch a dwelling,---may his farm be increaſed in large and grand ſtyle,---may his wells and ſprings become rum (Jamaica ſpirits I mean) and his large brooks be ſtill cool and pleaſant water,---may his oaks produce ſugar by the loaf, and the ſhrubs on his plains lemdas,---may his fields produce the ſmell of wheat, and his valleys the fruit of paſture, which may give him beef equal to the beſt from the ſtall,---may his garden bring forth every thing neceſſary for kitchen uſe, and to pleaſe the eye,---may his apple trees replenish his cellar with the beſt Madeira wine and never be exhauſted,---may all other trees on his farm produce playing-cards inſtead of leaves, and be always ſucceſsful in uſing them---and as the neceſſaries of life are all he wants, may he never more than he has been uſed to, be troubled with cash, the root of all evil, but every thing come forth upon his own farm as he wants, and his neighbours be induced to collect for nothing,---may the merchant and mechanic [illegible] him, free of all coſt, every article for neceſſary convenience and elegance, whether in cloathing for himſelf and family, or in carriages for ſhow and parade,---and may your Honours enact that he ſhall not pay the taxes already aſſeſſed upon him and his eſtate, and that hereafter none ſhall be aſſeſſed upon him and his eſtate ; or as your Honours ſhall think convenient, grant him ſuch relief in the premiſes, whether by conſtant rain, hail or ſnow, or in any other full, ample or certain way as ſhall be ſufficient to all his wiſhes, as in duty bound ſhall ever pray.

ROBIN HOOD.

Sept. 1786.

DUBLIN, May 14.

It was on Saturday reported, that the following melancholly affair happened a few days near Boyle, in the county of Roſcommon. The daughter of an inn keeper there having for ſeveral months liſtened to the warm addreſſes of a wealthy farmer in that neighbourhood, ſhe entertained an uncommon affection for him, though at firſt ſhe received his profeſſions with reluctance ; the ſtory of their mutual attachment going abroad, and the young woman's predilection proving injurious to her reputation, on finding the avowed lover grow cold in his engagements, and deſpairing of fidelity, ſhe one evening reſolved to be finally informed of his purpoſe, and invited him to tea in the abſence of her parents, when peremptorily putting him the queſtion, and receiving an evaſive anſwer, ſhe blew the contents of a loaded piſtol through his breaſt. On the news of the deed going abroad, ſhe avowed herſelf guilty of the murder, at the ſame time mentioning her motives.

PHILADELPHIA, Auguſt 23.

Extract of a letter from one of the Aſſiſtant-Surveyors belonging to Providence, dated at Fort Pitt, July 1, 1786.

"We arrived here the 19th of laſt month, and Mr. Hutchins, the Geographer-general, on the 25th ; and as he is determined to begin ſurveying immediately, we expect to go down the river in a few days to the place where we are to begin.

"Captain Martin, Surveyor from the ſtate of New-Jerſey, is now at Fort M'Intoſh ; he will take the firſt range, and we ſhall take the ſecond.

Mr. Hutchins appears to be very much of a gentleman, a man of good judgment, and a mathematician.

"If we do not meet with any hindrances in ſurveying, we ſhall continue in that buſineſs till late in the fall ; which will make it late before we ſhall go down to take a view of Kentucky.

"There has been more or leſs boats going down the river with families ever ſince we have been here. I have been informed there have been near four hundred flat-bottomed boats with families gone paſt here this ſpring. Theſe boats generally carry from fifteen to forty perſons.

"By all the accounts I have been able to get from people who have been in Kentucky, the country is full as good, or better, than I heard it was before I left Providence. The country we have come through ſince we left Philadelphia, is excellent, and we find much better fare than I expected ; indeed a good part of the diſtance, the houſes of entertainment are as good (if not better) than thoſe between Providence and Boſton. Part of the diſtance the land is mountainous and hilly, but take the whole together, the road is perfectly good."

TRENTON, Auguſt 14.

The ſituation of the inhabited territory of the United States is not favourable to liberty. Commerce will produce riches---riches, luxury---luxury, corruption---and corruption, deſpotiſm. Beyond theſe weſtern mountains will be found the regions of liberty. The forward eye of ſpeculation is pleaſed with the idea, but to ſober reflection it is aſked with pain, why cannot all be free ?

ELIZABETH-TOWN, Aug. 16.

The little influence which our preſent mode of executing criminals has in deterring others from the commiſſion of the ſame crimes, ariſe from a want of ſolemnity and terrific circumſtances on ſuch occaſions. It is not the mere loſs of life which has ſo much a tendency to affect the ſpectator, as the dreadful apparatus, the awful preliminaries, which ought to attend public executions ; whoſe juſtifiable purpoſe is the prevention of crimes, and not the inflicting torment on the criminal. A variety of particulars might be adopted reſpecting the dreſs of the condemned, the ſolemnity of the proceſſion to the place of execution, and the apparatus there, to throw horror on the ſcene without in reality giving the unhappy victim a more painful exit. The Dutch have a mode of execution which is well calculated to inſpire terror, without putting the ſufferer to extraordinary pain. The criminal is placed on a ſcaffold, oppoſite to the gigantic figure of a woman, with arms extended, filled with ſpikes, or long ſharpened nails, and a dagger pointed from her breaſt, ſhe is gradually moved towards him by machinery for the purpoſe, till he gets within her embrace, when her arms encircle him, and the dagger is preſſed through his heart. This is vulgarly called among them killing the Yffrow, or woman, and excites more terror in the breaſts of the populace than any other mode of puniſhment.

NEW-YORK, Auguſt 24.

Extract of a letter from Auguſta, Aug. 1.

"Two great national points are now before the Aſſembly, viz. The war with the Creek Indians, and an emiſſion of paper money ; alſo a new militia law. Great oppoſition.

"Since the affair on the Oconee, little damage has been done on either ſide. A line of forts are erected along that river conſiſting of ſeventeen, each manned with (thirty men) by the militia of the counties of Wilks, Green, Waſhington, Franklin, Richmond and Burke. Col. M'Murphy, who only three days ago returned from the Indian towns, and was ordered off by the Spaniſh agent, ſays they conſiſt of 4000 ; but of which only about 800 are peaceably inclined ; that M'Gilvery is gone to Penſacola, and before his return, they ſay they can do nothing ; that they received 500 weight of powder from the Spaniards and expect more ; and they ſay further, that as they had moſt men killed, terms muſt be offered to them, and demand that the ſettlers ſhould remove from the ground, to the old line. On the other hand, the people here are all for war, and to drive the Creeks over Flint-river. Arms and ammunition have been, and now will be procured from Virginia ; for which the aſſembly is now about to provide."

BOSTON, Sept. 7.

On Monday laſt, for the firſt time ſince the commencement of the late revolution, the ancient and honourable artillery company, commanded by Major Bell, paraded at the State Houſe in this town, and, preceded by a band of muſick, marched into the common, where they performed a number of military manœuvres---after which they marched to Faneuil-Hall, diſcharged a volley of ſmall arms, and finiſhed the day much to their honour, and the credit of the town. It was gratifying to the real friends of this country, to ſee our aged citizens, ſome of whom were near 70 years of age, equipped in the accoutrements of ſoldiers, and acting as example to the younger part of the community, that ſhould their country require their aid in the field, they might be found ready diſciplined and fit for immediate ſervice.

PROVIDENCE, Auguſt 21.

The honourable General Aſſembly of this ſtate, which convened at Newport the 23d inſt. adjourned on Saturday laſt, *ſine Die*.

During this ſeſſion, beſides the act in addition to the paper money bill publiſhed in this days paper, and act was paſſed directing the requiſition of Congreſs of September laſt, for monies to diſcharge the intereſt of our foreign and domeſtic debt, to be paid in the new paper money. An act was alſo paſſed, directing the £.20,000 tax, which was to have been paid the firſt of January, to be paid the firſt of November next.

WORCESTER, Auguſt 21.

By a gentleman from Woodſtock we are informed, that on Wedneſday the 23d inſt. a part of that town was much injured by a tornado, or hurricane, more extraordinary than has been ſeen in that place at any time before. About five o' clock, P. M. a very dark cloud appeared in the weſtern hemiſphere, which whirled and moved with unuſual velocity to the eaſtward. The whole horizon was ſoon obſcured, and the darkneſs equalled, if not exceeded that of the dark day in 1780. The tempeſt was ſudden and exceſſive, and the devaſtation truely diſtreſſing. Among other accidents that took place divers barns were blown down, and many had their roofs taken off ; trees were proſtrate in every direction, and whole orchards ſwept away. We hear of only one human life that was loſt, which happened by the ſtorm's lifting two large elm trees out of the ground, and placing them on the roof of a houſe, where a woman was, thereby cruſhing the fabrick upon her. A child was taken up and carried to a great diſtance, and much bruiſed. Many cattle were killed. One ſingular accident deſerves notice, a waggon was lifted from the ground and lodged on an apple tree. There is no deſcription that can equal the appearance of this very extraordinary tempeſt. A houſe was burned by lightening at Canaan, and a ſtack of hay at Windham. The darkneſs was nearly as great at Windham as at Woodſtock.

We further learn from Woodſtock, that thouſands of acres of orcharding, fields of corn, with ſome hundred ſtacks of hay, were raiſed from the ground and drove in, great confuſion. More than one hundred buildings were either unroofed, ſhattered or wholly deſtroyed.

Sept. 7. Early on Tueſday morning laſt, this town was viſited by a body of Men under arms from ſeveral towns in the North-weſt part of this County, who ſurrounded and took poſſeſſion of the Court-houſe, in order to ſtop the ſitting of the Court of Common Pleas by law to be holden on that day ; they were ſoon joined by a number of others from various towns, not in arms.---About 12 o'clock the Judges of the Court preceded by the High Sheriff proceeded to the Court-houſe, but were ſtoped at the door by the points of bayonets. The Court were firm, and did honour to the dignity of their ſtations ---Judge Ward, by requeſt, addreſſed the people---The Court were finaly, refuſed admittance into the Court-houſe, in conſequence of which they ſoon after aſſemble at the United States arms and there opened the Court in due form---Afterwards adjourned it until yeſterday in the forenoon when they again opened, and then adjourned without day.

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 13.

A commercial treaty, it is confidently aſſerted, is now on foot between the Courts of Madrid and the United States : His Catholic Majeſty, on his part, entreats that the navigation of the Miſſiſippi may be guaranteed to him for a certain period ; in lieu of which, it is ſuppoſed to open all the ports of *old* Spain to American veſſels, to treat us with reſpect to duties, as the moſt favoured nation, to allow our weſtern planters the liberty of bringing *tobacco* to New Orleans for ſale, and to permit the exportation of ſpecie free from impoſt or duty. The particulars of this important negociation, it is expected will tranſpire in a few days, as our miniſter of foreign affairs, to whom the buſineſs was commited, has already given in his report to Congreſs.

We learn from good authority, that the ſtate of Pennſylvania has recently exhibited a freſh proof of her readineſs to promote the welfare of our federal government ; and has, in addition to the large balance already in her favour, advanced to Congreſs 20,000 dollars, which are conſidered and appropriated as *ſpecie* in their requiſition for the ſupplies of the preſent year.

* * *The publiſher of this Paper returns his* [illegible] *from whom he has received communications, and requeſts the further aſſiſtance of the* [illegible] *Would inform thoſe who* [illegible] *have as authors, that they* [illegible] *ſcience into a private Box,* [illegible] *without the door of the P*[illegible] *they may depoſite their pie*[illegible] *obſerved.*

To be Sold or Exchanged for

FLAX-SEED

If the [illegible] content the [illegible] of the [illegible] ſpecie

A large quantity of

Coarſe SALT,

At the Store of SOLOMON ALLEN, oppoſite the Meeting Houſe, in Northampton, on the beſt terms.

Sept. 13, 1786.

BLANKS

Of various kinds, may be had at this Office.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His Excellency
JAMES BOWDOIN, Esquire,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A Proclamation.

WHEREAS the General Court of the said Commonwealth, begun and held at Boston, *upon Wednesday the thirty first day of May last, stands adjourned to Wednesday the thirty first day of January next, to meet at Boston; and whereas dispatches have been received from Congress, relative to matters of great importance, which require an earlier attendance of the General Court, than the time to which it stands adjourned:*

I HAVE THEREFORE thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, to convene the General Court upon Wednesday the eighteenth day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to meet at the State-House in Boston: And all the Members of the said Court are required to take notice thereof, and govern themselves accordingly.

And the Sheriffs of the several Counties, their Under-Sheriffs, or Deputies, and the Constables of the several towns within the same, are directed to cause this Proclamation to be forthwith published and posted within their respective precincts.

Given at the Council-Chamber in Boston, *this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the* United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By his Excellency's Command,
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secry.

CONVENTION.

A meeting of Delegates from fifty towns in the County of Hampshire, [illegible] held at Hatfield, in said [illegible] but [illegible]sday the twenty second day [illegible] a future day [illegible] people [illegible] and continued by adjournment [illegible] twenty fifth &c.—Col [illegible] Chairman, Esq. in the Chair, voted that [illegible] assembly unconstitutional.

[illegible] prohibit county [illegible] on from a thorough consideration [illegible] individuals [illegible] city from the choice of town meetings, their [illegible]gs are obligatory only as they carry light and [illegible] action with them, and are of the same nature, [illegible] ought to have the same effect and influence, [illegible] the opinions of any other body of men may [illegible]ve upon our measures. The Convention which [illegible]sumes a greater power than to inform others, [illegible]es evidently usurp the rights of the people; they betray their ambition and lust of dominion, [illegible] and should be watched as rivals and opposers of [illegible] supreme authority of the state; as those who [illegible] a design upon the majesty of the people [illegible]ttering in the legislature. Such an assuming [illegible] invention, is managed by men who intend to [illegible] the people to an undue submission to them[illegible] for a constitutional authority in a republic [illegible] is never attacked but by those who [illegible]ment to be appointed to govern, and [illegible] self-opinion enough to think themselves [illegible] qualified for rulers, and have their breasts [illegible]th ambition, to push them on to indirect, [illegible]s and violent measures, to gain the con[illegible] or annually elected by the Repre[illegible]th of the people in General Court [illegible]

5th, The existence of the Courts of common pleas and general sessions of the peace.

6th, The fee table as it now stands.

7th, The present mode of appropriating the impost and excise.

8th, The unreasonable grants made to some of the officers of Government.

9th, The supplementary aid.

10th, The present mode of paying the commental securities.

11th, The present mode adopted for the payment and speedy collection of the last tax.

12th, The present mode of taxation as it operates unequally between the polls and estates, and between the landed and mercantile interests.

13th, The present method of practice of the Attorneys at law.

14th, The want of a sufficient medium of trade, to remedy the mischiefs arising from the scarcity of money.

15th, The General Court sitting in the town of Boston.

16th, The present embarrassments on the press.

17th, The neglect of the settlement of important matters depending between the Commonwealth and Congress, relating to monies and averages.

18th, Voted that this convention recommend to the several towns in this county, that they instruct their representatives, to use their influence in the next General Court, to have emitted a bank of paper money, subject to a depreciation; making it a tender in all payments, equal to gold and silver; to be issued in order to call in the commonwealth's securities.

19th, Voted, that whereas several of the above articles of grievances, arise from defects in the constitution; therefore a revision of the same ought to take place.

20th, Voted, that it be recommended by this convention to the several towns in this county, that they petition the Governor to call the General Court immediately together, in order that the other grievances complained of, may by the Legislature be redressed.

21st, Voted, that this convention recommend it to the inhabitants of this county, that they abstain from all mobs and unlawful assemblies, until a constitutional method of redress can be obtained.

22d, Voted, that Mr. Caleb West be desired to transmit a copy of the proceedings of this convention, to the convention of the county of Worcester.

23d, Voted, that the chairman of this convention be desired, to transmit a copy of the proceedings of this convention to the county of Berkshire.

24th, Voted, that the chairman of this convention be directed to notify a county convention, upon any motion made to him for that purpose, if he judge the reasons offered sufficient, giving such notice together with the reasons therefor in the public papers of this county.

25th, Voted, that a copy of the proceedings of this convention, be sent to the press in Springfield for publication.

Signed per Order,

BENJ. BONNEY, Chairman.

Hatfield, Aug. 25th, 1786.

LONDON, May 26.

If the following relation had not been attested by the respectable persons whose names are subjoined, we should not have given it a place, as it bears no small portion of the marvellous:

A well attested and Circumstantial account of MARGERY GASSON, *of Rye, in Suffex, whose singular and very extraordinary case hath for some time excited the curiosity and attention of all degrees of people in the vicinity of that place, and the neighbouring counties.*

MARGERY GASSON, the 11th child of poor but industrious parents, (who are now living) was born the 18th of Nov. 1763, at Rye, in Suffex. Her parents brought them up to industry, and Margery was early put at service. In 1782, she lived at the Queen's Head Inn, in Rye, where she became acquainted with George Huntley, a young sea-faring man; and the connection becoming closer, she was supposed to be with child. The parish officers making enquiry into the matter, she was in March, 1783, taken by Mr. James Elliot, (then Overseer of the poor) before Chiswell Slade, Esq. Mayor of the town, and sworn: At which time she supposed herself more than four months gone. In July following every symptom of approaching labour appeared, and every necessary was provided by her mother; strong pains came on and lasted some time, when they ceased. However, as she expected to be delivered she continued close at home, and had slight pains at different times, until April 1784, (the second term of 9 months) when strong labour again came on, and continued for some time, but went away. After this time she was attacked with fits, which from time to time came on most violently, so much, that it often required four, and sometimes six people to keep her in bed. These fits continued until January, 1785, when labour pains again came on (for the third time) and went away. The fits, however, continued coming on stronger and stronger. The beginning of July, 1785, the child lay quiet for near a fortnight, and was supposed to be dead (by Mr. J. Mackrill, the surgeon who attended her nearly the whole time) but Margery declared it was not dead, as she could feel it though there was no outward appearance of motion. At the end of the fortnight it began again, and continued as usual, with violent fits at different times. At the end of October last, and beginning of November she had labouring pains again (for the fourth time) which continued at different times violent; but went off as before. The fits continued to come on nearly every fortnight, and were if possible, more violent each succeeding time. Margery Gasson was, before the year 1783, a slight young woman, since her pregnancy, she has continued to increase in size, so that at present she is a most wonderful object to behold. The motion of the subject within her is astonishing, for, on laying the hand of any person on her belly, it begins to start and jump about, bounding from one side to the other; and frequently getting upwards so high, as almost to occasion suffocation. It throws the body of Margery from one side of the bed to the other, and oftentimes brings on the fits beforementioned. The circumstances attending this young woman are many and too wonderful almost to be credited! But, as she is now living, any person may, by enquiry, be satisfied that all here related is taken from her own mouth. She expects, in July next, that pains of labour will again come on (for the fifth time) she sincerely hopes and prays that a deliverance from her trouble may arrive, and the astonished neighbours be satisfied with a certainty of what has continued for three years past and upwards, to occasion so much uneasiness to herself and doubts to many, of what it may be; and though all agree, that something most uncommon and extraordinary must be the occasion of her having continued in this state for so long a time. *Rye, 18th May*, 1786.

"We have made strict enquiry after the truth of the aforesaid facts, and have no cause to doubt of the truth of them."

THOMAS LAMB, Mayor.
C. SLADE, Magistrate.
JAMES LAMB, Church-warden.
W. ROBERTS, Surgeon.

SEPTEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 3.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 6, 1786.

To the Public.

BY the advice and encouragement of a number of Gentlemen in this County, the Subscriber has established a *Printing-Office* in Northampton, where printing of all kinds usual in America will be performed with care and dispatch.

In a country like this, where our national character and happiness so entirely depend upon a general diffusion of knowledge among the people, the extensive advantages of such periodical publications cannot be too often explained or too highly estimated.—The United States of America owe their existence as an empire to that superior degree of knowledge which the people at large have enjoyed and maintained through every period of their progress, from the first settlement of the country to the late revolution. In no country have the rights of mankind been more generally understood, and more rationally and systematically maintained. It is well known that the establishment of schools in every part of the country and the circulation of News-Papers, are among the principal causes which have led us to our present situation: the danger is, that the enjoyment of peace and tranquility will produce inattention to these subjects; that when the feelings excited by our troubles have subsided, our minds will sink into that indolence which is natural to such a state, our children will grow up in ignorance, and ignorance is the parent of slavery and all the national vices which mark the decline of empire.

Whatever may be the fate of the Subscriber in his attempt, the establishment of a press in this town certainly promises many advantages to this part of the country. The greater part of the extensive and flourishing counties of Hampshire and Berkshire, are much more commodiously situated to receive their communications from this office than from any other, while increasing the number of presses in the country, will probably increase the number of readers and writers, an object to be desired by every friend of liberty and literature.

WILLIAM BUTLER.

From the HERALD.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and upon the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addressed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampshire.

NUMBER II.

MY COUNTRYMEN,

ASSEMBLIES acting upon the concerns of government, should have their powers and business clearly defined; unless this be the case, they are immediately dangerous if not fatal to the liberties of the people. Under our excellent constitution, all branches of government and civil corporations, have their powers nicely defined; the bill of rights and frame of government are our charter and sacred compact, and they serve as a limitation to our rulers in all their administrations. Was it necessary for national security and the protection of individuals, to limit with caution every department in government? And can there be any safety to the people in county conventions interposing in matters of government, while they are destitute of limitations—at liberty from all restrictions, and set free like the wild ass to range at large where none is able to follow or find them? Besides there are essential objections to the usual manner of their appointment. As they often powerfully influence those who act with other people's eyes, it is justly to be reprobated, that they should be liable to a summons from any man or town who may take it upon them to issue the precept for convening them.—Besides conventions in this county have been composed of members very unfairly and partially chosen.

Upon issuing the paper money in Rhode-Island, a cry was set up in the county of Bristol; one town, more than half met in convention, called for paper money to clear their public and private creditors, attacked the constitution, set up the cry of danger, issued their precept first for county meetings, and then for a commonwealth convention; from thence the fire, which is by this time nearly extinguished where it began, spread into the eastern parts of this county; a number of men from several towns met at Pelham, they issued their precept for calling the county. How is it probable the members for the towns were chosen? Were the judicious and sedate collected together, or did they, conscious of their security and priviledges under the government, let the restless and apprehensive take the lead in the appointment of members? The fact, as it truly was in many of the towns, may be conjectured from the consequent proceedings of the members. It is natural tho' not always prudent in [illegible] to let the zealous and enterprising take their own measures; however, they might have been safely controuled; and it is not without grounds that these observations are applied to the affairs of the late convention. When a number of men in a town are warm, and some are hot-spirited, what kind of man may we suppose they would choose to act for them? Will he be the coolest and most liberal man amongst them? I trow not; but this is not all. The members as far as I can learn, were chosen by nomination: a word need not be said to shew that a representation thus chosen, will in all cases be partial, in important ones be very unfair and dangerous: very different men would certainly have been chosen by ballot. In many of the towns the meetings were very thin, not a third of the voters being present, how many towns admitted such as were not voters I will not conjecture. I wish to have it remembered, that the business attended by the convention, as stated in the convening letter, though very extensive, yet limited the town to act upon constitutional principles, or in support of the constitution: and however some members were directed to conform themselves to the Bristol resolves, and others to take measures for subverting the government; yet the greater part were uninstructed, and, therefore limited by the Pelham letter. That they abused their powers and violated the trust of their constituents, will appear before we have done: were their constituents men of sense and spirit, they would resent the presumption of their members. The conduct of the convention in exceeding the business of their appointment, is a glaring example of the danger of convening bodies who are absolute, with no bounds set to their motions; they have nothing to do, or any thing to do, or every thing to do, as they see fit. Freemen, I wish to be specially excepted from such unlimited government; let those who are pleased with it, vindicate it. It is worthy observation, that the towns were disproportionately represented, and that a small precinct of 80 polls, was held in as much consequence as a town of five hundred; this is an exceptionable way of proceeding, especially in framing a new constitution, the outline of which we shall find struck out by that wise body; but by the way it was done without the direction or expectation of their constituents. I hint these matters principally to inform the public, and to vindicate the reputation of the county, which might otherwise labour, and to give a proper clue for understanding the transactions of the body.

Now, gentlemen of the convention, having collected you together from your different towns, I shall with your liberty inform you electors and the freeholders at large, how you managed your matters: you gentlemen, who do not mince matters when you speak of your constitutional rulers, will be so liberal as to allow me to speak freely of your proceedings, and make such observations as I shall judge charitable and necessary for the common good: as this is no more than fair, I take it for granted that I have your liberty to go on with my subject.

They first resolved themselves into a constitutional assembly, which if they would have us to believe, that they are a body known by the constitution, or that they have any power or right to act for others in matters of government, I shall beg leave to resent as an assumption of authority not very friendly either to the natural or constitutional rights of the freeholders of this county. Perhaps I mistake, and some of the gentlemen will point out their charter of incorporation, and their constitutional origin. Many of the members, I dare say, did not mean to assume upon us, but the principle is dangerous and ought to be reprobated. Were the convention suspicious of their power, or were some of them conscious of faulty intentions which rendered such a resolve permanent, I am perswaded that they ought to have had some constitutional power for that very purpose; they ought to have had a legal appointment as public censors, before they presumed to make such a hardy attack upon our constitution, ratified by the people of this county, and by more than two thirds of the freemen through the commonwealth. In they fail in their attempt, yet I [illegible] give them the motto of Phaeton, who undertook to guide the chariot of the sun. "Magnis excidit ausis." They fell in a hardy enterprize. It may not be a miss to watch them before they set the world on fire, as was the misfortune of that ambitious young fellow. Another event took place at the beginning of the session, which may account for some after determinations. A messenger (self originated as I am told) from the county of Worcester, requested the convention with the Worcester resolves, and with some out of door information of the enormous disquietudes in that county; but though his intelligence contradicts current report and wants conformation, yet it was a word in season to produce zealous measures in this county. The convention being thus greatly collected, organized and enlightened by the Worcester gentleman, and made a constitutional body by their own vote, their business opened: it was to collect grievances, pile them up in one heap, and then contrive a way to have them removed; to execute this benevolent work of finding our things at which the people might be disquieted and perplexed, they raised a large committee, to invent and lay before the body a list of grievances, and to point out means of redress. The committee did their work faithfully, they brought in a notable parcel of grievances, which with no small difficulty some of the members prevented from being voted in grofs.—I do not remember to have heard of any committee raised to quiet the minds of the people, by pointing out to them arguments for confidence and satisfaction in their rulers, and to encourage them with spirit and perseverance to encounter their necessary burdens, until they should be in God's providence removed. I do not know that this would have answered the design in the Pelham letter, in calling the convention. If the convention was not called to quiet and content the minds of misinformed people, to detect the groundless misrepresentations circulating in the county, and to help them under their burdens and animate their virtuous endeavours to answer the demands of the public upon them; if the convention was not called to aid the people in political, moral and christian honesty, fortitude and charity, I would be far from blaming them in omitting a business not included in their appointment. I am an advocate for all men and all bodies of men doing their own business and letting other peoples business alone. My business is with the proceedings of the convention, and to them I return. Their preamble states, that they have found a number of grievances, which they specify, under distinct heads. It may be well for us to know what a grievance is: I beg leave summarily to define it: A grievance, in matters of civil government, is a wrongful, oppressive and unconstitu-

tional exercise of authority over the Subjects of the state; it implies some wilful negligence, or malicious intention of the ruler by which the subject is injured in his liberty or estate.—With this signification of the word grievance, I shall candidly discuss the grievances of the convention at Hatfield, and consider how well adapted they were to be sent out to quiet the minds of the people, to promote their political happiness and reciprocal good humour, and to give them due apprehensions of the legislature. Justice to the public and to the members of a respectable number of towns require me to observe, that the convention were not agreed; the members did not all see so clearly the grievances complained of. But what reason the convention had to vote and send abroad such a list of grievances, and how truly they are grievances, I shall examine in my next number.

In the mean while let it be remembered, that many of the members did not feel the distresses of which the body complained as grievances, but as burdens necessary for the public good to be cheerfully and patiently borne; others were alarmed because their neighbours were afraid; but a third class were observed to feel deeply, to be wounded to the quick: If I can heal their wounds and mitigate their pains, I shall do them and the county an essential service. I will be a faithful Physician according to my slender abilities, and let the public judge whether those gentleman are not indebted to the incubrations and friendship of your faithful friend,

AN OLD REPUBLICAN.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

To the CITIZENS of the COUNTY of HAMPSHIRE,

GENTLEMEN,

OUR present government was the work of much time and attentive deliberation. It was established upon the principles of perfect equality, and by the solemn act of the great body of the people. It is their sacred agreement of mutual protection, and how they will be governed. It is a government of laws and not of men. The laws equally respect the various classes of men, without giving undue advantages to any particular class. All governments of government are under the people's controul, and depend upon their united endeavours to protect and give them proper energy. Courts of justice are instituted for the common good and mutual security. Courts of justice are an essential part of our birth-right and inheritance. Any injury or interruption offered to our courts, is an indignity and affront, not so much to the magistrate as to the people, for whose good he is God's minister. It matters not to us how the abuse is offered, whether by one over grown citizen or by the hasty and furious violence of the lower rank of people. The community is equally attacked, and loudly called upon to act on the defensive against all attempts from whatever quarter they arise.—Fellow Citizens, a few weeks since we fondly flattered ourselves that we had reached the end of our toils, and had surmounted the efforts of fraud and violence against our privileges and laws, and might quietly enjoy the rewards of many a well fought, hard earned battle—But were not our hopes premature? For a collection of restless people, stimulated by wicked a rents and unjustifiable motives, have made a desperate onset upon us and upon the commonwealth at large, in forcibly interrupting the courts of justice and in a neighbouring county by the additional violence of opening the public goal and discharging the prisoners. Some of us perhaps may be so inattentive as to consider this attack as aimed principally at the authority, and to hush our apprehensions to silence under those threatning dangers. But a moment's reflection must convince us, that the assault is made upon the whole community, upon every principal of civil order and government, and does immediately dissolve our national compact on which our protection and happiness do absolutely rest. The late insurrections are a war levied upon society, and reduce us to the feeble and helpless state of nature, where MIGHT WILL ALWAYS OVERCOME RIGHT.

——Now as the late insurrections began in this county, honour and justice require us to bear our joint and spirited testimony against such infringements of public security and combine our efforts to hinder their further progress. The service is not agreeable, but our dignity and safety render it necessary. The sooner we make a stand, the less animosity and public convulsion it will make; the less danger both to the community and to the assailants who have been the unprovoked aggressors.—It has been attributed to us and with some reason, that all the mischiefs of breaking up courts of justice has arisen from our supineness and heedless inattention—But without severe recrimination let me say, that in my opinion these unhappy events have originated from the hand of a righteous God, as a testimony against our foolish self-confidence and our base ingratitude under such unparalelled civil and social benefits and immunities as he has given us richly to enjoy. He has suffered a thick mist of unaccountable delusion to veil our eyes and conceal from our views the mischiefs of such distressing tumults—The cloud is wearing away—our business is now to consider our obligations to God and our country ourselves and posterity. To God we owe our late tranquility and our immediate endeavours to restore it without delay We must shew that we have a sense of our privileges and tenaciously adhere to the sacred maxims of our excellent constitution. It is not the less excellent because wicked men attack it and endeavour to subvert it. We are not to sport with divine bounties and trifle away the advantages indulged to us by heaven. If any thing is amiss in the administration of government, it is within our reach peaceably and without force to remedy it. All civil governments are necessarily imperfect, but is our privilege to have an easy and effectual remedy in our constitution itself without bustle and tumult. How preposterous then to do that at great expense and disturbance, which we can at any time perform without cost or danger by directing our public servants. It is a duty then which we owe to ourselves forthwith to delay the efforts of violence and stop the fury of insurrections, and teach our eager and misjudging brethren that smaller or doubtful evils are no to be remedied by indecent clamours and hostile attacks upon the government. Insurrections will soon leave us all adrift like a miserable wretch in the middle of the ocean; we shall have no security of property, liberty, or life itself. What honest man can live without government—what industrious man can live while his property is at the mercy of knaves and thieves—what freeman is secure when he may be knocked on the head for speaking his sentiments against fraud and violence—what community is safe where rogues and theives cannot be taken, and where jails may be forcably opened to let them loose upon the people.—It is time, it is high time brave citizens that we make a determinate stand; that we hold back the hand of fraud and oppression from the weak, the helpless, the widow and the farherless, and avert the ruin which threatens all honest men.—You know the heads and fomentors of these troubles, who have filled the community with disfood and driven the Lord's people to transgress. You know the bankrupt, dishonest prodigals who have wasted their estates by vice and folly, by idleness and gaming. You know the ambitious military officers who have appeared at the head of this sedition, and in order to rise without merit, have perjured their souls by taking arms against our government, which in the name of the avenging God they have solemnly sworn to defend. Many of their followers are men of ruined circumstances, deeply in debt and without a wish or endeavour to make payment. Some, I believe, for men are not all to be condemned in the lump, are uninformed people, abused by lies propagated to disaffect them to the government.—We are called by the God of heaven now to stand out in the liberties with which he hath made us free. We are called by our excellent supreme magistrate to protect ourselves and our country from a dangerous conspiracy.—And whenever we shall be called by the conservator of the peace of this county, let us in season resolutely grasp that daring hand of violence which aims its cruel attacks at the vitals of this great commonwealth. The superior court is soon to set at Springfield—there if you are so disposed you may find the enemies of our liberty and peace—there you will dare to find them and restrain their rashness—there in one decisive body, in one unshaken phalanx meet and cover your country with your shields from all the darts of malice and envy, of ambition or despair—Let the world know that you have not fought and bled for so many years to procure a constitution of government, to be made the sport and may-game of the wicked and desperate. It is not only necessary to yourselves, but it is an act of mercy to the insurgents that you now stop their progress before they have carried their violence to such extremes that they have no way left for their retreat, but must be pushed on by despair, which happily is not yet their case. We have every motive to make a firm and immediate stand—Be firm and prosper, is the wish of your fellow Citizen,

ARISTIDES.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Establishment of the Worship of the DEITY, essential to National Happiness.

Plusque boni mores,
Quam bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS.

BY AN AMERICAN.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR,

WHAT is said on the article of Religious Liberty in most of the constitutions of these States, I highly applaud; it is excellent so far as it goes*; it is a very good preamble to something which ought to have followed, and which may yet be adopted, which is that public religion shall be maintained, and the support of it properly enjoined upon all the members of the community; without this public worship may be proscribed and totally banished from these States in half a century or less.

As present the institutions of morality and religion are left floating on the uncertain sea of accidents and may sink or swim without the notice of government. This, it is said would be pardonable if good government could exist without the aid of religion. There never has been a nation great or happy, where the subjects obedience to human laws did not receive a sanction from the obligations of religion. The conscious apprehension which results from right conduct, and the dread of future punishment for evil, are powerful principles in the human breast: Subjects who feel the influence of these are easily restrained within the bounds of human laws; those who do not, have ever been found most difficult to govern, because indeuced wholly by motives of present interest or advantage. Magistrates themselves have found, that as men have call off a regard for the Deity, the transition to an evil destructive to society, has been easy,—they have also disregarded their civil rulers and one another, for "they who fear not God, neither will they regard man."

Then the bold sceptic man,
Who flops at nothing, will fear all he can't
Justice or merit, will weak aid afford,
Her balance fail'n, officials lies her sword."

DRYDEN.

Hence all legislators have interwoven religion with their systems of law and government, and the greater part have probably so done, purely from prudential considerations; and it is at the same time they make religion necessary to the well being of the commonwealth, they leave the subjects free in the choice and practice of their respective systems, they do wisely.

In the wise code of laws, which the illustrious legislator of the Hebrews received immediately from Heaven, for the government of a nation, a reverence for the Deity is inforced on the whole as the effications motive of obedience to civil rulers. "The God of nature has joined together these two,—government and religion or religious worship and social virtue,—they cannot be put a sunder. Government cannot exist without the aid of religion. Is supposed by the influence which religion has on the minds and morals of mankind.

It is an observation of the celebrated historian, Tacitus, "that virtuous manners have more efficacy than good laws." The uniform experience of ages confirm it.

Religion may be established on principles consistant with perfect freedom. If it be an institution necessary to the existance or prosperity of government, the people by their rulers have a right to establish that as they do any other useful or necessary institution; and to provide for its support, as they do for public schools for the education of youth. The institution of public worship is a school of virtue, for the benefit of subjects who have arrived to maturity, as common schools are for the benefit of subjects in their minority; both necessary and equally claim the attention and care of authority.

The christian religion, containing a system of morals and doctrines, infinitely more luminous and perfect than any other, is the professed religion of these States; a system most friendly to order and government: If the subjects are universally benefited by the public worship of the Deity, and by the doctrines of religion and morality, which are constantly taught by those who are devoted to that profession, why should not the subjects universally bear their proportion to their support. There are many in every State, who do nothing in this way, and yet reap the benefit of this institution, equally with those who do, considered as members of society; their lives, their property—and all their rights are thereby rendered secure and inviolate.

After those habits which a good education has formed among the body of the people, are worn off, all such as wear public worship as superfluous or the support of it a burden, and some of this class may already be found perhaps in every town, and without a preventive, it will not be long before they will have the vote of majority; all such will withdraw their aid to the support of public religion, and the teachers of it must be dependent on the voluntary subscriptions of the few, whose sense of its importance, may excite them to so laudable an act, to hold up, the drooping cause of virtue. Such neglect of an institution on which the existence, or the peace and happiness of civil society depends, will break down the barrier which guards the state and pour in a flood of evils, which in the final issue, will overwhelm both rulers and subjects. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," but sin is the reproach, and unrestrained by a sense of moral obligation, will bring upon a people desolation and ruin. From the steps leading to this catastrophe, may Heaven preserve our dearest country!

I am, &c.

* It amounts to this, that men have a right to choose their religion, and to worship where and how they please.

LOST,

ON the 13th instant, between Capt. Cole's tavern in Chesterfield and Northampton, a pair of SADDLE-BAGS, almost new, containing two holland Shirts, one pair black ruffel Breeches, one white silk Vest, one pair mixt cotton Stockings, one pair hemp Stockings, one pair Shoes, two pair Buckles, one silver and the other plated, and sundry other articles. Whoever has found said Saddle-Bags and articles, and will deliver them to Capt. Cole in Chesterfield, or Mr. Elisha Lyman in Northampton, shall be handsomely rewarded.

JOHN BAGGS.

Sept. 20. 1786.

WE the subscriber being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Theodore Porter, Esq. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the several creditors to the estate of JOHN BAGLEY, late of Williamsburgh, in said county, deceased, said estate being represented insolvent by the Executrix; We therefore give public notice, that we shall attend the business of our commission at the dwelling-house of Lieut. Joshua Thayer, in Williamsburgh, on the first Tuesdays in November and December next, at nine o'clock A. M. No accounts allowed unless properly avouched.

ASA LUDDEN,
NOAH CLAPP LAND, jun. } Commissioners.
EPHRAIM FISHER,

Williamsburgh, August 25, 1786.

By the United States in Congress assembled, August 8, 1786.

On the Report of the Board of Treasury:

RESOLVED, That the standard of the United States of America, for gold and silver, shall be eleven parts fine, and one part alloy.

That the money unit of the United States, by the resolve of Congress of the 6th July, 1785, a dollar shall contain, of fine silver, three hundred and seventy-five grains, and sixty-four hundredths of a grain.

That the money of account, to correspond with the division of coins, agreeably to the above resolve, proceed in a decimal ratio, agreeably to the forms and manner following, viz.

Mills, The lowest money of account, of which one thousand shall be equal to the federal dollar, or money unit, 0,001

Cents, the highest copper piece, of which one hundred shall be equal to the federal dollar, 0,0 0

Dimes, the lowest silver coin, which shall be equal to the dollar, - - 0,100

Dollar, the highest silver coin, - - 1,000

That betwixt the dollar and the lowest copper coin, as fixed by the resolve of Congress of the 6th July, 1785, there shall be three silver coins and one copper coin.

That the silver coins shall be as follows: One containing one hundred and eighty-seven grains, and eighty-two hundredths of a grain of fine silver, to be called a half dollar. One coin containing seventy-five grains, and one hundred and twenty-eight thousandths of a grain of fine silver, to be called a double dime: And one coin containing thirty-seven grains, and five hundred and sixty-four thousandths of a grain of fine silver, to be called a dime.

That the two copper coins shall be as as follows: One equal to the one hundredth part of the federal dollar, to be called a cent; and one equal to the two hundredth parts of the federal dollar, to be called a half cent.

That two pounds and a quarter, avoirdupoise weight of copper, shall constitute one hundred cents.

That there shall be two gold coins: One containing two hundred and forty six grains, and two hundred and sixty-eight thousandths of a grain of fine gold, equal to ten dollars, to be stamped with the impression of the American Eagle, and to be called an Eagle: One containing one hundred and twenty-three grains, and one hundred and thirty-four thousandths of a grain of fine gold, equal to five dollars, to be stamped in like manner, and to be called the half eagle.

That the mint price of a pound, troy wt of uncoined silver, eleven parts fine and one part alloy, shall be nine dollars, nine dimes, and two cents.

That the mint price of a pound, troy wt. of uncoined gold, eleven parts fine, and one part alloy, shall be two hundred and nine dollars, seven dimes and seven cents.

CHARLESTON, August 12.

It is worthy honourable mention, that when Capt. Dickinson was at Savannah, a few days ago, a quantity of the paper medium of this state being exposed for sale at public vendue, the captain bid it off at the advanced rate of 21s. 9d. per pound.—It is devoutly to be wished that all our citizens possessed such gallant zeal for the honour and interest of the state.

RICHMOND, (Virginia) August 24.

Saturday evening last, seven of the prisoners who were sentenced to work on the highway for a limited time made their escape, by sawing our one of the windows of the prison. A proclamation is since issued, declaring it lawful for any person to kill and destroy them, according to act of assembly, entitled "An act to empower the governor with the advice of the privy council to grant conditional pardons in certain cases."

PHILADELPHIA, September 2.

In consequence of the resolution of Congress, on the 22d ult. and by orders of the board of treasury, interest in indents is now paying on certificates of liquidated debts and loan-office certificates in the state of Pennsylvania.

The Belfast Mercury of the 19th of May last has the following article,——"Since the days of Fabricus, says a correspondent, perhaps there has not appeared in the world such disinterested virtue as that evinced in the uniform conduct of that illustrious hero, General Washington—far from drawing the sword from hot-headed zeal or lucrative motives, coolness and independent virtue called him to the field, and after raising a temple of adamant to liberty, this second Cincinnatis Maximus retires to enjoy otium cum dignitate, in the arms of domestic happiness. His noble refusal of a share in the great profit arising from the rivers James and Potowmac, as offered by the state of Virginia, is a rare instance of that spirit which marks the progress of true greatness; and what heightens his character, if possible, still more, he wishes to appropriate those rich emoluments to the reward of those brave associates in the war, who contributed to the independence of their country."

FAIRFIELD, August 31.

On Tuesday last, Mr. Samuel Downs, an inhabitant of Green's Farms, was carrying a child of his on horseback, accidentally the beast making a miss step, threw them both, and unfortunately put a period to the child's life.

On the last Sabbath, in a neighbouring parish from this, were propounded for marriage, a young couple—when the lady arose up, and with an air of surprize, reconnoitred the mutual eye, to the great astonishment of the congregation.

MIDDLETOWN, Sept. 11.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Rhode-Island, August 25 1786.

"We are still labouring under the accursed load of Rags and Blacking, as the symbals of poverty; it gives aggravated distress whenever viewed. It can with truth be said to have no currency; only the unprincipled, who are involved, and a few small traders, as brokers to them, negociate it in order to tender for honest debts. The rate of exchange when negociated is from two to four for one. I am informed that corn when sold has been from nine to fourteen shillings per bushel; but now the holder will not sell it at any price in this money.—New-England rum from six to ten shillings per gallon; in fact, tell a man that you will sell an article for it, he cares not what it is, or what price, provided he can get rid of his burden.—Our markets are tolerably supplied with provisions for hard money,—rarely any thing to be had for this imaginary medium.

"Our Assembly is but the mere shadow of power. It retains a titular supremacy, and gives names and forms laws, without originating, digesting or reviling. Sunday and nightly juntos, formed of the majority, are the theatres where public measures are canvassed and determined;—the business of the House is stayed until these meetings, when the weak and deluded are properly marshalled, and then they come fire hot to legislate for their fellow citizens. Arguments founded on reason and justice are now negatory; for a bad cause would be lost should these be the criterion. When opposed with unanswerable objections to their measures, they reply, "it is in vain to dispute, for we, who are the majority, are determined."

Extract of another letter from the same place, dated August 29, 1786.

"The Assembly of this state at their session the last week, passed an act which Congress may think worthy of their notice. The preamble states, that doubts have arisen in the minds of collectors, and treasurer, about receiving the paper emission of this state for continental taxes, it is therefore enacted, that said emission be received in payment of said taxes. A protest against the arbitrary and unconstitutional measures of this assembly was made in writing by the Newport, Providence, Warren, Bristol, and New-Shoreham representatives.—It was rejected from being annexed to the bill by two votes.—It is to be published in the papers.

"During the session, a committe was appointed to draft a bill respecting notes and other securities. They reported a bill which was to destroy the negotiability of notes—to limit the payment to six months, when, if not paid, not proved by the creditor to have been demanded, the obligation should be outlawed. This was so barefaced a villainy, that its friends were ashamed to speak much in its support. When a vote was taken, it was rejected by a large majority. There were only eight sufficiently hardened to go this length in inquiry."

BOSTON, September 7.

The following instance of impartial justice in the king of Prussia, may be depended on as a fact. On the 30th of May, a Magistrate of the name of Glave, in the city of Berlin, was tried and convicted of extortion and corruption, the king sentenced him to hard labour for two years on the public works.

An Exeter paper mentions, that they hear from Brintwood, that a petition for paper money, having been transmitted to the selectmen by the Chester Convetion, to be presented to, and subscribed by the inhabitants, they to a man refused signing their names to it, or joining in a Convention for the purpose of petitioning or dictating to the General Court. This is thought to be much to their honour.

It is a truth, that the promoters and ringleaders of the riots which have for sometime past disturbed the country, are composed of disgraced officers of our late army, and creatures who were ever opposed to our present government.—With the cry of grievances and pretended danger, they have alarmed and led from the duty they owe to the Commonwealth, numbers of honest, undesigning men, who, it is not doubted, on a moment's calm reflection, will discover the wicked designs of these real foes to their happiness, and will treat them and their measures with becoming detestation.

NEW-PORT, August 28.

Of all countries in the world, none, perhaps, is more auspicious to things necessary to man's subsistance than America. Though we cannot boast of the tropical fruits, the orange, the pine-apple, &c. yet we exuberantly abound with the essentials of nature, and might, if we cultivated an acquaintance with Agriculture, extend our commerce to the wide domains of the world—have our ships welcomed to a thousand ports. But, previous to these halcyon days, frugality and œconomy must not be considered as servile qualities, nor husbandry disesteemed. Husbandry in this country ought to be made honourable as in ancient Rome; it would be a source of wealth not liable to deprivation or diminution; —every other spring is perishable or casual.

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 20.

We are credibly informed, that proposals have been lately made to Congress, by the court of Spain, through the Spanish encargado residing in that city, for granting to American vessels particular privileges in the Spanish ports, for thirty years, on condition the United States, for a like term of years, will relinquish their right of navigating in the Mississippi. The delegates from the northern states, we are told, are in favour of accepting the proposals on the condition stipulated, but they are spiritedly opposed by those of the southern states, particularly Virginia, whose delegates declare, that should the measure be adopted, the other states must consider themselves responsable for all the consequences resulting therefrom.

Accounts from Dublin say, that the goods for the London market are so scarce, owing to the great orders from America, that the regular trading ships are obliged to wait much longer than usual, before their cargoes can be completed.

Died, last Thursday, Mr. Joseph Hunt, in the 78th year of his age.

*** WANTED, as an Apprentice to the Printing business, a smart active Lad, about 14 years of age.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JAMES BOWDOIN, Esquire,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS on the fourth of August last, a Proclamation was issued for convening the General Court, at Boston, in the county of Suffolk, on the eighteenth of October next: And whereas from the many tumults and disorders which have since taken place, in several counties within this Commonwealth, in obstructing the sitting of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, in such counties, it appears highly expedient that the General Court should be convened on an earlier day:

I HAVE thought fit, by and with the advice of the council, to revoke the said Proclamation, and convene the General Court upon Wednesday the twenty-seventh day of September instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to meet at the State-House in Boston. And all the Members of said Court are required to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

And the Sheriffs of the several counties, their Under-Sheriffs, or Deputies, and the Constables of the several towns within the same, are directed to cause this Proclamation to be forthwith published and posted within their respective precincts.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in Boston, this thirteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By his Excellency's Command,
JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'ry.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Cash or any of the above Books, given for Rags and old Fish Net.

From the Independant Chronicle.

He that tilleth his land, shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons, is void of understanding,

Proverbs, 12 chap. 11 verse.

Messrs. ADAMS & NOURSE,

THAT we are not to expect a state of private or public happiness, which is absolutely perfect in the present world, appears to be universally agreed; but it never was more strikingly verified than with respect to the people of this Commonwealth.

We have passed through scenes of great public and private distress in defending our liberties from the attacks of arbitrary power; our blood and our treasure have been profusely poured out in order to purchase the freedom and independence, in the enjoyment of which we may now glory. In forming the constitution of our government, we made use of the collected wisdom and experience of ages; we proceeded calmnly, coolly, deliberately, the people had the most apple recognition of their sovereignty, and they solemnly adopted this constitution; In the sight of God and the world, they declared that they would for a certain term be governed by it, that they would not attempt to infringe or to alter it.

That it is popular; that the subjects of the state have every controul over their rulers, which is compatible with a state of Government, must be acknowledged upon all hands. Once every year, every man returns to a private station, he stands upon the same ground with his fellow citizens, and depends for his re-election entirely upon their pleasure. In a government thus constituted, the prevailing sentiments of the people must have their influence upon every public measure, and their interests must be carefully guarded, because the interests of their rulers cannot become distinct from those of the people. And if there is any danger, it arises from the probability of governmental measures being influenced by too great an attention to popular motions. Nothing but a sense of duty, of clear and absolute necessity, can tempt any public man to contradict the sentiments of the people at large. We have no monarch, whose smiles are to be courted, no treasure with which men may be bribed to deviate from their duty.

And yet, stange to tell! Many of the towns in this Commonwealth are complaining of grievances, and grievances from government too!—Their own rulers, whom they themselves raised to power, in the course of six months have become their oppressors, and their distinguished patriots are summoning conventions to consider of grievances, and procure their redress.

Did these conventions proceed merely from the luxuriance of the tree of liberty so deeply rooted in America; were they the ebullitions of temporary uneasiness, and calculated only to seperate and discharge those humours which every corporate body will collect, I should consider them as not dangerous; I should view them as convulsions which tended to keep our political air in motion; and thus to preserve its elasticity, and should smile at them, as I do at the little pettish capricious humours of my children.

But I do seriously believe them to be excited, supported and encouraged by the emissaries of that nation to which we were formerly subject.—They could not conquer us in the field, and they mean now to attempt our disturbance and ruin by exciting commotions, which tend to destroy the energy of our government, and render it contemptable. To the needs of some, to the passions of others, to the disappointed ambition of more, they address themselves, and endeavour to destroy their attachment to our present constitution. They know full well (and I would to God their deluded followers would realize the thought) that if we cannot support our present constitution, we must resign ourselves to the government of some foreign master; and they hope yet to triumph in the destruction of American liberty. These are the motives, I doubt not, of many who have fomented these conventions, and led honest, but unsuspecting men astray, from the path of their public duty.

In every community there will be some persons who had rather get their living in any other way, than be obliged to obtain it by their industry. To these men, seasons of commotion are favourable; at such seasons they become important; they flatter themselves that they are respectable, and they generally for their services obtain some pecuniary rewards. Men of this character would instantly fall in with the designs of the emissaries, whom we have mentioned, and labour to promote their views. It would be well, if the sober part of the community would attend to the text of scripture which is the motto of this paper, and avoid the censure which their following these persons will bring upon them.

I heartily wish that my countrymen would coolly reflect upon the characters of those persons, who have been the most forward to subvert the present constitution, by promoting county conventions. Are they not persons who have been disaffected to the cause of their country in the late contest, or else men of desperate fortunes, who are in debt and want to avoid the payment of their debts? Are they encouraged by steady, honest men, who in times of public trial and difficulty, have acted an uniform part? Are they promoted by those who have any thing to lose by popular convulsions, or by the subjugation of their country? Is it not a known fact, that a true and faithful answer to these questions cannot be made without bringing the sowers of this conventional sedition into contempt?

I mean not to reflect upon any man, merely because he is poor, or to intimate that every one who has favoured these meetings is of this designing character. Our ears have been ready to listen with eagerness to the cry of liberty, and to take the alarm at the most distant encroachment upon our rights, and from this principle some may be drawn aside with good intentions, to do wrong things; but I ask, whether men of desperate circumstances, who are afraid of a state of law and order, and whose existence depends upon eluding the just demands of their creditors, are disinterested enough to be consulted in the question, whether law and order shall still subsist in the community? Will men of property and weight put themselves under the conduct of those persons who so notoriously are governed by selfish, if not dishonest motives? Are these proper leaders for a wise and sober people, and have the people any right to expect that they will pursue the public interest, when it directly militates with their own?

The writer of these remarks, loves his country. He has beheld the scenes of blood shed and confusion, through which it hath waded to the present happy day. His heart warms, when he reflects upon the state of glory and felicity to which it may arrive, and he deprecates its being left to throw away blessings, for which other nations pine and languish in vain. He cannot bear the idea of the triumph and insult which the ruin of our constitution and liberty, will give to our enemies. From these motives, and from these motives only, he hath been influenced to address the public. Was he known, it would appear, that he has been warmly attached to the cause of his country, through every period of the late contest; it would appear likewise, that he had no place under government, and that he did not hold himself eligible to any office in it. A pure regard to the dignity and happiness of his country, hath led him to lay these considerations before the public, and should they tend to do any good, he may continue the subject, and endeavour to point out some methods, which will tend to crush this dangerous spirit, and preserve to us, that liberty, which we have so dearly purchased.

PUBLICUS.

NEW-YORK, August 31.

The following most curious hand-bill Advertisement, was sent enclosed in a letter to a gentleman in this city, by the last London vessel.

Beards taken off, and Registurd!

By ISAAC FAC-TOTUM,

Barber, Peri-wig maker, Surgeon,

Parish clerk, School marster,

Blacksmiths and Man and wife,

SHAVES for a penne, cuts hare for too pense, and oyld and powdird into the bargin. Young ladys gently Edicated; Lamps lited by the hear of quarter. Young gentlemen also taut their Grammer laugwage in the neatest manner, and grate care takin of their morels and spelin. Also, Salme singing and horse Shewing by the real maker!—Likewice makes and Mends, all sorts of Butes and Shoes, teches the Ho! boy and Jewsharp, cuts corns, bleeds On the lowes Terme;—Glisters and Purgis at a penny a piece. Cow-tillions and other dances taut at hum and abrode. Also deles holesale and retale—Pirfumerry in all its branchis. Sells all sorts of shinory wair, toogether with blacking balls, red herrins, ginger-bred and coles, scrubbing brushes, traycle, mouce traps and other sweetmetes. Likewise Godfathers Cordiel, Red nutes, Tatoes, sassages and other gardin stuff.

P. S. I teaches Joggrefy, and then out landish kind of things.—A Bawl on Wensdays and Frydays, All performed by me

ISAAC FAC-TOTUM.

To be heard of at my warehouse the Little 2, No. 42, within Bishopsgate. Where you may be serv'd with the best Tobacco by the ream, quire, or single sheet.

N. B. Also, likewise, Bewary of Counterfeits? for such is abrode.

*** I is the only original inventir of that famouseſt Licker so much in wogue calld Cuckold's Cumfert or arts healer—If you wont beleve me—ax the landlord and he will GIVE you a Glaſs to Taſte—but you must give him the money for it first tho.

To be Sold or Exchanged for

FLAX-SEED,

A large quantity of

Coarſe SALT,

At the Store of SOLOMON ALLEN, opposite the Meeting House, in Northampton, on the beſt terms.

Sept. 13, 1786.

SEPTEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 4.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

The following is a Copy of a CIRCULAR LETTER from the Inhabitants of Boſton to the ſeveral towns in this Commonwealth.

FRIENDS and FELLOW CITIZENS,

THE inhabitants of the town of Boſton can never remain the unconcerned ſpectators of the diſtreſs and calamity of their fellow citizens in any part of the Commonwealth.

Your generous friendſhip to us, evinced as well by your liberal donations as otherwiſe, when we were particularly ſuffering in the great cauſe of our country, can never fail to warm our hearts with the higheſt ſentiments of friendſhip for you;—and we are perſuaded that the exertions we were then called to make, for our common ſafety, have yet a place in your kind remembrance.

Thus united, we conceive, in ſentiment and affection, as well as in intereſt, with that cordiality which muſt and ever will ſubſiſt among a virtuous and enlightened people in a free country, we take the liberty to addreſs you on thoſe commotions which have ſo widely ſpread within the Commonwealth. You will ſuffer us to reaſon on this occaſion with a freedom which is the part of ſincere friendſhip; for we do aſſure you, that our country can never feel a political or civil evil which we will not cheerfully bear a part of, until our joint exertions can obtain a conſtitutional redreſs.

We do not conceive it to be our duty to decide whether the grievances, mentioned by the conventions in ſome of the counties in the ſtate, really exiſt or not; but we beg leave to ſubmit to your diſpaſſionate and candid decision, whether, if they have a real exiſtance, the tumultuous methods adopted by ſome aſſemblies of men within the government, are the proper meaſures to obtain redreſs.

When we diſſolved our connection with the empire of Britain, we then (politically ſpeaking) had it in our election to remain in a ſtate of nature, or to ordain for ourſelves ſuch form of government as we choſe. We were then in a ſtate recognized by the firſt article of the declaration of rights, "free and equal," and nothing but our own voluntary conſent, given in a ſolemn compact, could reduce us to a form of civil government. It required no great ſhare of wiſdom, however, to diſcern, that unleſs we threw ourſelves into that ſtate, we could neither defend ourſelves againſt a foreign invaſion, or be preſerved from the depredations of wicked and abandoned men amongſt ourſelves. Therefore, "the people inhabiting the territory" "called the Province of Maſſachuſetts-Bay," by a voluntary aſſociation, formed a ſocial compact; and, in a ſolemn appeal to the great Legiſlator of the univerſe, "the whole people covenanted with "each citizen, and each citizen with the whole "people, to be governed by certain known and "eſtabliſhed laws, for the common good and "ſecurity of all." By the ſame ſolemn compact, the powers of legiſlation, and the authority for the due execution of the laws, were provided and eſtabliſhed; and we then did, and as yet do conceive, that all was done with ſuch caution and reſtrictions, that no man, or body of men, who ſhall oppreſs or invade the rights of the ſmalleſt individual, can paſs with impunity. In the ſame compact, the people ſolemnly agreed to ſupport the conſtitution for the ſpace of fifteen years, and made ample proviſion for the reviſion of it at the end of that period, if it then ſhould be thought neceſſary.—There is no officer, either high or low, within the Commonwealth, who does not derive his whole authority from the people, and who is not amenable to a proper and adequate tribunal for his conduct.

There are indeed evils which are common to the whole human race, founded in the depravity and imperfections of mankind; and there are others, the unhappy lot of ſome countries, ariſing from their ſituation, or the deep-rooted habits of the people poſſeſſing them; both which are alike incapable of being cured by any acts of government, or exertions of human power, but muſt be left to the accidents and changes of time for a remedy. Should corrupt and deſigning men inſtame the ſpirits of the people to demand of their rulers, the removal of ſuch evils, their own reflections would ſooner or later point them to their miſtake.

If grievances have ariſen in the government, ſurely the voice of the people may be taken without flying to arms:—and no one can wiſh to diſſolve our happy conſtitution, unleſs another is ſubſtituted in it's place;—for a ſtate of anarchy is to be dreaded above all other calamities, becauſe there is no evil which it does not involve. But to us as we ſhall take leave by and by to ſubmit to your conſideration, conſequences would flow from ſuch a ſtate which would cauſe each true American, within the commonwealth, even to regret that he had ever taſted the ſweets of civil freedom.

If the citizens of the ſtate labour under grievances which can be redreſſed by the acts of the legiſlature, we conceive that their privileges in this caſe can never be enlarged, for the General Court are choſen annually by the people; and though in one year our complaints are not attended to, yet we can in the next election place men in power who will anſwer our reaſonable expectations; and we are conſtrained to ſay, that we are ignorant of the time when the repreſentatives of the people in this ſtate have not duly attended to the inſtructions of their conſtituents. Some towns have indeed given inſtructions contrary to the ſentiments of the majority of the ſtate, and they therefore have not ſucceeded; but is not this always the caſe, when in ſociety the compact is for the minority, to ſubmit to the majority? Let the majority be ever ſo much in the wrong, is there any remedy, within the reach of nature, compatible with the ideas of ſociety and government? To ſay, the majority ſhall not govern, is ſaying, either that we will reduce ourſelves to a ſtate of nature, or reject the ideas of civil liberty, eſtabliſh a deſpotiſm, and be ſubject to the ſovereign pleaſure of one man.

We then beg you to conſider, whether inſtructing our repreſentatives, who ſerve us in the legiſlature, is not our great remedy againſt any ills we ſuffer, and which are within the compaſs of human power to redreſs.

As we have taken leave to hint to you the mode in which, under the government eſtabliſhed by our commonwealth, we conceive all grievances ought to be remedied; we will now beg your patience, and earneſtly ſolicit your candour, while we mention ſome of the conſequences which we think muſt flow from a continuance of the preſent commotions.—As an introduction to this part of our addreſs, we will take a retroſpective view of our late ſituation, and compare our preſent with that in which we ſhould have been, had not the noble exertions of America, in defence of the deareſt rights of mankind, prevented it.

Taxed by Great-Britain, unconſtitutionally and illegally, the quantity demanded was not the object of the important ſtand then made—but the obvious intention of reducing to abſolute ſlavery, to a Prince on an iſland at three thouſand miles diſtance, the people of a whole continent, demanded an oppoſition worthy of the blood and treaſure expended in it.—Our public aſſemblies in towns, and elſewhere, were prohibited; and every precaution taken to deprive us of ſocial pity and joint complaint—a ſtanding army, cruelly hoſtile, as well from their deep-rooted prejudices as the ſanguinary nature of their errand, ſupported at our expence, was employed to proſtrate us before each haughty miniſter who choſe to inſult and plunder us.—Where then was the dignity of man? and where, had they ſucceeded, could the heaven-born idea of civil freedom been entertained? even a ſigh for the ſweets of liberty would have been treaſon!—How reverſe of this is our now happy ſituation? ſubjected to no laws, but ſuch as are made by a legiſlature of our own election, agreeably to the form of government eſtabliſhed by our own conſent, taxed by our repreſentatives only, and controuled by no authority but what is derived from ourſelves.

While we contended for a jewel of this immenſe value, ſtill invaded on every ſide by the ſcourging arm of deſpotiſm, how ſolemnly did we appeal to that Being who ſees the inmoſt receſſes of our hearts? and how ſacredly did we pledge our lives and fortunes to each other, and to our Congreſs, in the glorious conteſt?—And ſhall we now accomplith the wiſhes and fulfil the predictions of our enemies, in meanly receding from all our engagements?

Is it poſſible that any conſiderate man ſhould ſuppoſe that we, as a people, ought to, or can be exempted from the calamities incident to human life? Were we not at all times aware that there is no medium between a ſtate of government and a ſtate of nature? and that the latter is at all times a ſtate of warfare, where no man has a property in even the produce of his own labour, but only a precarious poſſeſſion, maintained by force? Or did any among us vainly believe that we could enjoy the bleſſings of government without an expence attending it? As well might they expect that the earth would yield her fruits without tillage, and that man could ſubſiſt without labour and pain.—The unalterable laws of nature have fixed it, that the path to political, public or private happineſs is directed alone through induſtry and frugality; and we ſurely ought to ſubmit to the common lot of humanity without repining, becauſe it is one of the firſt dictates of religion.

We are very ſenſible that the habits of luxury contracted in the late war, from the vaſt quantity of goods imported, and the too great profuſion of money, together with receiving and giving unlimited credit, have involved many families in diſtreſs, and have much diminiſhed our abilities for paying thoſe juſt debts, contracted in the day of our trouble, as the price of our freedom:—but ſhall we, becauſe many of us are now diſtreſſed, entail ruin upon our poſterity! let us lay aſide the deſtructive faſhions and expenſive ſuperfluities of the day; be ſober, temperate and induſtrious; and, by the bleſſings of propitious heaven, we ſhall ſoon retrieve our circumſtances, and eſtabliſh our public credit.

When we conſider the nature of the preſent commotions, it preſents to us the very important queſtion, whether we ſhall exiſt as a nation upon the earth? for we are by no means ignorant that Congreſs by our conſent, and to our inexpreſſible joy and ſatisfaction, procured from our allies a loan of ſpecie, the intereſt whereof we are obliged annually to diſcharge.—The ſhutting up of the courts of juſtice, preventing the due execution of the laws, and arreſting the collection of public taxes, annihilates our government, and loudly proclaims to our foreign creditors, their total inſecurity. Should their lenity and patience, ſupported by a hope of our reclaiming ourſelves, and correcting our error, keep their ſword in the ſheath, yet we may have an enemy who will embrace the unlucky moment, ſhould there ever be one when he finds us without reſources, without credit, and without an ally, and deeply revenge himſelf for the diſgrace his arms have ſuſtained. Were there any among us ſo depraved as to wiſh to return to the domination of Great-Britain, they may eaſily perceive that the nations of Europe would never permit ſuch an union of power, but divide us amongſt them. Our feelings would indeed, upon ſuch an occaſion, point us to a remedy, perhaps leſs diſgraceful, the eſtabliſhment of a domeſtic inſtead of a foreign deſpotiſm; ſupported by a ſtanding army, maintained by our own toil, to awe us into ſuch ſubmiſſion that every idea of freedom ſhall be finally and totally eradicated.

When we have ſeen the patriot cloſe his eyes in death, with gratitude and rapture committing his poſterity to the arms of liberty, ſhall we ſee others agonizing in their laſt moments at yielding their children to the chains of vaſſalage? Forbid it, that ſpirit of freedom, which has ſo long animated and enlightened America! Forbid it, Heaven.

Finding that his Excellency the Governor, purſuant to the duties of his office, by advice of Council, has called upon all the good people of the ſtate to lend their aid in preventing the impending ruin, we can do no leſs than recognize anew our ſolemn engagements to ſupport the government we have ſo lately and deliberately eſtabliſhed; and we feel ourſelves aſſured, that our numerous, well affected fellow citizens, in every town, will ſhew their readineſs to join in an effort ſo clearly pointed out, as the firſt duty in ſociety.

convinced that the present disturbances from British emissaries, residing among us, is very wish is for our overthrow and ruin from the machinations of wicked and designing men, who seek their own emolument in the destruction of their country; or by combination of both. But though many of our fellow citizens are deceived by them, and have been led into a dangerous mistake, yet we trust that they will, on reflection, spurn from their councils such base and infamous men; and that a proper discrimination will be made between those who are, and those who are not, for the support of a government no less necessary to our happiness than to the security of the lives, liberties and properties of the people.

Fellow citizens, we now intreat you, by the regard you bear to friendship and affection—by the sacred compact which holds us in one society—by the blood of our brethren shed to obtain our liberties—by the tender regard we feel for our offspring, claiming freedom from our fathers for their inheritance by the grant of heaven, to use your endeavours that redress of grievances may be fought for in a constitutional and legal way only:—And that we pledge ourselves to join our exertions with yours, in the same way, to obtain redress for any such as do exist.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Establishment of the Worship of the DEITY essential to National Happiness.

Neque boni mores, non bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS

BY AN AMERICAN.

LETTER III.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

My heart is warmed with lively gratitude to the author of my existence, that it hath pleased him to give me existence, in this enlightened period of the world, and in this part of it rather than another; where the events of an age have been crouded into a few years; and where the advantages for happiness put into our hands are unparalleled from the rest of the human race. From this eminence we may look down the distant gloom of time, and see myriards of future generations happy or miserable according to our improvement of present opportunities.

Legislatures are now erecting an august edifice of freedom, which may every material be useful or ornamental. In this house, family government is to be sustained securely and flourish only on the basis of family religion. Some liberal establishment to uphold a sense of religion and the worship of a future Deity, seems wanting.

Among the advantages which religion derives to civil government, and to diffuse extensive harmony and happiness throughout these states, it becomes to propose, a general and equitable support collected from all the rateable members of society, for the support of the public teachers of religion, of all denominations, without preference. Some of the states of Germany and of the United Netherlands, it is said, support their churches in this mode. Their clergy do not receive a stipend from the public treasury. Let a small poll tax be added to a tax of a specific sum in the pound, and levied on all the subjects of taxation, and collected with the public taxes and paid over to the public teachers of religion of the several denominations, in a proportion to the number of polls or families, belonging to each respective society, or according to their estates.

Many advantages, I conceive, would arise to the community, as well as evils prevented, by this mode. The support of a public institution would be suitably born. If it is necessary to the happiness, then ought all the members of the state to contribute towards its support. And this method would be equitable and expeditious. In some of the states there are perhaps one third or one half of the inhabitants who do not pay anything towards the support of public worship. The proportion of these being raised, would be a relief to those societies on whom the burden of religion now falls. The salaries of ministers being at a medium about the same in all places; those places which support public worship by a rate or contribution, would have little to pay, by one third or one half, because it would draw a revenue from such as are now not contributing towards it.

Persons living at the distance of 20 or 30 miles from public worship, yet ought to pay to the support of an institution which secures my property and life, by diffusing among my fellow citizens a sense of moral obligation, on the same principle on which I contribute to the support of government, because both are necessary to the happiness of society of which I am a member.

The support of the public teachers of religion would tend greatly to promote the peace of societies;—it would extinguish the ardor of the founder of new delusions and their weak or mercenary abettors;—it would prevent separations except upon the purest principles; the powerful motive of saving a penny or two in the pound, would cease to operate, because their tax would continue still the same go where they will. Thus the interest and happiness of the people would be greatly advanced.

It was a remark, made by our illustrious chief at the close of the late war, 'that a retrospect of the scenes through which we had passed, from the commencement to the conclusion of the war, was sufficient to convince infidelity itself, of the existence of a supreme governing providence.' What returns more acceptable than those of gratitude, can we render to God, who hath given us birth and existence, as a nation, and that by providing for the public worship of him, who hath said of nations as well as of individuals, 'they who honour me, I will honour.'

The assembly of Maryland have given a most worthy example, and done themselves lasting honour, by their resolutions on this subject. You have seen them; but suffer me to repeat them, and close this letter.

In Assembly, Jan. 18, 1785.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that the happiness of the people, and the good order and preservation of civil government, depend upon morality, religion and piety; and that these cannot be generally diffused through a community but by the public worship of Almighty God.

Resolved, That it is highly necessary and the indispensable duty of the legislature of the state, to discourage vice and immorality, to enact a law for the support and encouragement of the christian religion, as the best means of manifesting our gratitude to God for his past mercies and deliverances, and procuring his blessing and favour upon all our future endeavours for the honour, prosperity and happiness of this country.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this house, agreeably to the constitution and form of government, that it is proper for the General Assembly to lay a general and equal tax on all the citizens of this state of all denominations of christians (as far as their present circumstances will permit) for the support of the ministers of the Gospel of all societies of christians within this state, without any preference or discrimination.

By order.

W. HARWOOD, Clerk.

I am, &c.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 8.

Extract of a letter dated Cadiz, July 11, to a gentleman in this city.

"We have no news in this quarter, except that of Peace being made by the American Ambassador, with the Emperor of Morocco; and it is reported, that he has given them an exclusive trade to and from M——. The above account I read in a letter from a respectable house in Gibraltar, to the British consul here."

NEW-YORK, Sept. 12.

Extract of a letter from Pittsburgh, August 19.

"It would seem that the passion of love, and its offspring jealousy (a fair parent to have so dark a child) is not so violent among the savages of North America as amongst men in a cultivated state of society. The reason may be, 1st. The necessity of constant attention to procure food; for love, says Aristotle, is the offspring of an idle brain. 2dly. The mode of life, hard, coarse, rough, so that the nerves are less fine, elastic and sensible. 3dly. The idea of contempt by others affixed to him who has suffered by the infidelity of a woman, is arbitrary and unreasonable, and may not be known in the more natural state of man. 4thly. The laws and customs amongst them are not confined to the marriage of one woman only, nor so rigidly prohibiting marriage, so that the affections are not so much engaged to one object.

"However, after all, the fact may be disputed. An instance has been related to us by a trader, and we have seen the squaw in Pittsburgh, whose husband was so passionately enamoured of her, that sitting one day opposite to her in his wigwam, gazing on her supposed beauty, he suddenly started up, and seizing her by the nose with his teeth, while she without opposition or remonstrance, permitted it, bit it off. On her desiring afterwards to know the cause of this treatment, he told her that he thought her so beautiful that he was apprehensive some others might also love her; but that now, though he could still love her as much as before, yet others might not. At the same time acknowleging that he never had the least cause of jealousy from any part of her behaviour.

"An instance happened about two weeks ago of the height of this passion, where it is supposed there was some reason. An Indian, well known in this town to the traders, was jealous of his wife, and declared to his tribe, that he could not support life, and accordingly on the western bank of the Alleghany, in the bottom opposite the town of Pittsburgh, shot himself dead. This must evince great strength and love, which, as Shakespear says,

"Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt."

For according to Butler in his Hudibras,

"He that hangs or beats out's brains,
"The Devil's in him if he feigns."

"In short, as all the other passions are equally strong in a savage, or more so than with us, why not those of love and jealousy also? We could wish to see some philosopher take up the subject."

ALBANY, September 7.

We learn from Schoharie, that the Rev. Mr. Sommer, Lutheran minister, in the 77th year of his age, received his sight in a miraculous manner, after he had been totally deprived of it about 17 years. On getting awake in the morning, and perceiving some glimmer of light through the window shutters, he desired his wife to open them, in order to convince himself, by trying this renewed sense, when, at the same instant advancing towards the window, now opening, he not only saw full day-light, but the church, which stands opposite his dwelling-house. This spread admiration and joy through the house and neighbourhood. He was able to name those who came to participate of his joy; and the Sabbath following, to the astonishment of the congregation, went without his usual guide to church, and prayed, with heartfelt gratitude, the Creator, who alone is able to do such wonderful works.

BOSTON, September 14.

Particulars of the Proceedings at Concord.

On Monday last about 100 men, with arms, of various sorts, assembled at Concord, under the direction of one Shartuck, of Groton, and one Smith, of Shirley. They made with posts and boards shelters, under which they slept.—On Tuesday they took possession of the grounds opposite the Court-house, and kept a number of guards marching backward and forward, from time to time they formed to the Court-house, to prevent any persons, other than their own friends and comrader, approaching it. A few who by mistake infringed on the ground thus set apart, were treated with great harshness, and there were several instances of thrusts of bayonets being wantonly made at men and horses, when on their way to quit to them what they required exclusively to occupy.—They had procured several barrels of rum, which were on tap at convenient places near them, and several loads of hay for the accommodation of their parties at a distance, expected in to their aid. About two o'clock in the afternoon, a man acting as a serjeant, with two drums and fifes, went some distance, and in about half an hour returned at the head of about 90 men, from the counties of Hampshire and Worcester, under the leading of one Wheeler, of Hubbardston, and Converse of Hardwick, who joined the other, which had since Monday insensibly increased to about 200. A convention from about 26 towns, in consequence of a circular letter from Concord, were sitting in the meeting-house, and a communication was opened between them and the armed body, who first communicated their resolutions to the convention, with respect to public business, and from them intelligence was conveyed to the court.

The armed body becoming impatient at the long time taken by the Justices in deliberating what conduct to pursue, sent a detachment, form'd by part of the Hampshire and Worcester insurgents, on horse-back, and part by their own footmen, who marched to and fro' by the tavern where the Justices were assembled, and finally halted and faced about to the house in a menacing manner. The Justices sent them word, that neither Court would be attempted to be opened, as an armed force rendered it impossible, and the party marched off to the main body. Afterwards they came back to demand it in writing, under the hands of the Courts who referred them to their Clerk, who declined doing any thing in the matter, as he was a recording officer, and had no orders therefore from the Court. The Justices in the mean while having departed, the insurgents made violent complaints on being disappointed in this last object, and dispersed late on Tuesday night.

The body was computed at about 300, and contained about 50 lads from 16 to 20 years of age, and excepting some of the lads, and about 8 or ten of the party of Worcester and Hampshire, who were of tolerable appearance, were the most despicable wretches that could be collected in the Commonwealth. The liquor circulated very briskly, and it was supposed (and charitable enough too) that by five o'clock, three quarters of the whole were inebriated, and not only then, but when they were sober, the major part seemed to be very indifferent as to their errand, and ready to quit it if desired—they were kept together by about six men, viz. Shattuck, Smith, Wheeler, Gale, Morris and Converse, and could they have been arrested, beyond a doubt the party would have cheerfully retired in peace to their own homes. They had very few cartridge boxes, about half the guns furnished with bayonets, about 220 guns, and the other arms were swords, clubs, &c. Almost all the musquets were rendered useless by the rain, and the men by New-England rum, so that probably, if occasion required, not above 30 or 40 men would have been procured capable of opposing any governmental measures.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of the greatest veracity, at Concord, dated

"Tuesday 6 o'clock, P. M.

"I arrived in Concord about ten o'clock this morning, and found about 70 men, assembled at the Court-house, under arms, and as it was very rainy, I suppose a number had taken shelter in the neighbouring houses; was informed that a large and very respectable body, consisting of committees from about 26 or 27 towns in this county, had assembled at Brown's tavern, in Concord, and then adjourned to the meeting-house, where they chose a committee to confer with the insurgents, to know of them their complaints and what they then wanted. The committee met them, and they immediately presented them with a paper, a copy of which is as follows:

"To the honourable JUSTICES of the Court of
"General Sessions of the Peace and Court of
"Common Pleas, for the county of Middlesex, &c.

"The voice of the people of this county is, that the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Court of Common Pleas, shall not enter this Court-house, until such times as the people shall have redress of a number of grievances they labour under at present, which will be set forth in a petition or remonstrance to the next General Court.

"J. SHATTUCK.

"Concord, Sept. 12, 1786."

This was about 12 or 1 o'clock at noon, and seems was written previous to the committee's meeting them; and afterwards, viz. about half after 3 o'clock P. M. Job Shattuck expressed himself in the following manner, and signed it on the back of the above mentioned paper.

"Half past 3 o'clock.

"Since writing the within it is agreed, that the Court of Sessions may open, and adjourn to the last Tuesday of November next without going to the Court-house.

"JOB SHATTUCK."

The number of insurgents have been increasing the whole day. About three o'clock a company from Worcester, of about 90 men, on horseback, chief of them armed, drums beating, &c. marched with solemn pace by Jone's tavern, where the Court were at dinner, in order to join the mob on the green before the Court-house; but the commander of the company from Worceiter county hearing one Nathan Smith, of Shirley (a person out-lawed, who seemed a leader among the Middlesex insugents) declare aloud, that every person who did not follow his drum, and join the Regulators in two hours, should be drove out of town at the point of the bayonet, return he Court, Town-Committee or who else, which he did with high oaths and imprecations, and whoever should be left, would be the monuments of God's sparing mercy, &c. &c. upon which the Worcester leader stoped, and told Smith, that he would never join him until he recalled them words, &c. which he afterwards did, and united force; and at this time are about 150 or 300 strong. Have just marched over to the tavern themselves to the Court, and returned to the green again."

Another account, received from a person who was present, says, "About 5 o'clock on Monday, a party of rioters from Groton, Pepperell and Townsend, took possession of the Court-house, where they remained till Tuesday at 1 o'clock, when they were joined by a number of men from Worcester county, on horses, who asserted that no Court should be opened there and no action entered by the Clerk. The company from Worcester, were commanded by Wheeler and Converse; those from Grotton, &c. by Robinson, Shattuck and a Nathan Smith, from Shirley. After the conjunction of both parties, they paraded round Concord common and through the streets for the purpose of intimidating the friends to government. Smith, before the arrival of the Worcester party, beat round for volunteers, crying with an audable voice, "All who are friends to their country, and enemies to tyranny, are desired to follow me; those who are not, may stand two hours longer the monuments of God's sparing mercy, but if they shall not before that time disperse, shall be put to death." Their main object is the total subversion of the constitution, and the equal distribution of all property. The Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, conducted themselves with firmness, but did not attempt to open the court.

The rioters are the most despicable set of rascals that ever disgraced any county. So well disciplined men, could have driven the whole troop."

By a gentleman from Taunton, who left that place last Tuesday afternoon, we learn, that on Monday morning, General Cobb, Col. Hasket, with a party of men, took possession of the court-house in that town, in order to protect the Justices of the court, which were by law to set there that day, from insult—That the courts were opened in the usual manner—That they sat about half an hour, and then adjourned without day—that the militia under arms amounted to 300, with one field-piece—that the mob, consisting chiefly of young men, boys, &c. 400 in number,—that the courts were not influenced in their adjournment, by any of the threats of the insurgents, but merely from a desire of preventing any coercive measures, until the complaints of the people are inquired into, by proper authority;—and that they had not dispersed when he came away.

SEPTEMBER 19.

Extract of a letter from a merchant in Sweden, to his friend in Boston, dated July 12, 1786.

"I am sorry to inform you, that some late impolitic regulations, adopted by our government, against your flag, may tend to operate against the extension of our future connections—regulations made at the request of a certain ambitious European power, which deprived you of the valuable privilege you have had, since the conclusion of the war, of entering your products in your own bottoms for home consumption or exportation, as the markets may dictate. All goods entered here now, by your shipping, are subjected to an additional duty of forty per cent. which amounts to a total prohibition, as no commodity can bear it.

"You have, however, free access to our Porto Franco, Marstrand, from whence goods can be afterwards carried, in Swedish bottoms to any port in the kingdom, at three and half or four per cent. of extra charges. If I may presume to advise, the wisdom of your government has been, and still is, deficient in political representation at foreign courts, whose dispositions to cramp your trade are not equivocal;—of this, the regulations mentioned above are decisive instances."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the western region to his friend in this town, dated August 8, 1786, on the Ohio river.

"Had I time and leisure, I would detail to you the country I have passed through, which, I assure you, is more than commonly fine, for from nature, 'tis most extravagantly so. I have been 200 miles down the Ohio, and up the Muskingam, with a party of Delaware Indians, and have seen such situations as, with a few select friends, would constitute a perfect paridise. The air and climate are remarkably fine. In all last winter, the mercury was never below 14°, though with us, if you recollect, it was 14 below the cypher; and since I have been here, I have never found it higher than 80°, and 'tis generally 76 in the shade, at two o'clock. My health is perfectly established; which I should attribute to fatigue or exercise, did I not see the people of this country, who are the most indolent in the world, enjoying very great health; men, women and children, and of the latter every little low but you come across is full enough for swarming."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Portland, Casco Bay, dated Sept. 7, 1786.

"This day the great question, respecting a separate government, was agitated in the Convention for the purpose of considering the grievances subsisting in the three Eastern counties.—It was voted, that the grievances were such as could not be removed in their present connection with Massachusetts:—and upon a close of the debates, which took place upon a report of their committee for draughting a petition to the General Court, for their consent to our separation, there appeared to be eighteen in favour of it, and five against it. One of them voted neither way. The five who opposed it were the Portland members.

"This convention was composed of delegates from twenty-two towns, viz. from the county of York, 2; Cumberland 8; Lincoln 11.

"The petition is to be laid before the town, with an address from the Convention, which a committee is appointed to prepare. The Convention stands adjourned till to-morrow."

It is asserted that several hundred British troops have lately marched from Montreal and St. John's, for the purpose of reinforcing their posts within the territory ceded by the treaty of peace to the United States.

Sept. 23. Accounts from New-York, dated Saturday evening last, report—"By the Packet which arrived this afternoon from England, we have accounts, that a woman, while presenting a petition to the King, attempted stabbing him. The dagger went through his clothes, and slightly entered the skin."

One of the Ringleaders of the insurgents, at Worcester, we are told, is now sitting on the Grand Jury of Inquest of that county.

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 27.

The Rhode-Island papers are full of advertisements of Justices of the Court, certifying the lodgment in their hands, of *paper money*, for the satisfying of bonds, mortgages, notes, &c. the holders of which not chusing to accept this contemptible trash, as payment thereof.—That, "*Righteousness exalteth a people*," we believe is rather doubted in that state.

It is said, that the taxable inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania, have increased one fifth part since the year 1779. This is discovered by comparing the returns of 1779 and those of 1786.

ANECDOTES.

A Wag the other day, meeting a man from the county of Hampshire, says to him, "Well friend, I find your convention and the d-v-l think alike in some things,"—How so? says the other. "Why (says he) your convention has voted, that the Court of General Session of the Peace is a grievance. The d-v-l thinks so too, because that Court punishes thieves, whores, drunkards, liars, breakers of the peace, and profane swearers, who are his favourite children."

AT a late trial, a notorious offender being arraigned at the bar plead guilty of the indictment, on which the Judge ordered the Jury to bring in their verdict, guilty by confession. The jury withdrew, and in a few minutes returned, and to the surprize of the whole court, returned him *not guilty*. 'Not guilty,' exclaimed the Judge, 'what reasons can you give for so extraordinary a verdict, considering the prisoners confession?' 'Reasons, may it please your honour,' answered the foreman, 'we have sufficient—we all know the prisoner to be the greatest liar on earth, and your Honour knows a liar is never to be believed.'

LOST,

ON the 13th instant, between Capt. Cole's tavern in Chesterfield and Northampton, a pair of SADDLE-BAGS, almost new, containing two holland Shirts, one pair black russel Breeches, one white silk Vest, one pair mixt cotton Stockings, one pair hemp Stockings, one pair Shoes, two pair Buckles; one silver and the other plated, and sundry other articles. Whoever has found said Saddle-Bags and articles, and will deliver them to Capt. Cole in Chesterfield, or Mr. Elisha Lyman in Northampton, shall be handsomely rewarded.

JOHN BAGGS.

Sept. 20, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Cash or any of the above Books, given for Rags and old Fish Net.

** WANTED, as an Apprentice to the Printing business, a small active Lad, about 14 years of age.

BOSTON, September 9.

Proceedings of the MOB at Worcester.

We are happy in having it in our power of presenting to the public, an exact and accurate account of the whole transaction which we have in letters from a respectable gentleman there, to his correspondent in this town.

"THURSDAY EVENING,

"KNOWING you would be anxious to hear of the transactions here, I will now endeavour to give you the particulars. A Captain Wheeler, of Hubbardston, appears to be the commander of the mob, though he will not own it; one Benjamin Convers, is his Lieutenant: The other principal officers are, a Capt. Hazletine of Hardwick, and a Captain Smith. Early in the morning I went among them, to get acquaintance with their commanders, and see what was going on: I went through the ranks, and think there were not more than one hundred under arms, and about as many with sticks, who were assembled on the Court-house hill. The Court came out of Mr. Allen's, proceeded to the Court-house, and went through the body, who opened to the right and left, without moleſtation, until they arrived at the foot of the Court-house ſteps, where four or five men were placed with arms, and a man before them with a drawn ſword. The Sheriff was ordered by Judge Ward to open the Court-houſe; but was oppoſed; however, Mr. Bridge (Crier of the court) got throughthem, and opened the door. Judge Ward followed cloſe on to the Sheriff; the centuries drew back, and preſented their fixed bayonets at the breaſt and ſides of Judge Ward; the undaunted courage which the Judge here diſcovered, was to the admiration of every one preſent; he turned to the commanding officer, Wheeler, and aſked who commanded theſe people; and on Wheeler's not anſwering, he repeated it again; at laſt Wheeler anſwered, but did not own the command. He told them he would ſpeak to the grievances they complained of, in their paper they ſent to the Court. A Capt. Smith told him, that what he had to ſay, he muſt reduce to writing, but this he would not do; but if they would take away their bayonets, and let him ſtand on ſome eminence, where he might be ſeen and heard by all the people, he would ſpeak, and not otherwiſe; that he did not value their bayonets; that they might plunge them into his heart, and ſtamping, told them, he was determined to do his duty; and that when oppoſed to it, his life was but of little conſequence. Some of the officers deſired Judge Ward to ſtep back, three or four ſteps, and the guard preſſed upon him ſo, that his clothes were dented in by their bayonets, but he would not, nor did he move one ſingle inch. Finally the guns were ordered up, and then the Judge got upon the ſteps, and told them that it was not in the power of the Court to adjourn without day; that it was contrary to the law, and that the ſafety of the people depended on their cloſely adhering to the laws. He anſwered all the reports he had heard, and proved the fallacy of them. He ſpoke near two hours; during his ſpeech, he was repeatedly aſked to adjourn the Court without day, as in Hampſhire county; but he would give no anſwers to any queſtion, unleſs the interrogators would tell him their names. Capt. Smith ſaid, that they were determined not to leave the gound until they had ſatisfaction,; Judge Baker then told them, the Court muſt take their meaſures, and they might take their own. Judge Ward, turning to Wheeler, told him that he had better take his men away; that they were waging war, which was treaſon; and that the conſequence would be (here he made a ſhort pauſe, and then added in a ſtrong voice) the Gallows. Soon after he moved to go off, and Convers ordered the men under arms to open to the right and left, and the Court went to the United States Arms Tavern, where they opened the Court and adjourned until to-morrow ten o'clock. The mobility ſent ſeveral committies to the Court this afternoon, to treat with them; and the Court agreed that no civil action ſhould be tried only when both parties agreed; the other actions, excepting criminal ones, ſhould be continued to December term. The officers were all ſatisfied with this, but when they made report to their men, they would not agree to it; ſo that the matter reſts for to-night, they guarding the Court-houſe all night."

"WEDNESDAY NOON.

"I have only time to tell you, that this morning, a party from Holden and Ward came in to the aſſiſtance of the mob; when they got embodied, they conſiſted of about 170 men armed; and about the ſame number with ſticks. The Court finding, after ſending to the ſeveral regiments, that they could place no dependence upon ſupport from the militia, adjourned the Court of Common Pleas without day; the mob deſired to have it in writing, which was complied with — This not proving ſatisfactory, the Court of Seſſions was likewiſe adjourned *ſine die*, and the mal-contents have retired to their ſeveral homes."

PITTSBURGH, Auguſt 19.

Extract of a letter from an officer ſtationed at the Miami, to a gentleman at Muſkingum.

My good Friend,

"Our ſituation is ſo remote from the inhabited world, that we are totally deſtitute of materials to fill up a letter; my preſent is only a letter of friendſhip, together with an account of an adventure that happened to me a few days ago. One morning very early I left the garriſon with my fuſil and a couple of fiſhing lines, one of which was exceedingly ſtrong. I proceeded near twenty miles on the north ſide of the Ohio river, amuſing myſelf killing ſquirrels, a few pigeons, and admiring the works of nature: about ſun down I arrived on the margin of the river, and obſerving an eddy a little below me, which, by its depth and promiſing appearance, invited me to throw in my lines; being there for ſome time without ſucceſs, I reſolved to prepare my bed for the night, which conſiſted of pea-vine and large oak leaves; I alſo built me a ſmall fire, calculated to keep off the muſkitoes, who are generally very troubleſome in the evening, and to light my pipe, for you know I am very fond of ſmoaking; all this being done, I concluded that I would tie my lines juſt above my ancle, and indulge myſelf on one of the beſt beds that could be procured in my neighbourhood. Previous to the making my bed, I examined the ground, and found that near the edge of the bank was the ſmootheſt place; I was at the ſame time a little apprehenſive of my choice, for the bank was near twenty feet perpendicular, and was of opinion, that if I ſhould by accident fall down it, it certainly would awake me; but you know, my friend, that we ſoldiers don't mind trifles. I fell aſleep, and had not laid there above two hours, before I received a violent pull, which brought me on my bottom very ſoon, as you may ſuppoſe, but before I had time to get upon my legs, I was down the bank, and would have been dragged into the river, if, by good fortune, I had not been ſtopped by two middling large rocks, lying about ſix inches from each other, my lines paſſing between the two rocks, brought my poſteriors plumb againſt them, which ſtroke diſjointed all the bones in my body, but ſecured my life. You may judge, my friend, of my ſituation, not a ſoul to help me in my diſtreſs; however, I muſtered ſufficient courage to remain in my poſition, indeed I could not help myſelf, for my leg projecting to the other ſide of the rocks, rendered me unable to extricate myſelf. I ſuffered a moſt excruciating pain the whole night, wiſhing all the time my lines in the poſſeſſion of the merchant from whom I bought them in Philadelphia; at laſt, about four o'clock in the morning, finding no reſiſtance on the morning of my leg, I drew it gently, and ſtood ready to pull the lines, which I did with expedition; then finding myſelf diſengaged, I took the line in my hand, and a half an hour of extreme labour, I brought on ſhore a catfiſh meaſuring twelve feet long, his eyes were two feet apart, and I judge his mouth muſt have been thirteen inches in diameter; his ſize was monſtrous, and ſurpaſſed every thing I ever heard of: it is true I had often heard of the catfiſh of the Ohio, but never of the dimenſions that this was. My curioſity led me to open him, and to my great aſtoniſhment found the thigh and leg of a man, which at the firſt ſight appeared to me to reſemble that of an officer, the leg had a boot on: I alſo found one ſide of a regimental blue coat with buff lapells; this ſurpriſed me moſt, for I knew that the officers of the American army had no ſuch coats: all theſe circumſtances, raiſed my curioſity and induced me to make farther ſearch. I made a ſecond inciſion into his belly, and there found a ſquare canteen covered with leather, which I broke open, and found two bottles full of liquor, one of sherry wine, and the other of excellent ſpirits, with a number of other things; you may better conceive my feelings when you conſider the circumſtances relative to this ſcene, than I can expreſs them. I could mention a number of other things, but as the ſtory carries already a complexion of improbabilities, I will ſtop here; and believe me, that in my opinion, the greateſt misfortune a man can experience on this river is to fall from a ſteep bank into the hands of ſuch an unmerciful creature, and I hope, my friend, that this will be a ſufficient caution to all thoſe who are fond of fiſhing, and I ſincerely wiſh that it may never be your lot."

To be Sold or Exchanged for

FLAX-SEED,

A large quantity of

Coarſe SALT,

At the Store of SOLOMON ALLEN, oppoſite the Meeting-Houſe, in Northampton, on the beſt terms.

Sept. 13, 1786.

WE the ſubſcribers being appointed Commiſſioners by the Hon. Eleazer Porter, Eſq. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampſhire, to receive and examine the claims of the ſeveral creditors to the eſtate of JOHN BAGLEY, late of Williamsburgh, in ſaid county, deceaſed, ſaid eſtate being repreſented inſolvent by the Executrix; We therefore give public notice, that we ſhall attend the buſineſs of our commiſſion at the dwelling-houſe of Lieut. Joſhua Thayer, of Williamsburgh, on the firſt Tueſdays in November and December next, at nine o'clock A.M. No accounts allowed unleſs properly avouched.

ASA LUDDEN,
N. CLEAVELAND, jun. } Commiſſioners.
EPHRAIM FISHER

Williamsburgh, Auguſt 27, 1786.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

NEW-YORK, Sept. 21.

The Speedy Packet, Capt. D'Auvergne, arrived here the beginning of this week. This veſſel has brought papers to the 5th of Auguſt, which contain nothing material except the following:

ROYAL ASSASSINATION.

The following are the authentic particulars of the extraordinary attempt of Margaret Nicholſon on the life of King George the Third, on the 2d. of Auguſt. From a London paper of Auguſt 5.

HIS majeſty was ſtepping out of his poſt chariot at the garden entrance of St. Jame's, near Malborough-Wall, when the attack was made upon his life. The woman by whom the deſperate attempt was made, had been obſerved waiting the King's arrival for ſome time, and obvious to the appearance of the carriage, took her ſituation between two gentlewomen, who were unknown to her, and with whom ſhe entered in to a ſlight converſation. On the carriage approaching ſhe begged, with ſome earneſtneſs, that they would not impede her in an attempt to deliver a memoral to his majeſty. As the door of the carriage was opened, and the king was in the act of lighting, ſhe ſtarted forward and held a paper towards his majeſty, which he received with gracious condeſcention. At the ſame inſtant, a knife which ſhe held in her hand, and which was concealed under the memorial, was directed againſt the breaſt of the king; the ſtroke was happily avoided by his Majeſty's bowing as he took the paper; ſhe made a ſecond ſtroke, but the attendant yeoman, ſeeing her drift, ruſhed forward and caught her arm; at the ſame inſtant Toplin, the king's footman, ſeized the knife. The ſovereign, with amazing temper and fortitude, exclaimed that inſtant, "I have received no injury! Do not hurt the woman; the poor creature appears inſane!"

His majeſty, when he entered the royal apartments, opened the paper, in which appeared written, "To the King's moſt excellent majeſty," the uſual heads to the petitions, but nothing more.

Upon the woman's being ſecured, Mr. Pitt, lord Carmathen, lord Sidney, earl of Saliſbury, the maſter of the rolls, and the attorney-general, were convened in the council chamber, where they proceeded to examine her. Her name is Margaret Nicholſon, and ſhe appears to have lived formerly in lord Coventry's family, as an attendant to ſome of his lordſhip's daughters, but ſince that time ſhe has exiſted as ſempſtreſs, in the milinary and mantau branches.

About ſix years ago ſhe lived with Miſs Price of Argyle-Buildings, whoſe ſervice ſhe quitted on a pretence that ſhe had been left a capital fortune. She afterwards lived with Mr. Watſon in New-Bond-ſtreet, whom ſhe frequently preſſed to preſent petitions in her behalf to his majeſty; ſaying continually, ſhe had a large claim againſt government. For the laſt three years of her life, ſhe lodged at the houſe of Mr. Fifk, a ſtationer, at the corner of Mary-le-Bone lane, near Portman-ſquare.

She did not appear in the leaſt embarraſſed before the council, anſwered ſome queſtions with conſiſtence, and others incoherently. Her object, ſhe ſaid, was to obtain the prayer of her petition by terrifying the king; which ſhe fancied the ſight of the knife would have effected. Upon its being obſerved, that the paper ſhe preſented contained no writing, ſhe replied, the king knew what ſhe wanted, as ſhe had often preſented petitions; which papers, it ſeems, on enquiry, appeared to have been delivered; but they abounded in the moſt glaring inconſiſtencies, and were diſregarded at the time.

At intervals ſhe talked of a "claim on government" "law ſuit" "juſt cauſe," and ſuch like ſentences; and in anſwer to ſome of the interrogatories the council propoſed, ſaid ſhe ſhould avow the motives of her conduct before thoſe who had a right to queſtion her; but that there ſhe ſhould ſay nothing. After theſe declarations, ſhe ſometimes remained ſilent for a time, and would not reply.

In order that every poſſible reſearch ſhould be made, Lord Sydney ſent to ſeveral of the Weſtminſter magiſtrates, among whom were, Meſſieurs Addington, Reid, Hyde and Bound. Some of theſe gentlemen, with proper aſſiſtants, proceeded to the woman's apartments; but nothing more could be traced than ſcraps of papers, in which the names of lord Mansfield and other perſons of conſequence appeared, with ſome diſjointed writings, mentioning effects, and what the denominated "claſſes," a term ſhe did not ſeem to underſtand; all of which denoted a diſordered ſtate of mind.

A phyſician experienced in caſes of inſanity, belonging to Bethlehem hoſpital, attended to give his opinion. The woman anſwered ſome of his enquiries collectedly; but the major part ſo confuſedly, as occaſioned him to pronounce her 'deranged in her faculties.'

After ſhe had been queſtioned by the phyſician, ſhe appeared much convulſed, and ſeemed as if ſhe was making an effort to weep, ſaying, at the ſame time, "tears would give her relief!"

Mr. Fiſk, the perſon at whoſe houſe ſhe reſided, being examined before the council, depoſed, that ſhe always appeared a harmleſs character, and that although ſhe as frequently ſeemed in a ſtate of abſence, he never obſerved greater proofs of inſanity in her, than frequent moving her lips as if talking, and appeared agitated, although in no converſation with any perſon.

During the examination the king took his departure for Windſor; but to clear up the general anxiety this alarming attempt had occaſioned, when he came from St. James's to his carriage, his face was clothed in the moſt comforting ſmiles; he had to ſhew his unconcern, leſs attendants than is the uſual practice, and after turning over ſome papers with indifference, converſed with a gentleman who ſaluted him, and took his leave with the utmoſt compoſure.

After the examination was concluded, a ſtate of the particulars were ſent off to Windſor; and at half paſt eight laſt night the woman was committed, by order of the privy council to the cuſtody of one of the king's meſſengers, who lodged her at his houſe in Half-moon-ſtreet.

For this happy eſcape of our much loved ſovereign, all deſcriptions of the people muſt offer up their ardent congratulations and ſincere prayers.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Eſtabliſhment of the Worſhip of the DEITY, eſſential to National Happineſs.

Pluſque boni mores,
Quam bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS

BY AN AMERICAN.

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR,

TO effect the ſalutary end propoſed in theſe remarks, I ſubmit the following plan to conſideration.

Let the Aſſembly fix the annual ſalaries of the miniſters of religion, ſomewhat in the following proportion:

To every miniſter who has a congregation of not leſs than 200 families or polls } a ſalary of } per annum.
To every miniſter who has not leſs than 120 families or polls }
To every miniſter who has not leſs than 60 families or polls }

The ſalary ſhould be ſufficient for a decent and honourable ſupport. Thoſe whoſe congregations are more numerous, would be entitled to ſomewhat of a larger allowance; their pariſhioners, CATERIS PARIBUS, paying more, and their labours and avocations greater and more frequent than the paſtors of ſmaller ſocieties. Thoſe religious ſocieties in any town or pariſh, which fall ſhort of ſixty families or polls, by joining with ſome neighbouring ſociety of the ſame denomination and having a miniſter of their own to officiate among them in rotation, would be entitled to a ſalary for their teachers; the ſocieties collectively containing not leſs than ſixty families.

Let the number of the miniſters of religion of all denominations in a ſtate be aſcertained; and likewiſe the ſum requiſite for their ſupport; thoſe who are ſettled, not to have their ſalaries leſſened; but if there ſhould be any, who by the propoſed liquidation would not be entitled to a ſum from the public, equal to their preſent ſalary, their congregation to make up to them the deficiency.

Let ſocieties be authoriſed to draw for their proportion, from the time of their ſettlement of a miniſter; vacant congregations alſo to draw for all occaſional or probationary ſupplies, in the ſame proportion, according to the time in which they are thus ſupplied.

If in the ſettlement of a miniſter, the congregation chooſe to add to the aforeſaid annual grant for his encouragement and ſupport they would have full power ſo to do.

The tax for the ſupport of the public worſhip of the Deity, being annual and general would, I conceive prove a powerful ſtimulent to order and peace, —and to a ſuitable zeal in the ſettlement of religious teachers—it would prevent diſſention on the principle of ſaving a trifling ſum, at the expence of thoſe who do their proportion in this way.—It would ſave much precious time, as well as expence of committees to make contracts with miniſters with regard to ſupport.

The ſum being involved in the public tax and collected with it, would make but one tax for the ſupport of government and of religion, and conſequently leſſen the number and expence of public collectors, there would be the intire leſſening of the expence of gatherers of rates—it would have a mighty tendency to ſtop the mouths of thoſe mercinary ſouls who would rejoice to have it always in their power to prevent the ſettlement of public worſhip and order in their reſpective ſocieties—Aſſemblies would be leſs frequently called off from the weighty affair of government to compoſe pariſh contentions, fix pariſh lines and meeting-houſes—our towns not broken down and crumbled any more into little pariſhes, where people are unable to ſupport a miniſter, or he to ſubſiſt—a ſupport being leſs precarious, men of abilities and influence, as well as of virtue, would be encouraged to engage in this calling, they would devote themſelves with leſs interruption to the work of the miniſtry, not being obliged to ſpend that time in the field to get their bread, which they owe to their ſtudies. —The ſupport of a public inſtitution, from which the bleſſings of civil and ſocial life are derived, would be equally borne by the community, as it out to be, ſince all reap benefit from it, and without it, in the opinion of men of enlightened minds, whoſe opinion the experience of all ages confirms, a nation, muſt ſpeedily ruſh into barbarous ignorance, anarchy and ruin.

When ignorance ſpreads her wings over a people, their glory is departed, every thing great and virtuous, is no more—ſuch a people become the proper ſubjects for the aſpiring and ambitious to tyranize over, and rule with a rod of iron. Do we wiſh our children, wife, free and happy? Let us leave them the beſt means of inſtruction.

Chriſtianity (the profeſſed religion of theſe ſtates) needs not my feeble pen to recommend it—it has its own commendation in the breaſt of all who have afforded it the leaſt impartial attention. The deſign and effect of it is to ſoften the paſſions and regulate the tempers of mankind—to prompt every good affection and diſpoſition—to raiſe and cheriſh the ſeeds of univerſal love and compaſſion—its precepts revive a ſpirit of virtue, and give new force to the powers of reaſon and to the efforts of induſtry in the common conduct of life.

By this are found moſt forcible applications to the hopes and fears of mankind, inducing to virtuous manners, drawn from the ſource of a future ſtate of retribution, and the continual preſence and agency of the Deity. As religion inculcates good order and government, it is the ſtrength and glory of a people; the ſpring of every thing good and pleaſant; it extends its happy influence into families; it is the ſtability of towns, ſtates and nations;—the more extenſively its influence is diffuſed, the more ſecure ſhall we be from the confuſions of anarchy and the invaſions of tyranny;—it is the ſure and neceſſary guard of ſocial happineſs, of unviolated property, of civil liberty, and civil government.

National virtues are derived from religious principles; theſe ſpread themſelves in countleſs

streams through the community;—hence, good manners—civility—chaſtity—modeſty—temperance—induſtry—juſtice—mercy—benevolence—public ſpirit—order, and ſubjection to civil government.

The deeper the principles of religion are fixed in the human breaſt, the greater the ſenſe of the obligation to ſobriety—honeſty and every ſocial and moral virtue;—hence, religion is neceſſary to give life & efficacy to the arts and manufactures;—to trade, commerce and aggriculture; to open the ſprings from whence private happineſs and national greatneſs flow.

It is the influence of religion, and of chriſtianity above all other ſyſtems, which has raiſed the civilized nations of the earth from darkneſs to light, from brutes to men. In the ſavage tribes of the weſtern hemiſphere, we have a ſtriking picture of what our painted anceſtors in Europe were, before they were illuminated with the rays of divine knowledge; and without this bleſſed aid, ſuch ſhould we have been at this day; like them ſtill ignorant,

of the various ſkill,
To turn the furrow, or to guide the tool
Mechanic; or the heav'n conducted prow
Of navigation bold, that fearleſs braves
The burning line, or dares the wintry pole,
Mother ſevere of infinite delights.

THOMPSON.

I am, &c.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and upon the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addreſſed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampſhire.

NUMBER III.

My COUNTRYMEN,

THE Hatfield Convention ſay, "that their grievances are the following, viz.

1ſt. "The exiſtence of the Senate."

Ancient republics found ſeveral branches of government neceſſary. The States in the union have been of the ſame opinion. One branch was appointed to aid and upon occaſion check the other. When this balance has been deſtroyed, the government has immediately become a tyranny in the hands of one man. The freemen of this commonwealth approved the policy of having two branches of legiſlation. And the Senate was conſtituted by the harmonious voices of a ſtate convention, and the great body of the people who gave their perſonal conſent to the inſtitution. But it ſeems, that the determination of the body of the people, in whoſe hands the power lay, to be governed by the help of a Senate is a grievance, a wicked and oppreſſive meaſure. The people had no right to make ſuch a compact, though 9-10ths of them were agreed in it. And the Hatfield convention have reaſon to be grieved at the uſurpation. Certainly the freeholders will hold themſelves greatly indebted to the ſubtle penetration of theſe gentlemen, in diſcovering, that a part of the conſtitution which they once thought an eſſential mean of national ſecurity, is a grievance, and ought to be pruned off as a peſtilent branch. Sublime diſcovery! How can we fail of aſcribing to the benevolent authors what was ſaid of a famous politician ſome thouſand years ago, "THEY ARE WISER THAN ALL MEN."——But diſcovery treads upon the heals of diſcovery. They have found,

2d. "That the preſent mode of Repreſentation" is a grievance.

This is part of the compact; and the people it ſeems had no right to make it. The people unable to meet collectively, agreed to meet by their repreſentatives. The ſmall corporations were tenacious of the privilege of chooſing ſeparately: they thought it would be inconvenient and raiſe future jealouſies were they annexed to larger corporations. It was therefore agreed, that theſe ſmall corporations ſhould be particularly repreſented: and the repreſentation is equal. But the convention are grieved becauſe the people have taken it upon them to ſay how they will meet in aſſembly. If I have hit their meaning it is lucky, ſince it is couched in myſtery. But more,

3d. "The officers of government not being annually dependant on the General Court for their ſalaries. And,

4th. "All civil officers not being annually choſen by the General Aſſembly," are grievances.

That civil officers, while ſubject to impeachment and removal for maleadminiſtration, ſhould be placed in a ſtation of ſecurity and dignity above the clamours of a temporary faction, has been thought neceſſary for the public ſafety. The people of this commonwealth, in forming their compact, thought it to be a neceſſary expedient againſt violent and arbitrary meaſures. Perhaps our modern politicians will ſhew us that the people had no right to determine for themſelves, what dignity and authority to put upon their judicial and executive magiſtrates; and that it would be more ſafe and reputable to adopt a mode of adminiſtration ſimilar to that in Rhode-Iſland, where, when the fury of a ſudden madneſs ſhall dictate, they may have paper money in reams, and thoſe who refuſe the fraudulent tender may be liable to 100l. penalties, diſfranchiſement, trials, condemnations and impriſonments, by packed judges and without the encumbrance of a jury. To hold criminal proſecutions without juries, will bring on halcyon days; when an inſolent rabble of knaviſh debtors will hold the reins, and he who departeth from inequity will make himſelf their prey.——But our convention have found another grievance,

5th. "The exiſtence of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Seſſions of the Peace."

Had they ſuggeſted, that the court of ſeſſions might more conveniently and œconomically be conſtituted of the judges of the common pleas, their ſentiments would have accorded with many honeſt republicans. By the tenor of the vote and ſome ſubſequent tranſactions, it appears, that this is not the burden of the complaint. The court of common pleas have authority to compel delinquent debtors to pay their debts. The court of ſeſſions are empowered to try criminals for breaches of law; to oberawe and chaſtiſe rioters and inſurgents againſt the government. And who dare ſay in theſe times of liberty, that theſe courts are not a grievance and a breach of privilege. In aid of the good cauſe may we not add, that the Supreme Judicial Court is a grievance ſtill more intolerable? For has not that court preſumed to crop, pillory and hang men only for taking their liberty? But,

6th. "The Fee-Table as it now ſtands," is a grievance.

Whether the fees are too high or too low, the gentlemen have not been kind enough to inform us. The queſtion was not examined in convention. The diſcovery was made by intuition. We are willing to refer the matter to the legiſlature, and let them augment or deminiſh the fees as they ſhall find for the public good.

The 7th. 8th. and 10th. grievances relate to the appropriation of the impoſt and exciſe; the grants to public officers, and the preſent mode of paying governmental ſecurities. If indulged, ſhall give the public a ſeparate number upon thoſe complaints, and I believe it will not be difficult to make it appear probable, that the clamours raiſed againſt government on thoſe accounts are the mere progeny of ignorance in ſome; the ebullitions of fraud in others, and the exertion of diſaffection to American independence in thoſe who ſet up the cry. The convention ſay,

9th. "The ſupplementary aid" is a grievance.

But why they are grieved at the ſupplementary aid to Congreſs, I cannot comprehend; unleſs they avow themſelves grieved with the fair, honeſt and eſſential endeavours of the legiſlature to pay our debts and ſave a ſinking nation from irretrievable ruin. Do the convention wiſh for a diſſolution of the continental union? Or do they hope for perſonal advantage and influence in ſeaſons of general convulſion? The attack upon the ſupplementary aid is to be viewed as a ſeditious attack upon the fœderal government.

11th. "The preſent mode adopted for the payment and ſpeedy collection of the laſt tax," is a grievance.

Congreſs are under the moſt preſſing neceſſity for their part of the laſt tax—I doubt not the people could generally pay it in ſeaſon, if conventions would ceaſe to cut the ſinews of endeavour.—But if upon proper exertion the urgent calls of Congreſs cannot be anſwered without material injury to the people, every charitable man will reſt ſecure in this, that the legiſlature will take paternal care of their brethren and conſtituents.

12th. "The preſent mode of taxation as it operates unequally between the polls and eſtates, and between the landed and mercantile intereſts" is a grievance.

This we will believe when we are aſſured, that a body of men generally unacquainted with the nice ſubject of taxation, and who are collected only from one county, are better judges concerning an equal taxation, than the whole repreſentation of the commonwealth after months attentive deliberation. What a growth of politicians in this county! Who can confidently decide upon a queſtion in fifteen minutes, which the General Aſſembly thought it hard to decide in twelve months. Theſe gentlemen have ſettled more queſtions in three days, than one puny legiſlature would have thought it ſafe to have ſettled in half a year. DOUBTLESS THESE ARE THE PEOPLE AND WISDOM SHALL DIE WITH THEM. But the fate of all men is in their hands. For they ſay,

13th. "The preſent method of practice of the Attornies at law," is a grievance.

Every man has a conſtitutional and natural right to employ an attorney to plead his cauſe. Attornies are known in law, and we had much rather part with conventions than part with them. That they may be reduced under ſome regular and liberal ſyſtem is a general wiſh. They are before the legiſlature, who we hope will treat them juſtly and candidly, and render their practice a public benefit, and prevent greedy practitioners extorting from honeſt and indigent people. But again,

14th. "The want of a ſufficient medium of trade to remedy the miſchiefs ariſing from a ſcarcity of money," is a grievance.

The medium of trade is money. The want of money to remedy the ſcarcity of money, is a grievance: that is, a plenty of money would make money plenty. Paſſing ſtrange! My dear ſirs, I will tell you what will make money plenty. Let the people chooſe good rulers: let the rulers take care of the government: let them ſet examples of public honeſty: let them encourage manufactures; tax luxuries; make ſumptuary laws. Let conventions return home to their proper callings; meddle with government when they are called to it: let the people be honeſt, temperate, frugal, enterprizing, perſevering: let all men be contented with their own property, and pay their debts as faſt as they can: let public ſpirit ſucceed to ſelfiſhneſs and mean ſuſpicion. Take away the rod of violence and the heightened colourings of falſehood: and let mobs and inſurrections be ſuppreſſed, and juſtice be uninterrupted; and I will pledge myſelf with ſufficient boudſmen, that your grievances ſhall all vanish. Earn money, and you ſhall have money enough.

15th. "The General Court ſitting in Boſton," is a grievance.

This comes in very naturally after the complaint of the want of money: for we all know that the people are very able at the preſent juncture, to be at the heavy charge of public buildings and removing the ſeat of government to ſome other town, as Ipſwich or Newbury for inſtance, to accommodate the eaſtern counties. But,

16th. "The preſent embarraſſments on the Preſs," is a grievance.

Meſſrs. Printers, my wheat is as neceſſary for the ſupport of the public as advertiſements in our newſpapers. And do you not think that I may well complain of the convention's partiality, that they have not voted the taxes or embarraſſments upon my wheat field to be a grievance. Fair play gentlemen, we inſiſt upon fair play, we will have no more embarraſſments upon wheat fields.—But the reach of the convention is extenſive. For,

17th. "The neglect of the ſettlement of important matters depending between the commonwealth and the Congreſs, relating to monies and avarages," is a grievance.

The Congreſs and the Aſſembly ſay, that they are ſettling their accounts as faſt as they can: that their accounts are long, intricate and perplexing, and require much time and care to bring them to a fair adjuſtment. With ſubmiſſion to the clear information of the convention, we cannot but think this to be the caſe, and that a fair adjuſtment will take place as ſoon as poſſible.

18th. This article furniſhes us with a ſpeedy remedy for many complaints. We are to have a Bank of paper money to redeem governmental ſecurities, as the members of convention ſay, at their nominal value, and this paper-money is to be as good as ſilver and gold, and to be a legal tender, &c. Now is not this benevolent towards gentlemen who hold public ſecurities which they are now glad to ſell at ſix ſhillings on the pound. And for fear it would not have been the caſe without their ſolemn vote, they tell us this ſilver and gold paper money ſhall depreciate. And leſt it ſhould not after all, we pray gentlemen to ſend to Rhode-Iſland and get an act made, that it ſhall depreciate or be tried and ſentenced without the benefit of a jury.—We are glad the gentlemen are ſo good as to tell us the fate of the money, and what uſe they intend to make of it in paying debts,—we ſhall take our meaſures accordingly.

Their other methods of redreſs deſerve our animadverſion, and we hope in ſome future number to trace them in their deſigns. But, with leave, our next will be a treatiſe CONCERNING THE CHILDREN OF CONVENTIONS. In the mean time I am, to the freeholders of this county, a faithful ſervant,

AN OLD REPUBLICAN.

MR. PRINTER,

I preſume the Hampſhire Gazette is open to all who with, with decency, to expreſs their ſentiments—hope therefore you will give the following a place in your next, and oblige, as uſual, a conſtomer.

IN almoſt all the great commotions that have taken place in the world, the real object to be obtained has at firſt been diſguiſed under falſe pretences. The oſtenſible reaſon for the preſent diſturbances is a redreſs of grievances. It is a general complaint that all claſſes of people feel the weight of public taxes, and nothing ſo ſoon inflames the minds of the ignorant and ill-informed, as to be told thoſe taxes are unneceſſary—that the money never gets into the treaſury—that it is pocketed by the officers of government—and that it is never applied to anſwer the public demands. Now, if a redreſs of grievances was the only object, I ſhould moſt heartily join with the old Republican, and the whole tribe of ſcribblers againſt county conventions, that they are unconſtitutional and tend to diſturb the peace of ſociety; but like cauſes generally produce like effects, the very people who [illegible] long-bellabout county conventions without any mercy, ſome of them very powerful engines to bring about the late revolution—the object is now the ſame—the wheels are ſo well in motion we may as well be explicit,—it is not a redreſs of grievances, but a total ſubverſion of the preſent government. It was neceſſary formerly to hold up the three penny duty on tea, and that Great-Britain declared her right to tax us in all caſes whatſoever, to arouſe the people—it had the deſired effect,—now they have been told that the Governor's ſalary is much too high—that the collectors of impoſt and exciſe are making large fortunes out of the public, and that the poor are taxed to pay it—that the officers of the army have no right to their commiſſion—that the poor ſoldier has been cheated out of his wages, and muſt be taxed to make good the very obligations which he was neceſſitated to ſell for a trifling conſideration,—that the fee-table is much too high, &c.—in ſhort anſwered our purpoſe and the good work is begun.—Surely theſe writers againſt mobs and county conventions muſt know, that we have more diſcernment, than to ſuppoſe that the ſtopping the courts of juſtice has the leaſt tendency to obtain a redreſs of theſe grievances. What connection is there between preventing the courts of common pleas and general ſeſſions of the peace, and the governor having too much ſalary, or making good the commiſſion of the officers of the army? none at all. I perceive that it was ſuppoſed by ſome, that we had no proviſion to the fixing of the ſupreme court, it is true in the beginning we aſſented to; but the doings of the laſt week, will certify that our plan is conſiſtent, and that we are not ſo totally ignorant as not to know, that all our leaders would have been inſtalled and convicted of treaſon againſt the ſtate, if the court had not been prevented.—We mean to make thorough work of it, not put our hands to the plow and look back.—We have advanced ſo far, and know there is no ſafety but in completing the buſineſs, and leaving not one ſtone upon another.—We are flexible, thaſky ſome we ſhall be conſidered as a band of infamatted and unprincipled beings, ſuch as the earth never produced before—ſhall be called a mob, men of no property, and by various other opprobious epithets, what then? there are reaſons that determine the actions of all mankind and they are good or bad, juſt as they agree or diſagree with the opinion of others.—What could induce the Iſraelites to wiſh a return to Egyptian bondage, to long for the leeks and onions of Egypt, when the quails filled their camps, and manna rained down from heaven to ſupport them? We have, 'tis ſaid, a glorious conſtitution, one of our own making, calculated to make every man happy.—alas!—but the government lays heavy taxes, and one man is priſoned in Hampſhire, and another if a ſpy, but it will be aſked how we ſhall be benefited by a revolution—it is a hard queſtion—how did we know in the year 1774 it would be beſt to revolt from Great Britain?—verily not; but that was many cleyer things ſaid of our future glory and if we were induced to act ſo without a compaſs, juſt ſo now; we are graſſed hard for our debts and taxes, and many of us not much to hazard in the great conteſtation, perhaps it may turn up JACK and be much to our advantage. I hope this explicit declaration of our ſentiments and intentions will prevent any further ſtrictures upon county conventions, &c. they have anſwered our purpoſe, as againſt we want them no more.

A REGULATOR.

October 2, 1786.

MR. PRINTER,

THIS is a time when every man, according to his ability, ſhould exert himſelf for the public welfare.—The complaints that ſo generally prevail, no doubt ariſe from various and different cauſes.—The officers of government receiving too large fees, and all of them not being annually elected and dependant upon the people for their annual grants, take the firſt rank in the liſt of grievances, and perhaps, if properly regulated, would reſtore peace and remove the whole difficulty.—I would therefore propoſe to the public, as a remedy to the preſent evils, a different mode, and a more frequent election of public officers;—that there ſhould be an increaſed number, and that every town ſhould have the right to elect their civil as well as military officers once in a year, or half year, and I ſhould think it would be more juſt and equal, and more agreeable, once in three months—that there ſhould be three juſtices in every town, one of which to be a judge of a ſupreme court, to try and determine all appeals from the other two.—that no man ſhould hold or exerciſe an office more than one year in five; this would brighten every man's proſpects, and prevent the clamours about the fees of office, as every one might, in a ſhort time, have a ſnack at them.

If this plan ſhould not be thought a good one, I would propoſe, that all the officers, both civil and military in the ſeveral towns, ſhould be put up at auction once in three, ſix or twelve months, it ſhall be thought beſt, and ſtruck off to the higheſt bidder, and the money thus procured, be appropriated to pay the taxes of the town, then every man who did not obtain an office, would be benefited by the money paid;—this would be a government on wheels, whoſe frequent motion will prevent its getting ſtuck in the mire as the preſent government is) and give life, grace and energy to the whole body politic.

PACIFICUS.

DUBLIN, July 2.

Some days ago, as a gentleman was riding towards town, through the county of Kildare, with a pointer to overtake a fellow with a cur, whereon were two or three ſacks; to which the dog ſtuck very cloſe, conſtantly ſmelling. The gentleman having rode ſome diſtance before he miſſed him, returned, and the dog not hearing his call, he whipped him, yet the animal ſtill continued to go from one ſide of the road to the other; on which the gentleman thinking he was hungry, aſked the carrier what he had got, and upon being told it was bacon, he defired the fellow to open his ſacks and give him a cut of the meat, for which he would pay him. The carman replied, he could not open it till he came to town. The gentleman on his refuſal, began to ſuſpect that all was not right, and proceeded ſlowly until he reached a cabin near the road, where he applied to have the car ſtopped, and the fellow ſecured, which the carman ſeeing into, he leaped into an adjoining field, and eſcaped. Upon examining a bag, they found the body of a female murdered, and bleeding freſh. The carman was, on Tueſday laſt, taken in this city, and lodged in the county goal. After a long examination it appeared, that the deceaſed was a paſſenger, who, on paying him for a liſt took from the change out of the corner of her handkerchief, which alſo contained a couple of guineas; and this, it is ſuppoſed, tempted the villain to lay violent hands on her, in this horrid manner above related.

NEW-YORK, September 22.

A correſpondent writes us, that an expedition is vigorouſly proſecuting by the ſtate of Georgia againſt the Creek and Cherokee Indian nations, with a very formidable body of men, under the command of General Elbert, and that Dr. James Lauder is appointed director-general to the army, John Apley, Eſq quarter-maſter general, and Colonel Lenier adjutant general.

We hear from Philadelphia, that on the 13th inſtant, the Committee of Congreſs, viz. the honourable Mr. King and Mr. Monroe, had an audience from the general aſſembly of that ſtate, upon the ſubject of the finances of the United States; when, it is ſaid, the houſe was ſo filled with ſophiſtical air, that many preſent were obliged to ſwallow ſuch large draughts as will probably operate ſo forcibly as to cauſe a diſcharge of a quantity of metalic ſubſtance from the bowels of the ſtate treaſury office.

BOSTON, Sept. 23.

We hear, that on Wedneſday evening laſt, an expreſs arrived at Portſmouth, New-Hampſhire, from his Excellency Preſident Sullivan, then at Exeter, with orders for a troop of horſe, a company of artillery, and the militia of Portſmouth and ſeveral other towns, to turn out, and march for Exeter, in order to diſperſe a body of inſurgents, who had aſſembled there from different parts of the country. Their numbers, according to report amount to 500; and their profeſſed deſign was to oblige the General Court, then ſiting to paſs an act for the immediate emiſſion of paper money.—The militia of Portſmouth, it is ſaid, muſtered very ſpiritedly, and it was hoped would ſoon put a ſtop to the outrages of the mob.

NORTHAMPTON, October 4.

By one of our correſpondents we are furniſhed with the particulars of the tranſactions at Springfield the week paſt, which we are happy to communicate for the right information of the public.

In conſequence of undoubted advices that the mobility were making every effort, not only to prevent the ſitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, but to aboliſh all law, deſtroy the government and our excellent conſtitution, the whole militia of this county were ordered out under arms, and to march and arrive at Springfield by nine o'clock on Tueſday morning, the day appointed by law for opening the court aforeſaid;—alſo private orders were given to the militia of Northampton, Hadley and Springfield, to take poſſeſſion of the court-houſe on Saturday night preceeding, which was accordingly done with as many as two hundred men, who were reinforced on Monday evening and Tueſday morning with about five hundred more——The inſurgents in the mean time had collected from various parts of the county, and aſſembled at the upper part of the town, about ſix hundred in number, ſtiling themſelves "the body of the people," and ſent to the Judges, who arrived the day preceding, to demand redreſs of grievances, which on explanation was found to intend that the Court ſhould not open or do any buſineſs, and that they ſhould be indemnified for all paſt and future riots. However, finding the firmneſs of the Juſtices of the Court, and that they were well ſupported, they had recourſe to their uſual reſort, ARTIFICE and LYING, by ſending to various parts of not only this, but the adjacent counties of Worceſter and Berkſhire, through which means they obtained about eight hundred more by Thurſday noon, making in all about fourteen hundred, though not more than one half armed with muſquets, and thoſe moſtly unfit for ſervice.

The militia, who were advantageouſly poſted near the court-houſe, were alſo reinforced by two or three hundred of the moſt reſpectable gentlemen in the county, who turned out as volunteers, ſo that the number of thoſe who were aſſembled for the ſupport of government, was about nine hundred, beſides a very large and reſpectable number who were unarmed.—The obſervation of ſome gentlemen preſent was, that thoſe who appeared for government not only exceeded the inſurgents in number, but in point of property, the proportion of one hundred to one. We cannot omit mentioning the endeavours of divers gentlemen to inform and appeaſe the inſurgents from the beginning, although all attempts proved vain. So totally blinded and obſtinate were they to all conviction, it was at length agreed, after the Court had finiſhed their buſineſs on Thurſday, that the inſurgents ſhould be allowed to march and countermarch through the town, previous to their diſperſing, agreeable to propoſals to prevent individual outrages which might otherwiſe have taken place—which was accordingly done without the inſurgents having obtained any one purpoſe or object they had in view, which it is to be hoped will ſerve as a leſſon againſt all ſuch irregular conduct in future. The number, characters, and decent, ſteady conduct of thoſe gentlemen for government, were ſuch as deſerve the ſincereſt thanks of their country, and occaſioned the moſt pleaſing ſenſations in the breaſts of all preſent.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the Ohio country, to his friend in this town, dated Auguſt 14, 1786.

"After a very pleaſant journey, we arrived at Pittſburgh in eighteen days from our departure, and from thence immediately proceeded to this place to join the Geographer, where we are encamped on the banks of one of the moſt beautiful rivers in the world—I cannot undertake to deſcribe all the beauties of this country, but will give you a ſmall ſketch of the outlines thereof. The place where we now are, is thirty-five miles from Pittſburgh—the land is preferable to any I ever ſaw, being ſo rich as to produce Indian corn yielding from eighty to one hundred buſhels per acre; and indeed it is impoſſible to form an idea of any part of the world being preferable either in point of ſoil or temperature of climate. The Ohio river is about four hundred yards wide—the current is gentle—the proſpect is enchanting, as you ſail either up or down,—firſt the eye is ſaluted with beautiful forefts of ſycamore, towering elms, black walnut, &c. which grow on thoſe excellent bottoms or flat lands, which extend from the banks of the river, from half a mile to three miles back, and form an umbrage for a great variety of plants and vines which grow ſpontaneouſly in great abundance;—next, the gradual riſe of land, forming the hills and uplands, covered with different kinds of timber, ſhew the iſlands interſperſed in the river, and the great numbers of rivulets or creeks, which ruſhing from the adjacent hills, gently glide through the valleys and diſcharge themſelves into the Ohio, ſeem to indicate that it is the ſeat of the muſes;—and the warbling of innumerable numbers of harmonious birds which inhabit the groves, appears to be an invitation to ſtop and partake in the ſcene.

"I have been down the river about forty miles from this, and find that the land is better the farther we proceed. The ſoil is excellent for the produce of every neceſſary of life—Rice is eaſily produced here. The great quantities of mulberry trees which grow, will render it eaſy to produce ſilk if we can find manufacturers.

"From the beſt account I can get from gentlemen who have been down the river, ſome where near the Muſkingum, which is about two hundred miles below this, will be the place where the Ohio company will probably make their pitch. The ſurveys are going on, and I believe we ſhall meet with no obſtructions—nine ſurveyors only are preſent.—If the people in general were ſenſible of the quality, ſituation, and beauty of this weſtern world, the Ohio company would be completed in a very ſhort time, and inhabitants from all quarters would flock here like ſheep to their folds.—I am ſo far prejudiced in favour of this new world, that I believe I ſhall return no more.—The Indians appear no ways hoſtile, and I believe will not moleſt us."

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The Firſt, Second, and Third Part of

Webſter's Inſtitute.

ALSO,

Watt's Pſalms—Primers—Blanks of moſt kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Caſh or any of the above Books, given for Rags and old Fiſh Net.

From the Independent Chronicle.

BY the proceedings of the several county conventions of late, it seems the members of them have but newly commenced politicians; had they been acquainted with public affairs before the fact, 'tis not likely they would have been guilty of contradicting the sentiments of our good old patriots, by voting it *a grievance for the General Court to sit in Boston.* In the year 1770, when Governor Hutchinson called the General Court to meet in Cambridge, both the Council and House of Representatives were utterly against it, and after much dispute, the House addressed him in the following words:

"*May it please your Honour,*

"The House of Representatives have "taken into consideration the state of the "province with regard to the moving the "General Assembly out of the town of "Boston; and by a majority of 96 out "of 102 members present, have resolved, "that the convening, holding, and keeping the Great and General Court out of "said town of Boston, is to the manifest "injury of the province, and the great "inconvenience of the members of both "Houses, without any necessity, or the "least probability of serving any one "good purpose, notwithstanding the "prayers, intreaties, remonstrances and "protestations of this and the former "House to the contrary, is a very great "grievance: And that it is by no means "expedient to proceed to business while "the General Assembly is thus constrained to hold their sessions out of the town "of Boston. And as there are matters "now lying before the Assembly of very "great importance, which they are very "desirous of entering upon and completing, they humbly pray that your "Honour would be pleased to remove "the Great and General Court to its ancient seat, *the Town-House in Boston.*"

Here we find 96 members earnestly requesting the Governor that they might sit in Boston, and that only 6 members were content to sit in that town, and one of those six was that noted tory, Timothy Ruggles, Esquire, of Hardwick.

The convention of the county of Hampshire also, seem to be quite unacquainted with the general sentiments of the people of this Commonwealth, respecting the four first articles of grievance in their list; which are as follows:

1st. The existence of the Senate.

2d. The present mode of representation.

3d. The officers of government not being annually dependent on the representatives of the people in General Court assembled, for their salaries.

4th. All the civil officers of Government not being annually elected by the representatives of the people in General Court assembled.

Now to set them right in this matter, I would remind them that when the new constitution was framed, the general convention caused it to be printed, and sent into every town in the government for their approbation. The selectmen were requested to call town-meetings, and read it to the people, and to take a vote upon each and every article, and to make return to them of the same. And, that if two thirds of the voters present were in favour of it, then it should be established. These things were accordingly done; and I would now acquaint them that the votes concerning their four first grievances were as follows:

1st. Those for, or in favour of the Senate, 11,033, against it 797.

2d. For the present mode of representation 8,310, against it 929.

3d. For the salaries of officers, the votes "for establishing *permanent* and honourable salaries for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court," &c. were 10,414, against it 537.

4th. For choosing civil officers in the present manner, 9,501, against it 988.

Thus we see, that those very articles which they complain of as grievances, have been calmly and deliberately agreed upon and accepted throughout the government, by more than 12 to 1, except the last, and that has more than 9 to 1 in favour of it. With what face then can the convention of a single county, rise up against the constitution of the country, and without giving a single reason for it, dare to call those articles *grievances*, which have been thus solemnly agreed upon? Do they not know that the General Court have no constitutional power to alter them? Must we then call a general convention to please them? Can they suppose that 9 10ths of the people will give up their judgment in these articles, to please them? Astonishing confidence! But supposing they should, and the people should be so condescending as to grant them redress of all their grievances, and to their acceptance, what security have we that they will abide by them one year longer? None at all.

In short, the Hampshire grievances are so extraordinary, that it really looks as if their convention intended to break up the constitution. And as those grievances cannot be redressed very soon, 'tis possible that mobs, (countenanced and encouraged by county conventions) are intended to govern, till they can force the Commonwealth into submission. When that happens this Commonwealth may be justly stiled, ICHABOD.

From the CENTINEL.

EASTERN CONVENTION.

AT at Convention of Deligates from a number of towns and plantations, in the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln, held at Portland, on Wednesday the 6th day of September, 1786—for the purpose of considering the grievances which the inhabitants of said counties labour under, and adopting some orderly and peaceable measure to obtain relief.

Hon. WILLIAM GORHAM, Esq. being first chosen President, and

Mr. STEPHEN LONGFELLOW, jun. Clerk.

Voted, That the following Address, and form of a Petition therein referred to, be transmitted to the several towns and plantations in the said three counties, as soon as may be.

Friends and Brethren,

AGREEABLY to the duties of our appointment, we have taken into serious consideration the grievances that the inhabitants of these three counties labour under;—and, after a close attention to this important subject, are clearly of opinion, That they cannot be remedied in their present connection with the other part of the Commonwealth. Our local situation, the nature of our commerce, and the jarring of our interests, render it necessary, in order to an effectual removal of them, that we should be erected into an Independent State.

The expedience of this measure has engaged the attention of the public for a long time—it has been considered, as it undoubtedly ought to be, a subject of the greatest importance. Two Conventions have had it before them, and have carefully attended to the arguments which have been offered on both sides of the question.

We now communicate to you the result of our present deliberations; and we submit it to your wise and prudent consideration.

You feel yourselves distressed, and your distresses will encrease until you legislate for yourselves. In this there is no great difficulty. Government is a very simple, easy thing. Mysteries in politics are mere absurdities—invented intirely to gratify the ambition of Princes, and designing men—to aggrandize those who govern at the expense of those who are governed.

But the end of government is the good of the people—the only design of its institution is to secure to them, as far as possible, the blessings of life: We therefore, in justice to our constituents, to ourselves, to the good citizens of the three counties, and of the Commonwealth at large, address you upon the subject; and transmit to you a form of a petition to the General Court, requesting them to relinquish all right of jurisdiction in the eastern territory; and to give their consent that the same may be formed into a separate state.

And we do earnestly call upon every free citizen within the said counties, to take the same into his most serious consideration; and each one, for himself, give his vote for or against a separation.

And we also desire each town and plantation, within the counties, to meet for the purpose, and transmit their doings to this Convention, at their adjournment.

(*Here follows the form of the petition to the Legislature, in which the "political disadvantages they labour under, peculiar to their local situation" are set forth, and their request that the honourable Court "would consent that they may be formed into a separate government, as they apprehend this the only adequate remedy to the difficulties complained of." After this follows a list of grievances, stiled by the Convention held at Falmouth, January 4, 1786—The principal of which seems to be their great distance from the seat of government, and the unequal operation there-of in many acts of the Legislature. After these is a vote, adjourning this Convention, to the last Wednesday in January next.*)

A curious ADVERTISEMENT.

FLOUR, Raisins, Rice,
Molasses, Spice,
Good Indigo and Wire;
Knives, Corks, Fish-hooks,
Ballads and Books,
And Paper by the Quire.

Small Shot, Bar Lead, and Chocolate,
Tin, Glass, and Earthern Ware;
Pins, Needles, Thread, and Gingerbread,
As cheap as any where.

Rum, Sugar, Coffee, Tea, and Snuff,
Hard Soap and Candles cheap enough,
Lay out a Dollar when you come,
And you may drink a Glass of Rum.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Eleazer Porter, Esq. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the several creditors to the estate of JOHN BAGLEY, late of Williamsburgh, in said county, deceased, said estate being represented insolvent by the Executrix; We therefore give public notice, that we shall attend the business of our commission at the dwelling-house of Lieut. Joshua Thayer, in Williamsburgh, on the first Tuesdays in November and December next, at nine o'clock A. M. No accounts allowed unless properly avouched.

ASA LUDDEN,
N. CLEAVELAND, jun. } Commissioners.
EPHRAIM FISHER,

Williamsburgh, August 27, 1786.

** WANTED, as an Apprentice to the Printing-business, a smart active Lad, about 14 years of age.

OCTOBER 1786. THE NUMB. 6.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT HOUSE.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addressed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampshire.

NUMBER IV.

MY COUNTRYMEN,

THIS number is to be employed principally in treating, concerning the CHILDREN OF CONVENTIONS.

I have endeavoured summarily to describe the origin and nature of our modern conventions: how they are the production of restless spirits, who wish to figure in popular assemblies—who find themselves limited by orderly government, and have little to loose in public convulsions. This opinion of our late conventions is not grounded upon the personal characters of individual members, some of whom were gentlemen of firmness and ability; others were evidently misinformed, and by the insidence of importunate clamour of designing men, were persuaded that the people were oppressed, our affairs disordered, and something must be done: but the completion of the body is taken from their proceedings: from these we are to learn their true character and real intentions. I appeal it to every man of honesty and discernment, whether the resolves of the conventions in Bristol, Worceller and Hampshire, are not full of violence and marked with faction? Whether they are not calculated to irritate and inflame the minds of people? Whether instead of exciting a liberal and watchful jealousy of our public servants, and a manly fortitude under necessary burdens, they do not tend to raise a mean suspicion of rulers, and an embittered disaffection to government; to fill with causeless apprehensions the minds of the timid and ignorant, and to remove therefrom their natural quiet and contentment; and to push on the inconsiderate to precipitant and criminal measures? In their proceedings which they have sent abroad, where do we find a single sentence of light and information, by which it will appear that their complaints are either necessary or founded—They cry, "The house is on fire, the house is on fire; believe us or we perish in the ruins:" when it is evident that we can neither smell the smoak nor see the blaze. Is this the way in which men entrusted to make enquiry for others are to treat their constituents? Are men's minds, under burdens which all acknowledge to be great, to be agitated by such base and perfidious acts? Are the burdens of nine years war to be attributed to the imperceptible expence of a cheap and simple administration of government? Is a revolution to be hazarded for such trifling charges? Blush modesty! that men are to be found who will pretend it. Blush dignity and humanity! that those are found who will put up with the injurious abuse of their reason and common sense. But it is said, that our convention advised the people to abstain from riots and unlawful assemblies, until they could obtain a constitutional method of redress; that is, they say, 'Citizens the house is on fire, the roof is tumbling in to bury you in ruins; but be still; don't stir a step, till we come and help you out.' Who does not know, that people once effectually terrified, and apprehensive of ruin, do not look from whence it is coming; they take their own methods of escape; and methods they commonly are, ill chosen and fatal ones. And who is more to be blamed for the evils which follow, than those who raised the false terror? It is no argument then that usurping conventions do not produce violent measures, because to save their own heads, they tell the people not to rise in riots against the government. It is evident that our late conventions, by attacking the government, became the parents of mobs and insurrections. They are never the less parents of these tumults, for having beforehand taken measures to salve their own reputation. Who ever thought that an outcast child, because a foundling, was therefore self-created and without parents. The parents' features are legible in the child. And it would be much more manly and liberal to take up and own the foundling as their true and natural offspring. Let us recur to facts to support the charge, that conventions are oftentimes pregnant with mobs and risings against government. Were not the mobs so frequent in this county a few years ago, which gave the people so much distress, and cost not only the actor but the Commonwealth at large a great sum of money, and produced embarrassments peculiar to this county, which are sensibly felt to this day in the property of many? Were not these mobs the progeny of the convention which first met at Hadley and then removed to Hatfield? Were they not midwived into being by the dexterous art of the famous Samuel Ely, the controuling member of that convention?—Do not the figners of that treasonable association in the county of Bristol, lately published here, cover themselves under the wing, and thus prove that they were hatched out by the warmth, of a convocation holden at Taunton some months before? The mobs which have lately risen in this county and of Worcester, bear the striking lineaments of the conventions which immediately preceded them. Indeed the Hatfield convention do by no means discourage and disavow mobs. They tell the people not to rise until constitutional methods of redress are obtained; that is, if they do not obtain what the convention demand, which is no other than the dissolution of our present form of government, and in several instances an establishment of iniquity by law, then they have no objection against the people's rising. Then take care ye advocates for the present constitution and government: we shall let our WARRIERS loose upon you. Fair warning gentlemen. I hope we shall all take it in season. But the strong presumptive evidence arising from the inflammatory nature of their resolves, is not all the proof we have that the mob at Northampton, which prevented the sitting of the court, was the immediate offspring of the convention at Hatfield, and that that convention was previously called, that so the child when it should be born might have a father and patron.—Some of the members when they returned from convention, informed their constituents, that the votes of convention must not be followed too strictly: that a good regular mob, might do a great deal of service. The convention had voted before, that the court to be interrupted was a grievance. This was enough to arm a fiery uninformed populace against it. And not only so, but three or four members of convention personally appeared upon the ground to head the mob and direct their operations. Besides you will seldom find a man pleased with the doings of convention, who will not speak favourably of the mob.

Having proved the lineal descent of mobs, let us consider their character and intentions. At first sight it is obvious, THEY ARE BUT THE PEOPLE, but a class of disaffected individuals, spirited on by wicked men, to make a furious onset upon the body of the people, as represented and acting in their judicial courts and legislative assemblies. Their attack is upon the Commonwealth at large; upon the honesty and substantial yeomanry and citizens of the state. They have, in large numbers, waged war against the state, by forcibly stopping the operation of that system of government which was set in motion by the great body of the freemen of this extensive republic for their common and mutual protection and security. The best of them may not be so wicked, but they are people zealous without information: their principals are men of desperate circumstances and morals; of whose motives and intention I freely speak my opinion, since it accords with the sentiments of my judicious neighbours, that they design to prevent the collection of private debts and the payment of public taxes. The Bristol association speak out plainly in words: HERE they speak as plainly in actions. Their views must be to disorder affairs so effectually as to prevent the future demands of creditors, public and private. Should they succeed in their attempts, they will belie the conduct of all former insurgents in like circumstances, if they do not require an equal distribution of property. What shall we think of a body of men, who collect and arrange themselves under the standard of military officers of ruined estates and seared consciences, who have solemnly and voluntarily sworn to support and defend the very government against which they have dared to rise in arms in defiance of the duty of subjects and of the oath of Almighty God? What must be the design of such leaders regardless of the oath of God? Must not they have vile purposes to answer? can the purposes of their followers be innocent? "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts," concerning the flying roll written within and on the backside with curses against false swearers, "I will bring it forth &it shall enter into the house "of him that sweareth falsly by my name, and "it shall remain in the midst of his house and "shall consume it, with the timber thereof and "the stones thereof." Leaving this divine denunciation to the sober reflection of those military officers who were active in the late tumults, let me observe, that mobs never did any good to the cause which they intended to support. Numerous are their mischiefs; but where are their advantages? their natural operation is to make the hand of power more weighty and severe. When continued they produce perplexities and animosities among friends and brethren: they raise sad contentions: they frequently issue in bloodshed and murder, in processes and executions: when most successful, the faithful page of history tells us, that popular insurrections after lamentable devastation, end in the utter subversion of the people's liberties and the bloody tyranny of one man; an event by which the whole community is rendered certainly and irretrievably wretched. But humbly resting on the patient and tender mercies of that gracious Being, who has so often redeemed our souls out of great adversity, and of late has marvellously interposed for our national salvation and particularly in the quiet establishment of our wise and free constitution of government: Resting upon the divine compassion we presage more joyous events for a people, although ungrateful, whom he can so easily fit for his astonishing goodness. He hath often saved us from the snares of enemies. Tokens for good do even now daily arise. The people begin to be sensible of their privileges and happy security under the government, were it duly administered, and of their easy and effectual relief under unnecessary burdens.—I see the honest, the brave and stable yeomanry of this ancient and large county, who from their love of rest have too easily been lulled asleep in perilous times. I see them rub open their eye-lids to discover their eminent danger. In detestation of violent seditious measures. I hear them say, this government is unreasonably attacked, it is OUR government: we will have neither king nor tyrant. I hear them smite their hands upon their thighs and say, by the grace of Heaven, our government bought for our children with our blood, shall be protected from the dishonest artifice of fraud and the violence of self ambition.—With them, under an indulgent Heaven, the issue rests: Whether we shall be virtuous, free and happy; or whether driven into tyranny by the storms of anarchy and confusion, we shall fall degraded and vile, knavish and enslaved: Whether we shall reign like kings in our own government, or like Issachar shall be as the strong ass couching down between two burdens.—To those who have been seduced from their duty and happiness, I give this friendly and faithful caution, which I wish them timely to remember, THAT WHILE JUSTICE HAS LEADEN FEET SHE HAS IRON HANDS. I am to them and the public, an unshaken friend,

AN OLD REPUBLICAN.

BOSTON, Sept. 30.

Pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation of the 13th inst. a number of the Members of both Branches of the Legislature met at the State-House, in this town, on Wednesday last; but there not being a quorum of the Senate, they adjourned to the following day (Thursday). The Governor then being duly informed of the Court's readiness to receive any communications he might think proper to lay before them, at a quarter past Twelve o'clock met the two Branches, convened in the Chamber of the Representatives, when his Excellency was pleased to address them as follows.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

HAVING received a letter from Mr. Secretary Thompson, enclosing the requisition of Congress of the 2d of August, and other acts of that hon. body, I laid it with those acts before the Council. After due deliberation they thought

is advisable, the General Court should be convened earlier than the day to which they were adjourned, in order to consider the subject of that requisition: and the Court's meeting was to have been at a time less inconvenient than the present for the members to attend. It has been judged expedient however, to call the Court together on a full earlier day: and accordingly, you now stand convened, gentlemen, by proclamation, in consequence of the unanimous advice of the Council.

The occasion of it, as mentioned in the proclamation, are the tumults and disorders, which have lately taken place in several counties within this Commonwealth, and the consequent obstruction of the Courts of Common Pleas, and General Sessions of the Peace, in those counties.—The particular facts will be communicated to you by official letters from each of the counties, excepting Hampshire; from which no such letter has been yet received. The High Sheriff of it, however, has given me a verbal account of them, as relative to that county.

In this business, gentlemen, I will give you a short sketch of the transactions of the Governor and Council, and of the Governor and another advising body, specially called for the purpose; and then make a few observations that may appear to result from the commotions which have happened.

It is, however, to be previously observed, that in all cases, where the detriment or annoyance of the Commonwealth is attempted or enterprised, the Governor, EX OFFICIO, by the condition is authorized, and it is thereby made his duty, to call forth the inhabitants in martial array; and by force of arms to resist and repel, all and every such person or persons, as shall at any time in a hostile manner, attempt or enterprise such detriment or annoyance.

In consequence of that authority, and with the advice of the Council, orders were issued to the Major-General of each of those counties, viz. Worcester, Berkshire, Middlesex and Bristol, to hold in readiness such a number of militia as the Sheriff, upon previous consultation with them, should judge needful: Who, as a part of the POSSE COMITATUS, were to march at the call of the Sheriff, to assist him in the discharge of his duty: A letter of instructions having been sent to each of them on the subject. At the same time, a proclamation, occasioned by the stopping of the Court of Common Pleas in the county of Hampshire, was issued by the like advice; requiring all officers, civil and military, and most earnestly calling upon the good people of this Commonwealth for their aid and exertions, to prevent and suppress all such violent and treasonable proceedings. And the Attorney-General was directed to prosecute and bring to condign punishment, the ringleaders and abettors of such atrocious violations of law and government.

Those orders, together with the Proclamation, it was hoped, would have prevented such lawless proceedings in the county of Worcester: But, unhappily they did not.—An account of those proceedings being transmitted to me, in the recess of the Council, by the Honourable Artemas Ward, Esq; the first Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for that county, I communicated it to a number of gentlemen of public character, whom I convened for that purpose viz. such of the Council as were in Boston, the Senators and Representatives of that town, the Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, and the Attorney General: To whom I also communicated the transactions of the Governor and Council, in consequence of the proceedings in the county of Hampshire.—I then requested their advice, what further measures were necessary to be taken, in support of the Judicial Courts, that were the following week to sit in three of those counties. Their votes upon the occasion, will shew their opinion and advice: to which the measures that were pursued were conformable.—To those votes, to the proceedings of the Council, and to the several letters and papers that relate to the transactions of the insurgents in the several counties, you will please to be referred for fuller information.

What led the unwarrantable and lawless proceedings of those insurgents, will be a necessary subject for serious inquiry. The investigating the true causes of those proceedings may point out the proper remedy of them in future. But whatever may be the causes, it is impossible they should amount to a sufficient and justifiable reason for them. Every complaint, or grievance, that can be offered as a reason to palliate them, is from the nature of the constitution, redressible by the General Court, the only body, within whose department it is, to redress public grievances. The application, thereof, to all other bodies, and other modes of redress are anticonstitutional, and of very dangerous tendency, even when attempted in a peaceable manner; but much more so, when attempted by acts of violence, for preventing the execution of the laws, and the due administration of justice.

These observations are strictly just, where there is a constitutional mode for the redress of grievances: And especially where those in government, who have the power to redress, annually depend on the people for political existence.

If at present, or in any future time, there should be any real grievances subsisting, they ought to be, and there is a moral certainty they will be, redressed: For no tax or burthen of any kind, can be laid upon the people, that does not equally affect the persons who lay them; and if through inadvertence, mistake, or any other cause, their acts are productive of any grievous, or unsalutary effect, they themselves must feel it; and therefore will be prompted, not only from a principle of duty to their constituents, but from their own feelings, to repeal or alter the obnoxious act.

Hence appears the excellency of our constitution of government, which, in this way, so effectually secures the people of the Commonwealth from every species of oppression and grievance. To an inattention to this capital and essential circumstance, it must be owing that so many of the good people of those counties have been unhappily and incautiously induced to support, or not oppose, the destructive measures, which artful and wicked men have, for some time past, been pursuing; and which with indefatigable industry, they are still pursuing. Some of the fruits of those measures have already appeared, by their obstructing the Courts of Justice in several counties; by their liberating the prisoners from the gaol of one of them; and by their endeavouring to destroy all confidence in government; and THAT security to life, liberty and property, which results and can result, only from the firm union of the whole; and from the application, if necessary, of the strength of the whole to the protection and preservation of any of its parts; and for the obtaining of which, this people have expended so much of their wealth, and, what is more valuable, so much of their blood.

If THAT security, confirmed by the constitution and which is the great object of it, was worth obtaining at so much expense, it must be worth preserving: but the preservation of it must depend on the people themselves.

If in any county upon any emergency—such an one as hath lately happened, relative to the courts of Justice—the militia, considered as the posse comitatus, are, in a constitutional way, called upon to assist the sheriff and the court, in the discharge of their duty, and refuse to appear; or appearing, join the insurgents, the laws cannot be executed, nor justice administered, in such county, even by recuring to other counties for assistance; for obtaining of which there could not be sufficient time. The good people of such County must in that case be liable to, and be in danger of, all the evils, that may arise from a suspension, or prostration of law and justice.

If this be the unhappy case, in regard to any of the aforementioned counties, it is not advisable for them to consider, whether it be not the result of their own supineness or inattention? whether the evils that have arisen, or may arise, from such a cause, be not chargeable upon themselves? whether any adequate and compleat remedy can be applied without their own exertion? and whether, in connection with it, the Laws and Constitution do not afford such a remedy?

In fact, if the good people of the Commonwealth, when called upon by the civil authority, and especially by the Supreme Magistrate, would duly exert themselves, the remedy against such evils would be complete; but without such exertion, the best remedial laws, made upon the plan of the Constitution, which has provided no other resource, would be ineffectual;—and prove as baseless as the fabrick of a vision. Upon this idea of non-exertion, the provision made by the Constitution is a nullity, so far as it respects the means of securing the public peace, and the due execution of the laws: and the people will deceive themselves, if they expect any benefit from it in that regard, independent of their own exertions.

But jealousy, or something worse, may suggest, that such obedience to the calls of the Supreme Magistrate may involve the Commonwealth in difficulties; and possibly subject it to his arbitrary sway, or even to his caprice.

Jealousy, or rather circumspection, to a certain degree is a political virtue; but carried to excess, defeats its own views and may deprive the Commonwealth of every benefit, expected to be derived from such a magistrate; especially in matters, that concern its internal peace.

If it should so far operate as to destroy the public confidence in him, very little benefit could be expected from his administration, especially in all important cases, where that confidence might be necessary.

Such a confidence in Government is, in my estimation, so necessary to its beneficial operation; and so essential to the happiness of the people, that, in justice to them, I am obliged to declare, that it is the indispensible duty of the people to elect no man for their Governor, in whose rectitude and character they cannot place a firm and entire confidence. And it must be the wish of every elected Governor, guided by honest principles, and possessing a proper independency of spirit, that unless the public suffrage be accompanied with the public confidence, if in fact they can be separated, it might be transfered from himself to some qualified man, who is the object of that confidence.

In regard to the constitution—ample powers, all of which are necessary for the peace, security and welfare of the Commonwealth, are vested by it in the Governor: but the good effects, that might result from the exercise of the most important of them, must be through the medium of the people.

If, for instance by virtue of those powers, I should, upon any emergency, call upon the people for their aid, it is by the constitution made their duty to give it: And their refusing or neglecting to give it, might operate to the great detriment of the Commonwealth, or of the County, from which the aid was demanded. But no real detriment could accrue to either, from the exercise of that power, if he had sufficient discretion to direct it. But admitting, that through indiscretion or mistake, he should make an unnecessary call, which is by no means probable, the ill effects of it would amount only to an inconvenience: The chance of which must be risked, rather than hazard the peace and safety of the Commonwealth.

If these observations be just, it is, on the one hand, the duty of the Governor to call upon the people for their aid, when emergencies or the public safety, concerning which he is constituted the Judge, shall require it: And on the other hand, it is the duty of the People, and it may be essential to their own peace and safety to give the demanded aid.

If these, and other reciprocal duties be punctually discharged, the Constitution will answer the great and good purposes, for which it was made; and which it is, in that case, well calculated to answer.

Whether these duties have been faithfully discharged on the part of the present Governor, it is not for me to determine; but had the good people of some of the counties above mentioned, discharged the duty incumbent on them—the duty they owe to themselves, and to the State at large, in reference to the late insurrections—the Constitution and the laws would not, it is presumed, have been so grossly violated; the dignity of government would not have been insulted; nor that essential part of it, the honourable the Senate, and House of Representatives, now put to the trouble and inconvenience of assembling at this busy season of the year.

I have thus laid before you, Gentlemen, an important part of the business, for which you are convened: And it cannot be doubted, that you will take the most vigorous measures, effectually to vindicate the insulted dignity of government; enforce obedience to the laws; and secure the good people of the Commonwealth against all future infractions upon their peace; and in particular, against every outrage upon their Courts of Justice.

Among those measures, as respecting future emergencies, the quickest in operation, and the most effectual would be, to insure from the people a ready and spirited observance of the calls and orders of government; and in such measures—measures vigorous and effectual—you may be assured, Gentlemen, of my hearty concurrence.

A speedy attention to such measures becomes more important, as by letters I have just received from the Major-General, and the High-Sheriff, of the County of Hampshire, there were great appearances of an intended attempt to obstruct the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court in that county.

Those letters, dated the 25th instant at Springfield where that Court was to sit the next day, will, with the other letters and papers be laid before you by the Secretary.

Another important business, Gentlemen, which requires your speedy attention, is the requisition of Congress for the services of the present year: but this, with other matters, necessary for your consideration, will be communicated by message.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Council-Chamber, Sept. 28, 1786.

— For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

From a Friend (to the Mob, but addressed) to all Particular Friends and Fellow Citizens.

I Am an old man, but not in my dotage. I've lived through four wars, but been in none of them: I have never been taxed with being unfriendly to my country but lived peaceably with my neighbours in whig and tory times; neither joining in any mob nor any mob meeting with me. I have ever endeavored to weigh matters well, and govern myself by reason. I have been cool, but firm in the cause of my country, cheerfully paid my taxes, and I flatter myself that I have not been an unprofitable member of society. At present, I sustain no office in the Commonwealth, either civil or military; nor have I any further concern with the public proceedings as far as Monday morning. In the P. M. of that day, the prisoners, eight in number, appeared before the Superior Court, were arraigned on the information of the Attorney-General, and witnesses examined, who deposed to the identity of the men, and that they were of the number of the rioters. The Court were disposed to lenity, and ordered them to recognize in bonds of 100l each, with two sureties, 50l. each, to appear at the next Superior Court at Portsmouth, in April, and in the mean time to be of good behaviour. Several attempts have been made to collect a rabble again but all have proved ineffectual; and it is the general opinion, that the force which appeared at Exeter, and the prudent and firm conduct observed on the occasion, has for the present, suppressed the spirit of insurrection. One of the worst of them plead guilty on his knees, with his right hand erect, as if on oath—"This I was an eye-witness to."

We hear that on Thursday evening last, as a young gentleman was returning to his lodging, he was attacked by four or five ruffians, who peremptorily demanded his money,——but possessing an extraordinary degree of spirit, and exercising his weapon of defence with great judgment, he was enabled to secure his cash, and put the villains to flight. We since hear that one of the assailants was greatly indebted to the thickness of his skull, that he at present exists, it having withstood the blow of a large hickory.

of law than (by paying my just debts and behaving inoffensively) neither to trouble them nor be troubled by them. I delight greatly in reading history, and think it assists me much in forming a judgment what the times will be. For all these things, joined with long observation and experience, entitle me to be heard by all parties. I will offer a few of my thoughts to them on the present times—the world must judge whether I think agreeable to reason.

I think there are real grievances existing in this Commonwealth which ought to be redressed. But,

I do not think that every article enumerated by the late convention at Hatfield, is so—no, not the very first of them, though I agree with them in several. But,

I believe there are several other grievances which neither the convention nor mob have mentioned, which call for redress.

I think it possible that reasonable complaints may not be duly attended to; and I think it equally possible that complaints may be made unreasonably.

I think that wisdom does not always reside with the greatest numbers.

I think there is a right way of doing business and a wrong.

I think that cool and dispassionate deliberation on matters is the most likely method we can take to hit upon the right method and avoid the wrong.

I think it would be a point of true wisdom for those who are ignorant of the true state of public affairs, to take time and patiently enquire to inform themselves before they pass a judgment upon them.

I think it would be well, at this day, if our General Court would inform their constituents more particularly the state of our public affairs; especially what our part of the national debt is—what our domestic debt is—the annual charge for the support of government—what the interest is which we pay annually—what money has come into the treasury annually for two or three years past by excise, impost, licences, and additions, and what by taxes—what part of the taxes (save the last) remains unsettled with the treasurer—and what prospect there is of paying the public debt, that we may know what to depend upon, and not trust to hearsays or believe lies.

I think however that our legislature are not to be censured rashly or hastily; we are at this distance from the seat of public business may not know the reasons of their conduct, and may be liable to blame what we should approve, if the reasons of it were explained to us.

I think that if one person or body of men have done wrong, it is a kindness to have any one point it out to him or them, and that he is worthy of their thanks and not their reproaches therefor.

I think it unreasonable to blame the legislature for the scarcity of money; for it is the merchants who has sent it out of the country.

I think it unreasonable to lay all the blame on the merchants, if it would be so overdone as to run into his debt, or purchase his goods with any cash.

I think it best to hear what the Old Republican has to say against county conventions, before I tell my thoughts on the subject.

I think there will be so many lies told about the late transactions of the mob as well as militia, that it would be folly for me to add to the number.

I think however, that those who have stopped the courts of judicature of late, have not only invaded the rights of the legislature, but my right and the rights of their fellow citizens; and for that I appeal to the Declaration of Rights, article 10th.

I think that the way to obtain redress of grievances is for towns to make application to the General Court, and as they are united in the same interest with us, they must be willing to do what is in their power to relieve us. And at this has not been done,

I think those who have undertaken to seek redress of grievances by mobbing and stopping courts, have begun at the wrong end and taken very wrong steps,—and that their conduct not only leads to anarchy but to tyranny, and if they do not unthink themselves and talk about, they will find it so.

For,

I think, so far as my reading and observation serves me, that this is the way in which most of the ancient republics lost their freedom. And,

I think, that upon serious reflection, every man of sense must think that if a mild constitution will not hold us together, a rigid government must.

I think that though some things in our constitution might possibly be altered for the better, yet that the present time would be very unfit for the revital of it, on various accounts.

I think also that whenever it is revised, it ought to stand in full force till a new one by an alteration is agreed to.

I think that public and private faith ought, as far as possible, to be kept good.

I think that those commissioned officers who have taken the usual oaths, and yet taken an active part in the late mobs, must take some other way than I know of to avoid the force of an oath and declaration the most solemn and guarded that the wisdom of the State could frame, or they fellow men, and least of all to God—nor will their burning or refusing their commissions help the matter.

I think that the late movements in this county have cost the people more than all the extraordinary charges they complain of would in several years.

I think this industry, frugality and economy, and not mobbing or breaking up courts, is the way to pay debts and taxes.

I think I have a view to the public good in offering these my thoughts to the public—and so remain the public's humble servant, the

FREETHINKER.

RICHMOND, September 23.

Extract of a letter from Washington, dated August 8, 1786.

"I lately gave you some information of a rupture that was likely to happen between the Frankland people and the upper Cherokees.——Yesterday I heard that Col. Outlean, with between 3 and 400 men (who flew to arms and in an enthusiastic manner in three days) marched near the banks of the Tenasie, where they were met by a number of the chiefs who implored peace in a very submissive tone and promising to give up the murderers in six weeks, who had fled to the Chickamogga, offering at the same time a number of hostages for the performance of their engagements as might be required.——Their terms were agreed to, and the men returned well satisfied."

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 30.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at the falls of Ohio, to his friend in this city, dated August 16.

"An expedition was to have taken place against the Indians with 500 volunteers last month, but an order came contradicting it, 1500 men are now raised, and will proceed against the Wabash Indians in a few days. General Clarke takes the command."

"The manufactory of nails alone, it is said, in Pennsylvania, will save this country near 100,000l. sterling, annually. What encouragement should this afford to our legislatures to proceed in patronizing and rewarding the manufactures of our country.

"It must give every good man pleasure to find that, while our merchants decline, our farmers and manufacturers flourish more than before the war. 'There is nothing wanting in Pennsylvania to render her the first state in the union, and the happiest community in the world, but the revival of public and private credit, and stability and equity in our laws.'

NEW-YORK, October 2.

Extract of a letter from an officer commanding at Fort M'Intosh, to a gentleman in Philadelphia, dated Fort Pitt, Sept. 13, 1786.

"Three men from Sandesky say the Indians are in general disposed for war, and that 700 warriors collected at the Shawone towns, and more are expected. That they were informed by two white men who had been there, that they had brought in 18 scalps and 4 prisoners, two men and a Mrs. Mbre and daughter; the two latter they burned before the men, and told them that was to be their lot in a few days. The above persons say that the Indians are determined to strike at Capt. Hutchins, surveyor, and those with him; also at a settlement called Wheeling, about 170 miles from this: But Gen. Clark, we hope, is ere this gone into their country with 1500 men, which will cut them out some other work than the butchering our defenceless inhabitants.

NEWBURY-PORT, Sept. 27.

It gives us pleasure to inform the public that the courts of general sessions of the peace and of the common pleas are, to the great joy and satisfaction of this and the neighbouring towns, now peaceably doing business here, without the shedding of blood, as was by some expected:—The two companies of Artillery, with their field-pieces, were, however, paraded early yesterday morning, and the several companies belonging to the train band and alarm list, were ready to join them at a moment's warning had it been necessary.

BOSTON, Saturday, Sept. 30.

The Courts of Common Pleas, and Sessions, for the County of Essex, began their session at Exeter, on Tuesday last, without interruption.

Yesterday a petition from the town of Dracut, Middlesex county, was read and committed to a Committee of both Houses of the Legislature, the prayer of which is, that acts may be passed making real and personal property a tender in payment of debts—to annihilate the Courts of Common Pleas, and to have the business usually done thereby, recognizable before a Justice of the Peace—to abridge the salaries of the several civil officers of government, particularly that of the Chief Magistrate's, which they suggest might be 500l. instead of 1200l.—and to remove the General Court out of the town of Boston, &c.

On a motion of Mr. Bacon, (member from Stockbridge) in the House of Representatives, yesterday, a committee was also appointed to investigate the several salaries of civil officers of government, and to report the statement thereof to be laid before the people at large.

The Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, which were by law to have been held at Plymouth, in the county of Plymouth, on Tuesday next, are by a resolve of the General Court, prorogued to the 22d Tuesday in December next.

OCTOBER 3.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Exeter, to his friend in this town, dated Sept. 24, 1786.

"The riotous spirit has met a severe check, which will give a deep wound to the knavish system—the hands of lawful government will be strengthened—it will give a spur to the militia—and each side will now know their own strength and weakness. Our General Sullivan behaved with great prudence, firmness and dispatch, and success crowned his exertions. General Cady distinguished himself by rushing sword in hand among the rioters, and pulling them out as a butcher would seize sheep in a flock. Several other continental officers and soldiers did eminent service. The rabble were struck with a panick at the sight of the light-horse, and the very name of artillery. They fled over fences into the woods, and scattered in all directions.

Extract of another letter from the same gentleman, dated September 27, 1786.

"My last, from Exeter, gave you an account

PROVIDENCE, Sept. 23.

The following account of a truly melancholy scene, which took place at Pawtuxet on Wednesday last, is transmitted by a gentleman who was present.——As a person who was attempting to discharge a quantity of putred stagnated water from a cistern, in a distill-house, that had been close covered for several years, and totally excluded from the external air, the suffocating exhalations affected him in such a manner that he fell to the bottom of the cistern, which contained about 9 inches of water in depth. Dr. Zuriel Waterman, and Mr. Zachariah Rhodes, who were near the place, repaired instantly to rescue the unfortunate man, and by the assistance of a ladder descended to the bottom of the cistern; but, alas! they both instantaneously fainted, and fell prostrate on their faces in the water: In the space of a few minutes a number of persons assembled, and used every possible exertion to afford immediate relief; but the circumstances of the air, connected with other difficulties, prolonged the time to the space of 10 minutes before they were brought into the open air, when every medical assistance was immediately administered. Dr. Waterman expired, after experiencing the most excruciating agonies; Mr. Rhodes and the other person are in a fair way of recovery. Thus in a few moments was consigned to the cold embrace of death a young gentleman, in whom every virtue shone eminently conspicuous, and in whom his worthy relatives sustain an irreparable loss.

NEW-LONDON, Sept. 29.

Extract of a letter from Newport, Sept. 26.

"Our superior court has determined the law to be unconstitutional, that has given power to the judges of either court, to determine causes without trial of a jury, in the case of those who will not take our paper emission equal to gold and silver, and have proceeded accordingly."

NORTHAMPTON, October 11.

A convention of self-appointed representatives, met at Smithfield, in Rhode-Island, on the 13th inst.—who after organizing themselves, to express their patriotism and regard for the interest of commerce, agreed to recommend it to the several towns, that their deputies be instructed to form a state trade; that they provide vessels, and apply the unappropriated taxes therefor, which taxes are to be received in "money, produce, lumber or labour." And further to revenge themselves on the mercantile interest, for rendering their paper money unstable, they recommend that the Treasurer be directed to issue no more interest certificates, receivable for impost, but that the importers pay the collectors in money—This convention also requests the Governor to call the Assembly together, &c. and in consequence thereof his Excellency accordingly convened that body at Newport on Monday last.

We the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ELIZABETH QUEEN, alias WALKER, late of South-Hadley, deceased, represented insolvent, and to the last of December next is allowed for setling said estate; do give notice, that we shall attend said business on the last Mondays of October and December next, at the house of Noah Goodman, Esq. in said South-Hadley, from one to five o'clock on each day.

NATHANIEL WHITE,
DAVID NASH,
DAVID MITCHEL.

South-Hadley, Sept. 5, 1786.

THE LOVE WRANGLE.

A PASTORAL INTERLUDE.

RECITATIVE.

ONCE on a time, no matter when or where,
A wrangling scene took place—it was not here;
Three maidens fair arraign'd a luckless swain,
Who had, in vain to court them all, and not in vain:
But, ere too late, they found the trainer's plan.
Thus met, they us'ed to shame the faithless man,
And friendly chorus thus his part began:

FIRST CHORUS.

Come, stand round, ye swains, and ye maidens draw near;
A shepherd's accus'd, and the witnesses here,
Here, here, here, here!
If guilty, condemn him, if innocent, spare,
The nymphs who are wrong'd, let them hither repair,
Here, here, here, here!
Bring then the charge, who have cause to complain.
Are the parties all ready? Where, where is the swain;
Here, here, here, here!

SONG.

What soft pretty things both by night and by day,
Was it not your fond custom to promise and say?
You prest me,
Carest me;
I hardly was able to answer you, nay.
But then you could go, and to others be kind,
Try to bring other maidens as much to your mind;
Caresst them,
And prest them;
I saw not your falshood, for love made me blind.

But now all my fondness is turn'd into hate,
I will have my revenge, you shall feel 'tis from Kate;
I'll haunt ye,
To taunt ye;
May horns and suspicion through life be your fate!

SONG.

Ye court at one time, three young maids, ye bold elf!
How well you must think of that creature, yourself!
One of us, I fancy, might very well do;
You'd find me enough, of all conscience, for you.

What would ye have done, if all three had comply'd?
The law says, one shepherd can have but one bride.
If I had been rated the third of a wife,
In my rage I had made you been try'd for your life.

If once we could do without love and the men,
We should not be rotten'd again and again.
But love is our errand, and swains freak their mind;
If they were more sheepish, we might be less kind.

SONG.

When you knelt at my feet,
And you kiss'd me so sweet,
What was I to think or to do?
With joy and with pain,
I saw my dear swain!
Oh! I had not been in love but for you.

Was it worth so much art,
To win a poor heart,
And learn its young owner to grieve?
Thro' aiding to your charms,
I am free from your arms,
And the plague, but was made to deceive.

Get you gone, you false lout,
For your tricks are found out;
Be hooted for this of the plain:
May the nymph ye'er be true,
Who is cheated by you;
May you love, and be lov'd not again.

SONG.

I'm not to be fitted to love,
Nor yet to be fitted to ladies;
I thought I could bill like a dove;
And courting my pleasure and trade is.

I like'd one for the charms of her face;
For wit and for wisdom another;
The third, for a maiden's soft grace;
Then why is a mighty a pother?

For all these perfections in one;
To one, only one, I'll be steady;
But surely the swain you were, thus,
Who for three at a time could be ready?

QUARTETTO.

Oh! spare me, and think of my youth!
You're a foe both to virtue and truth.
I never had done so before.
You never shall do so no more.
'Twas love put it into my head.
We believe not a word you have said.
A mark shall be set on the swain,
Left he cheat and deceive us again.

LAST CHORUS.

Let sweet love be still the passion,
Let not falshood be the fashion!
One for one, is fore intended;
And the rule cannot be mended.
One's enough in any reason,
When dear Hymen is in season:
Love for love will make us jolly;
Love for three is crime and folly.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

New York, September 9, 1786.

THE United States in Congress assembled having authorised the Post-Master General to contract for the carriage of the Public Mails, for the year 1787, from Portland in the state of Massachusetts, to Savannah in Georgia, by Stage Carriages, if practicable.

NOTICE is hereby given to the proprietors of stage carriages (and any other persons who may have it in contemplation to establish such) that proposals for the transportation of the mail will be received by the Post-Master General, at his office No. 58, Broad-way, New-York, at any time before the first day of November next; and that persons inclining to form a contract may be enabled to make their calculations with great accuracy, they are informed, that

From May 1st to November 1st, the mail must be carried three time in each week, and from November 1st to May 1st twice in each week, to and from each post office.

It is to be delivered at, and taken from each office at stated hours, convenient for the transaction of mercantile business, by a person who shall travel constantly with the mail, and whose business it shall be to take care of it. This person shall be employed by either of the contracting parties, as may be agreed, and shall carry a way-bill (to be returned to the general post-office) on which each Post-master shall note, in writing, the time of the mail's arrival at and departure from his office.

In case of accidents happening to the stage, the mail is to be forwarded so as to reach each office at the stated hour, at the expence of the proprietor of the stage.

A reasonable time after the receipt of the mail by the post-master, is to be allowed for receiving letters and making up another mail to be forwarded.

A secure and convenient place in each carriage must be set apart for the reception of the mail, and appropriated solely to that purpose;——this place to be well-secured against rain and snow, and have a good lock and key.

The proprietors of the stages and their drivers, as well as the person having the charge of the mail, are to be under oath not to carry, or knowingly suffer to be carried in their stages, any letters or newspapers but what they shall deliver into a post-office: the oaths of the said persons respectively to be returned to the post-master general before the contracts commence.

Bond, with two sufficient sureties, to be given for the fulfilment, and penalties annexed to each violation of the contracts.

No *joint* contracts will be admitted; but each proprietor must contract separately for the distance his stage travels.

Portmanteaus and bags for containing the letters to be furnished at the expence of the United States.

The sums agreed upon for carrying the mails, to be paid in four equal quarterly payments; each payment to be made punctually at the expiration of each quarter.

The contract to commence January 1st, 1787, and continue in force for one year.

And whereas the post-master general is authorised to form the exclusive right of conveying the mail upon certain cross roads to any person or persons giving sufficient security for the faithful transportation of the same, for a term not exceeding seven years. The following

CROSS ROADS,

Are now offered, for the above term, to all persons inclining to engage in such a speculation, from whom proposals will be received until the 1st of December next, viz.

From Portland, to Pownalborough in the state of Massachusetts.

From Boston, in the state of Massachusetts, to the town of Concord in New-Hampshire, and from thence through Exeter to Portsmouth.

From Springfield, in the state of Massachusetts, to the city of Albany, in the state of New-York.

From the city of New-York, to Danbury, in the state of Connecticut, and from thence, by the way of Litchfield, to Hartford.

From the city of New-York to the city of Albany.

From the city of Philadelphia, to the town of Vienna, in the state of Maryland.

From the city of Philadelphia, to Bedford in Pennsylvania.

From the town of Baltimore, to the city of Annapolis in Maryland, and from thence to Leonard's town in St. Mary's county, by the rout of Upper Malborough Piscattaway and Port Tobacco.

From the town of Alexandria in Virginia, by the rout of Leesburgh, Winchester, and Fort Cumberland, to Bedford in Pensylvania.

From Bedford to the town of Pittsburgh.

From the town of Wilmington in North-Carolina, to Fayetteville in the same state, by the rout of Elizabeth Town.

From Fayetteville in North-Carolina to Camden, in South Carolina, and from thence to Charlestown; and from Camden in South-Carolina, by the rout of Columbia, to Augusta in the state of Georgia. By order of the Post-Master General,

JAMES BRYSON, Assistant.

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 19.

Capt. Hutchins beginning at the point where the west boundary line to Pennsylvania crosses the Ohio, and running a due west course, has proceeded near twelve miles, and one district is laid off, which Capt. Martin has begun to survey: From the closeness of the wood, the progress of surveying is slow at this season of the year, as a sight cannot be taken longer than two or three perches. It is supposed that it will be next October before all the districts are laid off. No savages have yet appeared, nor is there any apprehension of danger.

From the 6th of July last to the 10th instant, the following peltry was bought up by one trader of this place, from the Indians, and mostly paid for in whisky and flour:

2173	summer deer skins	
74	fall	do. do.
48	fawn	do.
94	bear	do.
37	elk	do.
84	beaver	do.
278	raccoon	do.
29	fox	do.
419	musk-rat	do.
29	fishers	do.
14	martins	do.
15	wild cat	do.
17	wolves	do.
16	panthers	do.
67	pair of mockinsons.	

Query. What must the whole Indian trade of this place amount to during that time, or for one year; what the advantages of the Indian trade to this town and the country adjacent.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,
The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Cash or any of the above Books, given for Rags and old Fish Net.

OCTOBER 1786. THE NUMB. 7.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT HOUSE.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addressed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampshire.

NUMBER V.

MY COUNTRYMEN,

MY third number promised a distinct consideration of the convention's complaints in their 7th, 8th and 10th articles of grievance. I now apply myself to prove those complaints to be groundless. I shall change their order and take up their 8th grievance, which is,

8th. "The unreasonable grants made to some of the officers of government."

Had they informed us in particular what officers of government received unreasonable grants, the subject would have stood fairly open to enquiry. But this might not answer their purpose so well as to send abroad a vague and uncertain complaint. Had they been circumstantial, their falacy might have been detected and the minds of their constituents easily disabused, and their cause would have been materially weakened: And would not that have been an impolitic step? But we must take things as we find them. One complaint which they made while together was the grant to the Attorney-general of 1100l. which appeared to be made for more than six years service in the common business of the office, and for managing for the government the confiscated estates of the absentees. I will not affront common sense by an attempt to prove, that the grant was moderate and frugal, not exceeding the worth of the service. The convention generally allowed, that the grant of 300l. annually to each of the Justices of the supreme judicial court was sufficiently sparing. The principal cry was raised against the Governor's salary. This matter has been treated very sufficiently. People who did, or might know better have affirmed, that the Governor's salary was 1100l. annually and 500l. as captain of the castle, with other perquisites to a large amount. The fact is, that the Lieut. Governor with a salary of 500l. is captain of the castle; and the Governor has a grant of 1,100l. annually, and is cautiously restricted from all other perquisites of office.—Under the British government the Governor had 1300l. salary, 400l. in perquisites, and an exemption from taxes, which rendered his salary nearly double the value of the present Governor. Considering the extent of the government, and the necessary expences of that hospitality and munificence which is requisite in a governor, I cannot believe that the legislature made any material error in their grant. Men of liberal sentiments will not think that the expence could be considerably deminished, without essential injury to the commonwealth. At least, it may be a query, whether a saving of 200 or 300l. yearly, would be equal to the hazard and expence of overthrowing the present government and making a new constitution, as our convention prudently propose.

Our next business is to scan the 7th article.

7th. "The present mode of appropriating the impost and excise," is a grievance.

The impost and excise are appropriated to pay the interest of our governmental securities. I conjecture, that the pretended grievance consists in their not being appropriated to pay the interest of the foreign debt. The impost and excise are a temporary grant to continue until the five per cent. impost, &c. shall by all the states be granted to Congress. Until this last measure shall obtain, the avails of impost and excise are designed as a method of paying the interest of our particular debt. And why is it not just and wise for government to take care of their own subjects in preference of those who belong to the other states? while the other states especially were backward in making the necessary provision for paying the general debt; it was the duty of this state to pay attention to their own debt, and not to suffer their own securities to fall in value in order to raise the value of continental securities.—The government had received such a value, they promised an annual payment of interest. And what claim have they or any person in their name to say, they shall not keep their promise. But says the honest objector, bitterly concerned for his poor neighbour and the poor soldier, the holders of these securities bought them under their nominal value, and by that means they receive exorbitant interest. I am willing there should be laws against fraud and oppression. But what claim have the public to interfere in private bargains, for obligations which are not a legal tender to individuals? What decency or integrity would there be in the interposition of the government to seize into their own hands what has been cheated out of individuals. If they could restore such monies to the sufferers, it would be more justifiable. But as the matter respects the public, they have received the value: they owe the full sum and the annual interest: they have solemnly promised to pay it. It is full time that the government should convince the world, that their promises are to be relied on. Let who will have the obligation, the public owe the whole interest. If there has been fraud in procuring the obligation, the law is our remedy. The enquiry belongs to our judicial courts and not the party who has been credited and is under temptation to get rid of the debt. The legislature has no more authority to refuse payment, or to alter the mode of payment, than has a single subject;—if they have, we have no security in public faith. An attempt to free ourselves from full payment, is decidedly a violation of the constitution.—"But did not old continental money sink almost to nothing? Yes: And is it not a pretty argument, that because individuals have been injured in a time of war, of uncertainty and distress, therefore individuals should be injured again in time of peace, when we have nothing to do but learn frugality and honesty, and pay our debts like an upright people? Shall I be permitted to rob on the highway without molestation, because to satisfy my soul under pressing hunger I have formerly pillaged a hen-roost. It is falacy, it is delusion to plead the ruin of multitudes by continental money, as a reason for ruining fresh multitudes, when no necessity calls for it. Besides, it is an argument for the annual payment of interest; that even such payment cannot save the public securities from depreciation. And what would be the end of them was the interest withholden—I add, that many of the holders of these securities have purchased them with a view of paying their debt to the public for impost and excise, and it would immediately derange the business of those on whom the public mostly depend for payment.—Many useful public institutions are founded upon the credit of the securities: the estates of many widows and orphans consist of them, and to stop the payment of interest would not only be highly fraudulent, but it would grind the faces of the poor and needy; of many who are the original creditors. Such a refusal of payment would destroy all faith in public promises, and at one blow cut the sinews of public defence. If that was not the influential motive which originated the attack upon public securities and the payment of their interest, I have been led into a most blundering augury. Were the public to die to-morrow and never want trust again, it would not be so material an injury: but if the public hope to live, it is important that they teach the world that their faith may be relied on. The attempt to destroy their credit by destroying their securities, argues a mind peculiarly fraudulent and wholly unfriendly to American independence and national happiness. If such measures should be further vindicated, I hope the field will be open to an impartial discussion. For the present, not to protract this number to an undue size, I am free to say, that to me it appears a proof of ignorance or fraud to call the appropriation of impost and excise to pay the interest upon our governmental securities a grievance,—unless it is a grievance for the public honestly to pay their debts. If the public cannot pay, let them like other honest debtors go in to jail and swear out. But it will be alledged, that if it is not a grievance thus to apply the excise and impost, yet it is impolitic; we had better pay our foreign debt. To this I reply, that the obligations were consolidated upon the declared purpose of the legislature to pay the interest by impost and excise. To alter the appropriation is sporting with the well grounded expectations and claims of public creditors. And to pay the interest of the continental debt and neglect our own, would be to sink the estates of our own subjects in order to raise the value of the obligations in the hands of the subjects of other states.—I add, that the interest of the foreign debt is inconsiderable when compared with the amount of impost and excise, and the government may easily and without distressing the people provide for the payment of that interest without deranging their present system for paying their own particular debt. Upon the whole, the legislature with their information and prudence have acted as wisely as the Hatfield convention would have done had the question been referred to them for settlement. But they say,

10th. "The present mode of paying governmental securities," is a grievance.

They are called in by taxes. The people buy them at 6 or 8s. upon the pound, and they continue to depreciate while the tax is collecting. They fall in the holders hands, and what would the people wish for better, unless they would honestly endeavour to prevent their further depreciation. To pay them to their full amount would perhaps be strict justice in the public: but the public can be equally honest if they are called in by taxes: for that is the way in which the government is commonly supposed to pay its paper securities. By taxes there is a voluntary payment—there is no compulsion further than the individuals is fairly indebted. Every holder sells or not, as he judges to be for his interest. What objection can a convention have to this way of payment, if they wish to pay at all. They ought not to complain when creditors pay three forths of the debt, and the national debt which they complain of as so burdensome has already sunk at least 75 per cent. But will not the securities rise in value by and by? Probably they will not: experience proves that they will depreciate. But should they appreciate; what then? it will be soon enough when that is the fact to compel the present holders to refund something to the original creditor. As for the public, they cannot claim an exemption from paying the debt. But really, the appreciation of our public securities is the child of fancy; and it is idle to terrify ourselves with those apprehensions until the event shall have some probable existence. To amuse people with future burdens, which are wholly uncertain, is mischievous. Our best way is to pay in the public obligations as fast as we are able. This is an honest method of reducing both the principal and interest. "But would you not have the securities scaled and brought down to four or five shillings on the pound." This is a lucky continuance. They would never want scaling but once,—they would not pay for a second scaling. A noble scheme for paying our public debt. Had the government 500,000l. in silver in the treasury, and the people should voluntarily exchange their obligations for four or five shillings on the pound, would be one thing. To say they shall do it, is another thing. And to say they shall take a new paper security of five shillings, for one of twenty, now in their hands, is a thing different from either of the former. This perhaps would please the convention. Indeed the attack made upon our public securities and the appropriation of impost and excise, is a demonstration of human depravity and the accumulated wickedness of many people in this country. Men of sense cannot make the attack without seeing the utter ruin it will bring upon the faith of government and of all rational security in future exigences. The pretence that we must pay the foreign debt first and neglect the domestic debt, is a direct confession of the fraud and wickedness which lies at the bottom. We must pay the French and the Dutch because they are able to compel us and will not be cheated; but our own people who have fought and bled—who have lent us gold and silver—who have sold us beef, flour and cloathing, must be cheated; for this manifest reason, because we are stronger than they, and they cannot obtain satisfaction, they cannot use compulsion. Base confession! "O my soul come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly mine honour be not thou united." I have an ancient book, which by a few is thought to contain a very good system of politics. That book says, "it is an abomination to Kings to commit wickedness: for the

throne is established by righteousness. Righteousness exalteth a nation." If the advocates for discharging the public debt have never read that book, I will recommend to their attention an old maxim, which I have seen in the newspapers, "Honesty is the best policy." I wish to be thought an honest man, and am therefore utterly against sinking the public debt and ruining public creditors.

ANSOLM REPUBLICAN.

The SPIRIT of the TIMES.

Addressing the People of Massachusetts.

No. I.

I SPEAK to a people who glory in their knowledge—Trust therefore that I am explain to you who I am, and that you will understand what I say. Your philosophers will tell you that there is a real and active spirit in every living thing;—and do not your own good sense tell you that when that living thing, who is emancipated spirit, is cut, maimed or broken, for as much as derived of life, then the active spirit contained in it, is let at liberty?—Such a spirit am I; and the people of Massachusetts will find me benevolent to them.

I find it to be a general enquiry wherefore were the late risings of the people in some parts of this commonwealth, what influenced them thus to rise and oppose government. Was it old things aim at merely?—some are apt to think these had a part—but a general answer, that the people were uneasy and did this to manifest the uneasiness, don't satisfy the minds of the inquisitive. As therefore I was present with them at the late rising, went through all their ranks—conversed with almost every one, and penetrated into the secret recesses of their souls, benevolence induces me to answer the foregoing enquiries of the people, and to open the minds of the insurgents as they were opened to me: as I penetrated into them. To the general sentiment when one cried one thing, and another another thing, it would have puzzled a wiser spirit than I am even to have guessed wherefore they came together, or what they aimed at. I therefore took the stillest time in the profoundest silence of the night—I enquired of an old plow-jogger the cause and aim of the people of that assembly: he said to go redress of grievances. I asked what grievances? he said we have all grievances enough, I can tell you mine; I have laboured hard all my days and fared hard; I have been greatly abused; been obliged to do more than my part in the wars; been loaded with class-rates, town rates, province rates, continental rates, and state rates, lawsuits, and have been pulled and hauled by sheriffs, constables and collectors, and had my cattle sold for less than they were worth; I have been obliged to pay, and no only will pay no more; I have lost a great deal by this man and that man and Cotter man; and the great men are going to get all we have; and I think it is time for us all to rise and put a stop to it, and have no more courts, nor lawyers, nor collectors, nor lawgers; I designed to pay no more; and I know we have the biggest party, let them say what they will. I smiled at his laconic answers, and being fir enquiry,

I next asked a poor lad, who was hard by him, the cause of his rising. The lad (who fancied himself a deep politician) made a long harangue upon governors, and judges, and lawyers, and sheriffs, and collectors, and constables, and generals, and sergeants, and attorneys, and tories, and aristocrats, and despotics, and senators, and justices, and equitables, and treasurers, and taxes, and fees, and pensions; and such an one they can times too much, and such five times too much: and the continent owes so much, and the state so much, and the towns so much, and the great men go keep up all the money and live easy, and we work hard, and we can't pay it, and we won't pay it. I found many youths among sharp, genial yeomanry versed in political knowledge.—Thus I went from rank to rank enough all the mobility—I sounded their leaders, and (whether willing or unwilling) I got the secrets of their hearts. I would the poor nations on hear this whole conversation and all the discoveries I made. I found that they were influenced by various motives to assemble, and had various aims to pursue

As to the motives of their abetting (some were planters of tic others executors) I found the greatest part of them were deep in debt; many of them who used to live high were deeply entangled and some had executions against them; if they did not refill the course of justice, they must be reduced to indigence and distress. Others had neglected for several years to pay taxes, the aggregate was now considerable, and cash was scarce, and if late had to come it would have had with them. Others had been disappointed of expected finances, and others stuffed the people with hopes that others (in their opinion less deserving) were provided before them. A great number were of a restless meddlesome temper, always muttering and complaining, and could never be content in any circumstances whatever. These joined the assembly on motives of discontent, they loved the world on well to part with any article of it for public services. Others were influenced to join them from motives of down-right knavery—they heard the people could avoid paying debts and taxes if they would; and they thought now was the time. Others were moved to come by curiosity; they could not bear to be off unless grow it fuller than they or have places of honour or profit which they have none. Others had an itch to raise those in authority, and they thought they could have full scope there. Some had an itch to be leaders, and they thought this was the time.—pecuniary and ambition were their motives. Some were excited to go by a spirit of party against rulers. Many were induced to go by the earnest importunities of others. Many were induced to go by false reports. Some went out of mere curiosity—and others out of bold and partial zeal. Many were influenced to go to prevent their friends from being indicted for high crimes and misdemeanors. Others to see if the grievances complained of by the late commotions could be redressed. The motive which induced others to go was because some whom they thought knew better than they told them it was best to go. Some few went to prevent others from doing of it. But

The SPIRIT of the TIMES.

From the Connecticut Courant.

The Establishment of the Worship of the DEITY, essential to National Happiness.

Pluſque boni mores,
Quam bonæ leges, valent. TACITUS.

BY AN AMERICAN.

LETTER V.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE considered the institution of public worship only as it respects the prosperity and happiness of a people in their secular and civil interests, and as it is the support of order and government. Every rational mind must see the necessity of it, to these good ends. The influence this institution has on our future happiness, I shall not in this place consider, or dwell on the additional force which the argument derives from this quarter. I beg leave to mention an argument of the greatest possible weight on this subject. The truth of it is established by incontestable and infallible authority, and confirmed by the experience of every age and nation; which is, that the Supreme Governor of the world deals with nations according to public laws which he hath established. It is in this world that nations are punished or rewarded. They feel the effects of his supreme justice or goodness according to their publick characters. The reason of this economy is, because nations, as such, have no future state: the present, is therefore to them, the only time of trial and of retribution. They are rewarded or punished, built up or thrown down, honoured or destroyed, in this world, by that Being, whose providence is national and universal.

Give me leave to refer you to a single passage in revelation which establishes this truth, in which the Most High declares that his smiles or his frowns are on the nations according as they do or do not obey his laws. Jer. xviii. chap. "At what instant I shall speak, concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down and to destroy it: If that nation against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evils, I will repent of the evil which I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it: If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then will I repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

This, I conceive, is the general and supreme rule of government, which the Most High maintains among the nations; not confined in its operation to the nation of the Jews, but applied to all nations and ages. A retrospect on the history of the world demonstrates, that the disquisitions of Heaven towards nations have been invariably according to this rule, down the stream of time from the foundation of the assyrian empire, even to the decline of the British, and the elevation of that of these united Republics.

Since as a people we have experienced most signally, the interpositions of providence, as our present tranquility, sovereignty and independence announce to all the world, and to the conviction of infidelity itself; what returns does Almighty God, the arbiter of nations, who holds the balance of empire, expect from us but a suitable acknowledgment, and that by the maintenance of that institution as the medium by which our gratitude must be expressed? Shall we revert to ignorance, to vice and barbarism in proportion to our obligations to be an enlightened & virtuous people? Forbid it Heaven! and ye civil fathers of our dear country! Let perfect freedom in religious sentiments be given, but maintain the publick worship of the DEITY.

I am, &c.

BOSTON, September 26.

Of the insurrection in New-Hampshire, which took place the last week, we have the following account—written by a gentleman who happened to be present.

IN the beginning of the year 1785, the complaints of the unhappy people, who had contracted debts during the time of the too great plenty of money, induced the Legislature to pass an act, making every species of property a tender, at an appraised value. It was soon, however, found from experience, that this answered no other purpose but to prevent a demand on the part of the creditors, and a neglect on the part of the debtors to discharge their just debts. The scarcity of money still remained a complaint for as far as goods and real property were substituted as a medium in commerce, so far specie, of course, ceased to circulate; and credit being thus injured, the money-holders turned their keys on that cash which might otherwise have been loaned to the needy.

In August, a convension of committees from about thirty towns assembled and agreed upon, & preferred to the General Court, a long petition, setting forth their grievances on account of the scarcity of money, and praying for an emission of paper bills of credit; in which there is no single trace of an idea of Redemption, or any attempt to give the currency a foundation in the whole seems predicated on a supposition the General Court, by a mere act of legislation by words and signs could impress an intrinsick value on paper; which is as fully absurd as it would be to suppose, that the Legislature had the power of Midas, and could, from a single touch, turn stones and sticks into gold; their great object was, however, to have this paper a tender for all debts and taxes; and no plan is hinted, by which the people are to get this money out of the treasury: but it rather seems that they expected the General Court to apportion it among the people at large.

The Legislature formed a plan for the emission of twenty thousand pounds, to be let out at five per cent. and land security redeemable at a future period, carrying an interest at six per cent: as to be a tender in taxes for the internal support of the State, and for fees and salaries of the officers of the government. This plan was sent, as early as the fourteenth of September, to the several towns, to collect their minds upon the subject.

On the 20th instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, about 400 men on horse-back and on foot, entered the town of Exeter, where the General Court were sitting; about fifty of them, perhaps more, were armed with muskets, and the others with bludgeons; their principal leader appeared to be Moses French, a Farmer, of Hampstead, aided by one Coffin, a major in the militia, and two or three others: they affected military parade, and had a drum: after they had halted a while, they sent a paper into the house of Representatives, who were convened in the meeting house, demanding an answer to their former petition without delay; It was dated on EXETER PLAN, and signed Moses French, moderator.

The house appointed a committee of three to be joined by a committee from the senate to take the matter into consideration. This the senate unanimously nonconcurred.—Whereupon a conference took place in the meeting-house, between the two branches of the Legislature. The President (General Sullivan) being ex officio, a senator, opened the matter, by giving publicly, in the hearing of the people, and as many of the mob as chose to attend, the reasons on which the senate nonconcurr'd the vote of the house. He first considered the petition, and shewed with great strength of reasoning, and very coolly, the extreme folly, as well as the very great injustice of the prayer of their former petition. And also observed, that even if the measure was just and reasonable, the general court ought not to pay attention to it, merely from having the voice of thirty towns only, out of two hundred in favour of it. He concluded by saying, that if the vote of the whole state was for the measure, yet the Legislature ought not to comply with it, while they were surrounded by an armed force. To do it, would be to betray the rights of the people, which they had all engaged solemnly to support, and that no consideration of personal danger should ever compel him to so flagrant a violation of the constitutional rights of the people, who had placed him in the chair of government.

As soon as this speech was made, the mob beat to arms, and surrounded the meeting-house, where the President, the Senate and the House remained: those of the mob who had muskets were ordered to charge with balls, which command they instantly obeyed. The house proceeded to business as usual, without taking any manner of notice of the management at the door. Centinels were placed at each door with fixed bayonets, and the whole Legislature were prisoners. After sun-set the president attempted to come out, but was prevented by a firm column. He reasoned very coolly with them on the impropriety and fatal tendency of their conduct, and assured them that the force of the state would support the government: which they took leave to deny with as much confidence as he asserted it. Thus all remained, till the evening was quite dark; the minds of the sober part of the people began to rise at the indignity; while the mob clamoured, some 'paper money,' some an equal 'distribution of property,' some the 'annihilation of debts,' some 'release of all taxes,' and all clamoured against law and government. A drum was now heard at a distance, and a number of men huzzaing for government. The mob appeared frighted, and some of them began to run: the President told them he would prevent bloodshed and walked through them, and the General Court followed.

On this, the insurgents returned to another part of the town, and the legislature, who had, throughout the whole, acted with the most inimitable firmness and magnanimity, reassumed their business, and requested the President to call forth the power of the state to quell the rebellion. At eleven in the evening he issued his orders, and by sunrise the next morning, the militia were marching in, well armed, with military musick and other incidents to military movements. The Major and Brigadier Generals of all the State, excepting one whose great remoteness from the scence of action prevented him, assembled early in the morning; the gentlemen of the first rank and education, emulous to save a government for which they had done and suffered so much, appeared either on foot or horse in order, and enthusiasm, quite inexpressible by words, appeared through the whole. About ten o'clock, the President, attended by the general officers followed by several companies, advanced towards the insurgents, who were drawn up at a tavern in the outer part of the town. There was no conflict; the mob fled, and nothing was to be done but to pick up the prisoners. A number fled and made a stand at a bridge. General Cilly soon came up with them, rushed in and seized their leaders. One of whom ordered them to fire; but government appeared with such force that they dared not to obey. About forty of them were made prisoners, and are now in jail, to be tried for high treason——the rest are fled to their lurking places, from whence they must be dragged to an ignominious death, unless the clemency of government shall pity and save them. By this time there were more than two thousand men in arms, about three hundred of them were horse; all ready to preserve legal government, and the due execution of the laws. The sentiment was constantly re-echoed, "How can we live without government, and shall we give ourselves up to a mob?" If the legislature appeared magnanimous the day before, A FREE GOVERNMENT, THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT, now shone with unequalled splendour and glory.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE GENERAL ORDERS,

Given at Durham, the 27th day of September, 1786, and in the eleventh year of American Independence.

COL. Benjamin Stone, of the 20th regiment; major James Cochran, of the 11th regiment; captain James Cochran, of the 11th regiment; lieutenant Asa Robinson, of the same regiment; captain John M'Keen and lieutenant Thomas M'Clary, both of the eighth regiment; and captain Eli Dow, lieutenant Clough, and ensign Thomas Cotton, of the seventh regiment will consider themselves in arrest, for stirring up and exciting the citizens of this state to levy war against the same, and to overturn the constitution and government thereof, and for aiding, abetting and assisting a number of insurgents, in a most daring and audacious manner, to insult the legislative authority of the state, and with an armed force, to surround the house where the two branches of the legislature were assembled, and to imprison them, and menace them with death if they refused to comply with such terms as the insurgents thought proper to offer:

The above named officers are to desist from any further command in their respective corps, until discharged by a court-martial.

A general court-martial, whereof major general Cilly is president, will sit at Exeter on Thursday the twenty-first day of November next, for the trial of those officers, and such others as may be under arrest at that time.

The following officers are appointed members and are requested to attend the trial, at ten of the clock in the forenoon:

Col. Amos Cogswell, Col. Moses Leavet, Col. James Hill, Col. John Calef, Col Michael M'Clary, Lieut. Col. James Hacket, Lieut Col. E. Giddinge, Lieut. Col Jonathan Cram, Lieut. Col. W. Brewster, Lieut. Col. Joseph March, Major Jonathan Cass, Capt. George Hart, Capt. Thomas Shannon.

Col. Jonathan Rawson is appointed Judge-advocate, and is requested to attend the court-martial.

J. SULLIVAN, Captain General.

NEW-LONDON, October 6.

Last Thursday came on, before the Hon. Superior Court sitting here, the trial of Hannah Ocuish, a mulatto girl, about 12 years of age, who was indicted for the murder of Eunice Bolles, a child of Mr. James Bolles, of this town, as mentioned in our paper of the 28th of July last; when, after a fair and impartial examination of the evidences, and an ample and candid discussion of facts by the council, for and against the prisoner, which took up the day, the jury withdrew, and by their verdict returned into court the morning following, found the criminal guilty.

BOSTON, October 9.

The Committee of both branches of the legislature, failed to consider that part of his Excellency's speech, and the papers accompanying the same, which respect the disturbances which have lately taken place in several counties in this state, on Tuesday last reported a number of resolutions, which we doubt not, if adopted by the legislature, will give efficacy, permanency and dignity to the constitution and laws of the commonwealth.—The report (as nearly as we can collect) was to the following purport, that the legislature hold in utter abhorrence and detestation the proceedings of a number of persons, in stopping the courts of justice in several counties in this Commonwealth—That they highly approve of the conduct of the Supreme Executive in ordering out the militia, &c. for the support of constitutional government—That those who obey the orders of the commander in chief, be allowed a compensation therefor, out of the public treasury, and those who shall hereafter turn out of any similar emergency, shall also be allowed pay therefor—That the legislature will, as they ever have done, enquire for and redress any real grievances which the people may labour under—That the Treasurer be directed to make out a statement of the taxes assessed since 1782, the sums which have been paid thereon, the balance due, and by whom, in order to be laid before the people—That an enquiry be made into the salaries and emoluments of the several officers of government, and if found expedient, that deductions be made therein—That Congress be requested to postpone the time for the payment of that part of the late requisition which is to be made in facilities.—That the current copper coin be regulated.—That a plan be devised for coining gold, silver and copper, and for supplying the Treasury with specie.—That an institution be established as a substitute for the court of common pleas.—That an act be passed making real and personal estate a tender in the payment of debts.—That a bounty be given to encourage the raising of sheep, and hemp.—The Committee also reported the expediency of suspending for a limited time the writ of habeas corpus—a revision of the militia law,—and the enacting a law military.—The greater part of the above report has been adopted by both branches almost unanimously—the remainder is now under consideration.

The Court of Sessions and Court of Common Pleas for the Counties of Barnstable and Nantucket, went through their business last week without the least molestation.

WORCESTER, October 12.

We hear from Lancaster, that at a meeting of that town on the 2d inst. their delegate to convention laid before the town for its consideration the petition agreed on by that body, which was then examined article by article. On reading the 2d article, the delegate was asked what Convention intended by 'a portable representation of property,' and receiving no very satisfactory answer, they passed the article with an exception that no paper money be made. On the 4th article the delegate was called to inform what officer of government was there alluded to; the delegate informed it was the Attorney-General; the town were of opinion that the office of Attorney-General should be expresly named, which would more probably cause an explanation of a matter not accurately understood, and perhaps heal a sore in the political body that otherwise might remain festering for a long time. The last clause in the 8th article, which says, "the grant of the supplementary fund we conceive inconsistent with republican principles, and very grievous to this people," the town would not adopt. The 11th article, respecting registering deeds in the several townships in the county, was disapproved by a great majority. The 13th and last article, viz. the scheme for revising and amending the constitution (as it was termed) was unanimously rejected. The town having thus avowed the constitution, were inclined to instruct their Representatives rather than petition the General Court through the instrumentality of Convention; and accordingly directed their Clerk to forward the doings of the town to Capt. Carter, their Representative, by the earliest opportunity, as the instructions of his constituents.

On Monday morning last, this town was visited by several men from Uxbridge, who, it is said, came with a view to level the gaol and release the prisoners: their number we were told was about thirty; but they had not all arrived before they were overtaken by about fifty gentlemen from the same town, who having heard of their absurd plan the evening before, immediately turned out to oppose them. It appears that the people who had undertook this rash design, had previously applied for assistance in several parts of the county, but it is supposed their measure did not nor could meet with approbation; on finding such a respectable number of their townsmen ready to oppose them, and none to assist them, they immediately sat off on their return to their homes, and were soon after followed by their opponents.

Friday last, arrived at Boston, the Brig Mary, Capt. Barnard, from London, after a passage of 66 days. A London paper gives the following account of the specie which this vessel carried from Boston, viz. 46,125 dollars, 1229 joes, 809 crowns, 2087 guineas, 110 half guineas, 85 pistoles, 264 do. in silver, 1 moidore, 556 ounces of gold, the whole amounting to 200,000l. sterling. Behold! Ye who believe not that the passion for external gaudiness will prove our ruin—and wonder not, saying, "Where can our cash be gone?"—when in one ship, two hundred thousand pounds sterling was remitted for British gewgaws!

NORTHAMPTON, October 18.

Dr. Ladd, of Charleston, (S. C.) has lately given a most convincing proof of Christian philanthropy and benevolence, by notifying, in the public papers, the really poor of that city, who may at any time stand in need of medical assistance, that he is ready to assist them with prescriptions, advice, and in particular cases, with medicines, gratis. Add to this, he has set apart two hours every day for the purpose of administering to the wretched and needy those comforts which they could not, but for humanity like this, so readily obtain.

A Philadelphia paper of Sept. 30, mentions, That "On Monday last, a communication took place of the different officers and representatives of the respective lodges under the government of the grand lodge of Pennsylvania, in order to consider the propriety of renouncing their submission, in future, to the Masonic power and authority of Great-Britain, and declaring themselves independent of any foreign jurisdiction whatever. And it was resolved, that the grand lodge is, and ought to be perfectly independent and free of any such foreign jurisdiction.

"This measure is not without its precedent in the annals of masonry.—Such has been the conduct of other lodges similar circumstanced with ourselves, and seems to arise from the providential order and disposition of human events. For although masonry disavows any manner of connection with politics or faction, and it is right it should be so, yet considering a separation has taken place between Great-Britain and America, it would be as improper and absurd that we should again yield an obedience, to her wild, extravagant claims of power, as that the lodges of this independent country should be subordinate to foreign jurisdictions in any part of the world. Notwithstanding our masonic dependence on Great-Britain is now no more, yet those fine spun cords of love and sympathy, by which the fraternity are drawn together, as a band of brothers cemented by the most indissoluble of ties, will ever induce us to cultivate the most sociable and friendly intercourse. The means of this cultivation and improvement will probably be the frequent subject of our best and most serious disquisitions. We shall endeavour to hold forth every engaging allurement that the members of the British grand lodge may approach and apply their elegant and wonder working figures to finish the beauties of so well ordered a house in this new empire, and make this favourite land, what we really wish, the distinguished residence, the last best retreat of heaven-born MASONRY."

A Dublin paper of July 30 has the following paragraph:—Last Saturday a duel was fought at the Donghills by two gentlemen Tinkers: when the strictest punctilios of honour and bravery were literally observed. Their pistols were loaded with potatoes; their seconds were a cobler and a bellows maker, who performed the tender offices of friendship in the politest manner. The pistols not answering the wishes of the combatants, they proceeded to the more effectual method of boxing, at which they belaboured the sides of each other so well, that after a hearty drubbing on both sides, they retired with mutual satisfaction.

Congress, upon a consideration that Major-General John Sullivan was exposed to great and extraordinary expences in the service, Resolved, on the 31st of August, that the state of New-Hampshire be recommended to pay him 4,300 dollars, and charge the same to the United States.

Breck, Shephard, and Clarke,

HEREBY inform their Customers and others, that they have just received a fresh supply of

GOODS,

And now have on hand a general Assortment, which they purpose to sell on the most reasonable terms for ready pay in Cash, Grain, Pork, Potash, Salts, Flax-Seed, &c. &c.

Northampton, October 16, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Cash or any of the above Books, given for Rags and old Fish Net.

Two BLANKS to a PRIZE.

IN the lott'ry of life, left Dame Fortune beguile,
This great truth we should ever premise;
That although the bright goddess may simper & smile,
She has always——two Blanks to a Prize!

If a Husband you'd take, Miss;——or you, Sir, a Wife,
From this maxim divert not your eyes;
For of one and the other I'll venture my life,
There are more than——two Blanks to a Prize!

If in Law you're entangled, why then, silly man,
As a friend, give me leave to advise;
Slip your neck from the collar as fast as you can,
There are fifty——two Blanks to a Prize!

And if, for preferment, you're striving at Court,
Or by merit expect you shall rise;
Then your Chance is not worth Sir, three-fourths of a groat,
There are ninety——two Blanks to a Prize!

Select thoughts presented to a minister of state in France, taken from the French of Mr. de Voltaire.

THE riches of a nation consist in the number of inhabitants, and in their labour.

In the calamity of a war, the richest nation has necessarily the superiority over other nations tho' in every other respect equal; because it is capable of purchasing more allies, and more foreign troops.

If there are ninety millions sterling in a nation, all the commodities, and the price of work will be double what they would be, if there were only forty-five millions; and I should be as rich with two thousand pounds a year, when I bought meat at three pence a pound, as I should be with four thousand, when I bought it at six pence, and every thing else in the same proportion.

The true riches of a kingdom do not therefore consist in gold and silver, but in the plenty of all commodities, in industry and labour. It is not long since there was a Spanish regiment on the banks of the river Plata, all the officers of which had swords with hilts of solid gold; and yet they wanted both shirts and bread.

Supposing then, that since Hugh Capets time, the quantity of money in the kingdom has not been increased; but that industry has brought all the arts to a hundred times the perfection, I assert, that we are really a hundred times richer than we were in the time of Hugh Caper.

For possessions is riches; and now I possess a house more airy, better built, and better contrived than Hugh Capet himself possessed; vines are better cultivated, and I drink better wine; manufactures are brought to greater perfection, and I wear finer cloath; the art of pleasing the taste by mere delicate seasonings makes me every day enjoy richer repasts than the royal festivals of Hugh Capet.

If a sick person was to desire to be conveyed from one house to another, he was obliged to make use of a cart; while I cause myself to be carried in a commodious and agreeable coach, in which I enjoy the pleasure of the light, without being incommoded by the wind. It requires no more money in a kingdom, to suspend a box of painted wood on leather; it requires only industry; and so of the rest.

From the same quarries were taken the stones with which the house of Hugh Capet was built, and those with which we at present build the houses of Paris. It requires as much money to erect a gloomy prison, as to build an agreeable house.

It costs no more to plant a garden well laid out than to form one of Yews, ridiculously cut, and shaped into the absurd resemblance of animals.

Oaks formerly rotted in the forests; but they are at present formed into wainscot, and vessels of war and commerce. The sand lay useless on the earth, it is now turned into glass.

They are certainly rich who enjoy all these advantages, which industry alone procures. A Kingdom is not therefore enriched with money, but by genius I mean the genius which conducts the labours of industry.

Commerce produces the same effects as the labour of the hands; it contributes to the pleasures of my life. If I have occasion for some pieces of work made in the Indies, or some natural production only to be found at Ceylon or Ternate, these wants make me poor; but I become rich when they are gratified by commerce. I did not want gold and silver, but coffee and cinnamon.

But those who at the hazard of their lives sail six thousand leagues, for me to drink coffee, are only those who may be spared out of the laborious part of the nation. Riches therefore consist in the great number of men inured to labour. The end of a wise government is therefore evidently multiplying the people and giving encouragement to labour.

The best government is that in which there are the fewest useless men.

From whence does it proceed, that there have been nations who while they had less money than we have at present, have immortalized their memory by works which we dare not imitate. It is evident that their form of government was better than ours, since it gave greater encouragement to industry.

Taxes are necessary, and the best method of raising them is that which best promotes labour and commerce.

A voluntary tax is hurtful. Nothing but charity ought to be voluntary; but in a well regulated state, there ought to be no room for charity.

Paper money is to specie, what specie is to merchandize, a representation, a medium of exchange.

Money is more useful, only because it is more easy to pay for a sheep with a pistole, than to give for a sheep four pair of stockings.

It is in the same manner more easy for a receiver of Provence, to send 400,000 livres to the treasury in a letter, than to cause that sum to be sent at a greater expence in specie, from hence to bank, and bills of credit are useful.

Bills of credit are in the government of a state, in trade and circulation, what ropes and pullies are in quarries; they manage burthens, which men, without them, would be unable to move.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.

The following Letter from Captain Wyatt, of the Sloop Whale, to his Friend in London, dated Leith, July 24, 1786, will doubtless afford pleasing entertainment to our Readers.

DEAR SIR,

UPON our passage to the northward we made Hackluyt's Headland, in Spitzenbergen, on 28th May last. We then ran N. N. W. ten leagues, then N. ten leagues, then N. N. E. and afterwards N. having a fine southerly wind, for the mildness of the weather and the openness of the sea induced me to go as far to the northward as possible; but, to my great surprise, in 87 deg. north we found no ice. I therefore determined to go to the north pole, well knowing the discovery of a passage of that importance, if successful, would more than indemnify me for the voyage; and, as the ship was my own, I could therefore stand to the loss. In lat. 89 degrees north we were alarmed with a rumbling noise like thunder at a distance. As there was little wind southerly, the small sails were taken in and the courses hauled up and furled; but we still kept our course to the northward under our top sails, and the noise encreased the further N. we got. When the noise became excessively loud, we discovered something like an ice-hill about three leagues off; the sailors called out land; we therefore sounded in sixty fathoms, and constantly kept the lead going afterwards. When we were a league off the anchor was let go in ten fathoms of water. The shore seemed to be of easy ascent, but was white, and glittered very much, and it extended all round circularly like a coast. Having got so far I was determined to make my observations, and therefore directed the boat to be hoisted out and proper provisions to be taken in her, and blankets to cover us if necessary, for it was very cold. We ascended the hill, which was of some height; but what was my astonishment when I reached its summit, to behold, as it were, the elements at war: something issuing out to the northward quite white, and flying upwards with prodigious force. A few chrystalized substances, like glass, fell near me, which were hexagonal, and refracted the light. Upon tasting it I found it was nitre. I collected some, and put into a cut glass smelling bottle, and for some time after they continued to shine in the dark. From this I shall endeavour to account for the aurora borealis. The particles emitting light, I own, surprised me a little, although I knew that some diamonds have the property of imbibing the sun's rays and shining in the dark. I had not been long at the top of the hill before a dreadful eruption issued forth, which proved to me there was a volcano that threw out nitre at the north pole. Being apprehensive of the most fatal consequences, I made haste back to the boat and returned on board the ship. The cable was immediately cut and we made sail to the southward, which an air of wind from the northward at this time enabled us to do. I was now convinced of the impracticability of passing the north pole, and that, according to many, the north pole is *primum frigidum*. My expedition may prove of use, and what I saw suggested to me the following remarks.

1st. As the mouth of the volcano may be at least a degree in diameter, the nitre must be forced to a prodigious height, and the centrifugal force of the earth's diurnal motion must send it towards the equator, where, meeting with a similar column from the southward, they unite and pass on, and being dissolved in their descent, mix with watry vapour at the top of the lower atmosphere, which being condensed by the nitre, falls in rain, or is turned to snow, and, intercepted in its course by the Cordilleras, or the Andes, and other high mountains.

2d. On the top of the atmosphere there constantly floats a nitrous vapour which condenses the exhalations of the earth and sea, and occasions rain and snow. Now if it was not for a perpetual supply, the nitrous vapour must in time be exhausted. From a degree square of the sea is exhaled daily, thirty-three millions of tons of water, and it must require a vast deal of nitre to condense into rain or snow the watry vapour arising from such an exhalation.

3d. A greater portion of nitrous vapour descending in one place than in another, must occasion local frosts and snows.

4th. The aurora borealis may be accounted for from it. The prismatic particles of chrystalized nitre being forcibly driven in a body to the southward, and, descending different ways at once, may exhibit, at night, in clear weather, that luminous appearance, and the dilappearance is when the nitre being partly dissolved by the atmosphere, ceases to be lucid and to emit light.

5th. There is, no doubt, a similar volcano of nitre at the south pole, and an aurora australis, which would be seen was there sufficient land to attract and imbibe the watry vapour; for at present the thickness of the atmosphere to the southward prevents its being discovered.

I continued my course to the southward with a fine breeze, and brought to in lat. 80 deg. north, which is a good fishing latitude: here we were fortunate enough to take three fish, with which we returned safe to this port. I request you will be pleased to solicit the parliamentary reward for me, for having passed certain latitudes, and you will greatly oblige, Your faithful and obedient servant,

JAMES WYATT.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ELIZABETH QUIN, alias WALKER, late of South-Hadley, deceased, represented insolvent, and to the last of December next is allowed for settling said estate; do give notice, that we shall attend said business on the last Mondays of October and December next, at the house of Noah Goodman, Esq. in said South-Hadley, from one to five o'clock on each day.

NATHANIEL WITTS,
DAVID NASH,
DAVID MITCHEL.

South-Hadley, Sept. 3, 1786.

OCTOBER 1786. THE NUMB. 6.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Strictures upon County Conventions in general, and the late meeting holden at Hatfield in particular: addressed to the Freeholders of the County of Hampshire.

NUMBER VI.

MY COUNTRYMEN,

MY past labours have been to prove county conventions, acting upon matters of government, unconstitutional and dangerous to our liberties; and to trace the measures of the Hatfield convention, and shew them to be repugnant to good order and subordination in civil society. I have weighed their objections to the constitution and the present mode of civil administration, and have evinced, as I think, that their supposed grievances are in general only a pretence, without existence in fact, and that the alterations which they contemplate would be a material injury to the people and hazard those privileges which well informed freemen esteem the most valuable. The measures of the convention have already produced more expence to the county than would arise to the people from the burdens which they state in several years: And could their measures take full effect, they would shipwreck the freedom, the property and security of individuals, and prostrate in ruin that glorious fabric of a free state which for fifteen years we have been erecting at the expence of so much blood and treasure. Our danger and their encroachments will more clearly appear if we canvals their methods of remedying the supposed evils lying upon the people. They vote, "That as several of their articles of grievance arise from defects in the constitution; therefore a revision of the same ought to take place." This is the IMPERIAL style. They talk like men in authority. A revision of the constitution OUGHT to take place. Who empowered these gentlemen to speak the sovereign language of dictators? They had no such directions from their electors. It is palpable that in this matter they were actuated by private interest, the hope of promotion or from inability. Our constitution has attracted the approbation and the admiration of the best judges of the warm patrons of liberty upon both continents. It has received the sanction of nine tenths of the freemen through the state; and this at a time when men's judgements were unbiassed. Shall this sacred compact of of individuals with each other and with the whole community, and upon which our union and safety rests, be attacked and annulled by a few unquiet minds in one or two counties? By mutual faith we are to adhere to this constitution until 1795, which is near at hand. In every capital movement it is a proper question, "Cui bono," What end will it answer? What are the advantages of a revision? We may challenge the convention to point out one privilege which will be enlarged by it. We cannot be more free and be under any government whatever: For ours in the fullest sense is a government of laws and not of men. Were the measures useful, of all seasons the present is the least friendly to a revision. A spirit of faction and unreasonable jealousy has pervaded the minds of many in the commonwealth; and whoever did a thing in his passion which he might not well repent of when he was sober. Besides there would be no savings of consequence from such revision. It would destroy tenfold more security than it would save property. I appeal to every deliberate mind, whether there is a remote probability that the people who have been agitated by a series of inflammatory misrepresentations, would quietly settle down under a new form of government. It is best to speak out plainly, the leading members of convention who promoted the attack upon the constitution, were either exposed to embarrasments under every government of law, or were the old partizans of British government. Some of them give out freely, that they will leave no stone unturned until they have established the authority of George the 3d in the United States. To this end present disturbances look, and for this end I am confident they are designed by some. I would not intimate that this is the wish of all who were formerly adherents to Great-Britain. Many of them are men of humanity and liberal sentiments, who are weary of confusion and bloodshed, and are engaged to support the government under which they are placed. But others are busy in conventions, in insurrections, in complaining of public burdens; labouring to destroy public securities and the confidence of the people in their rulers, to perplex with unreasonable instructions our representatives and embarrass the legislature. These, I doubt not hanker after a British or some other royal government. I am personally acquainted with the wishes of sundry members of the late convention, who, notwithstanding their warm zeal for the people's liberties, are yet avowed friends to kingly government. And he is blind indeed who does not see, that the destruction of our present government will hasten the establishment of that worst of temporal evils, the tyranny of a few or of one man. To this deplorable end would a revision of the constitution immediately tend: and it is well if some members of our late convention and their co-adjutors are not enterprizing the gloomy event: For such men, these are politic devices but for a man who pants after the freedom and happiness of his country, now to labour a revision of the constitution is little better than madness, and argues that he needs the application of Hellebore.

To confusion, anarchy and final tyranny tend the measures of convention in circulating their doings into the other counties to obtain an unconstitutional co-operation with their designs, to spread the disaffection far and wide, and prepare matters for the attack of Britain when they shall be ready to give the blow.—Another resolve is important to be noticed, as it shows the encroachments of the convention and our danger from them. In their authoritative style, they DIRECT (not desire) their chairman to call a future convention when he pleases. So we have at once, a Man with a broad brim'd hat, to cover us with his shade and nose about the county at his pleasure. Truly freemen, this is an extraordinary power to be given to or to be received by one man. It subjects the county to intolerable burdens and abuses. This is the way in which they used formerly to make kings and dictators. Whether the towns will servilely obey the summons, time must declare. Indeed the measures of convention are singular and threatning: once pursued they will make us all the slaves of any body of men who shall dare to invade our government and usurp our privileges. Were our grievances real we needed not a convention to remedy them, nor their benevolence to inform us of them. We have common feelings and common sense. When injured we have our remedy peaceable and adequate. We have free and confident access to our representatives. They are disposed faithfully to regard our applications and give every possible relief. The labours of the convention are therefore officious, untimely and troublesome—They have been the occasion of bitter animosities amongst neighbours, which are the bane of society: they have been the source of tumults and insurrections, by which the business of life has been impeded, our substance wasted, and the fountains of justice interrupted. Hence have arisen the destruction of our security in property, liberty and life; high-handed attacks upon our laws and magistracy; the labours of our fathers for the public good, have had little effect, and what we should most deeply regret, much guilt lies upon the consciences of many and the angry judgments of an offended God hang over a community of ungrateful, insolent and rebellious people,—Judgments from which we cannot escape even should we exclude the arm of human justice. Mischiefs are introduced into the commonwealth which many years of prudent exertion will scarcely be able to cure. Had the convention never met, the people would have continued free, undisturbed and happy: attentive to their own concerns like good citizens they were pursuing the public interest as their own good. From the convention they have learned a distinction which can have no existence in a government like ours: that their interests and their rulers are two, and that to pay a public debt is an encroachment upon private property. And it is well if in future multitudes shall be content to pay either public or private debts. In these jealousies and distractions the hand of Joab is visible: the object is easily discovered: while some would be set free from law and the claims of justice, others would establish an arbitrary and tyrannical government, in which it will not be in the power of the common people to intermeddle. Not a few of our modern reformers who clamour against the present government and cry out for liberty, do yet wish for a King to rule over us. The confusions of England after the death of Charles 1st; the ruin of the long Parliament and the restoration of Charles 2d, perpetually run in their brains and makes them dream of mobs, dissolving courts of justice and general assemblies, the annihilation of Congress, and the restoration of George 3d, British places and British pensions. Or if they fall in this ultimate wish, yet at least they shall gain a king of some kind or another. Present operations will soon mature some such gloomy event. Whoever lives to see a few more months if the present violences and suspicions do not effectually subside, will find the plot open upon him in the clearest light: should this not be the case, the Old Republican has no talent at devinition. It is a plan diligently pursued by numbers, though sincerely reprobated and abhored by liberal and benevolent minds of all parties to introduce the British tyranny. And no engine can prove more effectual to this end than to destroy the affections of the people for their present constitution, and their confidence in their present patriotic rulers; and to arm the fiery, the ignorant, the discontented and the wicked of all classes against the temporal saviours and fathers of their country.

The convention might have helped us against these evils, had they pursued cool and dispassionate measures; had they pointed the people to their real dignity, freedom and happiness: but their measures were warm and they have had answerable effects; effects distressing and wretched enough. Had sedate enquiry attended their debates and genuine patriotism warmed their bosoms, the convention methinks would have addressed their neighbours in such language as this: a language I am persuaded better calculated for the general emolument than those hasty resolves with which they have saluted the public ear: viz.

The Address of the Convention to their Constituents.

Brethren and Fellow Citizens,

AT your request we have convened and taken into consideration the difficulties under which many of the people labour. As far as we are able we shall point out the proper remedies and propose such considerations as may render your minds easy under necessary burdens. It is our first duty to disavow all pretentions to authority in influencing your future measures since our wise form of government has made no provision for county meetings, but has adopted a mode of representation in the legislature adequate to every purpose of private and public security and prosperity. That representation we wish you to consider as the only legal body to ordain laws and redress grievances in this commonwealth. To our opinions we ask your attention only as they may bring to your minds light and conviction. Divesting ourselves of sinister regards and actuated by impartial deliberation, we would perfuade you that our excellent constitution, framed by our wisest patriots, has been ratified through the singular concurrence of Heaven by the harmonious voices of almost the whole body of freemen throughout this great republic. It is our mutual solemn compact, from which we are not warranted to recede. Indeed could alterations in our constitution be made without danger or expence, we can conceive of no material alterations without injury to the community. We consider the attempts of those who wish for a change to be founded in misapprehension or a fickleness of temper which evinces the importance of adhering religiously to our mutual and sacred covenant. To such as hanker after innovations we recommend an attention to those various incidents which, in a time of warm debate, may introduce into the community the miseries of con-

fusion, oppression and anarchy. That was wise counsel given by a politic prince, "Meddle not with them who are given to change."

The administration of government is a matter different from the form of it. We are of opinion, that however our civil rulers have in general discharged their trust with good judgment and integrity, yet as human affairs are imperfect, so several alterations for the better may take place in the public administration: For effecting such reasonable alterations, the constitution has made ample provision, in the annual election of the legislature and the supreme executive. With these officers is lodged adequate power to remedy our political evils as far as the condition of humanity will admit. To them therefore you will apply for redress whenever you shall judge necessary. And with you it lies to secure redress in a decent and peaceable manner. It is your peculiar privilege, that the universal parent has placed you under a government in which you can obtain from your rulers every civil immunity which they are able to bestow. We therefore pray you, in all times of apprehended danger, to pursue measures constitutional and peaceable as you would obtain your end and desire the reputation of a virtuous and enlighted people. Every indecent application for redress is an insult upon your own dignity: every effort of violence to carry a point is a stroke at the foundation of your liberties: it is to fall upon your own sword and pierce your own vitals. Such violences will render you the sport of insolent wits under royal tyrannies and expose yourselves and children to the artful encroachments of arbitrary power. The period of suspicion, tumult and anarchy, is the season for forging chains for a free people. Reflect, we pray you, that you cannot be more free than you are and exist in a state of civil society: you may be enslaved. There are enemies enough who are labouring your thraldom, and are laying snares for your feet which present negligence and a low-born jealousy may make it hard for you to escape in future. From whence do the present complaints against government arise? Are there not men who from the beginning have ridiculed your struggles against a foreign yoke; have told you that you would never support your claims nor enjoy your Independence: that you would crumble to pieces by bickerings and contentions among yourselves? And would not some of these with rather to see you dissipated and miserable than lose their reputation in prophecy. Consider we beseech you, that whatever is wrong in government is in your power to rectify; and whatever is right ought not to be altered although a heavy burden attend it.

Great are the complaints of taxes lying upon the people, and heavy doubtless they are: But when the late war began, did you expect to surmount it without heavy taxes? This was not your language. And now to elude those taxes is not very honest. Choose men to tax you, who will tax both themselves and you with humanity and equity; pay those taxes with alertness and your load will grow lighter every year.

One tax lies heavy upon us, which it is not in the power of the legislature to alleviate without our hearty co-operation: the tax we pay to our tables, our cups and our dress. This tax has doubled within these twenty years. This in our opinion is the source of the present uneasiness and groaning among the people: they have sent away their money and have spent more than they have earned. If we would be free and prosperous, while we chearfully pay public taxes, we must withhold this unnecessary and oppressive tax levied upon us by our appetites and tyrannical habits. Such amendments would ease our sufferings and complaints effectually. He who is punctual in paying debts and earns more than he spends, is in the road to wealth and promotion. These are the offspring of industry and frugality. Without these cardinal political virtues, we may impede the course of justice and refuse the payment of taxes, and still remain a poor, restless and contemptible people. We entreat you, brethren, to enter with vigour upon measures to cure these radical evils of luxury and prodigality; of living beyond our incomes. Let us all begin at home and make honesty, diligence and economy our political engines for the redress of grievances. Let those individuals and towns who have been remiss in paying their debts and taxes, and hence groan under a double load, take pattern by others as indigent as themselves who have strenuously surmounted their difficulties. It is supine cowardice only which can make us shrink from our necessary burdens: Let us put our shoulders to the wheel and the waggon is out of the mire. When we manage the affairs of government, our duty and happiness demand that we choose good men to rule us, who fear God and hate covetousness; men who are not in debt and under temptation to fraudulent measures; men of liberal and enlarged minds; of benevolent hearts; who will be firm and unwavering in the storms which attack the state; and who will be our examples in political and moral virtue. Request your rulers to tax with discretion and equity; neither exceeding nor falling below our abilities to make payment: desire them to tax the luxuries and superfluities of life and the manufactures of other countries, and encourage in this country our own manufactures and agriculture. Men who will thus go before us in the duties of self-denial, industry and patriotism alone, deserve your suffrages and have a just claim to your confidence and support — Brethren, if we faithfully pursue such measures and keep our station as subjects, we may confidently hope to prosper. He who hath succeeded our fiery conflicts, and made us free from the hand of usurpation, will continue to smile upon us in the preservation of our dear bought liberties, and we shall be exalted very high, and we shall be the head and not the tail: But if we are broken among ourselves, and violate the duties of righteousness and obedience to magistrates, he will bring us very low and make our plagues wonderful,

By desire of Convention,

AN OLD REPUBLICAN, Chairman.

For the HAMPSHIRE-GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

Please to give the following a place in your next, and you will oblige a customer.

Friends and Fellow Citizens,

I Am a man that gets my living by hard labour, not by a pension nor by monopolizing, and I think that husbandry is as honest a calling as any in the world, the last temptation for fraud and lying—and I believe this country would flourish much faster if there was less white shirts and more black frocks. I have lived in the world almost to the meridian of life, but found by experience that I have not lived as I ought to have done. The greatest study amongst mankind is for one to get the advantage of the other, sometimes by fraud, avarice and lying, and very often because they have law their side and not justice; but to say any thing against law I think will displease the Old Republican next to spitting in his face; for by his writing our constitution is almost sacred and our law next to perfection. But I heard a man say the other day, he had paid eighteen or twenty dollars to the sheriff for the cost of executions from the state treasury as a collector, which there was no law that he could demand it of individuals in his face bills, by his warrant the sum about is for each man, and should he commence an action at the court of common pleas, likely there would be an appeal; and that would be turning up jack, to give an attorney thirteen dollars for the chance of getting one shilling. And if a should bring an action against B for four or five pounds, when he did not owe him a farthing, the cheapest and easiest way for the defendant to be freed from his unjust demand, would be to pay the debt and take a receipt for his money. This the Republican calls a just and righteous law. But I think he says the practice of the attornies at law he would be glad to have altered, but how shall it be done, for he says county conventions are unconstitutional, and if we instruct our representatives it is uncertain they will act according to their instructions; but if it passes the house it will be negatived by the senate, and I think their practice would have been altered before now if it had not been for that branch of the legislature. But perhaps you will say the senators must be instructed, by who, when there is in this county about fifteen towns to one senator. You seem to think that the senate is the great support of this commonwealth; but I cannot join with you; and to have any thing regulated by conventions, for they are nothing but scandalous men, persons of no principles and almost ranked with the infernal crew. But I flatter myself you had a high esteem for some of the same proceedings in 1774, and it appears to me we are running into the same channel we took up arms against then, (witness the Governor, Lieut. Governor, and some other officers of government, their salaries in the year 1774 was highly condemned even in our neighbouring pulpits, which is now in print; and how the same, or I may say a greater exorbitancy which is sufficient now that was condemned then, I can not see into) and we freed ourselves from it with spending so much treasure and blood, which I think is heaven daring and God provoking conduct.

And I think myself that mobbing should be the last step that is taken, and we have heard that in England mobbing has answered a good purpose, in particular the former stamp act, they arose and the act was repealed. And perhaps their rulers was out of the way as well as ours at the present day. And it appears to me that there must be something done, and I flatter myself there will be this session, and am sorry it has not been done before, when they saw the fire was kindling and storm arising that they have not flung water in season; but the Old Republican thinks perhaps you have been throwing water ever since the convention at Hatfield, very true, but you have flung it on like instead of throwing it on the fire, and I think your conduct has been below the character of a gentleman, and let every man stick close to his calling. And I flatter myself there is 19-20ths of this county that think conventions are constitutional. And I do not think there would have been so much mobbing if you had not wrote as you have done, and while you have been writing I judge your time would have been spent better if you had been on your knees crying to your maker for the removal of those judgments we are visited with. If you are determined to write more, I would advise you as a peace-maker to write to the chairman of the convention, that he would call the delegates together as soon as may be, that they would appoint a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer to almighty God throughout the county—that he would keep off deserved judgments, and that he would bring order out of confusion; this would be something like christian conduct. And I would advise the people at large individually to alter their mode of living, in dress, spiritous liquors and tea; don't let us lay out our money for superfluities that is neither eat, drink nor cloathing: let us oblige the merchants to shut up their shops and get their living by following the plough—and let every one ask himself this question, What have I done? And I hope the salaries of the officers of government and the fee-table will be altered, and they not have it, least some of them fire of six double adequate to their service, for I am unwilling to retract to Great Britain as yet—let us exert ourselves one year more, and I flatter myself we shall be a happy people, and to conclude with a wish to be a

PEACE-MAKER.

The SPIRIT of the TIMES.

Addressing the People of Massachusetts.

Part II.

METHINKS I hear some say I with the spirit of the times would tell us as faithfully what was the aims of the people at their late rising, as he has told us the motives which brought them together.

As I was with them and sounded their hearts, I know as well as they do themselves;—and truly their aims were various. I will briefly mention the principal of them; that you may avail yourselves of whatever wisdom there was in them, or correct what ever is amiss. Some honest minded men among them only aimed to have some things rectified which they thought were amiss: some aimed by their numbers to shew that there was a great uneasiness: some aimed at a suspension of law till money grows more pleary: some to induce the General Court to emit paper money and make it a tender, hoping some how to make their fortunes, or mend bad ones, as many did in the time of the late paper currency. Some aimed to get an amnesty or year of Jubilee. Others to promote levelling: some aimed to make their creditors forfear of loosing their debts to compound with them, and take a smaller sum in such things and at such prices as the Debtor pleased: some aimed to mortify those in authority, particularly some whom thy reason of false reports they were disgusted with: some aimed only to procure the abolition of the last tax: others to get the time of paying it lengthened: others to find out some easier way of paying debts and taxes: others to get rid of paying debts and taxes, of these there were no inconsiderable number; and they imagined breaking up courts of justice the most effectual measure to accomplish their aim: others aimed at the entire subversion of the constitution, they urged to have it revised, with a design to overthrow it: the bait took with many: and some few wished to have it revised that it might be amended: some aimed at popularity and applause by appearing to the people as patriots in a difficult day: some had a further aim viz. to get advancement under a new constitution, these harangued the people, and professed great patriotism and exhorted them to stand boldly to their rights: some were mad and even drunk with rage that so many appeared on the side of government, the aim of these was to fight: the aim of others was to prevent fighting: others only aimed to secure their friends whom they expected would be punished if courts of justice proceeded: others aimed to excite a general insurrection through the state, and thereby bring the General Court to what terms they pleased: others aimed that the ferment should pervade the other states and that the federal union of the states should be dissolved, and thereby a way paved for our return to Great-Britain: the British emissary took courage, made fine proposals to as many as he dare trust, of ample fortunes, places and pensions; but strictly enjoined them to secrecy: in a word each one aimed somehow to have better times for himself. But ah! found people, they all went home disappointed.

And now good people, learn your true interest lay aside selfishness; bear a grudge to no man; let your ears be open to truth, shut against slander: weigh all matters coolly and calmly, and look well to the end and consequences of things: don't be penny-wise and pound-foolish. As you value your liberty, guard your excellent constitution, which is the only security of it. If you have just grievances, seek redress in a constitutional way. Labour for unanimity and live in love; For a kingdom, common wealth or House divided against itself cannot stand; but inevitably ruines and tumbles to desolation and ruin.

If you are wise these few hints of advice will be sufficient: if ye are otherwise, the surest counsel will not be heard, though from your sincere friend,

THE SPIRIT of the TIMES.

To the Inhabitants of the County of Hampshire.

I HAVE been informed that seven towns in the easterly part of this county have lately by their Delegates, met in convention at Pelham, and that application from Caleb Weft their standing Chairman, has been made to Col. Bonny, to again convene the county, and that Letters are now circulating calling upon the several towns in this county to elect delegates to meet in convention at Hadley upon the first Tuesday of November next—true it is that, that gentleman, by a vote of the Hatfield convention, was authorized, upon application made, and sufficient Reasons given (both of which was to be published in any future time) to notify a convention, but what reasons I ask, can satisfy the mind of any man, who does not wish the total destruction of the present government, that a Convention at this time is necessary for which reason is the General Court at this early day convened? is it not for the sole purpose of taking into consideration the various complaints subsisting among the good people of the commonwealth, and investigating the sources of the late Tumults, and so far as is within their power, and consistent with the general good, providing a remedy? Shall this county be at the expence of convening, when even the restless and ambitious Feelings of the LITTLE MAN in the EAST (in Concurrence with a few others) shall prompt them to request it? I consider this application as an Express declaration of war against the peace and constitutional rights of the good people of this County. If the Sticklers for a county convention at the present time, were honest men, and wished only what they have heretofore professed, a redress of grievances, and that in a constitutional mode, surely they would wait the decisions of the General Court. How do they know but that the Legislature will comply with all our reasonable wishes, and grant the good people such relief as will fully satisfy them? or rather don't these gentlemen fear that will be the case, and find it necessary to excite great jealousies lest the people should be indisposed to any future opposition to government, and they in the general confusion, fail of obtaining the various offices, which, even in distant prospect, has so much dazzled their frantic imagination?—the plain language is, we mean not to be satisfied with any of their doings, a redress of grievances is not our object, we intend to institute a government of our own, that shall secure us from paying the public debt, and put us in possession of the same offices we are now (because in the hands of others) contending to abolish. I hold no office in government, & have nothing to fear from this quarter; but this appears to me to be the truth, and the design of the promoters of the intended convention. If this is the with of the inhabitants of the County of Hampshire let us explicitly make the declaration and shall we not make this Declaration if we elect delegates agreeably to the precept? I have not such objections to county conventions under certain circumstances, as many have; but we have lately had one, who have published to the world a list of all our grievances, (and a grievous list it was) and the General Court have them now under consideration and shall we not wait the issue of their deliberations? My fellow-Citizens, the question, whether or not you will elect delegates is most important, it is no less (at the present time) than whether you will abolish the present Constitution. One design of the convention is to make choice of a Committee, to sit during pleasure, to correspond and act in concert with committees of other counties, that there may be a uniform plan of operation—will it be safe to delegate such power, which may be prostituted to the most wicked and dangerous purposes? I presume the towns in this county will discountenance this convention—if they do not, surely they will direct their delegates, as the first act of convention, to send an Herald to Boston proclaiming the dissolution of the General Court acquainting the members we have no further service for them, and directing them immediately to return to their several homes. For the support of two legislative bodies alone and the same time must be a grievance. I hope the several towns will deliberate seriously upon this subject and have wisdom given to direct them in the right way.

The WATCHMAN.

Mr. PRINTER,

By inserting the following in your Paper, you will oblige A. B.

SINCE the commotions have arisen in this county, I have been deeply impressed with the folly and inconsistency of mankind, and more and more appears every day. The moft ignorant who see the vicious inclinations of mankind in daily practice, muft be convinced that example, without any originally bad, could never be the cause of such a step: he can not suppose that we are grown fo bad all at once, but only that what was before in nature now shews itself; such filthy water only discovers the nature of the fountain from which it issues. Our present conduct must convince every one that we are vicious by nature, unless they will attribute it to Omnipotence who has blinded our eyes and delivered us over to delusion to believe a lie to our destruction. If we examine our conduct, the inconsistencies and folly we are guilty of are so glaring and barefaced that we cannot deny them. We say we are oppressed by bad laws, and without considering ourselves to be the makers of those laws we fall upon our servants whom we have appointed to execute our laws; we abuse them for endeavouring to fulfil the duties we have put them under oath to perform. We do not attend so much as to reflect that we have a right to annul the laws we have made whenever good order and the same may only take we were them, but all the good of good men, considering that our servants should chuse to perform that which they are under the most sacred obligations to perform (if an obligation of any kind can be deemed sacred in a republic) and consider them as rogues because they discover an honest disposition in endeavouring to fulfil what we should blame them for if they did not endeavour to perform. Many of us complain of the misapplication of public money, when we cannot tell of misapplication in any one instance, except by opinion only and not an acknowledged fact: and know that much of the cash that has been collected in taxes for some years is in the hands of collectors, sheriffs, and yet we are almost every week shamed by bills called on us for accounts, for knowing about this: these all sheriffs and collectors were to be brought to their account 1783, by order of the General Court; we with arms set forth to defend them in their ill gotten wealth, when we are sensible many collectors have lent public money on their neighbours at 20, 30, or 50 per cent. and that to this day, in some many instances, was collected by public sales of the property of the poor and indigent,—we say we have no right to make money from any man, or any property from him, without his consent virtually given, but we have taken property from many who are now suffering for it, and perhaps by reason the debt is entirely lost by breaking up the country—the dishonest debtor has thereby gain an opportunity to cheat or convey away his property; we have thereby done what we condemn in others, yet we justify ourselves, the fatherless and widow are crying against this conduct and we disregard them.

We say liberty is a sacred thing, and may not be infringed upon, when at the same instant upon the government of the state, and thereby upon the liberties of every individual in the state, and have rendered property and life itself precarious as far as our influence has extended. We say the people muft submit, when about one fifth of them have with arms endeavoured to intimidate the other four fifths to a compliance with their demands and have thereby actually compelled those not even for the people, but violence should govern, and have threatened the lives of those who will not comply. We say the senate is a useless body because we have a large house of representatives, and in the same breath say we want that house to consist of few members, not more than one or four from a county.

We say we want no tender no man any thing, but will pay all just what we owe them, but cannot do it without paper money, when we know that a payment in paper is no payment from our own experience individually of continental money by the loss of property we have sustained from it, therefore we muft acknowledge, if we are honeft we pretend, that we propose to pay our debts contracted for hard coin, in paper money, because we know it will depreciate and we can buy it cheaper, and paper will give us an opportunity to pay our debts with less property than we contracted for. We pretend to dispise all officers of every kind, when we know that many of us are disappointed of the offices we set our hearts after. Some who had the offer of promotion for such at Northampton and Springfield, served them with an answer as that discovered that a cellar office was better than a office.

We all allow that no honeft man, who fully understands any matter, is the one to be believed in what he affirms of the matter; but in this county, when we will believe any one though his ignorance and dishonefty is such that in times past we paid no credit to his word, yet now we believe every thing he wickedly or ignorantly says against the government or the laws and rulers of it. We complain of the pride and haughtiness of our rulers, when all that we can get out of any of them in answer to our complaints, is pride and haughtiness that almost exceeds that of an eastern despot: and on a creed contains all that they ought to believe. We think those who differ from us, with an arrogancy and conceit that waits a name. We fly in the face of our own constitution and prove to the world that the principles of liberty are not in ourselves, and that there is no more to be gained as we are when collected. Many more instances of our folly, inconsistency and self-contradiction might be given, but these are sufficient to prove that our passions are depraved and our passions and feelings are our rulers: that we indulge and encrease our vicious inclinations at the expence of our own and children's liberties and rights from a corrupt fountain. Those who say that mankind at large are devils of their own making, muft confess that we never could become such proficients if we had not a large stock at the dawn of life to begin with.

LONDON. July 31.

The Dutch like ancient Pistol, eat, but growl inwardly: there has not been such days of discontent seen in all the province since the time of the de Wits, it is a flame kindled in the very vitals of the country which will not easily be extinguished.

A letter from Paris gives an account, which however incredible it may appear, can hardly be doubted, since it is attested by one of the first apothecaries in paris, Monsieur de la Megie. The fact is as follows: Marie, Victoire Le Tellier, daughter to a gentleman in the law, residing at Cloyen, four leagues distant from the metropolis, aged 22 years, was about five years ago, attacked with a suppression of urine, occasioned by a sudden fright. The young lady has had no natural evacuation for the space of three years, and for this last twelve month, the urinary passage has been stopped. She has neither eat, drank, nor slept, for these five months past. Yet she appears in good health and spirits, is of a fresh and clear complexion, and walks almost every day constantly about a mile and half. Sure there is enough in this living phenomenon to puzzle the whole tribe of doctors!

NEW-HAVEN, October 12.

The peace or rather a truce concluded between the Spaniards and Algerines, is probably the motive of that state picking a quarrel with Russia, as they cannot subsist without being at war with some power or other, and what prizes they take from the Italian states and the Americans, muft be far from satiating their desires. However, they will probably find a very formidable enemy in the Empress, and should their violence prompt her to suspend her designs against the Grand Signior, who has like wise cause of discontent against the Dey, these haughty freebooters may have cause to repent of their rapacity. Indeed it is surprising that the great potentates of Europe will not at last open their eyes and not suffer themselves to be insulted and preyed upon in their turns by such a rascally banditti.

NORTHAMPTON, October 25.

His Excellency Governor Clinton, of New-York, respecting a late request of Congress, in a letter to his Excellency the President, says, "I have not the power to convene the legislature before the time fixed by law for their stated meeting, except on extraordinary occasions; and as the present business (the Continental impost) proposed for their consideration has already been repeatedly laid before them, and so recently as at their last session received the determination, it cannot come within that description."

Congress, after a due consideration of Governor Clinton's letter, passed the two following resolves, (New York and North-Carolina only dissenting) viz.

Resolved, That the present critical and embarrassed situation of the finances of the United States is such as to require, that the system of impost should be carried into immediate effect: That New-York being the only state which has not yet adopted the same, the United States in Congress assembled did on the 11th of the present month, and still do, deem this an occasion sufficiently important and extraordinary to request, that the legislature of the said state should be convened, for the purpose of taking the said system into their immediate and serious consideration, and granting the same, in the manner recommended by the resolution of the 18th of April, 1783.

Resolved, That it be again earnestly recommended to the executive of the state of New-York, immediately to convene the legislature of the said state, to take into their consideration the recommendations of the 18th April, 1783, for the purpose of granting the system of impost in such conformity with the acts and grants of the other states, as on their part to enable the United states in Congress assembled to carry the same into effect.

** Pacificus—and a Member of the Hatfield Convention, are received, but too late for this week's publication.

THE Subscriber, Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire, hereby gives notice to all concerned, that he proposes to attend at the following places to settle the accounts and receive the said duties, viz. at Lieut. Elihu White's in Hatfield, on Wednesday the 29th day of November, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Joel Wait's in Whately, at 11 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. David Hunt's in Deerfield, at 2 o'clock P. M.—and the same day at Mr. Caleb Alvord's in Greenfield, at 5 o'clock P. M.—On Monday the 28th of said Nov. at Mr. Joshua Thayer's in Williamsburgh, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Lemuel Lyon's in Goshen, at 2 o'clock A. M.—and the same day at Capt. Cole's in Chesterfield, at 5 o'clock P. M. On Wednesday the 22d of Nov. Elisha Cook's in Hadley, at 10 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Asahel Pomeroy's in Northampton, at 2 o'clock P. M. On Thursday the 23d at Capt. David Lyman's in East-Hampton, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Peter Clap's in South Hampton, at 12 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Ephraim Wright's in West Hampton, at 2 o'clock P. M.

ELIJAH HUNT.

Northampton, October 25, 1786.

Breck, Shephard, and Clarke,

HEREBY inform their Customers and others, that they have just received a fresh supply of

GOODS,

And now have on hand a general Assortment, which they purpose to sell on the most reasonable terms for ready pay in Cash, Grain, Pork, Potash, Salts, Flax-Seed, &c. &c.

Northampton, October 16, 1786.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

From the UNITED STATES CHRONICLE, Printed at PROVIDENCE, September 28, 1786.

To the PUBLIC.

THat the political body, like the animal, is liable to violent diseases, which, for a time baffle the healing art, is a truth which we all acknowledge, and which most of us lament. But as most of the disorders, incident to the human frame, are the consequence of an intemperate indulgence of its appetites, or of neglecting the most obvious means of safety: so most of the popular tumults, which disturb government, arise from an abuse of its blessings, or an inattention to its principles. A man of a robust constitution, relying on its strength, riots in gratifications which weaken the *stamina vitæ*; the surfeiting pleasures of a few years destroy the power of enjoyment; and the full fed voluptuary feels a rapid transition to the meagre valetudinarian. Thus people who enjoy an uncommon share of political privileges, often carry their freedom to licentiousness, and put it out of their power to enjoy society by destroying its support.

Too much health is a *disease*, which often requires a very strict regimen---*too much liberty* is the worst species of *tyranny*---and *wealth* may be accumulated to that degree as to *impoverish* a State. If *all* men attempt to become *masters* the *most* of them would necessarily become *slaves* in the attempt; and could *every man* on earth possess millions of Joes, *every man* would be *poorer* than *any man* is now and infinitely more wretched, because they could not procure the necessaries of life.

My Countrymen, it is a common saying now, *that the Devil is in you*. I question the influence of the Devil however in these affairs. Divines and Politicians agree to this, to father all evil upon the Devil; but the effects ascribed to this Prince of evil Spirits, both in the moral and political world, I ascribe to the wickedness and ignorance of the human heart. Taking the word *Devil* in this sense, he is *in* you & *among* you in a variety of shapes.

In the first place, *the weakness of our federal government is the Devil*. It prevents the adoption of any measures that are requisite for us as a nation; it keeps us from paying our honest debts; it throws out of our power all the profits of commerce, and this drains us of *cash*. Is not this the Devil? Yes, my Countrymen, an empty purse is the *Devil*.

You say you are jealous of your rights and dare not trust Congress. Well, that jealousy is an evil spirit and all evil spirits are *devils*; so far the Devil is in you. You act in this particular, just like the crew of a ship, which would not trust the helm with *one* of their number because he might *possibly* run it a shore---when by leaving it without a pilot they were *certain* of shipwreck. You act just like men in raising a building; who would not have a masterworkman, because he might give out orders. You will be masters yourselves, and you are not all ready to lift at the same time, one labours at a stick of timber, then another, then a third---you are then vexed that it is not raised---Why let a master order thirteen of you to take hold together and you will lift it at once. Every family has a master (or a mistress---I ask the Ladies pardon,) When a ship or house is built, there is a master---when high-ways are repaired there is a master---every little school has a master---the continent is a great school, the boys are numerous and full of roguish tricks, and there is no master. The boys in this great school play truant, and there is no person to chastise them. Do you think, My Countrymen, that America is more easily governed than a school? You do very well in small matters---extend your reason to great ones. Would you not laugh at a farmer, who would fasten a three inch cable to a plough, and yet attempt to draw a house with a cobweb? "And Nathan said unto David, *thou art the man*," You think a master necessary to govern a few bartless children in a school or family; yet leave thousands of great rogues to be governed by good advice. Believe me, my friends, for I am *serious*; you *lose rights*, because you will not give your Magistrates authority to *protect them*---your liberty is despotism, because it has no controul---your power is nothing because it is not united.

But further, luxury rages among you, and luxury is the *Devil*. The war has sent this evil demon to impoverish people and embarrass the public. The articles of Rum and Tea alone, which are drank in this country, would pay all its taxes. But when we add, sugar, coffee, gauzes, silks, feathers and the whole list of baubles and trinkets, what an enormous expence? No wonder you *want* paper currency. My Countrymen are all grown very tasty! Feathers and Jordans must all be imported! Certainly Gentlemen, the Devil is among you. A Hampshire man who drinks forty shillings worth of Rum in a year and never thinks of the expence, will raise a mob to reduce the Governor's salary, which does not amount to three pence per man per ann. Is not this the Devil?

My Countrymen, *an industrious Man* appeared, not long ago, in this paper, informing you how to redress grievances. He gives excellent advice. Let every man make a little box and put into it four pence every day. This in a year will amount to six pounds one shilling and eight pence---a sum sufficient to pay any poor man's tax. Any man can pay three or four pence per day, though no poor man can, at the end of a year, pay six pounds. Take my advice, every man of you; and you will hardly feel your taxes.

But further, a *tender law* is the *Devil*. When I trust a man a sum of money, I expect he will return the full value. That legislature which says my debtor may pay me with *one third* of the value he received, commits a desperate act of villainy---an act for which an *individual*, in any government, would be honoured with a whipping post, and in most governments, with a gallows. When a man makes dollars, one third of which only is silver, and passes them for good coin, he must lose his ears; &c.

But legislatures can with the solemn face of rulers and guardians of justice, boldly give currency to an *adulterated coin*, enjoy it upon debtors to cheat their creditors, and enforce their systematic knavery with legal penalties. The difference between the man who makes and passes counterfeit money, and the man who tenders his creditor one third of the value of the debt and demands, a discharge, is the same as between a thief and a robber. The first cheats his neighbour in the dark, and takes his property without his knowledge: the last boldly meets him at noon-day, tells him he is a rascal and demands his purse.

My Countrymen, the Devil is among you. Make *paper* as much as you please---make it a tender in all *future contracts*, or let it rest on its own bottom---But remember that past contracts are *sacred things*---that legislatures have no right to interfere with them---they have no right to say, a debt shall be paid at a discount or in any manner which the parties never intended. It is the business of justice to fulfil the intention of parties in contracts---not to defeat them. To pay bonafide contracts for cash, in paper of little value or in old horses, would be a dishonest attempt in an individual; but for legislatures to frame laws to support and encourage such detestable villainy, is like a judge who should inscribe the arms of a rogue over the seat of Justice, or clergymen who should convert into baudy-houses the temples of Jehovah. My Countrymen, the world says the Devil is in you---Mankind detest you as they would a nest of Robbers.

But lastly, mobs and conventions are devils. Good men love law and legal measures. Knaves only fear law and try to destroy it. My Countrymen, if a constitutional legislature cannot redress a grievance, a mob never can. Laws are the security of life and property---nay what is more, of liberty. The man who encourages a mob to prevent the operation of law, ceases to be *free* or *safe*; for the same principle which leads a man to put a bayonet to the breast of a Judge, will lead him to take property where he can find it; and when the Judge dare not act, where is the loser's remedy? Alas, my friends, too much liberty is no liberty at all. Give me any thing but mobs: for mobs are the Devil in his worst shape. I would shoot the leader of a mob, sooner than a midnight ruffian.---People may have grievances perhaps and no man would more readily hold up his hand to redress them than myself; but mobs rebel against laws of their own, and Rebellion is a crime which admits of no palliation.

My Countrymen, I am a private peaceable man; I have no office of any kind; I have nothing to win or to lose, by the game of paper currency; but *I reverence justice*. I would sooner pick oakum all my life, than stain my reputation, or pay my creditor one farthing less than his honest demands.

While you attempt to trade to advantage, without a *Head* to combine all the States into systematical uniform measures, the world will laugh at you for fools.---While Merchants take and give credit, the world will call them fools and laugh at their ruin.---While farmers get credit, borrow money and mortgage their farms, the world will call them fools and laugh at their embarrassments.---While all men live beyond their income and are harassed with duns and sheriffs, no man will pity them, or give them relief.---But when mobs and conventions oppose the course of justice, and legislatures make paper and old horses a legal tender in all cases, the world will exclaim with one voice, *you are rogues, and the Devil is in you!*

TOM THOUGHTFUL.

P. S. If any man wishes to know the writer of this odd piece, let him disprove any thing I have said and he shall be welcome to my name.

FOR SALE,
At the Printing-Office in Northampton,
The First, Second, and Third Part of
Webster's Institute.
ALSO,
Watt's Psalms---Primers---Blanks of most kinds, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ELIZABETH QUEEN, alias WALKER, late of South-Hadley, deceased, represented insolvent, and to the last of December next is allowed for settling said estate, do give notice, that we shall attend said business on the last Mondays of October and December next, at the house of Noah Goodman, Esq. in said South-Hadley, from one to five o'clock on each day.

NATHANIEL WHITE,
DAVID NASH,
DAVID MITCHEL.

South-Hadley, Sept. 3, 1786.

NOVEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 9.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

A friendly ADDRESS to the Insurgents in the County of Hampshire.

My COUNTRYMEN,

AS you have laid down the arms which you lately assumed against the government, it may be hoped your passions have by this time subsided, and your minds are now open to the dictates of sober reason. You will therefore permit a fellow citizen, equally interested with you in the happiness of his country, to expostulate with you on the part you have acted. If you have used your Muskets and Bayonets against government, you cannot censure one who uses only his Pen and his Reason in favour of it.

Let me conjure you, by your love to our common country, and by your regard to yourselves and your posterity, to lay aside all passion and prejudice, and in the hour of calm reflection review the part you have acted. You surely must in your dispassionate moments, disapprove it and resolve on a different mode of conduct. I speak with this assurance, because I know many of you are men of property, character, virtue and discernment.

That we are under pressing burdens, none will deny, we all feel them; we all with them removed. But are they of such a nature as to require or to be removed by the measures you have taken? There is only one case that will justify forceable opposition to our own government; and that is, when our constitutional rights are invaded and other means of redress are ineffectual. This was our case when we ventured on a war with Britain. The grievances then complained of was not the weight of taxes imposed, but the unlimited claim to tax us and legislate for us at pleasure, without the consent of our own representatives. We for years petitioned and remonstrated in vain: we had recourse to arms with reluctance, and only as the last resort.

Our case now, my countrymen, is entirely diverse. We have a constitution of our own, ratified by general consent. We are subject to no taxes or laws, but those which are framed by men of our own chusing---by men subject to the same laws and taxes which they impose on us.---by men who are every year to return to private life, in which, without a new election, they must remain. Can human wisdom devise a more effectual security to our liberties? You cannot pretend that the legislature have invaded your rights, or infringed your constitution. You only complain that the constitution is imperfect, burdens are heavy and some particular laws are grievous. This may be all true. But have you petitioned for relief? have you given instructions to your representatives? have you pointed out to the legislature their mistakes? Nothing of this sort has been heretofore done except in a few, a very few instances. The first notice you have given of your uneasiness is by FLYING TO ARMS. And against whom was your force directed? against the ministers of justice, who, if you labour under grievances, were not the authors nor can be the removers of them. You are all sensible that mankind cannot subsist without society, nor society without government. And I dare appeal to your own good sense, whether your late proceedings are not utterly inconsistent with every principle of civil government. You too well know the imperfection of human nature to imagine, that any form of government or system of laws can be devised, that will suit the humour, the interest and the judgment of all the members of a community. And shall they, who happen to be displeased, immediately force an alteration by arms? What then is government but a continual scene of war? If the party dissatisfied is the majority, they have no occasion for arms, for they may soon effect a change in a peaceable and constitutional way. If they are the minority, they have no right to use arms, because on the principles of government they are bound to submit to the general sense of the community, till by speaking and publishing their sentiments, (which they always have a right to do) they can give general conviction. Force then is never to be used against government, but in the case above supposed.

You have obstructed the administration of justice. And do you intend to obstruct it still? Are we too virtuous to need it? Alas! (bort experience, I fear, will sadly evince the contrary. Will there be no thefts, robberies, burnings, rapes, murders, which in regard to common safety, we shall wish to have punished? Will there be no private injuries and wrongs, which will need to be redressed? Will all be so just as to render law useless? If so, government cannot hurt us. If otherwise, government will be necessary to our subsistance. If we have not virtue enough to obey and support so good a government as we enjoy, surely we have not virtue enough to live without any. Under a former suspension, we subsisted tolerably for a short space, partly from habit, partly from the influence of committees and conventions, chiefly from a sense of common danger and our union in the common cause: and after all, it was found necessary soon to resume government in form. But if our government is dissolved by our internal animosities, the causes which before operated to our security, can operate no more. It should also be remembered that the war has increased the number of lawless and profligate people among us, especially by the introduction of foreigners, who served in our own army or were captivated or deserted from the British army, and consequently has much increased our danger while government is suspended. Besides, how shall taxes be collected for the discharge of the debt which we owe not only to our own citizens, but to foreigners, who loaned us their money in the day of our distress?

Will France, Spain and Holland submit to be defrauded? or will they tremble at our country insurrections? Or is it your aim to subvert the present constitution, that you may establish a better? But let me ask, Are you already agreed on a new constitution? have you proposed it for general deliberation? when you have established it, are you sure none will dislike it? may not the dissentients in their turn take up arms to subvert it, with a fairer pretence than you to subvert the present? and when and where is the war to end? Or did you mean only to awaken the attention of government to your complaints? you ought then to have made known your complaints. The government would have heard you and granted relief, if in their power, for they share in the common burdens. At the worst, you needed only to wait a few months, when the legislature might have been constitutionally changed, and probably would have been, if the people were generally dissatisfied with their conduct. Would not this have been a more safe and easy method of redress, than open violence? It has been suggested, with how much truth I know not, that your insurrection originates from the influence of British emissaries, and that your ultimate design is the introduction of British government? Can this be so? have you endured all the horrors of a seven years' war in opposing that government, only for the sake of returning to it as soon as the war was ended? Many of you I know have distinguished yourselves in the cause of independence. And will you renounce your dear-bought independence before you have fairly tried it? and fly back to the government, which you have so long opposed with your blood, as soon as you have escaped from it?

One would think the pride of a brave American should spurn the idea of becoming the ridicule of the world for such a disgraceful relapse, for such a puerile inconsistency. Were a reunion with Britain desirable, how will you effect it? There must be a civil war, for we shall not be all agreed. And will the advantage compensate the expence? Or are you sure that Britain will receive us on any terms, which you would think consistent with the dignity of freemen? If we cannot bear our own government, for three or four years, the may well conclude we would not long be patient under her's. She has seen that we are brave in arms---she has expended 150 millions in a fruitless war to subject us. Will she hazard another war for a precarious connection with us? We must submit to be disarmed, or receive a standing army before she will take us under her government. But were she ever so fond of a reunion, will the powers of Europe tamely suffer it? France has assisted us in the war with a view to dismember and weaken the British empire; and will France silently behold its members replaced and its strength restored? An attempt for a reunion will probably issue in a dismemberment of our own empire, and a distribution of these states among the nations of Europe, not at our option, but their sovereign pleasure. But admitting we could effect a complete and peaceable reunion, what are we to gain? not a more free government: this is nowhere to be found: and probably not one more cheap: for we must bear our part in all the British wars. If you will examine, you will find that our burthens arise not from the expence of our internal government, but from the long war in which we have been engaged. And are you disposed to exchange this burthen for your quota of the British debt? A woeful exchange! Our foreign debt, as lately stated, is about ten millions of dollars; the domestic national debt about three times so much nominally: our state debt may be about equal to our share of the continental debt: perhaps the debt of other states will be nearly the same with ours, compared with their abilities. We will suppose the whole then (which is a high calculation) to be 17 or 18 millions of pounds sterling. Now 7-8ths of this debt is internal, and may be paid in facilities much below the nominal value in silver. Probably we may discharge our whole debt as easily as we could pay a foreign debt of six or seven millions. We have immense tracts of unappropriated lands, some part of which is surveyed and nearly ready for sale, & which, as fast as sold, will sink the principal & diminish the interest. There must be time for such resources to produce their effect. But if we can only have patience, and join with it a proper degree of industry and frugality, we shall undoubtedly find relief. Now consider the British debt. This their own accounts state to be 280 millions; and they have no such resource as unappropriated lands. And would you chuse to take on you a share of their debt, rather than of our own? Perhaps we should not be better pleased with their apportionment of our share, than we are with the taxation of our own courts.

Our grievances are now under the consideration of the legislature. Give them every information in your power, and believe they will give you all the relief in their: but imagine not that they can work miracles. After all they can do a debt will remain, for the discharge of which we must, for a time, apply our own industry, prudence and frugality. We had better submit to some self-denial and live below that stile which our habits would fix for us, than plunge into slavery or war. Judge not of matters rashly, nor without full information. We at a distance from the seat of government, cannot at once know the difficulties that our legislators have to contend with, nor all the reasons on which they act. We cannot all be politicians. We must put some confidence in rulers. If we chuse not able and virtuous men, men in whom we can confide, it is our fault. A watchful jealousy is a political virtue, but a total distrust is inconsistent with government. Much of your uneasiness I well know has arisen from misinformation. How often have I heard complaints of the avariciousness of our governor, who is said to have exacted the payment of his salary every quarter, that he might put his money on interest, when it is a fact alcertained by the best authority, that since he has been in the chair, he has not received so much as half his first year's salary and but part even of that in specie. The whole that he has received has fallen considerably short of his own taxes.

Many other misrepresentations might be mentioned. On the whole, my friends, let me intreat you to think calmly, examine fairly, judge dispassionately, and conduct virtuously. Let not private views, but the general good dictate your measures; be well assured your measures are just, before you attempt to carry them into execution.

PACIFICUS.

October 19, 1786.

Mr. BUTLER,

Please to give the following a place in your paper from a member of the Hatfield Convention: in answer to the old Republican upon some of his observations.

NUMBER I.

I BEG that the importance of the subject I am going to discuss may be considered as my apology for taking up the pen. I probably have not had the advantages of education, the old Republican has. The reader therefore will not look for accuracy, nor be disposed to criticise. I hope I shall speak, so as to be understood. I shall not attempt to enter upon the justification of the several articles of grievance, complained of by the Hatfield Convention; being not much in favour of them. My design is to confine myself principally to his observations upon the 7th and 10th articles, which I shall freely acknowledge I gave my voice for. Not from those base and unworthy motives, he presumes to charge me with (and all others in favour of those articles) but, from the most unshaken fidelity, to the commonwealth, and a sincere desire to prevent the injustice that is done by the present mode of appropriating the impost and excise; and the present mode of calling in the governmental securities. I therefore feel none of the pain he expects to give. I shall now say something upon his observations on those articles, and then conclude, by pointing out a mode, which I suppose will come much nearer justice than the present; and will have a tendency to quiet the uneasiness that so universally prevails. He conjectures that the pretended grievance complained of in the 7th article, consist in the impost and excise, not being appropiated to pay the interest of the foreign debt. But with submission I shall inform him that it consisted in an opinion, that 15-16ths of the present holders, draw three times as much interest as in justice they ought to. But he is so far right that some of the members did propose, that it should be applied for the purposes mentioned; but that the grievance consisted in this would never have been discovered, except by a man of his liberal way of thinking: and one that had a particular aversion to the doings of convention. He next informs us that the grant is temporary, and is to cease when the five per cent grant to Congress is come into by all the states. I must here thank him for this information, and proceed. He then says that the impost and excise are designed as a method of paying the interest of our particular debt. He then asks, "Why is it not just and wise for government to take care of their own subjects in preference to those of other states". Can idiotcy itself be made to believe that the Old Republican supposed that a single member of the convention thought that any part of the grievances, consisted in their not being applyed for the payment of the interest of the continental debt. He then goes on to shew that the government had received such a value and had promised an annual payment of interest: and what right has any person to say they shall not keep their promise.

He next says with a sneer, "But says the honest objector, bitterly concerned for his poor neighbour and the poor soldier, the holders of these securities bought them under their nominal value, and by that means they receive an exorbitant interest." He then goes on to obviate the objection, by declaring his willingness that there should be laws to prevent fraud, and oppression, by asking what right government have to interfere in private bargains? and to seize into their hands what has been cheated out of individuals. The government have received the value, and solemnly promissed to pay it. He thus gets over an objection that lies with weight upon the mind of many an honest man, without entering into the merits of it: an objection too well founded to be passed over so easy. I shall therefore endeavour to support the objection; in order to which purpose it will be necessary, for me by and by to take a retrospective view of the situation of this Commonwealth, at the time a great part of them were issued, which I take to be the time that there was a settlement made with the army, with regard to what they had suffered in their pay, by receiving it in depreciated paper money. It appeared upon the settlement that there was a very considerable sum due to them, which they were entitled to in silver money, or something that was equivalent for their immediate use: for it is well known that the bulk of an army expend their wages as fast as they receive them, whether they receive them in silver money, paper money, or in state notes. It is also well known that our army were necessitated to put their's off from their situation, and the inability of the government to make suitable provision for them, as to cloathing, &c. so that the buisness of the army was, as soon as they had received in state notes what appeared to be justly due upon the settlement, to put them off to those who would give the most for them. I will here shew in what manner our public faith was supported at this time, which was, when any of the state notes became due, for government to postpone the time of payment three or five years, as they see fit, and, if I am not mistaken, neglected making provision for the annual payment of the interest. I shall therefore be so far from considering the purchasers of them as guilty of fraud and oppression in obtaining them, that I suppose it was very fortunate for the army that there were a class of men that would give them five or six shillings on the pound; for I believe that people in general would not have given them two shillings at the time they were generally transfered. But whether the purchasers merited that attention which has since been paid them, is a doubt in my mind. I suppose the persons who received their old continental bills, which they had formerly received for their wages, had as good a claim to have them restored to their nominal value as they have. I must confess that it requires a person of nicer discernment than I can pretend to, to distinguish the difference, if Congress had a right when their bills had sunk at the rate of forty for one to interpose in the matter? The government of this commonwealth have as good a right in similar circumstances. I do not recollect my having ever heard a single person condemn the measure. I take it Congress had a good right, when the fulfilment of their promises would have done twenty times the injustice the violation of them has done; to declare they never should be fulfilled except one fortieth part. If Congress had no right to do what they have done it is as much the duty of the United States to redeem every old continental dollar with a silver one, as it is the duty of this Commonwealth to redeem their governmental securities; and they may set themselves about it, for if they do not, the Old Republican will not let them pass unnoticed: for his whole drift seems to be, that publick promises are in no case to be violated. I have perhaps as high an opinion of the sacredness of publick promises as he has in general cases. But, that there are no circumstances in which a community may be placed, may make it just and necessary, I shall not allow. I shall in my next attempt to shew, that the army in being obliged to receive what was then just due upon the above mentioned settlement, in state securities, was in fact defrauding them of two thirds of their just dues: and that the redemption of them at the present, or any future time, will not afford them any kind of relief. But on the contrary, that they must be taxed in common with the rest of the community to make them good to the present holders.

A Member of the Hatfield CONVENTION.

AN ADDRESS to the PUBLIC.

Part I.

IT has been said in favour of the late rising against government, that the same principle which justify our rising against Great-Britain in the late revolution, will justify this: and many people seem to believe it.

Whoever therefore would set this matter in a clear light, would do essential service to the cause of truth. As I have seen nothing of this nature attempted, I shall offer the following considerations to shew that the cases are as far from being parallel, as rising against a government imposed on us without our consent and against our consent, and against stipulated agreement, is from rising against a government and authority set up by our own free and voluntary consent, and ratified by a solemn sacred compact which thereby became our constitution.

With regard to Great-Britain, our security (as to our rights and privileges) was our charter; in which three things were secured to us, viz. First, The essential rights of Englishmen; one of which is that no man shall be taxed without his own consent by himself or representative. We were taxed by the parliament, in which we were not represented, and without our own consent. The case is now the reverse. Secondly. By charter, the fifth part of the gold and silver our found in the territories it contained, was to go to the king, in lieu of all duties and taxes whatever. The charter was the only social compact which connected us to Great-Britain; their laying duties on us contrary to charter, was attempted by the stamp act and other subsequent acts; and repeatedly urged against them in our petitions and remonstrances. When the Parliament repealed the stamp act, they passed an act, purporting that they had a right to make laws binding on us in all cases whatsoever. Thirdly, By charter we were to chuse our own representatives, and the representatives to chuse the council, which was one branch of the legislature; we were to make and be governed by our own laws. The British parliament broke in upon and mutilated our charter, and deprived us of the privilege of chusing the council—a council was appointed by mandamus. We thought we ought to stand up for our charter privileges and oppose the invasion of our stipulated rights. In the case parallel now? are the rights secured to us by the social compact invaded? are the infringings for the support, or are they for the subversion of the social compact, in which we have all covenanted one with another? Did the people then rise against any officer who declared he adhered to the charter? No, we only opposed those who accepted of or held offices under the controlled and mutilated charter. And why? Because their so doing implied their consent to that invasion of our rights. Our house of representatives were regarded as the proper persons to meet and manage our affairs. Those judges of the supreme court, who refused a salary from the crown of which if I mistake not, one is now on the bench) were highly honoured. The others were rejected as tools of a despot. Besides all this, we petitioned, we remonstrated, and our petitions were rejected because not signed by the governor, who was then appointed by the king. And when the continental Congress took up the matter, was it not among the first of their proceedings to send petitions and remonstrances? Has any thing of this sort been done by the insurgents? and did not the British troops first begin the war?

We thought that the charter (as it ratified to our forefathers and their posterity the foresaid privileges, and as it was accepted by them when given as the only bond of connection between Great-Britain and us) ought to be eternal sacred, and to be sacredly adhered to by them and us; we asked only for privileges allowed us therein. Why is not the social compact in which we have made ourselves and solemnly ratified as sacred? does our resisting those who claimed an authority over us, to make laws to bind us in all cases, on no better foundation than because our forefathers were born in their country, but contrary to our charter rights, which they attempted to overthrow does not ask, stand any colour of argument for our resisting or stopping persons in the exercise of lawful authority, which they hold by virtue of a charter ratified in the most solemn manner? Wherein can any similarity between these be discerned? Could I give no better reason for the conduct of my country in the late revolution, than I can for the late risings against government, I should be ashamed to profess myself an American.

If it be said there were grievances which ought to be redressed: I ask how that applies to the case? Perhaps by and by I may shew that grievances were properly redressed. In the mean time, would such people, to be think themselves, consider what conduct is right or wrong in its nature, tendency, consequences and consequences; reprobate every thing that is wrong; and adhere to that which is right, that which they can justify before God and the world, such will I own as brethren, to

The FREEBENKER.

LONDON, August.

On the 26th ult. the following melancholy accident happened at Montpellier: A wooden building erected as a temporary play house (the regular theatre having been last year) being too much crowded, the upper boxes being unable to support the weight, fell, with part of the roof into the pit, and instantly crushed to death 300 people. An account of this shocking event was received by express at Paris the 2d instant.

A few days ago his Excellency Mr. Adams, the American Minister here, waited upon the Secretary of State, and informed him, that Congress were exceedingly offended that the forts on the back parts of Canada were not evacuated, and that if the terms of the treaty were not literally fulfilled, Congress were resolved upon making reprisals upon the trade of this country, in North-America and the West-Indies.

PHILADELPHIA, October 11.

Extract of a letter from Baltimore, October 7.

"After some days continuation of southerly winds and heavy rains, in town and country, we had of course a high tide, and the waters in the falls ran down with the greatest violence, and rose to such a height, from six to nine o'clock in the night, that it irresistably carried away every thing before it. Mills, houses, seven mill dams, bridges, stores, fences, &c.

"The water rose so high, that in our school room it was two feet and a half above the floor, and in Mr. B's front room it went over the top of his desk. Near the upper bridge, it swept away three or four houses, great part of Mackenheimer's large house in the marsh, the gable end and great part of the New Reformed Church in Old Town, the corners of Jeffray's and W. Roe's fine brick houses, all three bridges, and what more is not now known. By this you may easily guess of other damages. Several lives were lost. Some poor le carried down the current were saved, others drowned. Every spot along the falls looks frightful.

"Mr. C. had the singular circumstance of a dead horse floating into his back door, through his house, into the parlour and there lodged.

The loss suffered by the inhabitants of Baltimore town, and the adjacent country for 25 miles round, by the late storm, is calculated at 100, cool.!

NEW-YORK, October 21.

On Thursday last, in consequence of a warrant being obtained against a sloop commanded by one Cartwell, for the recovery of seaman's wages, the Admiralty Marshal attempted to seize her, but was impeded in the execution of his office by the crew, who bid defiance to his authority, and paraded the quarter-deck in a hostile manner. The marshal was immediately assisted by Capt. D'Auvergne, of his Britannic Majesty's packet, who, with two boats well armed, set out in chase of the pirates, and happily overtook them near the Hook: The crew upon the approach of the boats, escaped to the Long-Island shore, but the vessel was safely conducted to town. Capt. D'Auvergne's manly and spirited behaviour entitles him to the greatest honor, who, though a foreigner, and unconnected with this country, considered it as his duty, as being a citizen of the world, to act in support of government, without which we would hold our dearest blessings upon the most precarious tenure.

On Thursday the 12th inst. a very intelligent gentleman, whose veracity may be relied on, arrived in Philadelphia from the Falls of Ohio, and Fort Pitt, and has communicated the following disagreeable intelligence, viz. That about the last of September, two men declared on oath before a magistrate, at Pittsburgh, that they came from the Shawanese town, and that just before they left it, a party of that tribe came in with 14 scalps, among which were those of Mrs. Moore and daughter, of Virginia, that the savages performed the war dance, and said they would fall upon the continental surveyors, and then pay a visit to the settlement of Wheeland, about 100 miles below Pittsburgh. In consequence of this information, Capt. Hutchins ordered the surveyors into their camp, judging it not prudent to persist in running the territorial lines until a general consultation should take place. The inhabitants also removed from the banks of the river, below Pittsburgh on Grave and Fish Creeks. Our informant adds, this intelligence was corroborated by a faithful Indian from the Shawanese town, to Col. Harmer, at the garrison at the mouth of the Miami.

General Clark, at the Falls of Ohio, was collecting his troops and making the necessary preparations for his expedition against the hostile tribes of Indians.

We hear from Richmond, Virginia, that accounts from Montgomery county (the latter end of August last) mention the many cruel depredations of the Indians on the frontiers, with a confirmation of the family of Capt. James More, and himself being murdered, at his settlement at Abb's Valley, Bluestone Creek. A small party went in pursuit of some, taking two Indians prisoners. From their relation, many of them were greatly incensed, owing to encroachments made on them by a few whites.—A strong body of militia were forming.

Extract of a letter from Kentucky, dated August 10, 1786.

"About 400 Indians lately surrounded Post St. Vincent, with a view to cut off the American inhabitants residing there, but the French and Canadians interceded for them, and after long persuasion, and making the Indians presents, prevailed on them to go off; it is however expected they will soon return.

"A party of men lately marched from this country to attack some Indians they understood were at the Wabbash river. They met with three at Salt-Lick, two of which they killed—and in a few hours after were attacked by a party, whom they soon dispersed, killing three on the spot, and, we are informed nine have since died of their wounds. Our detachment had one killed and four slightly wounded."

Extract of a letter from an officer at the rapids of Ohio, dated August 25, 1786.

"I have the pleasure to inform you, our troops from the Miami arrived at this place on the 15th inst. and yesterday we began to but—In about one month I presume we will complete our buildings and finith a stockade.——On the 10th of next month, Gen. Clark marches into the Indian country with a powerful army: he proceeds immediately to their towns, which he intends to lay in ashes, destroy their corn, kill and scalp as many as he may conquer—This scourge they justly deserve; for immediately after, and at the time of the treaty held at the Miami, they killed and plundered the inhabitants—The settlers at Kentucky have lost upwards of 500 horses during the summer.—Should this expedition be crowned with success, it will give peace to our frontiers for this year at least, and put a total stop to treaties hereafter, which it seems have answered no other purpose than that of spending public money, and serving the purposes of a few designing men."

Extract of a letter dated Gajahaga river, Sept. 26, 1786.

"The Shawanese seem inclined for war—they lately burnt two white women and afterwards two white men prisoners alive, they first cut off their legs and then burnt them."

BOSTON, October 26.

Proceeding of Government since our last.

Governor's Salary.

On Thursday last came on before the House, the constitutional question, Whether the Governor's salary could be reduced, consistent with the constitution? For the better understanding of some observations made in the debates, we insert the article in the frame of government, relative to this point.

CHAP. II.—SEC. I.—ART. XIII.

"As the public good requires that the Governor should not be under the undue influence of any of the members of the General Court, by a dependence on them for his support—that he should in all cases, act with freedom for the benefit of the public——that he should not have his attention necessarily diverted from that object to his private concerns—and that he should maintain the dignity of the commonwealth in the character of its chief Magistrate——it is necessary that he should have an honorable stated salary, of a fixed and permanent value; amply sufficient for those purposes, and established by standing laws: and it shall be among the first acts of the General Court, after the commencement of this Constitution, to establish such salary by law accordingly."

Those who were in the affirmative, of the question held, that a salary was stated, and of a fixed and permanent value, if it was granted at any time, previous to the Governor's election; and that, as a Governor could exist only for one year, however frequently the same man might be chosen into office, it could not bring the Governor under the undue influence of any of the members of the General Court, by a dependance on them for his support, if this grant was made annually for the future Magistrate. For, it could be no concern of the Governor for the time being, what allowance was to be made to his successor, since his own salary could not be effected. Besides, there was nothing exceedingly absurd in supposing, that a just sum could be fixed upon, which should continue so many years, through all the possible variation which might take place in the circumstances of the people. Other gentlemen thought, that this construction of the article was overset, by the clause which provides that it shall be among the first acts of the General Court, after the commencement of this constitution, to establish such salary by law accordingly. If the framers of the constitution had designed, that the salary should have been altered, would they not have said," that it should be among the first acts of each General Court annually, to establish, &c."? They thought this only an ingenious evasion of the common force of terms, and the effect would inevitably be, to make the Governor dependant on the General Court. For though no Chief Magistrate had a right to anticipate his re-election, yet he must feel interested in the future respectability of the station which he held, and for which he must stand, at least, as fair a candidate another year, as any other man. The debates being finished, the yeas and nays were called for, and there appeared to be 75 yeas, 74 nays.

Fee-Bill.

On Friday the House took up the fee bill. Upon this subject, we can say nothing more, than that the fees are proposed to be lowered from one quarter to one third part of the former allowance.

Tender-Act.

On the same day came on the bill, for making real and personal estate a tender in discharge of executions. Among the objections to this bill was adduced the 4th article of the treaty of peace, which provides, "that the creditors on either side, shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value," in sterling money, "of all bona-fide debts heretofore contracted." It was alledged that unless such debts were excepted from the bill, it would be a breach of the treaty, since the property included in the tender, was very different from "sterling money." It was also thought to be a breach of the treaty in another way, as it allowed a tender of real estate to be made to British subjects, who were aliens, and therefore supposed to be incapable of holding it. And if they were capable of holding real estate by law, it would be wretched policy to throw the lands into the hands of foreign subjects, who owed no permanent allegiance to our government. These objections, however, with others that have been made every day, to a tender act, were over-ruled by the House, and a time was assigned for a second reading of the bill.

Payment of back Taxes.

After the discussion of the bill for making real and personal estate a tender, a bill was introduced providing for the payment of back taxes due previous to the year 1784, in specifick articles. The design of this measure is to relieve the people under the present scarcity of cash. We need not mention, that so valuable a plan met with the approbation of all parties, and a time was assigned, without opposition, for a third reading of the bill.

Courts of Common Pleas.

The report of a committee appointed to consider whether any other Court could be substituted in the room of the Common Pleas, almost wholly occupied the attention of the House on Saturday morning. This report proposed, that the original process of all civil causes, should commence before a Justice of the Peace, and in cases of default, executions should issue without further delay: That where the parties appeared a reference should be always allowed, and the influence of the Justice should be used to induce it: But this could not be expected, the cause should then be carried to the Supreme Judicial Court for trial.

The report was not accepted by the Senate, who recommitted it, with instructions to report proper regulations to be introduced into the Courts of Common Pleas. The arguments used in the House on this occasion, were such, as, on the one hand, were drawn from the uneasiness of the people, and on the other, from the inconvenience of changing judicial institutions, and of abolishing what wanted only to be reformed. The House finally agreed to a re-commitment, and included the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in the commission. This was acceded to by the senate.

Interest on British debts, &c.

A committee of the House was appointed on Monday last, to revise the resolve for postponing the rendering of judgment for interest which arose on British debts during the war.

On Tuesday the bill providing for the payment of back taxes in specifick articles, passed the House to be engrossed.

Tender-Act.—Second reading.

The bill for making real and personal estate a tender, also came before them for the second reading. In addition to the objections made to this bill on Friday last, it was said to be unconstitutional, as it was an exercise of judicial power by the legislature, since it determined what should be a fulfilment of private contracts. It was conceded, that the Legislature was vested with a power to suspend the operation of law for a limited time, and the accepting of a certain kind of satisfaction, might constitutionally be made a condition of a creditor's being admitted to his process; but in any other view the bill would be unconstitutional. Upon the question being taken, the House voted the bill to be consistent neither with the constitution, nor the treaty of peace. It was then recommitted, to be made conformable to them.

Accounts received last evening, from Taunton say, that General Cobb, with about 300 men, took possession of the Court House on sunday evening last, and on Tuesday, about 12 o'clock, the Supreme Judicial Court, was opened in the usual manner, without interruption. The insurgents (about 250 in number were assembled at 2 miles distance from the Court-House, but not expecting that the Court would attempt to sit, they were not prepared to oppose them. No official account has been yet received by authority.

A number of militia from Bridgwater, we are told, were on their march yesterday morning, to support government.

WORCESTER, October 26.

We hear from Oakam, that on Monday night last, Mr. Ebenezer Woods, of that town, who has for a number of months past, at times, appeared much disordered in his mind, put an end to his life by hanging himself to a small oak tree. On Tuesday morning he was found, and a jury of inquest impannelled, who brought in their verdict, that he was insane. He has left a sorrowful family to lament his fate.

NORTHAMPTON, November 1.

The inhabitants of the world are supposed, according to the most probable calculations, says a London paper, to amount to about seven hundred and seventy-five millions and three hundred thousand souls.—Of these the arbitrary governments command seven hundred and forty-one millions and eight hundred thousand: and the free ones (including ten millions of free Indians) only thirty-three millions and five hundred thousand; and of these few, so large a portion as twelve millions and five hundred thousand are subjects or descendants of the British empire; that is, by some millions of the third part of all the free men in the world. On the whole, human slaves are three and twenty times more numerous than men enjoying, in any tolerable degree, the rights of human nature.

Thursday the 23d day of November instant, is appointed a day of Thanksgiving in the state of New-Hampshire.

We hear from Sheffield, that a woman, her son, about 16 years of age, and a young child, were drowned in attempting to ford Housatonick river in that town, the beginning of October last.

It is said, that Dr. Gordon has met with so many crosses in England, on account of his "History," as to determine him to give over all endeavours to accomplish the object of his voyage ——The Lord Chancellor, (who is the licencer of books) we are told, has refused him a licence for its publication, on account of its partiality to the Americans.

DIED, last Thursday, Mr. Elijah Clarke, jun. of this town, aged 22.

Departed this life, the 18th of October last, the much respected and deservedly esteemed, Joseph Rose, Esq. of Montague, aged 63 years. His example exceeded the common example of good and pious men: As his natural mental endowments were known to excel, they were happily directed and employed to good and benevolent purposes. He lived and died a professor of the Christian faith; was a constant attendant on the public worship of God; far from all appearance of religious affectation. A lover of mankind; given to hospitality; ready to do good; patient of his afflictions, and tenderly compassionate of the sufferings of others; wise in counsel; the friend of peace. He sustained his public office with dignity, and performed the duties of that station with judgment and fidelity. He met death with calmness, and died in the hope of a blessed immortality.

☞ The Collector of Excise attends at Hatfield, on Wednesday the 29th of November, instead of Wednesday the 29th——and at Williamsburgh on Monday the 20th, instead of Monday the 28th, as, by mistake, was advertised in our last, and the last page of this paper.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

CASH, Writing-Paper, &c. given for Rags and old Fish-Net.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Boston, October 19.

AS we conceive the present state of public affairs, and every measure adopted by government for the regulation of them, is viewed in a very important light, we have endeavoured to collect such a sketch of the proceedings of the General Court upon this subject, as, we hope, will afford satisfaction to our readers.

The occasion on which the legislature was convened in its present session, was one of the most serious that can arise in society, that of a violent obstruction to the administration of justice. The public well know, that the supposed causes of this evil have been frequently represented to government under the name of grievances, equally various in their nature and difficult in their remedy. To restore quiet to the community, and to relieve these grievances, so far as they are under the controul of laws, seems therefore to have been the duty and inclination of the General Court. Early in the session, the Governor's speech, which contained an accurate statement of the tumults which had taken place, was put in commitment. A petition from the town of Dracut, backed by several others upon the subject of public grievances, was also noticed in the same manner. The petition of various conventions, of a like tenor, have been read, but the authority of those assemblies appearing, in some instances, to have been limited merely to the framing of a petition, subject afterwards to the revisal of their towns, and their representation of the sense of some towns which were included in their addresses, being also questioned, their petitions have been specially committed on these points.

The report of the Committee on the Governor's speech, consisted of resolves expressing an abhorrence of the riotous measures adopted in several counties, approving of the Governor's conduct, promising pay to the militia who were called into service, and providing for the suspending of the writ of Habeas Corpus. A list of business necessary to be acted upon, was also reported. To these resolves the Senate assented; and the House unanimously concurred, excepting as to the last article, which occasioned several very serious debates. The result was, that the subject of suspending the writ of Habeas Corpus, has been recommitted; with directions to report a system for supporting the vigour of government.

From a consideration of the present burthens of the people, the Court agreed, the 11th inst. to refer the consideration of the last requisition of Congress to their next session. They have also requested the Governor to make application to Congress to postpone the payment of the present tax payable in facilities, alledging for a reason, that the loan officer is unable to issue certificates to the inhabitants of this Commonwealth, in sufficient quantities, within the time limited for the payment of the tax.

The scarcity of money, which (however improperly considered as a grievance) has really been productive of much difficulty, gave rise to an act for establishing a mint within this Commonwealth, for the coinage of gold, silver and copper, conformably to the resolve of Congress upon this subject.

Nearly every article which has been the object of popular clamour, has been attended to, either by the whole House or by Committees. The subject of the probate Court has been taken up in the former manner. A proposition was made to establish a Probate Court and a Register's office in every town, but after two debates upon the question, the expediency of this proposal could not be evidenced.

The House have had before them several times, a report of a committee appointed the last session, to consider a mode of paying the principal and interest of the public debt. This report raised many of the Impost and Excise duties already laid, and proposed several new objects, for taxation. In short, so extensive were the principles of it, that the House proceeded for some time with a design of raising the whole revenue of government in this manner, which would entirely supercede all taxes upon polls and estates, as now in use. But many difficulties arising, especially in the equitable adjustment of the tax upon houses, it was at length voted, that it would not be expedient to raise all the supplies of government in this mode, and the report has been committed for incorporating it into the impost and excise laws.

The sale of the Eastern lands, being considered as an object of great consequence in sinking the public debt, a Committee has been raised upon that subject, and a plan is now before the House for surveying a number of townships, and for selling them at public auction in June next, if not previously disposed of by the Committee on this business.

A law martial is also under consideration, providing rules for the regulation of troops stationed in the forts and garrisons within this Commonwealth, and of the militia or any part thereof, when called into actual service.

On Tuesday last a Committee appointed to examine into the salaries of the civil officers of government made a report, a sketch of which we herewith exhibit.

Governor.--Salary before the revolution 2300l. and perquisites at least 1000l. total 3300l.—Present Salary, without any perquisites, 1100l.

Lieutenant-Governor.---No Salary before the Revolution---perquisites supposed to be 250l.---Present perquisites (he having no salary) supposed to amount to the same.

Judges of the Superior Court.---before the Revolution, Chief Justice 300l. the other four Justice, each, 250l. and fees of office more than equal to their travelling expenses, besides being allowed to hold other offices.——The present Judges allowance---Chief justice 375l. the other four, each, 350l. no emolument allowed, all fees taken being deducted out of these sums.

Treasurer.---Before the Revolution, 267l. and allowed to hold other offices.---Present salary 350l. and his whole time employed.

Secretary.---Before the Revolution 140l. and his fees supposed to be 200l. total 340l.--- Present salary 250l. from which the fees of office are deducted.

Agents, before the Revolution each 400l.

Members of Congress 26s per day, including all charges,

Officers of Harvard College.---President, before the Revolution, 200l, Hollisian Professor 100l. Professor of Mathematics 100l. Hancock Professor 40l. with additional grants to each.---The present officers the same.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.---Before the Revolution, 100l. and pay as a member.——Present Clerk 120l. the several sessions taking up much more time.

Collectors of Impost and Excise for the county of Suffolk, acknowledges receiving from June 1st, 1785, to May 31st, 1786, 5071. 1s. 11d. out of which he pays two deputies 120l. each, which leaves him 267l. 1s. 11d.——Fees for taking bonds, at one shilling each, set against the expense of office, printing, paper, books, wood, coal, &c.

Naval Officer for the County of Suffolk.---Whole annual amount of fees 68l. 19s. 5d. 7-12ths of which being paid into the Treasury, leaves 28l. 14s. 9d. from which deduct for absolute expenses and rent 23l. 8s. 8d. leaves for his support 45l. 6s. 1d.

Besides the above mentioned, the report contained a calculation of the incomes of several other officers; but the materials not being complete, prevented that certainty which has been obtained as to those who are not paid out of the public Treasury.

This report brought on a question, whether it was consistent with the constitution to diminish the Governor's salary? but the time not admitting of a full discussion of it, a reference took place.

On Wednesday, the Committee appointed to consider of the distresses to which many of the inhabitants of this commonwealth are subjected in discharging executions for private debts, on account of the great scarcity of a circulating medium, submitted the following question to the Court, viz. Whether a tender act, or an act suspending the operation of law, respecting the recovery of debts, and levying of executions, will not be inconsistent with the constitution of this commonwealth, and militate with the Confederation and treaty of peace, unless the debts due to British creditors be excepted? The question, so far as it respects the Confederation and treaty of peace was put in Senate, where it was determined that a tender act, or suspension of law, as aforesaid, would be inconsistent with both. But the question being put in the House, whether they concurred with the Hon. Senate, in their decision of this question, it passed in the negative by a majority. Leave was then given to bring in a tender act, which, being laid on the table, was read and committed.

Breck, Shephard, and Clarke,

HEREBY inform their Customers and others, that they have just received a fresh supply of

GOODS,

And now have on hand a general Assortment, which they purpose to sell on the most reasonable terms for ready pay in Cash, Grain, Pork, Potash, Salts, Flax-Seed, &c. &c.

Northampton, October 16, 1786.

THE Subscriber, Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire, hereby gives notice to all concerned, that he proposes to attend at the following places to settle the accounts and receive the said duties, viz. at Gen. Elihu White's in Hatfield, on Wednesday the 29th day of Nov. next, at 9 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. Joel Wait's in Whately, at 11 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. David Hoit's in Deerfield, at 2 o'clock P. M.---and the same day at Mr. Caleb Alvord's in Greenfield, at 4 o'clock P. M. On Monday the 28th of said Nov. at Mr. Joshua Thayer's in Williamsburgh, at 9 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. Lemuel Lyon's in Goshen, at 11 o'clock A. M.---and the same day at Capt. Cole's in Chesterfield, at 1 o'clock P. M. On Wednesday the 22d at Mr. Elisha Cook's in Hadley, at 10 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. Alfred Pomeroy's in Northampton, at 2 o'clock P. M. On Thursday the 23d at Capt. David Lyman's in East-Hampton, at 9 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. Perez Clap's in South Hampton, at 11 o'clock A. M.---the same day at Mr. Ephraim Wright's in West Hampton, at 1 o'clock P. M.

ELIJAH HUNT.

Northampton, October 25, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms---Primers---Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

NOVEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 10.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

A Member of the Hatfield Convention, in answer to the Old Republican upon some of his observations.

NUMBER II.

I SHALL now according to my promise in my last, attempt to shew that the army in being obliged, to receive what appeared to be their just due upon the aforementioned settlement in government notes, was in fact defrauding them of two thirds their just dues; and that the redemption of them at the present, or any future time, will not afford them any kind of relief. But it will perhaps be said, that they were not obliged to receive their dues this way; but that it was an agreement of the army. To which I answer, that they must receive them in the way government pointed out, or not receive them at all; and every one must allow they would have preferred a payment in silver to it. But to proceed: the very attempt of the government to make a settlement with the army, with regard to what they had suffered by receiving their pay in paper money, was an acknowledgement that they in fact, had received no greater share of their wages than the bills passed for at the several times of payment. Added to this, the Congress and the legislature of this commonwealth, have allowed the same, by establishing scales of depreciation which looks back to the time when the faith of Congress was pledged to redeem their bills at their nominal value. And that the legislature, not having acknowledged, with regard to what they received in state notes; for their pay makes it nevertheless a fact. The truth is, that a payment to an army in state notes, when the credit of the state is in such a situation that people in general will not give more than five or six shillings on the pound for their securities in defraudment of more than two thirds of their just dues, whether the government ever acknowledged it or not; and the army have ever considered it in that point of light. Thus I think I have made it appear, that a payment in paper money, when the public faith was pledged for the redemption of it at the nominal value, could not be considered as a payment, any further than what the paper money passed for at the time of payment; and that the legislature of this commonwealth have acknowledged the same by the abovementioned settlement with the army, and by establishing a scale of depreciation. If the acknowledgment never had been made, the army and every individual that received his pay when the paper money was ten for one, would notwithstanding have been defrauded of 9-10ths of their just dues. And that there is no difference in paper securities, whether you call them money or state notes. If a payment in paper money is no further a payment than at the rate it passes at, one amongst another, neither can a payment in state notes be considered any further a payment than what they would sell for.

I shall now proceed to the next thing proposed, which was to shew that the redemption of the securities at their nominal value, will not afford the army any kind of relief. The Old Republican asks, whether old continental money did not sink almost to nothing? and then answers, that it did: and then goes on, "and is it not a pretty argument, that because individuals have been injured in a time of war, of uncertainty and distress, therefore individuals should be injured again in time of peace, when we have nothing to do but learn frugality and honesty, and pay our debts like an upright people." He then acknowledges that there is a similarity in the two cases. I must inform him, that I conceive that the reasons why individuals were injured by continental money, was not because it was not finally redeemed at the nominal value; but the real cause was, that our public credit was in such a situation, on account of the calamities of war, that an attempt to have relieved the army, and other individuals that had suffered, by a redemption of the money at the nominal value, would have been productive of twenty times greater injuries than the sinking of it has been, and the relief sought after would not have been sound; so that the Old Republican has put the effects for the cause. If this is not the case, the Congress and the legislature of this commonwealth have been entirely mistaken in establishing scales of depreciation, &c. in order to relieve those who had been injured;—their method should have been (according to the Old Republican) to have redeemed their money, at the nominal value like honest people: this would have been that "righteousness which exalteth a nation." I have made this digression to point the reader to a recent instance, wherein it has been acknowledged on all hands, that the support of the public faith would have afforded no kind of relief to the injured. And in the case before us, the idea of redeeming the public securities at their nominal value, with a view to relieve the army, is as ridiculous as it would have been in the above mentioned instance; for every one must allow there is but a very small part of them in the soldiers' hands, and consequently the appreciation of them can afford them no kind of relief. But on the contrary, it must operate as an intolerable burden upon them, by their being subjected to be taxed in common with the rest of the community, to restore them to their nominal value in the present holders hands: this is so evident, that to make use of argument to prove it, would be like burning tapers at noon day to enlighten the world. But to return to the Old Republican. He asks, "what decency or integrity would there be in the interposition of the government to seize into their own hands what has been cheated out of individuals?" The Old Republican seems to have forgot, or never knew, that the greater part of the war was supported this way: for I cannot suppose he meant it as a reflection upon the government for what they had done. I doubt not it is a maxim, as firmly established in his mind as the laws of the Medes and Persians, that the government can do no wrong: And now he is informed, the government have heretofore been guilty of the very conduct he condemns as unjust; it will go some ways in convincing him, that it may be just and necessary for the government to again interpose and seize into their own hands what has been cheated out of individuals, if there can be no better way of relief found out for the sufferers than redeeming the securities at their nominal value. But the Old Republican will perhaps say, that it is the Congress have done this and not the legislature of this commonwealth: to which I answer that it is true, that the Congress have done it so far as it respected old continental money: and the legislature of this commonwealth have done the same, by compelling the holders of the sword-in-hand money (so called) to bring it in and take notes for it, which have since been reduced, I believe to about one third of their nominal value; so that according to our wise author, the constitution is decidedly violated: For he says, that "an attempt to free ourselves from full payment, is decidedly a violation of the constitution;" and that the legislature have done it in this instance, none can dispute. He then makes a charge upon the legislature, which would have raised his indignation to the very highest pitch, if it had been made by any other man. It will be thought that these arguments are leading to a proposal to have the state securities sealed: I have no such proposal to make, for this obvious reason, that however just it might be, if the government had a sufficient sum of money on hand to redeem them, at what should be supposed to be their real value, it might be unjust at present, as all the government could do at present, would be to give them new notes, which in all probability would depreciate.

For the Hampshire Gazette.

The Old Republican to the Peace-Maker.

My Friend,

TRUE representations are of use to the public. After such representations the Old Republican has faithfully laboured. He hopes they will have their beneficial effect. He is sensible, that touching the eye when covered with a film, is a painful operation to the patient. But the operation is however at times very necessary. And the operator, if he does his work honestly, is entitled to thanks. The Old Republican has been employed in taking of films from the people's eyes, which have been brought on by the heats and violences of the times. If they are not all pleased yet, he is not disappointed. For men in delusion do not love information: men in an error do not love to be reclaimed. As water is to lime, so is truth to the misinformed. The lime and the misinformed will both ferment for a season. But neither the water nor the truth are in fault. When the lime is slacked it will be good for use; when the people are disabused and reclaimed they will be good members of society. You do the Republican justice when you say he is zealous for the laws and constitution of his country. When the Peace-Maker is better acquainted with them, he will be more pleased with them than he is at present. But my friend, fair representation becomes a writer. Why then would you scandalize the Republican as a friend to exorbitant fees, law-suits, and oppressive exactions from lawyers: these things are not in his writings. No, he leaves fee-tables and lawyers to the General Court. They understand how to manage those matters better than either the Republican or the Peace-Maker. And this last gentleman would help his reputation for fair dealing if he would shew the public, as he intimates it to be fact, that the senate have opposed the house in such useful regulations.

Mr. Peace-Maker, you seem to be fond of the Old Republican's company, when you drag him in as an admirer of mobs and conventions in 1774. But he never had any fellowship with you in those matters: he always abhored mobs as the bane of every good cause, and the scourge of honestly and honest men. Conventions he never approved, excepting the state convention after the dissolution of the house of representatives by the tyranny of Governor Gage. That convention opposed no General Assembly, but was all the legislature which the province could then enjoy. The Old Republican has been uniformly zealous for government: he was willing to defend it from the encroachments of the British ministry, because they were labouring to subvert law and establish tyranny. For the same reasons he is now opposed to mobs and conventions as engines of the same mischief. Truly for the Peace-Maker to compare the struggles of our legislature and the body of the people against the encroachments of a foreign usurpation, to the struggles of the convention and a number of disquieted individuals to subvert the constitution and legislation of the commonwealth, is a proof that he has a poor knack at drawing comparisons. Pray, my friend, let us have no such lame disjointed comparisons in future.—But forgetting your name, you are very angry with the Old Republican because he is not as much irritated now at the salaries of the civil officers as the people were in 1774. Perhaps it may be of service to state the difference between that time and the present. For 30 years successively the British governor received annually in salary and perquisites to the amount of 1800 or 2000l. In Governor Hutchinson's administration, the ministry ordered him to receive out of the American revenue 2000l. annually. And the Lieut. Governor and Judges of the supreme court much more than they receive now; how much more I have forgot. The representatives voted the Governor 1500l. besides large perquisites, which he would not accept, but adhered to the ministers' grant. Of these exorbitances and encroachments there were great complaints, and that justly for two reasons. First because the sum granted by the ministry was much too large. And secondly because the ministry had no right to make the grant: a grant which rendered the Governor and Judges wholly dependant on the crown, and detached them from the interest of the province. This was the great cause of uneasiness.

Now Mr. Peace-Maker inform the public what likeness there is between those salaries and the present. The present salaries do not amount to half the sum they did at that time, and they are given from our own revenues to men of our own appointment and at our own disposal. Shall a people complain of present salaries given to officers of an independant foreign state, when they are not half equal to those given to the same officers under a subordinate connection with a distant and foreign power. Let us lay aside the base-born brat of envy, and learn to think upon

a liberal plan. With you, I say, that something must be done or we are contemptibly enslaved without remedy. We must lay aside conveniencering and mobbing; maintain good faith and submit to our own authority. We must spurn the encroachments of modern usurpers; and live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. The Old Republican cannot consent to apply to the chairman of convention to appoint a fast: because among other sufficient reasons he is not perfuaded that the people would be agreed in the subject of fasting; nor is he certain, that all would lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting. Mr. Peace-Maker, the insurgents begin to assume the military power of the commonwealth into their hands, and to raise an army for the destruction of our laws and liberties. They are raising a convention to assume the civil authority. I think, that SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE. The Old Republican has told you what they are doing. Let the Peace-Maker support his character, pursue the peace of the community, and persuade the insurgents to lay down their arms and submit themselves to the laws of God and their country.

An ADDRESS to the Public.
Part II.

AS I have not heard that the Judges of either the superior or inferior courts have been taxed with taking bribes or perverting judgments; so the late risings against the courts seem to me the more strange and shocking: especially as they are under a constitution of our own framing, and to which we, but a few years ago, put a solemn sanction, covenanting with each other to abide by it, as it is, for the space of fifteen years. I know that one plea which is made in justification of the measure, is that the people had various grievances which ought to be redressed; without entering into the consideration of what grievances the people had, or whether all were really so, which they pretend: I suppose they had grievances, as many and as great as they pretend, which ought to have been redressed: I would ask what that is to the purpose, or how it applies to the case? What connection there is between the courts sitting or not sitting and a redress of their grievances? Could either the superior or inferior court redress them? or is their not sitting a redress of them? If not, the measure must be in its own nature improper and inadequate to the cause assigned: it must at once appear frivilous and foolish. And I could heartily wish that was the worst of it, either with respect to the nature or consequence of that conduct. But I view it far otherwise. I view it not only as a bold and daring attack upon a human constitution, law and government, but also upon the laws of Heaven: an open violation of the fifth commandment, and of various express injunctions of scripture founded thereon. Such is the state of mankind that we need laws, judges and rulers, and it is the will of God there should be such, for the well being of society: nor are they a terror to the righteous, but to the wicked: they are to protect the innocent and righteous and punish the wicked. And the gospel requires that we should obey, submit and be subject to them, not only to avoid wrath and punishment from them, but for conscience sake, and for the Lord's sake, as they are his ministers for our good. Judges are called Gods, as their authority is from him & they judge for him.

And whatever might be said in favour of resisting a corrupt and unjust judge, who took bribes and perverted judgment; yet I think nothing can be plead as a sufficient excuse for resisting a just judge in the due execution of his office: & that whoever does resist, resists the ordinance of God: and the scripture tells that such "shall receive to themselves damnation." I leave this awful communation to the consideration of those who have made the daring attempt; as I imagine they have not duely weighed the matter in their minds, I wish them to sit down soberly and review their conduct in the light of reason and religion. 'Tis a matter of serious and important concern to us all. 'Tis a high-handed wickedness committed by numbers who are members of the same community with us. If Achans sin pulled down divine vengeance upon that community of which he was a member, what have we reason to fear the sin of such numbers will procure? every serious considerate person will fear and deprecate God's righteous judgments. To justify such conduct is to add sin to sin. And to say, as some do, "we dont think it was right to begin as they did, but now it is begun, we must carry it out," is to bid them God speed; and such persons premeditately make themselves partakers of their evil deeds; and that in such a manner as is but little better than to bid open defiance to Heaven and dare God to do his worst. Can they be so stupid as to think that the addition of numbers will make that conduct right, which is in its own nature wrong? or do they flatter themselves numbers will be sufficient to bar the gates of vengeance?

I could wish every one to consider these matters with the same attention as they have been considered by the public's Friend,

The FREE THINKER.

Mr. PRINTER,

By giving the following a place in your useful paper, you may perhaps oblige some of your readers.

I Have been reading the papers attentively some time past, and on the whole I thought the majority had not more sense or learning than I had, therefore have concluded to be an "Illiu" to the public, viz. "to shew mine opinion."

In the first place, the Old Republican deserves my attention. To point out his mistakes, and rectify his errors would take more time than I can spare. What a man is, is known by his productions; and if the Old Republican had written his Strictures &c. without putting his name to them, I am of the opinion that his countrymen would have given him an epithet very unlike that which he has assumed. It is a very critical time; and it seems that the promoters of peace and reconciliation are now more wanted than ever in our young republic. In our newspapers, every gentleman ought to possess an abundance of calmness and tenderness. The uneasiness (it must be owned) is great not only in our county, but through the state. Now which is the best way? to speak a little, and that with moderation, or speak much and discharge much fire? The people in this county are irritated at the spirit and rancor that is visible in the Old Republican, and I cannot say without some reason. It must be confessed, that the members of the late convention in general were a reputable number of gentlemen;—Has the Old Republican treated them as such? speak impartially, methinks I hear her say, that he has not treated them with the lenity that becomes a gentleman, nor with the charity that characterizes a christian. Let any gentleman look through the writings of the Old Republican, and what will he find? the meekness of Moses, the wisdom of Solomon, the humility of Jesus? or the inconsideration of Joab, the importance of Goliah and the rashness of Jephthah? Judge O! impartiality. Considering all things, I am of the opinion that the Old Republican has misdirsed as many mobbers as any county convention I am acquainted with. The Old Republican seems to be fond of being a chairman, and had he been admitted to that honour, I doubt not but he would have been as good an advocate for mobbing as he is now for government. I am of the opinion that I shall write no more upon the Old Republican at present. 2dly, As to Aristides and Publicus, I am of the opinion that they are tollerable good members of society; but they cast some rather severe reflections upon poor people, and censure county conventions too much. I do not know why chusing an honest good man, as a delegate for a town, and sending him to the convention, should make him such an ignoble being as is represented. I am of the opinion that the members of the late convention were the same, both body and soul, when they were convened as when they were chosen. And I am of the opinion that the good people of the county meant to make choice of judicious men to represent them at the convention; and I am of the opinion that they acted as much from a good principle, as the Old Republican, Publicus, or Aristides.

3dly, I am of the opinion that the mobility have been misrepresented; and I am of the opinion that such misrepresentations have been a detriment to the advocates of government; that it has encouraged the opposite party, and been productive of much evil to the county. And I am of the opinion the mob (as they are called) as a body, are honest men, meaning well and friends to their country. In the representation of the mobility at Springfield we read, "those who appeared for government not only exceeded the insurgents in number but in point of property an hundred to one." I am of the opinion that the favourers of government will in general confess, that when both parties were dismissed, the mob exceeded considerably in number. As to dress, it must be owned that the government party exceeded very much; and it must be confessed that ruffles in time of close action are a fine advantage. But I am of the opinion that another thing ought to be considered, for the government party exceeded in their appearance by the help of a respectable gentleman of their party, viz. Mr. ISAAC FACTOTUM, whom they had previously engaged to powder them and register their beards; and the greater part of them in their absence from their wives, drank full draughts of cuckolds comfort, which gave a wonderful shine to their countenances. 4thly, The Regulator calls for my attention. He says, "it is not a redress of grievances, but a total subversion of the constitution we aim at." If grievances are not the complaint of the people who rise up against government, is to say we have no grievances. If the Regulator wishes good times, would he mob that which he confesses is a good government? Mr. Regulator, I am of the same opinion of Tom Thoughtful, 'that the devil is really in you.' If you suffer grievances, why are you not willing to be redressed? If you suffer no grievances, why are you not contented with the present mode of government? Is this consistant with the word, Regulator? will you regulate a government that you can find no fault with? If you don't complain of grievances, why did you make that your business to Springfield? why has the convention stated such a catalogue if there are none? why have you not written to the General Court that you are contented, but have a mind to violate our constitution? this indeed would be as consistent as your publication. As a friend, Mr. Regulator, I advise you to retire under cover of the cloak of you bombastry and let political affairs alone: you have hurt the cause you have set out in, made the mob contemptable, and shown that you are more thunder than lightning. 5thly, The Freethinker demands my attention next; he is pleased to stile himself a friend to the mob, and in one of his THINES he says, "I think those who have undertaken to seek redress of grievances by mobbing and stopping courts, have begun at the wrong end, and taken wrong steps," that "their conduct leads not only to anarchy but to tyranny." Now, Mr. Freethinker, you say you are a friend to the mob, that the mob have begun at the wrong end; then you are a friend to those who have begun at the wrong end, and to the wrong end; and the mob you say have taken wrong steps; then you are a friend to wrong steps: that their conduct leads to anarchy and tyranny, but you are a friend to them; then you are a friend to anarchy and tyranny. Pray Mr. Freethinker, who and what are you? but I am of the opinion that you would make the people believe that mobbers have no sense, and that you are a mobber; or that you are really destitute of that qualification which distinguishes men from a lower sort of beings. Pray, sir, if you think any more, be a little more pertinent.

6thly, The Peace-Maker demands my attention next. He says, "I believe that the country would flourish much faster if there was less white shirts and more black frocks." I have as yet spoken very favourably of the mob, as a body; but there is a great number who are so ignorant that they firmly believe if they see a gentleman with a white shirt on, they are so much the poorer. Pray Mr. Peace-Maker, if I get my living like an honest man, by my own industry, why may I not wear a white shirt and carry less money in my pocket? I wish for liberty, that precious gem for which we have experienced a long and bloody war; and, I with that you might enjoy the same in its fullest latitude. Sir, I never will mob you if you ruffle your black frock. If America increases in happiness by the multiplicity of frocks, and black ones too, I believe the will reach the summit of felicity; for I saw as many as 1500 lately at Springfield, which were black in the strictest sense, which, with the vast numbers that inhabited them, indeed made a very formidable appearance. Mr. Peace-Maker seems to be pointing at some gentleman in the ministry for the Old Republican, he says "let every one stick close to his calling." Mr. Peace-Maker, how do you know that the Old Republican has not stuck close to his calling? to aim at any particular man in the ministry for the Old Republican is a violation of good breeding. If the Old Republican has done wrong, reflect upon the Old Republican, and not let your reflections fly you know not where. If the Old Republican is a minister, he is as much concerned in the public welfare as you are, and if he does his duty in his office, as well as you do in yours, he has as much business to write in the public papers as you have, unless you argue that a man with a white shirt on has no business to write. I will not point you out Mr. Peace-Maker, but give me the liberty to tell you (that in reflecting on any man or creature besides the name of the Old Republican) you act infinitely beneath the dignity that you think exists in a black frock.

Does the Peace-Maker think that the proper method of appointing fasts is by a county convention, and that their authority is superior to that of the Congress or General Court? Mr. Peace-Maker, if you are so fond of worthipping, I advise you to petition to the next county convention for a new Sabbathday—no doubt you think they can grant it. As to the Spirit of the Times, I think he handles matters with generosity and manhood, and I shall find no fault with him 'till I have read him through.

It has taken me a good while to hunt up my old ink-horn, my quills, paper and other implements for writing. It has troubled me much, & I shall but seldom write; but if the scribblers in our county continue writing, it may be after a long time they may hear from,

ELIHU.

NEW-YORK, October 30.

In the Courant of the Netherlands of August last, it is asserted, that the treaty of commerce between Prussia and the United States of America, it is stipulated that none of the contracting parties shall, in case either of them are at war, take out letters of marque or privateers from the enemies of the party at war, if they do, they shall be considered and treated as pirates.

Extract of a letter from an officer at fort M'Intosh, dated 29th Sept. 1786.

"*Our tawny brethren are like to be troublesome; they have killed several people lately; the last a boy about twelve miles below Wheeland, on the Virginia side of the Ohio, they took another boy and four horses, but being pursued by the inhabitants, four of them mounted the horses and swam the river, the remaining three with the boy got into a canoe when the pursuers came to the banks of the river, and fortunately killed the three Indians and retook the boy, whom the Indians had wounded in the arm. All the settlers on the south side of the Ohio below Wheeland, a distance of forty miles, have fled to that place & stockaded themselves. The people opposite to us are much alarmed, and talk of withdrawing to the more settled parts of the country. It is really distressing to think how these poor wretches have suffered, and are likely to suffer, unless the savages are brought to peaceable terms, to accomplish which, Congress must adopt vigorous and proper measures, and must no longer to treaties with such people.*"

BOSTON, October 27.

In consequence of the desire of the Hon. Legislature, that the Supreme Executive would take measures for protecting the Supreme Judicial Court, by law to be held at Cambridge on Tuesday next—an ardour for the vigorous support of law and government ran through all ranks of the citizens of this town with electrical rapidity. The ancient and honourable artillery company, under Major Bell—the independent light infantry, under Capt. Otis, have offered their services as volunteers.—To them, and to the independent cadets, much credit is due for the alacrity with which, at their own expence they have furnished themselves with the necessary camp equipage, and the zeal they discover for endeavouring to secure to the good people of the commonwealth the quiet enjoyment of their constitutional rights.

On Thursday orders were issued by his Excellency the Captain-General of the commonwealth, to the independent cadets, commanded by Col Bradford, to hold themselves in readiness to march immediately, with necessary camp equipage, &c. In consequence of the above orders, we are told, a number of gentlemen have requested to be permitted to attend the company as volunteers, and to be under the command of its officers.

By sundry gentlemen from Taunton, we are informed, that the Supreme Judicial Court opened about the usual hour, on Tuesday last, without the least interruption, General Cobb having previously posted near the court-House, about 300 militia for their protection: That a body of insurgents had assembled, about the same time, at two miles distance from the town; and that on Wednesday they marched on to the green, to the number of about 135 armed with muskets, and 45 with bludgeons. Gen. Cobb had his men drawn up to receive them, with a field piece in front, and a corps de reserve, at a distance in the rear, and might, as he informed our informants, have made the whole body prisoners, but they not appearing solicitous for coercive measures, were permitted to stay on the green—during which time, a David Valentine, of Freetown, drew up, signed and presented to the Court, in "behalf of the county," as he expressed it, a memorial, requesting that all civil actions might be continued to the next term—and several other matters which fully designated his ignorance and folly—but his Honour the Chief Judge, questioning him, on the propriety of his appearing "in behalf of the county," when the county had sent a Grand Jury, and two full Petit Juries to try causes, he thought it advisable to decamp from the court-house, and rejoin his party; who on hearing his story returned to their homes, lamenting their gullibility, and convinced of the folly of their enterprise.

During the stay of the mob on the green at Taunton, one Lee, of Springfield, appearing very forward in damning government, the constitution, &c. it was thought adviseable to apprehend him, and after examination he was committed to jail.

NOVEMBER 1.

We are told, that his Excellency the Captain-General, has acquainted Major-General Brooks, that he will this day, at 12 o'clock, at Cambridge, review the troops under his command, now assembled at that place, which we are told, amount to bout 1500, composing two regiments of infantry, three companies of artillery, and a troop of horse. We are likewise told that the Independent Cadets, Light-infantry, &c. from this town, will attend the review.

One George Brock, a native of Britain, was by a special warrant from a Magistrate, on Sunday evening last apprehended at Attleborough, county of Bristol, and on Monday was conducted to this town, examined and committed to gaol, for trial at the next Supreme Court, in February. This fellow has been notorious in those parts, for his opposition to government, and endeavouring to sow the seeds of sedition and discontent, and is reputed to be the writer of several treasonable pieces, signed Attleborough, published in this town and Providence.

The requisition of Congress, for raising 660 men in this State, has been granted by the two Branches of the Legislature almost unanimously.

On Monday passed the Hon. Senate and were sent down for concurrence, an act authorising the trial of persons charged with treason, or any other high crimes and misdemeanours, to be had in any county in this Commonwealth, in certain cases;—And an act for suspending the privilege of Habeas Corpus for a limited time.

Of Tuesday—of Cambridge—and the Supreme Court—and the insurgents—and the Military of every description—the cadets; the artillery; the light-infantry; and the camp equippage, &c. &c. &c. which have engrossed the attention of all orders, degrees and conditions, from Thursday morning until Monday at night—what must we say? That Tuesday came—that the Court sat—that the militia, to the amount 1300 like Cæsar, veni vidi vici, came—saw (nothing) and over came—all "opposition"—that every thing wore the appearance of a brilliant parade—and that the insurgents were not to be found.—Though pleasing the tidings to the lovers of tranquility; those who delight to feast on accounts of broken heads, must be mortified in the extreme, to find themselves thus disappointed in their expectations. Parturiunt montes, &c.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Newport, (Rhode-Island) to his friend in this town, dated October 7, 1786.

"At this critical juncture, when the people of two States are in open rebellion against law, and the Legislature of another is pursuing a system of villany, I know you must feel anxious to hear of every public transaction in detail. For this reason I beg leave to state to you the proceedings of the General Assembly of Rhode-Island.

Yesterday a bill was brought into the House, which had been concerted in convention, the evening before, and may be justly termed THE BLOODY ACT; if it should ever pass into a law. It contains a test or oath, by which every person must swear to use his influence to support the paper on par with cash, and to take it at par in all commercial transactions. All officers who do not take it in 20 days from its passing, are suspended—masters of vessels cannot enter or unlade, till they have taken it—every male of 21 years of age must take it or be disfranchised—lawyers are prohibited from acting as attorneys, unless they take it, and to crown the whole, the members of the next Legislature, must take it before they can sit in either house.

"Such an open act of tyranny—such a bare faced act of villany—such a flagrant attack upon constitution—you must think, alarmed even the paper members themselves. After some debate upon the matter, in which Mr. Merchant reprobated the measure, in language that did great honour to a freeman, as did Mr. Brown and several other gentlemen, the question was put, "whether the house would act upon the bill or refer it to the next session, (which will be in about three weeks) and in the mean time order it to be published for the consideration of the people;" it passed for referring, by a great majority. You will probably see the act in the papers, and judge how little the members understand finance, or how daringly they sport with the rights of men. In these transactions all must be fools or knaves, who attempt to force a paper currency upon people. They either do not know that penal laws never yet gave credit or circulation to any medium, nor ever to silver or gold; or they boldly insult the common sense of their constituents.

I have attended the house of assembly constantly. I endeavoured to discover the springs of their conduct. I never saw so great a proportion of ignorant men in a public body. There are but four or five that appear to understand the nature of money and the operation of law; and but a part of those who can express their sentiments with propriety. You never heard language and common sense so tortured and murdered as in this house. You would have been sometimes diverted to the highest pitch, even amidst the ravage that were made upon justice and freedom, to hear a pettifogger haranguing upon the evil of whittling away an act of assembly, as a boy whittles a stick.

"But the majority cannot have been knaves. Had four or five of the house been honored with a gallows, instead of an election to a seat in the legislature, the state would probably have been, at this time, in harmony. These have mislead the other members, and opposition has made them obstinate.

"I forgot to mention, that a motion for amending the revenue laws, and enabling the Loan-Officer to issue certificates, was rejected. It seems Congress must take paper of this state, or nothing. The spirited and sensible remonstrances of the delegates of Rhode-Island to the General Assembly, read on the opening of the session, has wrought no effect. The members seem callous in every idea of public utility, they hear nothing but what tends to level all orders of the state, in promiscuous poverty. Nor is there any hope of better times; as the members chosen for the next six months are the same men or worse.

P. S. The paper of this state is refused in almost all transactions—when it is taken, it is from 4 to 7 for one. A member of the assembly yesterday told the house, "that the paper is yet too scarce—his constituents, one half of them, have none of it yet. Poor short-sighted mortal! He ought to reflect that his constituents, who have property to share, can procure cash—those who have not property, cannot get even paper, that is hawked about the streets.

NORTHAMPTON, Nov. 8.

By late arrivals at Philadelphia from London, papers have been received to the 18th of August, by which we are informed, that "on the 16th of August, a messenger arrived at the Secretary of State's office in London, with the important advice of the death of Frederick the Third, King of Prussia, which happened a few days previous to the arrival of the messenger. Frederick the Great was born on the 24th of January, 1712.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of Capt. WILLIAM CARNAHAN, late of Branford, deceased, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Mr. Justus Ashman, on the first Tuesday of December and January next, and at the house of Robert Blair, jun. on the last Tuesday of February next, in said Branford, from one to six o'clock P. M. No accounts allowed after said last term.

ROBERT BLAIR, jun.
JUSTUS ASHMAN,
SAMUEL SLOPER,

Branford, Sept. 13, 1786.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of REUBEN STEWART, late of Montague, deceased, intestate, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Capt. Caleb Kingsley in said Montague, on the third Tuesday of December and second Tuesday of April next, from one to five o'clock afternoon on said days. No accounts allowed after said terms.

REUBEN SCOTT,
MOSES SEVERANCE,
SAMUEL SMEAD.

Montague, October 17, 1786.

THE Subscriber, Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire, hereby gives notice to all concerned, that he proposes to attend at the following places to settle the accounts and receive the said duties, viz. at the house Elihu White's in Hatfield, on Wednesday the 15th day of November next, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Joel Wait's in Whately, at 12 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. David Hoit's in Deerfield, at 2 o'clock P. M.—and the same day at Mr. Caleb Alvord's in Greenfield, at 5 o'clock P. M. On Monday the 20th of said Nov. at Mr Joshua Thayer's in Williamsburgh, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Lemuel Lyon's in Goshen, at 2 o'clock P. M.—and the same day at Capt. Cole's in Chesterfield, at 7 o'clock P. M. On Wednesday the 22d at Mr. Elisha Cook's in Hadley, at 10 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Asahel Pomeroy's in Northampton, at 2 o'clock P. M. On Thursday the 23d at Capt. David Lyman's in East-Hampton, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Peter Clap's in South Hampton, at 12 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Ephraim Wright's in West Hampton, at 7 o'clock P. M.

ELIJAH HUNT.

Northampton, October 25, 1786.

FOR SALE,
At the Printing-Office in Northampton,
The First, Second, and Third Part of
Webster's Institute.
Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys's Poem.

The DYING PROSTITUTE.
An ELEGY.

WEEP o'er the miseries of a wretched maid,
Who sacrific'd to man her health and fame;
Whose love and truth, and trust were all repaid
By want and woe, disease, and endless shame.

Curse not the poor lost wretch, who, ev'ry ill,
That proud unfeeling man can heap, sustains:
Sure she enough is curst, o'er whom his will,
Enslam'd by brutal passion, boundless reigns.

Spurn not my fainting body from your door,
Here let me rest my weary weeping head;
No greater mercy would my wants implore,
My sorrows soon shall lay me with the dead.

Who now beholds, but loaths my faded face,
So wan and sallow, chang'd with sin and care?
Or who can any former beauty trace,
In eyes so sunk with famine and despair.

That I was virtuous once and beauteous too,
And free from envious tongues my spotless fame;
These but torment, these but my tears renew,
These aggravate my present guilt and shame.

Expell'd by all, enforc'd by pining want,
I've wept and wander'd many a midnight hour;
Implor'd a pittance Lust would seldom grant,
Or sought a shelter from the driving show'r

Oft as I roy'd, while beat the wintry storm,
Unknowing what to seek, or where to stray,
To gain relief, ev'ry'd each hideous form,
Each hideous form contemptuous turn'd away.

Where were my virgin honors, virgin charms?
Oh! whether fled the pride I once maintain'd
Or where the youth that woo'd me to their arms?
Or where the triumph which my beauty gain'd?

Ah! say, infidious Damon! Monster! Where?
What glory hast thou gain'd by my defeat!
Art thou more happy now I am less fair?
Or bloom thy laurels o'er my winding sheet?

POUGHKEEPSIE, Oct. 4.

A correspondent has favoured us with the following affecting narrative, which he had from a credible eye witness of the whole transaction.

FREDERICK Manhlem, was an industrious German, who with his family consisting of himself, his wife, a daughter 18 years of age, and Maria and Christina (his youngest children) and twins, about 16 years old, resided near the river Mohawk, eight miles west of Johnston. It was on the 19th day of October 1779, the father being at work at some distance from his cottage, and the mother and oldest daughter on a visit at a neighbour's when two hostile Canasadaga Indians rushed into the house and captured the twin sisters.

The party to which these savages belonged, consisted of fifty warriors, who after securing 23 of the inhabitants and firing their houses, retired for four days with the utmost precipitancy, till they were quite safe from pursuit. The place where they halted the evening of that day was a thick pine swamp, which rendered the darkness of an uncommon gloomy night still more dreadful. They kindled a fire, which they had not done before and directed their prisoners, whom they kept together to refresh themselves with such provisions as they had; and the Indians eat also by themselves. Instead of retiring to rest after supping, as usual, the appalled captives observed their enemies busied in operations which boded nothing good. Two saplings were pruned clear of branches up to the very top, and all the brush cleared away for several rods around them. While this was doing, others were splitting pitch pine billets into small splinters about five inches in length and as small as one's little finger, sharpening one end and dipping the other in melted turpentine

At length, with countenances distorted with fury, and with hideous yells, the two savages who had captur'd the unfortunate Maria and Christiana, leaped into the midst of their circle, and dragged those ill fated maidens shrieking from the embraces of their companions, among whom were their parents and sister. These warriors had disagreed about whose property the girls should be, as they jointly had seized them; and to terminate the dispute, agreable to the abominable usage of the savages, it was determined by the chiefs of the party, that the prisoners who gave rise to the contention should be destroyed; and that their captors should be the principal agents in the execrable business. These furies, assisted by their comrades, stripped the forlorn girls, already convulsed with apprehension, and tied each to a saplin, with their hands as high extended above their heads as possible; and then pitched them from their knees to their shoulders, with upwards of six hundred of the sharpned splinters above described, which at every puncture was attended with a scream of distress, which echo'd and re-echoed through the wilderness. And then to complete the infernal tragedy, the splinters all standing erect on the bleeding victims, were every one set on fire, and exhibited a scene of monstrous misery, beyond the power of speech to describe, or even the imagination to conceive. It was not, until near three hours had elapsed from the commencing of their torments, and that they had lost almost every resemblance of the human form, that these helpless virgins sunk down in the arms of their deliverer, death.

NEW-LONDON, Oct. 20.

We mentioned in our last that the Superiour Court then sitting here, had passed sentence of Death on the prisoner Hannah Occuish, *for the murder of* Eunice Bolles, ——— *The following is the Sentence, as it was delivered by his Honour Judge* Law; *viz.*

Hannah, prisoner at the bar—agreable to the laws of the land, you have been arraigned, tried and convicted of the Crime of *Murder*---a murder attended with circumstances of peculiar aggravation.---You have killed, and that in a barbarous and cruel manner, an innocent, helpless and harmless child---a child that could not possibly, from its tender years, have injured or done you any harm, or given you any just cause of resentment. And in the perpetration of this shocking deed, you have discovered such evidence of premeditated malice, and marks of such a mischievous and guileful discretion, in your attempts of concealment and endeavours to make it have the appearance as though it was the effects of accident, and not of violence; all these circumstances have supplied the want of age, and clearly evinced that you must have been conscious of guilt at the time of doing the facts, and renders you a proper subject of punishment.——The punishment annexed to your crime is Death both by the laws of God and man.---The law of this state by which you have been tried, says, that if any person commits any wilful murder, upon malice hatred or cruelty he shall be put to death. The good and safety of society requires that no one of such a malignant character shall be suffered to live, and the punishment of death is but the just demerit of your crime;---and the sparing you on account of your age, would, as the law says, be of dangerous consequence to the public, by holding up an idea, that children might commit such attrocious crimes with impunity——You have not only offended against the laws of man, but the laws of that God that made you---that made the child whom you have killed, and that made the whole world:---that God has commanded, "*Thou shalt not kill*,---and whosoever sheddeth innocent blood, by man shall his blood be shed."——And you must consider and realize it that after death you must undergo another trial infinitely more solemn and awful than what you have here passed through, before that God against whom you offended,---at whose bar the deceased child will appear as a swift witness against you;---and you will be condemned and consigned to an everlasting punishment---unless you now obtain a pardon by confessing and sincerely repenting of your sins and applying to his sovereign grace through the merits of his Son JESUS CHRIST for mercy, who is able and willing to save the greatest offenders that repent and believe in him.——It is of infinite moment to you therefore, that you diligently improve the little space of time that may be allowed you, before your execution, to prepare for the awful and important scenes that await you;——and though you now appear to have but little sense thereof, God grant you may so attend to such good instruction, advice and direction as may be offered you from time to time betwixt this and your execution, that by his grace and mercy you may be prepared for the important events that await you.

And here I beg leave to remark, that the striking instance before us, must convince us, of what necessity, of how great importance it is to society, that we early impress upon the minds of our youth, our children, a due sense of right and wrong, good and evil---that we early inculcate and instil into their minds the great principles of humanity, morality and religion;---for these are the ordinary means by which restraining grace operates upon the human mind, and keeps it back from presumptuous sins and high-handed offences. And it is upon this ground, where good impressions are early made, that the common maxims will apply, of *Nemo repente est turpissimus*, that is, no one suddenly arrives at the height of wickedness; vice as well as virtue being of a progressive nature, it generally requires an habitual course of sinful indulgences, before those good impressions are so defaced and obliterated as that the subject of them becomes abandoned to the highest crimes---so on the other hand, where those early good impressions are cultivated, improved and strengthened, by a course of virtuous habits, they lead on to the highest pitch of moral excellency & perfection——Had the unhappy prisoner now before us, been favoured with those early good impressions, it is not probable she would have been, at so early period of her life, so abandoned as to have committed the fatal deed, that has deprived an innocent child of life, involved its parents in grief and sorrow---a deed that has wounded the feelings of human nature, disturbed and injured the peace of society by so flagrant a violation of its laws, and which brings the perpetrator to an untimely and ignominious death.

Nothing now remains but to pass the painful sentence of this court——which is, That you be returned from hence to the gaol from whence you came, and from thence to be carried to the place of execution--- and there be hanged by a rope by the neck, between the heavens and earth, until you are dead, dead, dead, and may the Lord, of his infinite goodness and sovereign grace, have mercy on your Soul.

During the time that the Judge was giving her Sentence, she appeared less affected than any of the By-standers——She is to be executed on the 20th of December.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton. CASH, Writing-Paper, &c. given for Rags and old Fish-Net.

NOVEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 11.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

A Member of the Hatfield Convention, in answer to the Old Republican upon some of his observations.

NUMBER III.

I Shall now say something upon the Old Republican's observations upon the 10th article of grievance complained of by the Hatfield convention; which is, "the present mode of paying the governmental securities." He says, "they are called in by taxes. The people buy them at 6 or 8s. on the pound, and they continue to depreciate while the tax is collecting," directly after he says, "To pay them to their full amount would perhaps be strict justice in the public: but the public can be equally honest if they are called in by taxes, for that is the way in which government are commonly supposed to pay its paper securities." Surprising! So that a man that lent the government hard money, supplied the army with beef, &c. & took their notes to be paid in silver and gold, and cannot get, by the present mode of redemption, but six shillings on the pound, is cheated mighty honestly. It makes no difference with the creditor, whether the government say he shall not have but six shillings on the pound, or their never providing a way whereby he shall get any more. And redeeming the securities at six shillings on the pound, is no more supporting the public faith than redeeming them at one shilling on the pound; and neither of them is no more doing it, than a declaration that they shall not be redeemed at all. I take it that supporting the public faith is, that when the government has promised a sum of money to a person, and the time of payment arrives, is for them to pay them in the way they engaged to upon the notes; if this is not done, their faith is violated. But that the government are equally honest, by calling them in by a tax, as it was the expectation of the lenders——would be redeemed this way, is a palpable mistake: For he acknowledges they depreciate all the while the tax is collecting, and that every one sells or not, as he judges for his interest; and there is nothing in this way to hinder its being for his interest, to sell for one shilling on the pound. He thus supposes, that the creditors of the government are perfectly satisfied with this way of being cheated out of their just dues; for it was nothing more than they expected, for the government was always supposed to cheat out their debts this way; or in his own words, "to pay them this way," which would be the same thing. Besides what he founds this assertion upon, is out of my power to discover, for I believe our attempt to redeem securities this way, is without a precedent. I will now attend to another evil that flows from the present honest way, of redeeming our securities. But before I enter upon this, I will premise, that whenever a tax is levied upon any community, 'tis the indispensable duty of the government to levy it in such a manner, that it shall operate in as equal a manner as possible among the several members of the community. I would not have it thought that I blame the legislature for adopting the present mode, for it could not have been foreseen, that a tax to call in our securities this way would have operated so unequally as it has done: and a very great part of the legislature are satisfied of their evil, and are in favour of altering the mode: so the Old Republican's zeal for the government is ill-timed, in attempting to support a measure which every body have found by experience to be unjustifiable. But to return to the thing proposed. I need do nothing further to point out the evil, than to take a view of the operation of the No 4 tax. When that was ordered to be made, I believe the species of notes that were payable in it, were sold for about 8 or 9s. on the pound. But the idea that the government was going to redeem them, presently raised them to twelve or fifteen shillings; the holders by and by found that the tax might be ten years in collecting, and as they were cut off of their interest, that it was for their interest to sell cheaper;—the notes begun to fall and have continued it until the present time, and are now sold for 5s. on the pound; and there is nothing to hinder their falling to one shilling, as observed above: so that many members of the community have paid this tax at 20s. on the pound, others at 15s. others 10s. and others at 6s. And that they were such members of the community, that paid the tax first, as zealously and chearfully comply with the requisitions of government, and ought to be encouraged. On the contrary, those who never pay any things, only what is forced out of them, may pay their taxes for one third what the others did, and be equally honest, according to the Old Republican. Another thing I would mention is, that the helpless members of the community, which ought to be protected by the government, are, in a peculiar manner exposed this way: for it cannot be supposed, that every member of the community are equally calculated for speculators, or are under equal advantages for it, if they were. I will now proceed to the Old Republican's next absurdity. He says, our "national debt which they complain of as so burdensome, has already sunk at least 75 per cent." What can be the cause? it cannot be because the public faith is not supported, for that is supported to the full satisfaction of the Old Republican at present; for all that he frets about is the proposal for an alteration of the present mode of supporting it. He asks whether the securities will not rise in value by and by, and then answers, "probably they will not, experience proves that they will depreciate." He thus declares, that in this way, every creditor may be honestly defrauded 3-4ths of his just dues; and that people have a good right to cheat this way; and this, notwithstanding what has been declared above, that an attempt to pay them short of their nominal value, "is decidedly a violation of the constitution." And this is explicitly declaring that we can very righteously cheat out 3-4ths of the public debt; and if we can do this, we can with the same honestly cheat out 19-20ths. And he is intirely right in supposing, that in the present way, the "appreciation of our public securities is the child of fancy." But however just he is in this observation, it is perfect nonsense in the way he makes use of it, to justify the present fraudulent mode. I am wearied with attending to the Old Republican's absurdities, they croud so fast upon me; but I must go on. He says, "the attack made upon our public securities and the appropriation of impost and excise, is a demonstration of human depravity and the accumulated wickedness of many people in this country." I think I have made it appear (by my above observations) to a demonstration that supporting our public faith with respect to our securities (except in exempt cases) would be as wicked on account of the peculiar situation of them, as it would be in common cases to violate our faith. But to go on, the Old Republican says, "the pretence that we must pay the foreign debt first and neglect the domestic debt, is a direct confession of the fraud and wickedness which lies at the bottom." He appears to me to be divested of common feelings, as well as common sense. For who of us is there that receives a kindness from a stranger, and does not feel himself under particular obligations to reward him. And if a stranger had lent any of us money when we were in distress, and now demanded his pay, we should feel ourselves under more particular obligations to attend to him, than we should to attend to a neighbour of ours who had lent us money in the like situation. And I believe in this case there is no one (except it be the Old Republican) but that would pay the stranger first, if his circumstances were such that he could not attend to both. This would be no confession of his wickedness, but would be an evidence that he was possessed of the common feelings of humanity. Besides, our existance as a nation may be endangered by our not paying the foreign debt; and consequently it may by that means be put out of our power ever to do justice to our domestic creditors. And if our own feelings and good policy have any influence upon our conduct, we shall give the foreign creditors the preference. I will here inform the Old Republican, that I am as anxious and as much interested in having the government supported as he is, and that I may perhaps serve my country with as warm a zeal, although it is not kindled into so much rage; and that it is my greatest ambition to support the character of an honest man,—and for that reason I cannot sit and see the injustice that is done under colour of supporting the public faith, without giving my feeble voice against it.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

AT a time like this, when every one has interested himself on the one side or the other, in respect to public concerns, I shall not hesitate to give my sentiments upon our alarming situation.

I have ever been that sort of a subject that is willing to beat that rank in the community (for I do not enjoy any kind of office) and submit myself to the rules and regulations of those who have the right to rule over us. I must confess however, that I am far from supposing that the regulations of the present government are altogether such, as is proper for a people so vicious as we are at the present period; yet notwithstanding, I think that we have not arrived to that pitch of immorality, as to make it expedient to shift the present form of government for a substitute of any kind; but were it ——sible to make a change at this time, I freely ——ess I should propose a very different alteration from what has been suggested by many of my neighbours, who complain so loudly of grievances; and at the same time infinitely less despotic than what will inevitably arise out of their system.

I am filled with surprise and astonishment, when I reflect upon the consequences which will absolutely result from the present disturbances in this part of the commonwealth.

My countrymen, I conjure you (who I know have an honest heart, and who have espoused the cause of the unhappy insurgents in my neighbourhood, and who are from principle also hearty advocates for the support of a republican government) to make one solemn pause, and then I will lead you to that prospect, that if you are not past recovery, will make you cry out, who shall deliver us from this (for as the apostle did) body of sin, but from this band of tyrants. The deceivers tell you, come let us join together and oppose our oppciers, and convince the government that we are in earnest, and will not bear this curfed budget that our great men have saddled us with; and if they oppose our resolutions, we will be a match for them; and if they attempt to fight us, we will drive them to the devil. This is their language my friends, and this their folly. But let me ask you, what will be the consequence, should this abandoned race accomplish their whole desires, and destroy our present government? A government of some sort must and most certainly will be set up; and then let me ask you, what will be the nature and compleation of it? Why we have subdued the supporters of the present government—we have killed perhaps 20 or 30 thousand—we have assassinated a majority of the most sensible and important; and the other part that are left, though they may be perhaps not more than one third part of the present inhabitants of the commonwealth, we must awe into submission to our benevolent government by an armed force. This is your picture my JEWEL. Well, and what then? Why we have established our empire—a free, easy, comfortable, inoffensive empire. My friends, I have but little knowledge in painting. I will leave you a moment for contemplation.—Heavens! is it possible that all this should be in man? and that God in his righteous government should suffer the passions of man to burst forth, and scatter these evils upon this generation? Forbid it Heaven! But admit it my friends, that were it possible all this might take place, and that few still remained the blind adherents to these tyrants, and that your government was established; all of you would not be mighty men—men of renown. There is but a few at the head of an usurped government. You may say however, that we have been aiding and supporting the revolution, and mean not to have a very severe regulation continue long; yet a pretty severe government is necessary to keep the old friends to the former constitution in obedience; but after their spirits are a little broken, we shall then have that free and easy government that we have always been

hankering after; and our famous leader will, like the glorious Washington, drop his plumes & mount the cliffs the (seat of his abode) with joy & transport, having delivered his country from tyranny and oppression.

Now my countrymen is your trial, and now your misery begins, which will try your souls. The evils resulting from an imperious army, fabricated by a tyrant, knows no destruction; the Old Republicans will not be the only persons, that will be distressed, pillaged, and sawn asunder; the evil cannot stop here, it must pervade the dwellings of all, except a few who hold the iron rod.

I shall ask your attention, but for a moment, and leave you to your choice, either to accept of a tyrant, or a free government. There is now a period, my deluded friends, to exercise your reason upon the subject the most interesting that ever demanded your consideration. Our political fathers are now deliberating upon our peace and safety, and as I have been informed, they are about to explain to us our true situation, and open to our view what is necessary for us to do, in order to maintain our existence as a free people. We must not expect that it is in the power of the legislature to free us from all our burdens; but such as can be dispensed with we ought not to imagine will continue, and those that do remain, let us cheerfully bear them, and support that dignity among the nations which we have so lately acquired.

A FARMER.

From the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

My Fellow Citizens,

DO not some of our modern writers mean to sport with our privileges? yea, do they not mean to sap the very foundation of our liberties? do they not take unwearied pains to clothe up falshood with the garb of truth, and truth with that of error? The Old Republican would fain make us believe that "county conventions are a body unknown to the constitution of this commonwealth." Is that possible? Did not our constitution and that of all the states in the union, as it were spring from this fountain? Furthermore, does not the universal law of nature, which is established by the Supreme Law-giver, and manifcends all other laws teach us, that every town or county have a right (especially in a time of public calamity) to meet together in a peaceable manner, and take seriously under their consideration the cause of their troubles? If they have deprived themselves of this right, wherein then can they boast of liberty? But I need not go back to the law of nature, to prove the fallacy of his argument; the constitution decides it; he himself quoted the nineteenth article in the declaration of rights, but how does he quote it? I answer in the same manner that the devil quoted scripture when he converfed with our Saviour, to the pinnacle of the temple, making use of some part and paffing over that which was opposed himself. That article says, that "the people have a right in an orderly and peaceable manner to assemble to consult upon the common good, give instructions to their representatives, and to request of the legislature by by way of addreſs, petition or remonſtrance, redreſs of the wrongs done them and of the grievances they suffer. How soft a man that could read and understand any part of what he reads, could conclude this article did not tolerate county meetings; I trow not, for it speaks in a most unlimited manner; therefore let us consider the circumstances of the article: the people may meet together peaceably to consult upon the common good: but a queſtion may arise, how shall they meet? a town may meet, or they may choose a committee for that purpoſe, if they please, &c. to consult upon the common good; and may they not join with a neighbouring town by their committee likewise, to consult upon the public good? yea, surely they may. Once more, may one several town come together in like manner? surely. Now then has any right to say how many towns shall meet one-ſixth an occaſion, and how many shall not? nay, who has any right to stop evgne the whole commonwealth coming together in this manner, if they pleaſe? And when they are met

An ADDRESS to the Public.

Part III.

THOSE who have engaged in the late risings against government plead public grievances as the cause of those risings, and a redress of those grievances as their aim. To meet them upon their own ground, if their conduct be wrong, (as I think I have sufficiently evinced) then the force of their plea amounts to just this, "we will do evil that good may come of it." If we have real grievances which ought to be redressed, we all know, or may know, that there is a way pointed out in our constitution, (which for the excellency of it, has been admired by the wisest patriots and lovers of liberty in Europe) whereby we may seek and obtain redress. Therefore under such a constitution as ours, (where our Governor and General Court are annually elected, are of ourselves, and their interest connected with the peoples and a majority must govern) there can never be any need of such risings of the people, they must be wrong, absurd and hurtful in their own nature. To be sure there cannot be any pretence for them unless the people have petitioned to the General Court for redress of real grievances, or remonstrated against some destructive measures, and the court refused to hear them or took no notice of their request; which is a case but barely supposable, if the request be decently made. But there can be no such thing urged in excuse of the late risings of the people. A late county convention said there was grievances, but advised their constituents to abstain from such risings, till they saw whether the court would redress them. Whether the grievances were real originary, or whether the convention petitioned to the General Court for a redress of them, (tho' I take it they did not) it is not material to enquire. Be that as it may, the people never waited any time to have them redressed. They immediately (I mean numbers of them) proceeded to stop Courts of Justice and suspend the course of law; before the Legislature could possibly know, much less redress their grievances. Is not this conduct, shocking to reason and common sense? That men should disregard their own constitution law and government; and that such numbers should rise to break up courts of justice, contrary to the advice of delegates from almost every town in the county, is such conduct, as I know not where to find its parallel in the annals of mankind.

Do they complain that there was too much suing, and that therefore courts ought to be stopped? I would reply to that in four queries viz. 1st, are they the proper and only proper judges of that matter? 2d. are courts to blame for people's suing, or does that shew that they are hurtful, or in other words does the abuse of a privilege prove that it is no privilege at all? 3d. are not they themselves too much in debt? 4th, did not they themselves sue as much as others? I am personally acquainted with many of them, & so far as my knowledge extends, they in general were much more for suing than those on government side; and I have heard some of them threaten it now since the mob at Springfield) as soon as ever law comes in force again.

I have heard some of them say they are contending for liberty. But what sort of liberty are they contending for? not to be governed by good laws whereby their persons, name and property may be secured, this I esteem true liberty. I will tell you what liberty they would have; it is this, to do as they please, and make every body besides do as they would have them do. Such liberty I desire to be delivered from. I know the difference between liberty and licentiousness on the one hand, and liberty and tyranny on the other: I know also the difference between the use and abuse of liberty: and I wish they would learn the proper distinctions: I wish they knew how mankind are governed in all parts of the world; it would bring them to this conclusion, "we knew not what liberty was before; now we know that we enjoy, under our excellent constitution, all the liberty which is necessary to human happiness, and which can be enjoyed consistent with any government at all."

They complain of the rigidness of the rulers; they want a change. But were the heads of the late mob vested with authority, they would be chastised with scorpions. But may good laws ever govern this Commonwealth, and reason

The FREETHINKER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty six,

An Act to prevent Routs, Riots, and tumultuous Assemblies, and the evil Consequences thereof.

WHEREAS *the provision already made by law, for the preventing Routs, Riots and tumultuous Assemblies, and the evil Consequences thereof, has been found insufficient:*

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Senate, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this Act, if any persons to the number of twelve, or more, being armed with clubs, or other weapons; or if any number of persons, consisting of thirty, or more, shall be unlawfully, routously, riotously, or tumultuously assembled, any Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Deputy-Sheriff, of the County, or Constable of the Town, shall among the Rioters, or as near to them as he can safely come, command silence, while Proclamation is making; and shall openly make, Proclamation, in these or the like words:—

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BY virtue of an act of this Commonwealth, made and passed in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six, entitled, "An act for suppressing Routs, Riots, and Tumultuous Assemblies, and the evil Consequences thereof," I am directed to charge and command, and I do accordingly charge and command, all persons, being here assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains inflicted by said Act:

GOD save the COMMONWEALTH.

And if such persons, assembled as aforesaid, shall not disperse themselves within one hour after Proclamation made, or attempted to be made, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for every such Officer to Command sufficient aid, and he shall seize such persons, who shall be had before a Justice of the Peace; and the aforesaid Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, or Deputy-Sheriff, is hereby further empowered, to require the aid of a sufficient number of persons in arms, if any of the persons, assembled as aforesaid, shall appear armed: And if any such person or persons shall be killed or wounded, by reason of his or their resisting the persons endeavouring to disperse or seize them, the said Justice, Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff, Constable and their Assistants, shall be indemnified, and held guiltless.

And be it further enacted, That if any person, being commanded by such Justice, Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff, or Constable, as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to afford the assistance required, and shall be convicted thereof upon the oath of either of the said Officers so commanding, or other legal evidence, he shall forfeit and pay, a sum not less than *forty shillings*, nor exceeding *Ten pounds*, to be recovered by indictment, or presentation, before the Supreme Judicial Court, or any Court of General Sessions of the Peace, according to the aggravation of the offence; to be paid into the public Treasury for the use of the commonwealth.

And be it further enacted, That all persons, who for the space of one hour after proclamation made or attempted to be made as aforesaid shall unlawfully, routously riotously and tumultuously continue together, or shall wilfully let or hinder, any such officer, who shall be known, or shall openly declare himself to be such from making the said proclamation, shall forfeit all their Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels to this Commonwealth, or such part thereof as shall be adjudged by the Justices, before whom such offence shall be tried, to be applied towards the support of the Government of this Commonwealth, and shall be whipt *Thirty-nine* stripes on the naked back, at the public whipping-post, and suffer imprisonment for a term not exceeding *Twelve Months*, or less than *Six Months*; and once every three months during the said imprisonment, receive the same number of stripes on the naked back, at the public whipping-post, as aforesaid. And if any such person or persons, so riotously assembled, shall demolish, or pull down, any dwelling-house, or other house or parcel thereof; any house built for public uses; any barn, mill, malt-house, store house, shop or ship, he, or they, shall suffer the same pains and penalties, as are before provided in this Act.

Provided always, That where there shall appear any circumstances, to mitigate or alleviate any of the offences against this act, in the judgment of the Court, before which such offence shall be tried, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of such Court, to abate the whole of the punishment of whipping, or such part thereof, as they shall judge proper: and any thing in this Act, to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be read, at the opening of every Court of General Sessions of the Peace, by the Clerk of the said Court, and at the anniversary meeting of each town, within this Commonwealth, by the Town-Clerk thereof, in March, or April, annually: And no person shall be prosecuted, for any offence, contrary to this act, unless prosecution be commenced within twelve months after the offence committed.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES,
October 27th, 1786.

This Bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.

In SENATE, October 28th, 1786.

This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILIPS, jun. President.

By the Governor, approved.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

True Copy. Attest.

JOHN AVERY, jun Secret.

EPITAPH *on a Mr.* PECK.

HERE lies a peck! which some men say
Was first of all a peck of clay:
This, wrought with skill divine, while fresh
Became a curious Peck of flesh:
Through various forms its Maker ran,
Then, adding breath, made peck a man.
Full sixty years, Peck felt life's bubbles,
Till death reliev'd a peck of troubles.
Thus fell poor peck, as all things must,
And here he lies—a Peck of—Dust.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of REDIET STEWART, late of Montague, deceased, insolvent, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Capt. Caleb Kingsbury in said Montague, on the third Tuesday of December and second Tuesday of April next, from one to five o'clock afternoon on said days. No accounts allowed after said term.

REUBEN SCOTT,
MOSES SEVERENCE,
SAMUEL SMEAD.

Montague, October 27, 1786.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of Capt WILLIAM CARNAHAN, late of Blanford, deceased, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Mr. Justus Ashman, on the first Tuesday of December and January next, and at the house of Robert Blair, jun. on the last Tuesday of February next, in said Blanford, from one to six o'clock P. M. No accounts allowed after said last term.

ROBERT BLAIR, jun.
JUSTUS ASHMAN,
SAMUEL SLOPER,

Blanford, Sept. 23, 1786.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

CASH, Writing-Paper, &c. given for Rags and old Fish-Net.

NOVEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 12.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT HOUSE.

A Member of the Hatfield Convention, in answer to the Old Republican upon some of his observations.

NUMBER IV.

THE Old Republican says "we must pay the French and the Dutch because they are able to compel us, and will not be cheated; but our own people who have fought and bled—who have sent us gold and silver—who have sold us beef, flour and cloathing, must be cheated, for this manifest reason, because we are stronger than they and they cannot obtain satisfaction." If the cheat is already done to those who have fought and bled, by the government paying them in state securities what was their just dues in silver money, and that supporting the public faith, will not relieve them, but on the contrary will be a further injury to them. The Old Republican, if this is the case, cannot be [illegible] to redeem them at the nominal value on their account; and that this is the case I believe no one can doubt. So far as it respects the soldier, they have in general, I believe, been cheated out of more than two-thirds of their just dues, so far as they received them in state securities. I have no objections to their having justice done them, if there can be any way pointed out. But to enrich a parcel of speculators, under pretence of relieving the army, is what I cannot reconcile myself to. As to the officers of the army, they have had their loss by taking the pay in state securities, made up to them in a considerable degree by their five years pay in [illegible] securities. But they will tell you, I presume, calculations of considerable sufferers notwithstanding, [illegible] certificates have an [illegible] shillings in the pound, [illegible] up their loss. I have [illegible] and trust they have been cheated by their [illegible] part of their just dues. I have no doubt but this is the case, that what they have realized falls considerable short of what was their just dues; and now if the present holders can draw for two years and a half interest, the full sum the certificates cost them, it must be a very singular comfort to the army; and they will have this additional comfort, that they must be assisting in paying it. But the Old Republican will say, that this is not a fact, for the certificates that are issued for the interest, are sold for five shillings on the pound, and consequently the purchasers do not get re-imbursed so soon as I have asserted. To which I answer, if they do not, the faith of the United States is violated; for what better right have they to say they shall take certificates for the interest, which will not sell for more than five shillings on the pound, than they have to say they shall have but five shillings where they have been promised twenty. But it will be said, that the army have not so generally put off their notes as I conjecture, but that a very great part of them are in their hands. Besides there are those who have sold us beef, flour and cloathing, and lent us money, which never have put off their notes, and if they are not redeemed at their nominal value they will be cheated. If this be the case with the generality of them, I must confess I have said nothing to the purpose: for I have taken it for granted, that a very great share of them are gone from the original holders. I can think of no better way to help us to form a judgment in the matter, than by informing ourselves what sums there are of them in our several towns. I suppose the whole of the state notes that are now outstanding, amount to near 1,400,000l. and the share of this upon a man that paid ten pounds in one of the continental taxes, will amount to near seventy pounds: so that we may examine and see what proportion of such a sum is in the original holders hands, in our respective towns. I believe we shall find that but a very small part of such a sum is in the hands of the inhabitants of any country town, and a much smaller sum in the hands of the original owner. In the town I live in, I do not know of but one single person that is possessed of his share of them, and he purchased them at a discount. And I believe this is much the case in other country towns. If this is the case with the towns in general, there will be no great danger of their being cheated out of their service in the war, or their beef, flour or cloathing, for the cheat is already all. The country towns had their full share of soldiers, and supplied their full share of beef, flour, &c. and if the notes are not in their hands, it is because they are transferred. But I need not have laboured to prove that the government have a good right to interpret in the manner, and come as near justice as possible, if I had been as much reconciled to the present cheap mode as the Old Republican is. There is, in strict justice, a certain sum due to the holders of the notes; some of them ought to have them redeemed at their nominal value, others at five shillings on the pound, by the present mode there is no distinction made. When the notes become payable, there is a tax levied to redeem them, and the interest is stopped, and if the holders cannot get but one shilling on the pound this way, who ought to have the full value, our public faith is supported, and if the man is cheated, he is cheated very honestly, as observed in my last. This is "a regular scheme of paying our public debt," and one that is consonant to the strictest justice. Many useful public institutions are founded upon the credit of these securities; the rates of many widows and orphans consist [illegible] of these public institutions turn to the ground this way, the founders have got a word to say—our faith is supported. If the widows and orphans lose all they have this way, the must lay their hands on their mouths, for we are supporting our public faith for their sakes. I may [illegible] dwell upon this subject, and now I put it to me to make it appear that we are not supporting our public faith by the present mode, any more than if we declared that the holders of the notes should have but six shillings on the pound,—and to pay the interest according to [illegible] nominal value, because we cannot get over violating our faith, is straining at a gnat, or swallowing a camel without the least difficulty.

I shall now according to my promise, propose a new mode, which I shall not call an honest mode of cheating, as the Old Republican calls the present; but I shall call it as honest a way of doing justice as we can possibly come at.—My proposal is this, viz. that the impost and excise be applied for the redemption of the notes: that the collectors throughout the commonwealth be directed to receive them in payment of the excise; and also to pay money out for them when any one applies, and they have money on hand, at five shillings on the pound, allowing interest at the same rate, which shall hereafter arise on the notes. And what taxes are levied in future that they be made in hard money; and that the state notes be allowed to be received in payment at the same rate they are in payment of the impost and excise. And that the collectors and the treasurer, whenever they have any money on hand, be directed to pay it out to any one that applies to them, allowing interest upon the notes at the above mentioned rate. This will be doing ample justice to a very great part of the present holders, considering what an exorbitant interest they have drawn this four or five years past. This will be giving them more than they sell for at present, excepting those that are now payable in taxes, which sell for six shillings on the pound. This would prevent their further depreciation, as it would lay a permanent foundation for the redemption of them at that rate within the compass of five or six years, if the impost and excise alone were applied for this purpose. Added to this, we might pay considerable taxes every year besides paying our share of the foreign debt, which I believe the people would cheerfully submit to, if they could see any prospect of the debt being extinguished. I would further propose, that there shall no interest be paid at present, that shall hereafter arise, excepting where the notes are offered to the treasurer and the several collectors for redemption, and in that case that they pay the interest at the same rate the notes are received at. I do not propose this with a view to compel the holders of notes who ought to have the nominal value, to give them up at five shillings on the pound; but with this view, that the government may the sooner have it in their power to do them strict justice. I would further propose, that the government assure the original possessors of the notes, and also those who bought them at their full value, that as soon as they get rid of those that purchased them at a discount, they shall have strict justice done them, as to principal and interest both. And that there shall be no encouragement given to those who have purchased them at the rate they have generally been transferred at, of their ever being redeemed at any other rate, than at the rate proposed. It will be objected to this mode, that the not paying the interest annually will injure those that ought to have them redeemed at their full value, who depend on receiving their interest as it becomes due. To which it may be answered, that the inconvenience is only temporary, and is designed for their relief, and that it is much better for them to be subjected to this small inconvenience, than to be exposed as they are by the present mode to get but three-fourths of the principal. But it will be further objected, that the original possessors cannot keep their notes so long, for it will probably be four or four years before the government can [illegible] them justice. To which I answer, they must take five shillings on the pound, which is much more than they will be like to get by the present mode, but whether the Old Republican will think they are cheated as honestly as they are by the present mode, I cannot say: for however honestly they are cheated by the present mode, they are far more like to be paid very honestly by it. It will also be objected, that the holders of the notes will not take the money that is raised for them, the commissioners, they will keep their notes. To which I answer, that there will be nothing to hinder those that purchased them at a discount, taking hold of the money as fast as it is collected; and the original holders it is not intended should offer theirs, if this should be the case, that the holders of the notes do not apply so fast as the money is collected; I would then propose that the government should discriminate between those that ought to have the full value, and those who bought them at a discount. But I believe that our debt will be reduced into a very narrow compass, before this will become necessary. There may be other objections to this mode, and there would be to any other that could be proposed; there can perhaps be as few made to this as any one that is possible to propose; and it is infinitely better for the creditors than the present, I mean for such of them as ought to have the full value, and it is very probable they may have justice done them in this way; but there is not a possibility of their getting it in the present way. The public have now seen the real motives of my conduct; they were such as I thought justified me in doing as I have; if I had acted contrary to them, I should have been guilty of the very wickedness the Old Republican charges me with. In this situation, to be traduced as an enemy to American independency, made it necessary for me to make an attempt to defend myself; that is all I have aimed at: I might have been justified in recriminating, but I shall not follow the Old Republican's example of injuring the government by my imprudence. I shall let the Old Republican know who I am, by putting the initial letters of my name to my writings, that he may know where to direct his future abuses. B. S.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

THE Old Republican's compliments to his correspondents in the Hampshire Gazette: he makes them his best acknowledgements for the evidence given him, that his writings are understood & felt and are likely to have an useful operation. He has noticed the Peace-Maker already: As to Mr. Elihu, in No. 10, who takes such an eminent station, and confutes his antagonists by hard names and quaint expressions, the Old Republican must confess his inferiority in that kind of writing. His humour is to state facts and reason upon them; but if his friend Elihu must be answered in his own way, he will give the Old Republican time to send to the booksellers and buy some little book of witty sayings to assist him in his correspondence with such a merry gentleman. Another writer, a Member of the Hatfield Convention, has already

honoured him with three discharges, and demands his particular acknowledgements for his talent at quoting and misquoting his writings; for his attention to the point in debate; for his solid way of refuting arguments by professions of his own integrity, by levelling his budget at the head of his opponent—throwing dirt upon his clothes—stealing away from the question when it is dangerous to stick to it—raising new questions and arguing upon them without an opponent—in a word, for seeming to say a great deal and yet saying very little. Certainly he has some qualifications of a convention-man, yet he fails in many which are very essential: he is not radically opposed to order and government. Whether he has got his ideas of public credit from speculating in public securities, it is impossible to determine. His conclusions seem to be drawn from the school of jobbers and speculators, and will not read so well in a treatise upon TRUE STATE POLICY FOUNDED ON MORAL HONESTY. Our Member of the Hatfield Convention is the new comet of 1786, with a long train, whose revolution cannot yet be ascertained, but by his third appearance he must be near the sun. He grows hotter and hotter to the very close, & his train is driven to an amazing length; says he, "I may perhaps serve my country with as warm a zeal (as the Old Republican) although it is not kindled into such a rage," &c. &c. The public may expect soon to see our new comet return from the neighbourhood of the sun, when he will be more cool and less fiery red: when he will be more cool and less fiery red: he may drop into that luminous orb, mingle his vivifying and assistin future in vivifying and social rays, and assist in future in vivifying and enlightening this opaque globe. If none shall dare to enter the lists with our Member of Convention, perhaps after he has performed his revolution the Old Republican may adventure to take up the ba[illegible]udkit. But should another writer appear, the Old Republican must beg the acceptance of his present compliments as the conclusion of his correspondence.

The Old Republican's acknowledgements are especially due to One of the Community, Gazette [illegible]. For however he is a short writer, with [illegible]ance of pepper, yet he has more [illegible] than the whole of those [illegible] spread on the face of conventions.

[illegible] Community, it would have been to the point in your complaint of the Old Republican, for saying "county conventions are a body unknown to the constitution of this commonwealth," to have mentioned chapter and verse, which speak of such conventions either by name or implication: or to have shewn the public that all our natural and essential rights are not effectually secured by the constitution. You should have shewn, that meetings of towns, which are legal corporations, or the meeting of the respective inhabitants of several towns, is the same in its nature and tendency as to empower committees or representatives to act for them. To meet individually and representatively are essentially different in their nature and operations. And when the constitution had provided for one equal and effectual representation, it had more sense than to institute a second representation to rival the first and controul it. Let the body controul their representatives, but not let one set of representatives controul another. Two representations would destroy each other. His argument for conventions, that they do not act authoritatively, is a proof that he has never read their doings nor observed the operation of their doings. It still lies upon "One of the Community" to prove the legitimacy of conventions. Because the people may change their government in a certain way, it is no reason why they may change it in another way. I know if all the community were for introducing a king in the year 1795, they have a right to do it: but this does not justify the labour of those gentlemen who are writing against the Old Republican and opposing the government, that they may accomplish it at the present period. The Old Republican will venture a step further in his system and affirm, that not only are conventions without foundation in the laws and constitution of this commonwealth, but that his good correspondent will find it difficult to vindicate the selectmen of any town in warning a town meeting to choose a member. There is no law for it: the meeting is illegal, and the town-clerk who records the votes of such a meeting as of a legal meeting, stretches the power of his office. This is a new thought which the Old Republican suggests to the convention of the minor part of the county (as they are said to have been) who lately met at Hadley, and prays their committee for answering the Old Republican to take up this matter and debate it when they can get time to answer his writings against county conventions.

To the Gentleman who calls himself a Member of the Hatfield Convention.

SIR,

IT is of great importance to the public, that the doings of the legislature should not be misunderstood. In the three last papers I think you have misstated a number of facts; and I shall therefore take the liberty to make some remarks on your writings, and express my own sentiments touching the public debt.

You observe, that "upon the settlement with the army, a great part of the notes that have been issued were given for what they had suffered in their pay by receiving it in depreciated paper money; that the army were necessitated to put them off from their situation, and the inability of the government to make suitable provision for them, as to cloathing, &c." No doubt you designed to represent the facts truly, but you have mistaken them, both as to the proportion given to the soldiers, and the time when they were given.

All the notes that have been issued to the soldiers, were given to those who first engaged for three years or during the war: the number for the war was small, and very few if any of those notes were delivered to the three years men until the time of their service had expired. Indeed the acts which direct the form in which a great part of them should be issued, were passed after that time.—The cause therefore of their being sold at a low rate, was not the distress of the soldiers while in the army—during the war, it was more owing to a doubt in what manner the war would terminate. It was supposed if it issued favourably for Great-Britain, the notes would be of no value. You have justly assigned two of the reasons why they passed at so low a rate after the war; the time of payment was postponed, and provison was not made for the punctual payment of interest: You might have added as further reasons, that the state was then unable to pay the principal, and at no time could be compelled to do it.

The whole amount of the notes due from this state (for the redemption of which provision has not been made by taxes) is about 1,320,000l. You suppose they were chiefly given for the service of soldiers; but that was not the case. About 90,000l. have been issued to redeem the notes given by treasurer Gray before the war. Many were issued for silver money borrowed in the year 1781, when the paper currencies failed, and the legislature urged the lending hard money by every motive of patriotism and every assurance they could give of future payment,—many more have been issued for money borrowed, for cloathing and military & other stores purchased at different periods of the war, at the price in silver.——Provision has been made by the taxes No. 4 and 5 for redeeming 140,000l. of the soldiers notes; and those given to the army make but a small part of what remain unprovided for. Although many of the soldiers sold their notes, it is supposed by persons who have the best means of knowledge, that not one half of the notes now due from the state have ever been sold; and a great part of what have been sold, were disposed of for double the sum which they can now be purchased for.

You have more than once observed, that obliging the army to receive what was their just due in state securities, was in fact defrauding them of two thirds of their just dues; but I wish you to consider whether this accusation is just:—you say they would have preferred a payment in silver—they would do; but was government then able to pay them in silver? You must be constrained to answer they were not. Were they able to satisfy them in any better way, than by giving the best security in their power for the future payment of the principal and the annual interest? I think you must allow they were not, and that no man could devise better securities that could have been given by the state than those notes, or stronger assurances of future payment than were contained in the acts which directed them to be issued. Where then is the fraud? If your neighbour was unable to pay a debt when you called upon him, but was willing to give his note to pay the principal at a future time, and the interest yearly, would you call him a knave? to be sure, I never before heard that poverty and knavery were so closely connected. If you would not charge an individual with fraud in such a case, why do you so accuse the government? When the army insisted in 1777, they expected their pay in paper money; but it depreciated so fast, that they received but a part of the nominal sum in that way. The inability of the state to pay them in silver, was fully known to them, and they had too much sense to charge the state with fraud for not performing impossibilities.

There are in your performance divers imputations of fraud upon the government, which, I hope when you coolly revise them, you will ascribe to the hurry and heat of disputation. Indeed at present you seem determined to have no claims on the score of modesty, for we have seldom seen a piece so replete with invectives, or in which the author enjoyed so many imaginary triumphs, or appeared so perfectly satisfied with the demonstrative force of his own reasoning.

The General Court, I know, have been complained of before you wrote, for postponing the time of payment and neglecting to pay the interest yearly. If they have done either with design or necessity, they have been guilty of injustice: how far the complaints are well grounded, I will not pretend to affirm: some members have informed me that they were obliged to pay the militia out of the taxes first due, after their service was performed—that the credit of the state near the close of the war, was so low that they could not purchase a great part of the stores and supplies necessary to carry it on without paying in the same ways: and that it was impossible to redeem the notes faster, or pay the interest more punctually without greater taxes. Perhaps it will be said the taxes ought to have been higher—it remains only the Court, but the people have thought otherwise.

But suppose the General Court by unpecessary delays of payment, have caused the notes to depreciate, how it follow that they may now justly refuse to redeem them, which at a reduced rate? if so, they may go on with easy assessures until not a note can be sold, and then honestly declare they are good for nothing. The community that approves of the arguments like this, will never be celebrated for its morality.

At the same time that you zealously charge the government with fraud in not preventing the depreciation of the notes, you attempt to shew that because of that depreciation, they ought not to be redeemed as the government promised. This is like a man who pretends to abhor theirs, but demands his share of the plunder.

Because some persons have sold their notes, would you demolish those that have not been sold? But why does the selling the notes lessen the obligation of the state to redeem them? they were made payable to the promises or his order, and were therefore negotiable; was it ever heard the selling a negotiable note, excused the man who gave it from paying more than one third of its value? private notes are often sold below their nominal worth; but was there ever a law in this or any other state, that made a difference on that account? You say that "you are far from considering the purchasers of them as guilty of fraud and oppression in obtaining them, and think that people in general would not have given more than two shillings in the pound, at the time they were generally transferred," which you suppose to be during the war: but why are they more easy to lightly esteemed when the day of payment had not arrived: it was because there was a hazard of a total loss; this would have happened if we had been subdued. If the sale was fair, the whole property of the seller was transferred to the purchaser. If there was a real hazard, and the event has been favourable to the purchaser, would you deprive him of the who[illegible] benefit? because there is a law to compel the state to do justice, would you declare that the man who trusts the government shall run the hazard of losing his whole property, and shall have no chance of increasing it? Such a rule was never adopted in any other state; if it was designed to be in this, the people ought to have known it before.

You say it is a palpable mistake, that it was the expectation of the lenders that the notes would be redeemed by us. I am sorry you did not look into some of the acts of Court by virtue of which the notes were issued; if you had, you would hardly have made that assertion. Not a single note has been issued but by virtue of some act, which [illegible] that a tax shall be levied to redeem the no[illegible] which directs that the army no[illegible] ly provides, that both princi[illegible] shall be received for taxes in[illegible] tax 1 per cent.; and yet frauds[illegible] ment for redeeming them in that way. If you lender, I think you would have known what provision government had made to pay you.

You further assert, that a very great part of the legislature are satisfied of the evil of taxes to call in our securities, and are in favour of altering the mode; and that every body has found by experience that the measure is unpopular: but had you sufficient ground to make this declaration to the public, when you must know, that the tax for calling in 140,000l. of the army notes was granted in July 1785, and no longer ago than last March, the General Court granted another tax for calling in ten 000l. of the same notes? and I presume you will not pretend the subject has been debated by the General Court since that time.

I most sincerely wish that the notes may be redeemed in the cheapest manner, that public justice will allow; but I exceedingly doubt the policy of sacrificing that principle. Nevertheless I believe, and shall endeavour to shew, the notes may be redeemed in a manner as cheap to individuals as any reasonable man can wish, and without violating the public faith. No more at present from yours, &c.

A. B.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

Please to insert the following in your next, and you will oblige yours, &c.

THE Freethinker presents his compliments to Bilhuber, acknowledges the honour done him, in introducing his name into the company of the Old Republican, Paulinus, Aristides and the Regulator. But thinks however that he scandalously betrayed his trust, in introducing some, whom he ought to have known did not belong to the club, particularly to mean a person as Isaac Pad[illegible]dom.—The Freethinker begs leave also to congratulate Elihu upon his superior skill in logic, particularly in drawing consequences, and shewing that one who does the friendly office to the mob, of pointing out their errors in chest, and giving them good council thereby shews that he approves their conduct. And also upon his peculiar knack of refuting authors without pointing out the fallacy of their positions, or offering any argument against them. Doubtless intelligent readers will perceive the ingenuity of his plan, and give him merited honours. As he seems anxious, and even prays to know who and what the Freethinker is—this may inform him, that he is an honest benevolent old man, who friends much of mankind in their being, and thinks freely and liberally, and who wishes others would follow his examples and if they don't think right at first time, then think again. Whether he thinks persecuting or not, will not be decided solely by Bilhu, but by the impartial public.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His Excellency
JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq.
Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A Proclamation

For a General THANKSGIVING.

AS there is a moral fitness in expressing our gratitude to our benefactors, and as it is exceedingly proper that we should, in some measure, be grateful to the Supreme Author of all good, for the numberless unmerited blessings his Providence has bestowed upon us; and in particular for those of the last year: for which it is our duty, in a social manner, to render HIM our most elevated praises.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, to appoint, and do hereby appoint, Thursday, the fourteenth day of December next, to be observed as a day of public and general Thanksgiving, throughout this Commonwealth: recommending to ministers and people of every denomination, to assemble on that day, in their several places of religious worship, and to unite in celebrating the praises of Almighty God, for the innumerable instances of HIS goodness to us: particularly that, in the course of the past year, HE has been pleased to afford so remarkable a degree of health to the people of this Commonwealth; to order the seasons so favourably, that the labour of the husbandman has been blessed with a plenty of the produce of the earth; to increase our fisheries; to enlarge our manufactories; and above all, that it has pleased HIM to continue to us the light of the blessed gospel, and the full enjoyment of our religious liberty.

And I further recommend to ministers and people, to accompany their thanksgivings with devout and fervent prayers to the great Governor of the world, that, notwithstanding our ingratitude and multiplied transgressions, HE would continue HIS gracious Providence over us; and preserve our Frontiers and all parts of the United States, from the incursions and depredations of savage enemies; that HE would prosper our public councils, and inspire both rulers and people with a disinterested love to their country; that HE would endue the people with a due sense of the value, extent and importance of their privileges, both civil and religious; and with a sense of their obligations to support government and good order, without which the existence of those privileges must be endangered; and in fine, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, benevolence and undefiled religion, may universally prevail.

And I do recommend a suspension of all unnecessary labour and recreation, unsuitable to the [illegible] present, canney of the day.

[illegible] number among us, and [illegible]-Chamber, in Boston, and perfevering prefi[illegible]vember, in the year of [illegible]-thousand seven hundred and [illegible]-eighty-six, and the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By His Excellency's command,
With the advice and consent of the Council.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth.

SAVANNAH, Oct. 4.

The Creek Indians have lately received large supplies of ammunition from Pensacola, which with their having warned the settlers to remove from the Oconee lands by the first of October next, leaves little or no room to doubt of a war taking place immediately.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at the Falls of the Ohio, dated September 20.

"In my last letter I informed you that the state of Virginia had formed an expedition against the Indians, and now I can say that the troops, consisting of 1700 men, actually took up their march on the 15, 16, and 17th instant. Two field pieces and 103 men will be sent off tomorrow from Fort St. Vincent. What the results will be, God only knows. Capt. Carbury goes out as Assistant-General to the detachment from Virginia."

NEW-YORK, Nov. 8.

Extract of a letter, from Charleston, Oct. 10.

"Should the intelligence prove true, that is generally reported, and indeed publicly asserted in the Georgia Gazette, that the Spaniards have assisted the Creek Indians with military implements, a war with Spain will inevitably follow, unless this ungenerous assistance has been given to the Indians by private individuals. Indeed it would appear as if Congress had some weighty affairs to adjust with Spain, from their having withdrawn Mr. Adams from the English Court, and sent him to Madrid, notwithstanding this able Minister's presence was certainly necessary at the British Court, in order to facilitate the negociations between Great-Britain and America."

A letter from an eminent mercantile house in Lisbon, to a gentleman in Baltimore, dated August 16, contains the following very interesting paragraph:—"We are extremely happy to acquaint you, that by letters from Tangier, of the 15th of July, we are informed, that a few days before, Mr. Barclay the Ambassador, had concluded his negociation with the Emperor of Morocco, to his entire satisfaction, having made a treaty of peace on the very same terms as that between the Emperor and the King of Spain. This intelligence you may depend upon.—The negotiation at Algiers has not proved so successful."

We learn that Mr. Barclay was honoured with an escort of thirty chosen horsemen on his return from the Moorish Court.

By the United States in Congress assembled,
Nov. 3, 1786.

Resolved, That the several matters now before Congress, be referred over and recommended to the attention of the United States in Congress assembled, to meet at this place on Monday next.

Resolved, That the thanks of Congress be given to his Excellency Nathaniel Gorham, for his able and faithful discharge of the duties of President, while acting in that important station.

Nov. 12. The military spirit which at present pervades our youth in this city, must give the most heart-felt satisfaction to every friend of this rising empire, and the readiness with which the several companies have been completed, affords us the joyful prospect of being speedily furnished with a respectable military force, sufficiently formidable to defend us against the incursions of our enemies.

ALBANY, Nov. 2.

We have it from good authority that the Governor of Canada has forbidden the Canadian and Nova-Scotia Refugees, who have had lands granted them by this state on lake Champlain, settling at Point-o'-Fair on said lake; as it is a British garrison, which he alledges he has orders not to evacuate or surrender.

HARTFORD, Nov. 6.

It is indeed painful to think of deriving advantages from the calamities of our sister states; but while Rhode-Island and Massachusetts are banishing industry, economy, and hard money, from their dominions, it affords some consolation to see them take refuge here rather than re-cross the Atlantick. Perhaps greater encouragement never was given to these cardinal virtues, in this state, than at the present moment. The people, not having changed the form of their government in the late revolution, are habituated to consider it as the best possible form, and are not desirous of change; the labours of the husbandman are abundantly repaid, with every product of the soil; the arrearages of our taxes are in a fair way to be settled soon, and the glorious stand we have made against Paper Money, tender laws, and every Demon of dishonesty, that haunts our neighbours, will redound to our present honour and future advantage.

PORTLAND, Nov. 2.

Capt. Jonathan Armstrong, in the sloop Minerva, who arrived last evening from Demarara, in 29 days, informs, that he saw Capt. Savage, belonging to Kennebeck, with a load of mules from the coast of Barbary—who informed him that a peace between the Americans and Algerines had been concluded before he left the coast.—This, Capt. Savage said might be depended on.

PORTSMOUTH, Nov. 7.

On Saturday last a woman in this town, lately married, was detected in the murder of her infant child;—the circumstances which led to this discovery we have not been able to collect. A Jury was immediately summoned to sit on the body, who reported, as their opinion, that the infant came to its end by a stroke, or strokes on its head. It was a male child, born and murdered on the Thursday morning preceding the discovery.

BOSTON, November 16.

Proceedings of Government.

Habeas-Corpus.

On Saturday last the engrossed bill for suspending the writ of Habeas Corpus passed to be enacted.

Civil processes in Law.

On Monday the Hon. House passed to be enacted, the bill for rendering processes in law less expensive. Of this bill we have already given a full description. The time of its operation is limited to two years.

Bill for granting Indemnity &c.

On Tuesday last the House passed to be enacted, the bill for granting indemnity to sundry offenders on certain conditions, and providing for the trial of such who shall neglect or refuse to comply with said conditions, and of those who shall be guilty of like offences in future. This bill particularly respects the insurgents lately concerned in impeding the sitting of the Judicial Courts.

Tender-Act.

On the same day, the House passed to be enacted the bill for suspending the laws for the collection of private debts under certain limitations, commonly called the tender-act. Bills of exchange, notes due to the Massachusetts-Bank, and contracts under the treaty of peace, are excepted from the bill.

Impost Duty.

Yesterday was employed in attempting to conciliate the two Houses, with respect to the appropriation of the revenue arising from the impost duty. The Senate adhere to the old system, of paying the interest on the consolidated debt, while the house are desirous of applying only half of it to that use, and paying the remainder into the public treasury, as we related in our last paper. As the clause of appropriation is annexed to the Bills, this difference hazards the whole system of revenue; though it is to be hoped, that some compromise will take place; to save so important a source for relieving the public exigences.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of Council, has appointed Gen. HENRY JACKSON, to the command of the quota of federal troops from this State, by a late requisition of Congress; and we further learn, that Col. DAVID HUMPHREYS, is appointed to the command of those from Connecticut.

Extract of a letter from Savannah, dated September 15.

"The Indians are coming down in a large body, to attack this place; they seem bent upon the destruction of all our settlements and towns. The people in general are in great consternation, for their lives and property. However, we have now about 15 or 1600 men in arms, that are marching to oppose their progress, who will be able to give some account of them."

NOVEMBER 18.

The late commotions in this State, have awakened that spirit of military ambition, which so nobly distinguished us in 1774 and 1775. In all parts of the country, troops, and companies of horse and foot are raising. In this town, which a few weeks since, had to lament the want of a single company of soldiery, besides the standing militia, can now produce four companies, all in the whole of which completely disciplined and equipped, viz. the Ancient and Honourable, the Independent Cadets, the Republican Volunteers, and the Independent Light Infantry, a company by the name of the Massachusetts Fuzilliers, is also now forming with rapidity, and bids fair to be completed in a short time. Such a military spirit, (observes a correspondent, diffusing itself through our Commonwealth, must afford the highest satisfaction to every sincere friend and well wisher to our Independence, and fully justifies the observation, that while Massachusetts can boast of citizens who possess a knowledge of military affairs, and understand the use of arms, they can have nothing to fear from foreign or domestick foes.

Leonard Jarvis Esq; was on Saturday last, by the Hon. Legislature, appointed Comptroller General of this Commonwealth.

NORTAMPTON, Nov. 21.

The act of the Assembly of Virginia, establishing religious freedom, has been translated and published in several kingdoms of Europe—it was lately printed at paris, and is characterized, as affording an example of Legislative wisdom, and liberality never before known. "Had" says the publisher of it "the principles which have dictated it, been always acted upon by civil governments, the demon of perfecution would never have existed; sincere enquiries would never have been discouraged; truth and reason would have had fair play; and most of the evils which have disturbed the peace of the world, and obstructed human improvement, would have been prevented."

Several of the most reputable towns of the State of New-Hampshire, have voted their disapprobation of the plan proposed to their consideration by their General Court, for emitting paper money.

*** The Address to the Public, part IV. was received too late for publication this week.

Died, last Saturday, Mr. Elkanah Burt, in 69th year of his age.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the groſs, dozen or ſingle, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

ALSO,

Watt's Pſalms—Primers—Blanks of moſt kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

CASH, Writing-Paper, &c. given for Rags and old Fiſh-Net.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

IF indulged, I shall for this once appear in your paper for the purpose of asking the public's advice in a matter of considerable importance in my affairs.

Among my neighbours I am taken for an honest man. Thro' the late long struggle for independence, demeaned myself as a good & wholesome commonwealth's man; and was deemed an useful member of society. Under the present constitution, I hold no office either civil or military; was never fanned with the breath of popular applause, nor ever captivated with the charms of honor and emolument. In the late tumults, my neighbours with myself have acted a distinguished part; nor did we first apply to the house of Abel for counsel, or to the writings of Solomon for wisdom: But we readily adopted the self-evident prevailing opinion, THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. Tho' Town I had many scruples and I believe more than all the rest, about the propriety or necessity of taking arms against the government—yet at Springfield we flew to arms to prevent the sitting of the Court. Here we acted so meritoriously as since to be noticed by a letter from the hand of our General importing a desire that our men be immediately officered, that we procure the necessary implements of war, and that we hold ourselves in readiness for a march. This letter met with a friendly reception. On the day appointed for chusing officers, the suffrage and voice of the whole town was, that the command should devolve upon me. Upon this I gave information, that as I professed always to act with deliberation, so for the present would return them my thanks, and at some future stated season would either accept or refuse the office to which they had been pleased to elect me.

Citizens, before I submit this weighty question, whether to accept or refuse an office under these circumstances, would first observe; that the succeeding night was a continued scene of dreaming, which if I have any skill in signs, foreboded not a little evil. That in my waking hours my thoughts have been in a very deranged posture. one while upon conventions; another upon the General Court. Now I thought of a total subversion of the constitution; and now, that the rights of the people can never be more fully secured than they are under the present government. No argument could be framed to rest satisfied with the doings of the General Court; and now led to believe, I should find better doings by confiding in conventions. No call within was perfect confusion caused by a long list of grievances to the amount of twenty five, which passed thro' my mind in quick succession; anon, all was calmed, by a consideration that but few of them have a real existence, the rest only tinctured with the bitterness of the fountain from whence they flowed. Now I remembered that every wind did not blow promotion; and then, that temporal honors and dignities were no adequate consideration, for shutting and prostituting the dictates of an enlightened understanding. Besides all this, I meet with the daily solicitations of my friends, urging me to accept the office. From this stand I am anxious to be removed. Says the wise man, "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" Whoever of my countrymen excepting the members of conventions and Tom Thoughtful, will prove to me, genuine, able, and faithful counsellors, shall be entitled to the hearty thanks of

An honest INSURGENT.

An ORDINANCE for the ESTABLISHMENT of the MINT of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, and for REGULATING the VALUE and ALLOY of COIN.

IT *is hereby Ordained by the United States in Congress assembled*, That a mint be established for the coinage of gold, silver and copper money, agreeably to the resolves of Congress of the 8th of August last, under the direction of the following officers, viz.

An *Assay Master*, whose duty it shall be to receive gold & silver in bullion, or foreign coin, to assay the same, and to give his certificates for the value thereof at the following rates:

For every pound, troy weight, of uncoined gold or foreign gold coin, eleven parts fine, and one part alloy, two hundred and nine dollars, seven dimes and seven cents, money of the United States, as established by the resolves of Congress of the 8th of August last, and so in proportion to the fine gold contained in any coined gold or uncoined gold whatsoever.

For every pound, troy weight, of uncoined silver, or foreign silver coin, eleven parts fine, and one part alloy, thirteen dollars, seven dimes, seven cents, and seven mills, money of the United States, established as aforesaid; and so in proportion to the fine silver contained in any coined or uncoined silver whatsoever.

A *Master Coiner*, whose duty it shall be to receive, from time to time, of the assay master, the bullion necessary for coinage; to report to Congress devices and proofs of the proposed pieces of coin, and to procure proper workmen to execute the business of coinage, reporting from time to time to the commissioners of the board of treasury of the United States for approbation and allowance, the occupation, number and pay of the persons so employed.

A *Pay Master*, who shall be the treasurer of the United States for the time being, whose duty it shall be to receive and take charge of the coin made under the direction of the master coiner, and to receipt for the same; to receive and duly enter the certificates for uncoined gold or silver issued by the assay master, and to pay ninety-five hundredths of the amount thereof in gold or silver, and five hundredths in the copper coin of the United States.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the certificates to be given by the assay masters to persons who shall lodge gold or silver in the mint for coinage, shall be on fine bank paper, and expressed in the manner and form following, *to wit*.

Mint of the United States.

I ACKNOWLEDGE to have received of A. B. for coinage *(here insert, the weight)* of *(insert the species)* bullion, for the amount of which pay to or bearer, the sum of at ten days sight, agreeably to the custom of the mint.

C. D. *Assay Master.*

To E. F. *Pay Master of the mint of the United States of America.*

And it is hereby further ordained, That the officers above-mentioned shall settle their accounts monthly, agreeably to such forms and vouchers as shall be prescribed by the comptroller of the treasury.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the officers shall enter into bonds to the United States in Congress assembled, for the faithful execution of the trust respectively reposed in them, in the manner and amount following, *to wit*:

The assay master in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and two sureties, each in the sum of five thousand dollars.

The master coiner in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and two sureties, each in the sum of five thousand dollars.

And that the officers mentioned in this ordinance, as well as every other person employed in the mint, shall take and subscribe the oath of office, established by the resolve of the 14th of March, 1786.

And it is hereby further ordained, That it shall be the duty of the comptroller of the treasury to report monthly to the commissioners of the treasury of the United States a statement of the mint accounts adjusted agreeably to the usual forms; and if on such statement or other information it shall appear that there has been any neglect, mismanagement or abuse of trust in any of the officers mentioned in the within ordinance, it shall be the duty of the commissioners of the board of treasury to suspend such officer or officers, and to report thereon specially to Congress.

And it is hereby further ordained, That the copper coin struck under the authority of the United States in Congress assembled, shall be receivable in all taxes or payments due to the United States, in the proportion of five dollars for every hundred to be paid; but that no other copper coin whatsoever shall be receivable in any taxes or payments whatsoever to the United States.

And whereas the great quantities of base copper coin daily imported into, or manufactured within the several states, is become so highly injurious to the interest and commerce of the same, as to require the immediate interposition of the powers vested by the confederation in the United States, in Congress assembled, of regulating the value of copper, of the coin so current as aforesaid.

And it is hereby ordained, That no foreign copper coin whatsoever, shall, after the first day of September, 1787, be current within the United States: and that no copper coin struck under the authority of a particular state, shall pass at a greater value than one federal dollar for two pounds and one quarter of a pound avoirdupoise weight of such copper coin.

DONE by the United States in Congress assembled, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, and of our sovereignty and Independence the eleventh.

Just Imported from LONDON,

By Levi Shephard,

A general Assortment of

D R U G S,

Which are now ready for sale at his Store, north of the court-house, in Northampton, where Physicians and private families may be supplied upon such terms as, he has no doubt, will give entire satisfaction to the purchaser.

He has likewise a variety of Groceries, &c. &c. &c.

Northampton, Nov. 15, 1786.

PRESIDENT.

—VETO approved.

PAINTER's Colours, ground in Oil, by the cwt. or less quantity, Logwood, Cloves, Nutmegs, Molasses, Oil of Vitriol by the cwt. or any quantity, Indigo of a superior quality, Logwood, Fustic, Redwood, Alum, Copperas, Spirits of Turpentine by the gallon, Varnish, Rosin, Lamp Black.

ALSO,

Webster's Institute, 1st, 2d and 3d part, Press-Papers, Writing-Paper, Sealing-Wax, and Wafers at 4s. per pound.

Said Shephard receives in pay for any of the above articles, almost every kind of Country Produce, and will pay Cash for Shipping Furrs and Bees-Wax.

Nov. 15, 1786.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of Capt. WILLIAM CARNAHAN, late of Blanford, deceased, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Mr. Justus Ashman, on the first Tuesday of December and January next, and at the house of Robert Blair, jun. on the last Tuesday of February next, in said Blanford, from one to six o'clock P. M. No accounts allowed after said last term.

ROBERT BLAIR, jun.
JUSTUS ASHMAN,
SAMUEL SLOPER,

Blanford, Sept. 23, 1786.

WE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of REDIET STEWART, late of Montague, deceased, insolvent, represented insolvent; hereby give notice, that we shall attend said business at the house of Capt. Caleb Kingsley in said Montague, on the third Tuesday of December and first Tuesday of April next, from one to five o'clock afternoon on said days. No accounts allowed after said time.

REUBEN SCOTT,
MOSES SEVERANCE,
SAMUEL SMEAD.

Montague, October 17, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

FOR SALE,

Two Rights of Land,

in the Township of Victory, state of Vermont. Enquire of the Printer.

Nov. 1786.

NOVEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 13.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

Charge of the Chief Justice,

To the GRAND-JURY of the county of MIDDLESEX.

SUBSTANCE of the CHARGE given to the GRAND-JURY, at the opening of the Supreme Judicial Court, at Cambridge, the 31st day of October last, which, among other things, takes up the subject of County Conventions and their resolves. After stating to the Grand-Jury their duty respecting public offences, to be enquired of by them, particularly upon the subject of riots and unlawful assemblies, the Charge proceeded nearly as follows, viz.

A RIOT was observed, to respect the doing unlawful acts of a private nature: Should the combination be to attempt with force to regulate the weighty affairs of state, to controul or suspend the execution of the laws, to stop the courts of law, and the general course of justice; this is undoubtedly high treason by the late statute of our own making:—It is a treasonable attempt, to wrest the powers of government from the hands of those in whom the constitution and the body of the people have placed them; an attempt to subvert the government; to bring on general anarchy and confusion; to set all property afloat; to bury all public and private security together. The consequence of which events taking place, were they supposeable, must be either a subjugation to some foreign power, or the rising up of an absolute, despotic government among ourselves, wherein a few will govern the many by a military force: Neither of which, I presume, can be wished for by any considerable number among us, after our general unanimity, and persevering pressures through all difficulties for eight years together; in bringing about the late happy revolution; and after a constitution of government settled and established by the free and general voice of the people, and guarded at all points, to the utmost, to secure their rights and privileges. It is true, the people have a right, according to the 19th article of the bill of rights, to assemble to consult upon the common good; to give instructions to their representatives; and to request of the legislative body, redress of wrongs and grievances, if they suffer any; but then expressly it must be done in an orderly peaceable manner; not by inflaming the minds of the people against their representatives; not by way of force or resistance to lawful, constitutional authority, it being a solecism indeed, to suppose a constitution framed with the greatest deliberation, by the people, for their peaceable, orderly government, giving at the same time to individuals a minute, at pleasure, to resist that government—to overturn that constitution—or to become rivals to the supreme legislative power.

What idea then are we to form of our present county conventions? It may be proper to consider, whether some weighty objections did not lie, against them—Especially considering the manner in which some of them have been conducted. In the first place, they are not known to the constitution;—There being no article, nor word in any article, particularly warranting, or even hinting at any such body of men with delegated power to deliberate and determine upon public affairs; and to vote and resolve for others, what are public grievances. I may add, that they are inconsistent with the nature of government, and substantially repugnant to our constitution, which has parcelled out, in particular channels, all power that is to be exercised under it—giving to the General Court, full power and authority to make all manner of wholesome orders, laws, and instructions, as they shall judge for the good of the Commonwealth, and for governing and ordering all the subjects of it.—If so, what delegated power can there be left to give to county conventions, unless it be to counteract the General Court, and by force, or threatnings of mobs or otherwise, to awe and compel them into a compliance with all their measures and demands; which nobody will pretend, is consistent with the constitution, and all understanding men must see is unlawful or directly tending to excite treason and insurrection. But what is to be done, if grievances do actually take place?—the answer is plain—Wherever the people labour under burthens which are capable of being alleviated, it is most natural as well as orderly, to apply directly for themselves, by regular town-meetings, to their lawful representatives, either by petition or instruction—according to ancient usage—to which the article plainly refers, and not to any delegated power—rather than to appoint a secondary set of men to vote and determine whether they are aggrieved or not. Surely, every man can better tell for himself, whether he is in pain or feels grievance and burthens, than others can for him.

Our annual Representatives for the great purpose of legislation, whom we must suppose the people elected as being superior for wisdom, integrity and disposition to serve their true interest; these men, collected from every part of the state, having of course, greater means of public information, must be better judges of what are public grievances, and how far they are capable of redress, with as good a disposition to relieve them, as any smaller, more confined, and less informed set of men, whatever. And should a mistake happen in the multiplicity and perplexity of state affairs—as all men, and bodies of men, are subject to imperfection—upon its being decently pointed out by the people in orderly town meetings, no doubt, they would cheerfully rectify it, if practicable, without the unnecessary intervention, burthen and expense of a county convention.

The setting up smaller bodies of men in the form and semblance of representative bodies, to act and resolve upon public matters and measures, has a dangerous tendency to draw away men's minds from their duty and obedience to that constitutional authority, to which they have engaged by the solemn compact of government, and to which all officers, civil and military, have additionally bound themselves by solemn oath, to submit and to bear true faith and allegiance. And being seperate sets of men, acting separately and at a distance, not agreeing precisely in the same things, and some of them flatly contradicting one another upon the most important points—all this tends to bewilder and distract men's minds—to sow the seeds of division and discord, and bids fair, if people cannot be undeceived, to involve this State in blood and in all the horrors of civil war. I am glad to hear that the legislature are about sending forth to the people some account of public affairs and money matters; which, I doubt not, will clear away many notorious horrid falsehoods, which have been industriously circulated by designing men, to impose upon the ignorant and throw people into a flame—and will calm their minds.

Although there may be worthy good men in these conventions—yet are there not others of a very different character—artful and designing ones—some who are involved in debt—who have been principal promoters of them?—With a view perhaps, by multiplying grievances and raising artful insinuations against our Representatives, as if they were not in the interests of the people, to raise themselves into power and importance, to oust the present Representatives, and substitute themselves in their places; and with a farther view, perhaps, to introduce a paper currency; by one bold stroke, to extricate themselves from debt, without a real bona fide payment: a paper currency, that engine of fraud, and destruction of all common honesty, I am sorry to say it, seems to have been the grand idol of all our county conventions.

What has happened, may happen again. Two or three years ago, a certain county convention held diverse meetings—resolved a great number of public grievances, and finally wound up with recommending one another to their respective towns, as most suitable men to be chosen Senators and Representatives. But the artifice did not succeed. The people rechose their old ones, whose fidelity they had experienced and could depend upon. Our present conventions, have more prudence than to pass a like vote. But certain it is, that emissaries have gone forth into all parts of the State—using every artifice to raise disconteats, and inflame the minds of the people; some have reached Broad-Bay, and, as it is said are attempting to strike a bargain, for dismembering the eastern counties from the government, upon condition of their assisting in overseting the present constitution, and bringing in a new set of Representatives, who will be disposed to accomplish that and other destructive designs.

The matter and substance of many of their votes are of the most dangerous nature, and must be highly exceptionable to all considerate men. There is the vote of the Hampshire convention for emitting a bank of paper money, to be subject to a depreciation, as they expressly say—yet to be a tender in all payments equal to gold and silver. How repugnant this to all honesty—to that righteousness which exalteth a nation! There are other votes directly attacking some of the most vital parts of the CONSTITUTION, particularly holding up, the existence of the Senate, and mode of representation prescribed by the constitution, as public grievances: matters which engaged the greatest deliberation of the whole State convention, and were thought some of the most essential bulwarks of liberty: thereby endeavouring to stir up insurrection and tumult, and the overthrow of that constitution, which the people at large solemnly ratified for themselves and their posterity, and engaged to stand by unaltered until the year 1795.

These Conventions have done more than the Supreme legislature have a right to do—more than they dare do. The whole legislature dare not attack a single article of the Constitution. And that man who attempts it, does the greatest injury in his power to his fellow citizens. For if we cannot abide by the Constitution the few years so solemnly agreed upon, there is no chance of our ever having another government by general consent, and agreement—but we must remain in a state of nature, until a government of force shall arise to bend & controul our stubborn divided wills.

There is a vote, voting the Common Pleas & General Sessions public grievances, without hinting at any mode of administering justice in their places.

Emboldened by all this, and under full countenance of county conventions as they imagined, being actually encouraged by some of their members, a lawless set of men, involved in debt (to prevent suit and payment, and to get clear of all taxes, having not paid any, for four or five years, while others have born and are bearing the burthen) begun the treasonable insurrection in the upper part of Hampshire in arms, to oppose and pull down all Courts of Justice.

For you find it a fact, that in every county which has been vified with county conventions, open rebellion and outrage have actually taken place, and in no other. Upon the whole, people will do well to consider whether these conventions are either expedient or safe; lawful or constitutional; and whether they do not produce mightier mischiefs and greater grievances than those they complain of. For let every man depend upon it, that if the present government and constitution fall, which are so vigorously struck at by conventions—all private right and private property will fall with them, and lie wholly at the mercy of the most idle, vicious and disorderly set of men in the community. For numbers of the insurgents, and some of their leaders, have in fact, fully declared their design to abolish all public and private debts, and to have a general division of property among them,—But were they to gain that favourite point, query, whether they would be content to stop, even there? To help on the confusion, and the plotted mischief, a spirit of lying and falsehood has gone forth, which has deceived many honest well-meaning people, and drawn them into measures which they would otherwise have abhorred—drawn them in to join the wicked, the dishonest, and the turbulent, in threatning the peace of the community, and in overturning all fences of property, and foundations of government.—Hence those bold, unparalleled attacks upon the administration of public justice; even youth, instead of reverencing authority, have been taught the horrid example, to thrust bayonets at the breasts of judges, to intimidate them from complying with their oaths and their duty—Courts of justice stopped with force of arms, and a high-hand;—Courts which have been handed down to us from our ancestors, and have subsisted unaltered from time immemorial: In one of which most of the civil business, (as the law has stood) must originate;

in the other, a great part of the criminal is triable. Nevertheless, if the general with is for an alteration, the regular mode is plainly pointed out by the constitution, by an orderly application of towns to the legislative body: who, if upon due deliberation they could devise a mode less expeditive to the people, and more adapted to the public good, would no doubt, readily adopt it. And what was there to prevent every town in the state, if they thought proper or necessary, from making this peaceable application?

But surely to abolish two courts of such ancient standing, and large jurisdiction, if it should be found necessary, and substitute a perfectly new plan, free from all inconveniencies, is not a matter to be transacted in an instant, but must require time, pains and deliberation, for the wisest heads. Some may perhaps suppose a single justice may try all matters, even of the first magnitude, allowing only an appeal. But query, the constitutionality of that mode with the XVth article of the Bill of rights, which saith, that "In all controversies concerning property, and in all suits between two or more persons (except in cases, in which it has immemorably been otherwise used, and practised) the parties have a right to trial by a jury; and this method of trial shall be held sacred:" &c.

Then it may be said each justice may summon a jury to his aid:—Suppose then, a large county, that requires forty or fifty justices, and each one summons a jury; here may be 40 or 50 juries every fortnight or 3 weeks, and the whole county be kept in continual commotion, and prove a greater source of expence and grievance, than any thing that has yet been complained of.

It is impracticable in the nature of things, to prescribe any mode whatever for the recovery of right, or redress of wrongs, that shall not be attended with expence and loss of time, so long as the law is open to every subject; as the 11th article of the Bill of Rights peremptorily declares it shall be "completely, promptly and without delay."

As to the weight of public taxes; as our Representatives lay no burthens upon their constituents, but what fall equally upon themselves, we cannot doubt their disposition to ease us, as far as is consistent with the public safety, and with justice to our foreign and domestic creditors, whose loans of hard cash in the most critical times, saved us from sinking under the weight and cruelty of foreign dominion.

Should public faith be violated and given up, what might be the consequence? Suppose another war (which for ought we know may not be far distant) what man would lend his money to save the State? Would now he rather be tempted to take up his chest, and remove to some foreign country, where though there may not be so much liberty, yet where private property, the great object of all men's pursuit, has more countenance — is held more sacred.

The want of a circulating medium is ranked among the principal grievances; but that is not within the reach of human power to remedy instantly:—And the difficulty has been greatly increased by the very means talked of, to cure it, viz. by a paper currency and tender acts; thereby taking away all confidence in government, and discouraging those who have money from lending it, by introducing fraudulation, for fear of being paid only nominally in paper, in lieu of the hard earned gold coin that was lent.

The difficulty with some others can be cured only by time, patience, industry, frugality, a due attention to manufactures, with navigation and commerce placed upon a proper footing:—that the interests of commerce have been to greatly neglected hitherto, to the injury of the states in general, of this state in particular, and especially of the mercantile part of it, is owing to the want of one regulating Binding power over the whole:—A power which most men now think to be absolutely necessary, and that it ought long ago to have resided in Congress.

The General Court are now sitting, ready to hear petitions and complaints from all quarters of the state, and from every individual who will decently apply. In the mean time, and at all times, it becomes all good citizens to persevere; exceably in doing their duty, in supporting the magistrates in the execution of his office, in supporting the respective powers, while they are exerting themselves to clear away every obstacle that may impede the general prosperity: And, as they will answer it to their God, to their consciences, and to posterity, that they may be ready to rise as one man, if need be, to suppress all unreasonable insurrections upon public justice, and to support, as every branch of their government, upon which all their temporal interest and safety depend.

But if all faith and confidence between one part of the community and another, is to be banished, and the most sacred, binding engagements are no barriers, no check upon men's conduct; if the demon of discord, by whomsoever first stirred up, whether by internal or external enemies, shall be suffered to rage and prevail, and to raise every man's hand against his brother—farewell to peace, to property, and to the United States.

I do not however, despair of the Commonwealth, being assured that a large, substantial majority of the good people of this State stand firm to their original, sacred compact of government, and that they will have sufficient virtue and sense of their own interest to govern themselves, and support their own government and laws, against all designing, unprincipled individuals, and to prevail over all civil and political disorders.

For the Hampshire Gazette.

The Member of the Hatfield Convention to A. B.

IT seems that the Old Republican has took his flight, and is now soaring above among the planetary orbs.——I have answered my purpose, which was to make use of his way of writing as the only means of making him quit this earth, and re-ascend to the place of his abode, and leave us inhabitants of this earth to settle our affairs of government among ourselves. It has been a very general opinion, that his descent has been attended with very bad consequences to the government. If I have contributed any thing towards his leaving us, I think I have done some good, however disagreeable it has been to me to go through with the task. It seems Mr. A. B. that you are to finish the dispute. I am exceedingly happy in finding that you are disposed to argue the subject fairly and coolly.—I believe some of your reproofs are just,—I am entirely willing to stand reproved. There are others, that had my meaning been as you have supposed, I would as readily have acknowledged. You reprove me for charging government with fraud; there is nothing that was farther from my intention than making such a charge. When I have said that making a payment to the army in state notes, was in fact defrauding them of more than two thirds of their just dues. My meaning has been uniformly this, that such a payment, when our credit was in such a situation, had operated as a fraud; and not that the government intended it as such. I very readily agree with you that it was impossible for the government at that time to pay them any other way. There are several things that appear to me to be of considerable importance, that I wish you would be so kind as to clear up to me. I will put a case. Let us suppose at the conclusion of the war, that the government was indebted to the army 1,000,000. and that all they could do for them was to give them notes, which were to be redeemed at some future time. Let it be supposed that the credit of the state soon after was in such a situation, owing to an inability in the government to support it, that their notes would sell for but one shilling on the pound. Let it be supposed, that the whole of the notes were transferred at that rate; that the sale was fair, the purchaser run his chance. Let it be supposed, when the time of payment arrives, that the government is able to redeem them, and that they were knowing to it that the possessors had given but one shilling on the pound—and that the soldier had never realized but one twentieth part of his dues. Whether in this case it would be justifiable for the government to violate their promises? if it would be right in this case, whether it would be right if they had been transferred at six shillings on the pound? And whether the Congress and the legislature of this commonwealth have not violated their promises upon this principle? The next thing I wish to have you satisfy me about is this: Whether redeeming securities by a tax when they are depreciated so low as six shillings on the pound, is supporting the public faith? And if it is, whether if they should depreciate to one shilling on the pound—whether redeeming them by a tax at that rate, is not as much supporting it? And whether it is not the intention of the government when they levy a tax, that it shall not operate so as to appreciate the notes? And whether when the No. 4 tax was levied, there was not a part of the notes that were not provided with this view? And whether the original possessors have justice done them, if they cannot get but six shillings on the pound this way? and whether they are satisfied? and whether I was mistaken when I said that it was a palpable mistake that the people that lent the government money supposed that this was all their security? The next thing I wish to have you satisfy me about is this, viz. Whether it is justifiable to levy a tax that shall operate so unequally amongst the several members of the community as the No. 4 tax has? You seem to have mistook my meaning, when I said that a great part of the legislature are satisfied of the evil of the present mode;—my meaning was this, that they were satisfied of the evil of the unequal operation of taxes that are levied this way. I have heard a very considerable number of members acknowledge this, and declare their wishes that there could be some other way found out to redeem our securities that should operate more equally. And I believe there is nothing more complained of in the country; and I believe there is none that are complained of with more justice. I wish to have you shew the essential difference there is between the government's saying, that the holders of the notes shall not have but six shillings on the pound, and their never providing a way whereby they shall get any more. Your being very particular in your answers to the several enquiries I have made, may convince me of my error; if I am in one. I have done what every man must do: I have acted and wrote according to my information: I have had some of my mistakes pointed out, and am willing the whole of them should be: I shall be equally pleased whether I throw any light upon the subject, or draw it from others by my mistake. If I have thrown a single reflection upon the government, it has dropped from me inadvertently, for I feel no disaffection to it. I expect that I shall be told that I have been guilty of a very great impropriety, in acknowledging myself the author of my writings—that it looks too ostentatious: this would be strictly true if I had had it in my power to have concealed myself. But to attempt to conceal myself under an imaginary name, when I could say nothing upon the subject but that would point the reader to the real author, I think would have been a still greater impropriety. I was an opposer to almost every article of grievance complained of by the convention; but supposed that these were well founded. I gave my sentiments largely upon them, and when I took up the pen to defend them, I knew it was impossible for me to conceal myself; I therefore thought it was in vain to make the attempt.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

IN your Gazette. No. 11 the impartial spectator made an attempt to inform the public of the doings of the late convention at Hadley; but his information discovers his ignorance of the Convention or their doings, otherwise his partiality, or both. He says, there were 32 members from 29 or all towns, when at the same time, when they formed, there were 32 towns represented. If Mr. "I am &c." is disposed to inform the public, let him first get information himself.—As to a committee being appointed to dispute the Old Republican, there was none neither was their any movement for one. Notwithstanding the spectator (in some respects) is excuseable for this mistake; for there was a Committee appointed for sundry branches of business, which were desired to form an address to the people and set forth their constitutional rights; and thereby evade those fallacious arguments against the rights of the people, which have lately crouded our Gazettes. Doubtless the spectator was sensible that the old Republican had been the most officious in that way; Therefore he might conclude it must be in answer to him.

The convention stands adjourned to Mr. Dickinson's innkeeper at Hatfield, to the 1st Tuesday of January next, at two o'clock P. M.

A member of said Convention.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

The Dispute Compromised.

SOME of the late writers on county conventions, say they are constitutional; others say they are not. Those who say they are not constitutional, mean they are not a body pointed out, described or known by the constitution: that they are not vested by the constitution with any legal authority; or that they have no more authority in a constitutional view, than any other body of men convened, of the same number and size.—Those who say county conventions are constitutional bodies, mean that they are not forbid by the constitution, but tolerated. To compromise the dispute, I beg leave to adduce an anecdote of an honest Hybernian Matron, who hearing some of her neighbours disputing, and finding that they grew warm in a trifling dispute, stepped up to them and addressed them thus, "harkee, my friends, ye've said enough on both sides: I'll tell ye how 'tis: ye're both right, and ye're both awrong." The truth is, that the constitution, mentions nothing of any such conventions. A dispute of this sort is just as frailless, as it would be to dispute, whether a man with a fish-net wrapt round his naked body, straddling a great ram, was cloathed or uncloathed, on foot or on horseback. He is neither. So county conventions are neither constitutional nor unconstitutional. Under some circumstances they might do good: under others they do awrong.

IRENICUS ARBITER.

The Governor's ADDRESS to the MILITIA, at the REVIEW at Cambridge.

Gentlemen of the Militia:

THE review I have just had of so respectable a body of the militia, affords me the sincerest pleasure. That pleasure is enhanced by the confideration, that in the neighbourhood, a much larger body of militia, is now in readiness to join this body, at the shortest notice, for the important purpose of supporting, free and uncontrouled, the administration of justice: And other bodies of militia, had there been occasion, would chearfully, and with the utmost alacrity, have appeared for the same purpose.

This general and spirited disposition, in every class of citizens, to support that administration, in the support of which is involved the support of the constitution, the laws and government of the Commonwealth, must convince those persons who are engaged in the nefarious plan of overturning them, that their base attempts will prove abortive; and at the same time, bring upon their own heads, the destruction they meditate against the Commonwealth.

Influenced by your example, an example worthy of universal adoption, the good sense of the people of this commonwealth, and their regard for their own happiness, must on due reflection, excite them to reprobate and prevent all proceedings, that have a tendency to obstruct justice; to interrupt the due execution of the laws; or in any instance to contravene our excellent constitution of government; framed by their authority, and which they have, with so much wisdom, adopted.

That constitution it is their duty, and equally their interest, to defend, as well against internal as external foes; and to that defence the virtue of our patriotic citizens, if duly in exercise, is abundantly adequate.

"When dangers threat, the patriot's mind
"Swells in proportion to the menaced danger."

By such a conduct, our enemies of every description will find, that their machination to overturn the government, can produce no other effect, than a firmer union among ourselves; and a determination to discover, and bring to punishment, the authors of those machinations and all other disturbers of the public peace.

Such a conduct also, will demonstrate, that we know the value of the constitution; that we are determined to support it; and that we are not undeserving the liberty it secures to us; that liberty, and that constitution for which we have so nobly contended; and to obtain which so many of our citizens have, with a patriotic heroism, shed their blood.

"O let them never perish in your hands,
"But piously transmit them to your children."

In that case, their benedictions will be gratefully bestowed on their fathers of the present generation, until time, the great extinguisher itself shall expire.

It is with pleasure gentlemen, I take this opportunity to declare, and justice to you demands the declaration, that your spirited conduct on this occasion, merits the applause of every friend to the constitution. As one of them, and also as the Representative of this Commonwealth, I now give you, both officers and soldiers, my warmest thanks for it: And among your officers the Major-General, in particular, is justly intitled to them.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica) Sept. 16.

The fate of his Majesty's ship Cato, of 50 guns, has at length transpired, by means of a letter from a gentleman at Bombay, to his friend in this island, which contains, in substance, the following account of that melancholy affair, gathered from the deposition of three persons who escaped the dreadful catastrophe, and got safe. suffering variety of misery, to he Portuguese settlement of Goa, where they were examined with great solemnity, before the officers of a court of justice.

"The Cato man of war was wrecked on King's island, one of the Maldavia's. Vice-Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, the rest of the officers, and the whole of the crew, who went on shore from the ship wreck, excepting only the three deponents, were tied two and two together, by the inhuman natives, and thrown into a deep pit, in which they were buried alive."

NEW-YORK, November 8.

SHIP NEWS.

BY the last accounts from the combined American fleet, we learn, "That after having put to sea with a fair wind, and a glorious prospect of a successful voyage, some dispute arose on board of several of the ships. The officers and part of the crew refusing to obey the directions of the Admiral and Commodores, resolved to steer their own course, the ship York leading the van; by this imprudent conduct, they were driven towards a lee shore and embayed—the Hampshire had near been lost amongst the brakers, but for the spirited conduct of the Captain and some of his officers, who nipt in the bud a dangerous conspiracy of the crew for destroying the ship.

The Boston, the oldest ship in the fleet, is, by the mutinous conduct of the crew, land-locked amongst rocks and sand banks; and it is not like to get clear, unless the officers and men see their common danger and inevitable ruin, and join hand in hand to warp the ship in the main channel again, or assistance is sent for that purpose from the other ships.

The crew on board the Rhode-Island, are all in an uproar, the officers having introduced paper tickets in lieu of gold and silver as pay notes; this is like to cause a dangerous mutiny or desertion of part of the crew, if persisted in.

Notwithstanding there has subsisted a difference between the officers of the Philadelphia, a very fine ship, yet the Captain being an old experienced veteran, knows so well how to play his card, as to keep in with both parties, and to prevent that difference from being detrimental to the voyage. It is said to be his wish, and also of most of the officers, that the Admiral and Commodores be obeyed; the and most of the other ships are come to an anchor, waiting to observe the conduct and fate of the York.

It is said that the man at the sounding line and lead, has often called out veer ship, the water shoals, gravelly bottoms and breakers a-head, without being heeded by rough-hewer the master pilot; many of the well wishers to the fleet hope that a surge of the sea may take that pilot overboard, as it has been suspected that he means to run the ship ashore. But most people entertain sanguine hopes, that at the stated meeting of the officers, they may resolve to put the ship about, before any of the fleet are totally lost on the coast of France or Holland.—The news further is, that the Lion and Unicorn ships of observation, belonging to the unnatural enemy of the American fleet, are watching every manœuvre of them, anxiously expecting that part of the fleet will get ship-wrecked, and the other separate, when they mean to take the advantage of their situation and commence hostilities.—May they be disappointed, is the wish of TOM BOWLING.

SALEM, Nov. 11.

The kingdom of Ireland, and the commonwealth of Massachusetts, seem to be in a similar situation—both internally convulsed by native malecontents—But it has been remarked, that as the works of creation are executed on a larger and more noble plan, in this quarter of the globe, than in any other, the views and objects of its inhabitants are proportionably more grand and extensive.—While the white boys, or the right boys of Ireland are only endeavouring to shake off the oppression of their tythe farmers, and avaricious priesthood, and lighten the burden of the oppressed, the Mobility of Massachusetts are determined to divest themselves of the intolerable grievance of natural evil in general, and enjoy the pure pleasures of paradise. While the former nobly resolve to oppose their mortal oppressors, until they are glutted with their blood, or until humanity raises her angel voice in the council of the nation, to protect the toiling peasants; the latter, more enterprising, aim a home stroke at Nature herself, pull down her constitution, abolish her laws, and totally annihilate the evils which have, until this aurora of the Millenium, been tacked to human life!

BOSTON, November 17.

The following paragraph contains particulars of the transactions at Taunton, during the late session of the Supreme judicial Court at that place, which we have not yet published.

On Sunday, previous to the sitting of the Supreme judicial Court at Taunton, Gen. Cobb received information, that the mob intended an opposition. In consequence of this, the night following, he directed fifteen or twenty men to take possession of the Court-House, and secure the field-piece. Also called upon the same militia, who had so effectually supported the Court of Common Pleas, to make their appearance once more on the present occasion. They arrived in season, and consisted of two or three companies from Bridgewater, under the command of Col. Orr; two companies from Raynham—a town celebrated for its unanimous attachment to government, led on by their captains Hall and Washburn;—a spirited Volunteer company from Rehoboth, headed by Lieutenants Peake and Carpenter;—and a Volunteer company from Taunton, under Capt. Williams. The mob assembled on Tuesday, but under such apprehension, they did not choose to approach nearer than a mile and a half of the scene of action. Pearse, one of their leaders, returned in the evening, advising the rest, before he withdrew, to disperse: telling them he had been deceived relative to the disposition of the county; if they persisted, it would certainly terminate in disgrace. However, a David Valentine, who pretended to the principal command, had influence enough to prevent this; and sent into every town of the county, and other towns adjacent, for reinforcement. On Wednesday, about two o'clock in the afternoon, they ventured to shew themselves on the green, in front of the militia, under the command of Valentine. Their numbers were 144 armed, and about 36 unarmed. The militia at this time were reinforced by a large company from the south of Taunton, under Capt. Townsend, and two companies from Dighton, under the Captains Walker and Talbot. The mob appeared to have an inclination to march into the rear of the militia; but the bayonets which were ready to receive them, and charging the field piece in their sight, soon brought them to their senses; and they retreated to a proper distance. They had foolishly imagined that those of the militia would join them; but instead of that, some of their own party withdrew and went over to the militia. Valentine then asked permission to wait on the Court, which was granted; He there presented a petition, signed only by by himself, in behalf of the county of Bristol, that all civil actions might be continued to the next term. He no sooner presented this, than he was seized with a panick, and discovered an inclination to withdraw without an answer. But his Honour the Chief Justice called after him, stop man, with an authority that occasioned his instant return. He was then reprimanded, for his folly and presumption, in such a manner, that he has confessed "he shrunk into nothing, and seemed to himself dropping through the floor of the Court-House, which would have been a relief to him had it taken place." He after this joined his party, and sometime in the evening they all dispersed, and were heard of no more. The militia, were not dismissed until Friday in the afternoon, when the business of the Court was over. They justly derived to themselves great honour and applause for their order, regularity and firmness. They one and all acted from principle—from a thorough conviction that they were securing the good and happiness of their country; and held the mob in such detestation, that they solemnly declared, if the vengeance slumbered on, and did not reach them in a constitutional way, they themselves would execute it in that complete and exemplary manner, that very few hereafter, in the county of Bristol, would be disposed to disturb the common peace, and thus daringly insult the majesty of the people.

WORCESTER, Nov. 23.

Notwithstanding all that has been done to ease the people by the General Court, on Tuesday last, the day to which the Court of Sessions for this county stood adjourned, a company of armed men, about 60 in number, and headed by a Mr. Gale of Princeton, entered the North part of the town, with a view to prevent said Court's doing any business—the Court met and adjourned until ten o'clock next day; about 30 more armed men, it is said, from Shrewsbury, arrived in the evening. Early the next morning, about 14 men in arms, for the like purpose, arrived also from Shrewsbury, and soon after 50 more from Hubbardston, and the neighbouring towns. The Court met according to adjournment, at Mr. Patch's tavern—a petition was presented to them by a committee from the insurgents, requesting them to adjourn until after a new choice of Representatives—this it was not in the power of the Court to comply with. After this the men in arms, with all their leaders, took possession of the ground adjoining the Court-House—notwithstanding this the Court soon after, preceded by the High-Sheriff, made an attempt to enter the Court-House—they walked through the ranks of the insurgents, who had opened to the right and left, but were stopped a little distance from the steps by three rows of pointed bayonets—the High-Sheriff then read the proclamation in the Riot-Act, and assured them he would do his duty. The Justices being finally refused admittance into the Court-House, dispersed—without doing any business. It is to be remarked that as there was no expectation of an opposition to the sitting of the Sessions, so no previous steps were taken by government to protect this court.

The General Court ended the business of the late Session on Saturday last. In our next we hope to give our readers the heads of the several Acts they have passed—among which are—the Tender-Act—Act of indemnity—Act reducing the Fee-Bill—Act for the more easy paying of back Taxes—Act regulating the Courts of Common Pleas and Sessions of the Peace.

NORTHAMPTON, November 21.

It must give every lover of his country pleasure to be informed, that the nail manufactory is brought to such perfection throughout the United States of America, as to stop the importation of that article; and there remains not a doubt but this and many other branches of manufacture, if countenanced by government, would soon rival the British.

DIED, yesterday, very suddenly Lieut. Asa Wright, in the 46th year of his age.

STRAYED or Stolen from the Subscriber, about the 17th instant, a Bay Stone HORSE; two years old last, both hind feet white, was never docked, carries his head pretty high, has no artificial mark. Whoever will take up said Horse, and return him to the owner, or give information where he may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

SIMEON CLAP.

Northampton, Nov. 29, 1786.

Just Imported from LONDON,

By Levi Shephard,

A general Assortment of

DRUGS,

Which are now ready for sale at his Store, north of the court-house, in Northampton, where Physicians and private families may be supplied upon such terms as, he has no doubt, will give entire satisfaction to the purchaser.

He has likewise a variety of other Articles,

——VIZ.——

PAINTER's Colours, Crockery Ware, Ginger by the cwt. or less quantity, Cinnamon, Cloves, Nutmegs, Molasses, Oil of Vitriol by the cwt or any quantity. Indigo of a superior quality, Logwood, Fustic, Redwood, Allum, Copperas, Spirits of Turpentine by the gallon, Varnish, Resin, Lamp Black.

ALSO,

Webster's Institute, 1st, 2d and 3d part, Press Papers, Writing-Paper, Sealing-Wax, and Wafers at 4s. per pound.

Said Shephard receives in pay for any of the above articles, almost every kind of Country Produce, and will pay Cash for Shipping Furrs and Bees-Wax.

Nov. 15. 1786.

Just Published, and to be sold at this Office,

A Wonderful Discovery of a

HERMIT,

Who lived upwards of two hundred Years.

An ADDRESS to the Public. Part IV.

Friends and Brethren,

THE motives which have induced me heretofore to addreſs you, and which now influence me, are to rectify ſome miſtakes which many honeſt minded people have been led into, & prevent the bad conſequences of them; to ſet truth before you, and thereby lay a foundation for a right judgment and a right conduct, in the important matters of the preſent day. I have no ſiniſter ends to ſerve: my intereſt is connected and ſtands or falls with that of the public: and therefore I hope for your candid attention.

It has been given out, and is believed by many, that there would have been no attempt to ſtop the ſitting of the Supreme Court at Springfield, had not the militia been called to ſupport them: and the Governor as well as others has been blamed for that meaſure. But reaſon will inform us that when thoſe who had ſtopped the ſitting of the inferior Court, reflected on their precipitate and illegal conduct; they apprehended they ſhould be indicted if the Superior Court ſat: and the truth of the fact is, that ſeveral companies were inliſted expreſsly to prevent the ſitting of that court, long enough before the time of its ſeſſion to have authentic accounts thereof ſent to the Governor, and for him to take advice and ſend his orders to this county ſeaſonably to call the militia. Theſe are facts capable of the fulleſt proof. That it was the duty of all public officers, to whom authentic intelligence of theſe things came, to inform the governor; appears from the conſtitution, chap. 2. ſect. 1. art. 12. compared with chapt. 6. And that the Governor was not blamable in ordering out the militia on the occaſion; but acted agreeable to the conſtitution and his oath, will likewiſe appear to any who will read the conſtitution, chap. 2. ſect 1. art. 7. and chap. 6. And that he did not act raſhly, but with prudence and the beſt advice, appears from his ſpeech at the opening of the late ſeſſion, and the evidence adduced in ſupport of it.

From theſe poſitions I would infer, that people ought to be careful not to aſſert for truth, that which is falſe in fact; nor blame rulers while they are ignorant of the ground and reaſons of their conduct. A proper jealouſy and watchfulneſs to preſerve our conſtitutional rights and privileges is a political virtue: but when executive rulers act according to known principles of law and conſtitution, (as it is, at firſt ſight evident the Governor and ſubordinate officers did, in the caſe referred to) there a prompt obedience in the ſubject is an indiſpenſable duty. How often are plots laid againſt the ſtate which require the greateſt ſecrecy and diſpatch to countermine and fruſtrate them? how often do caſes happen in almoſt all governments, when if the moſt ſalutary plans of rulers were publicly known, the good effects of them would thereby be prevented? It is not neceſſary that the ſubject ſhould in all caſes and at all times know the reaſon of the rulers conduct; in ſome caſes it is not fit the ſubject ſhould know till the end be accompliſhed. If the ruler calls upon the ſubject for that aſſiſtance or ſervice which he is authoriſed to call for, and no more; his order ought to be chearfully obeyed. There muſt be ſo much confidence placed in rulers, or no government can be ſupported. Such a jealouſy of rulers as prevents obedience in ſuch caſes, deſtroys the foundations of governments; or at leaſt weakens and cuts the ſinews of it, ſo as to prevent its good and ſalutary effects. The unhappy effects of ſuch jealouſy, and (to ſay no worſe) a ſupine neglect to obey orders, are too viſible to need any mention. Should there be a ſimilar call in future, I could wiſh that a ſenſe of duty might excite a more prompt and general compliance. When we have appointed rulers to be watchmen and guardians of our rights and liberties, and they call us to defend them, is it, in that caſe, left to the diſcretion of each individual ſubject whether he will comply with the call or not? No: Reaſon, duty, the ſocial bonds of our common intereſt and ſafety require a ready compliance. Weak therefore is the objection which ſome made againſt turning out at the late call, viz. "they feared that ſo many going on government ſide would be the occaſion of ſhedding blood." If we reaſon from facts the chearful turning out of the militia at Northampton a few years ago, and the ſpirited exertions of the officers and gentlemen then prevented the effuſion of human blood: and ſo did the late ſpirited exertions of the beſt officers and gentlemen in the county, and of the worthy yeomanry who chearfully obeyed orders of late at Springfield. The greater and more reſpectable the number which turns out to oppoſe inſurgents, the leſs is the probability of battle. My countrymen, 'tis a redreſs of grievances which the inſurgents have profeſſed to aim at; I am willing they ſhould have it, and would ever have joined with them in every proper meaſure to obtain it. We are informed that our General Court (the only proper body to redreſs public grievances) have not only been willing, but have done what was in their power to redreſs them. But we muſt not think the Court can free us from all difficulties: we muſt not think that we can be freed from the debt incured by a long and expenſive war without our own exertions: if they can point out the beſt methods of raiſing and applying monies for that purpoſe, they do well. We ought to wait till we are authentickly informed what they have done. If any have not patience enough to wait for official accounts, we may determine that a redreſs of grievances is not their aim. We may alſo draw up the ſame concluſion if we find that the Court have honeſtly endeavoured to redreſs public grievances, and have in fact redreſſed any conſiderable number of them, and yet the inſurgents ſhew the ſame uneaſy diſpoſition as before. For rational men cannot expect that, in ſuch a difficult day as this, every man's complaint and grievance will be redreſſed and removed at once. If the preſent Court have done ſomething to redreſs grievances, let us chuſe wiſe and honeſt men next election, and hope they will do more. In the mean time let us apply ourſelves to honeſty, frugality and induſtry, in patient expectation of better times: for that will make our own difficulties and thoſe of our rulers leſs, and our own lives and theirs more comfortable. Let us ſtudy to be quiet and do our own buſineſs, and mark them which are contentious and unruly and deſpiſe government. Let us weigh things well in our minds, be calm and ſteady, and not ſurpriſed if things turn contrary to our expectations; but hope and truſt in the mercy of God, who has hitherto delivered us from all our foes both foreign and domeſtic. In reliance upon whoſe beneficent providence I ſubſcribe myſelf, the public's humble ſervant,

The FREETHINKER.

LONDON, Auguſt 1.

The Madrid Gazette, of Wedneſday the 12th of July, relates, that the greateſt rejoicings were expected throughout the whole kingdom of Spain, on account of the manifeſto publiſhed by the Emperor of Morocco, to give liberty of trade, reſidence, and religion, to the different European ſubjects. It is, beſides, no ſmall conſolation to a people long harraſſed by the piratical cruelties and depredations of the Moors, to conſider themſelves in a ſtate of amity with thoſe once inveterate foes who have been plundering their ſhips and inſulting their coaſts for above two hundred years. There are computed to be upwards of one thouſand Spaniards, of all ranks, now in actual ſlavery in the dominions of Morocco, many of whom are perſons of diſtinction, whoſe friends either would not, or could not, pay the exorbitant prices demanded for their ranſom. Among theſe latter, is the Count d'Aquilié, who was taken on his return from Malta, in a Leghorn veſſel, about three years ago. This Nobleman's family offered the ſum of ten thouſand piſtoles to the preſent Emperor, whoſe domeſtic ſlave he is; but it was refuſed.——There is, however, no doubt but that the late accommodations will ſet all the Spaniſh ſubjects free, as ſoon as preliminaries can be ſettled, and no cauſe to dread the like diſaſters for the time to come.

Extract of a letter from Exmouth, Aug. 8.

"An odd circumſtance has happened here, which has created no ſmall diverſion.——A few days ago a decent looking man went through this town, imploring the aſſiſtance of the charitably diſpoſed, with the tale of his having lived in great repute, from whence he went to America, and had been ruined by the war, in conſequence of his being a loyaliſt; was juſt returned to England, and in his paſſage had loſt his wife, who had left him five children. By this plauſible ſtory he received many liberal donations, and ſpent a very jovial evening at a public houſe with a young Journeyman taylor, with whom he was to ſleep. They had not been long in bed, before this diſtreſſed widower diſcovered herſelf to her bed-fellow to be a female; which ſudden diſcovery ſo affrighted the young taylor, that he jumped out of the bed, and ran down ſtairs to the landlord, to whom he related the ſtory, when they got a light, and went to the woman, who pretended to be ſo faſt aſleep that they could not awake her. The taylor then took his own cloaths, and retired to another room; and in the morning the lady roſe early, and after paying her bill, decamped in great haſte, and has not ſince been heard of."

When the lady diſcovered herſelf to the Exmouth taylor, ſhe ſaid, in a genſle voice, "how will my ſnip rejoice when "he hears that ſhe, whom this day he "took for *maſculine*, is *feminine*!" The "Devil you are!" exclaimed the taylor, leaping out of bed, "then I will be *neuter*."

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DECEMBER, 1786. THE [NUMB. 14.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

To the MEMBER of the Hatfield CONVENTION,

SIR,

I Shall firſt take notice of ſome obſervations in your laſt number, and ſhall then attempt to ſhew; not only that the ſtate is able to redeem the notes, but that it may be done in a mode eaſy to individuals, and without a criminal failure of performing the public promiſes; and that it is clearly the duty and intereſt of the ſtate to do it.

You have ſo often complained that the government cheated the ſoldiers, that I hoped you would propoſe, if the holders of the notes were to receive but a ſmall part of their amount, that the ſoldiers ſhould have the reſidue: but not a word of this. Your object therefore is not to relieve the perſons defrauded, but to make ſome profit of the fraud.

At length your plan has appeared; the collectors are to take the notes at five ſhillings on the pound, allowing intereſt at that rate, and this you ſay will prevent their further depreciation. But had you any ground to affirm this? Orders on the hard money taxes are ſold for leſs than twelve ſhillings on the pound, and thoſe drawn on the collectors of impoſt I preſume are ſold as low. The taxes granted to redeem the army notes, were granted in money, but proviſion was made that the notes ſhould be received. The conſequence you ſay is, that thoſe notes are ſold for ſix ſhillings on the pound. If your propoſal ſhould be adopted, what would prevent the notes falling to fifteen pence on the pound? indeed they would probably fall more in proportion below five ſhillings on the pound, than they now are below twenty; for about 19-20ths of the notes, called army notes, are provided for in the taxes, and no other can be received; but by your plan all the notes may be received. Beſides the government have never hinted a deſign to reduce the notes, they have often ſolemnly engaged to pay them; but if they reduce them to five ſhillings, the reduction is really to one ſhilling; they can make it with half the remorſe; and every one will expect it.

Your propoſal is more laboured than was neceſſary; if you had only ſtopped the payment of intereſt, the notes would have fallen to one ſhilling on the pound, without further trouble, and then one ſcaling would have been ſufficient.

Although no intereſt is to be paid for ſeveral years, the government are to aſſure the original poſſeſſors of the notes, that they ſhall be paid the whole principal and intereſt. But can government give them ſtronger aſſurances than they have fifty times before? and can they live upon ſuch an aſſurance ſeveral years without intereſt? Many of them have no other ſupport; and all will be willing to get rid of a debtor, who is governed by no principle and ſubject to no law.

You propoſe, at ſome future period, to diſcriminate between thoſe that ought to have the full value, and thoſe who bought them at a diſcount; and conſeſs, if the generality of the notes have not been ſold, you have ſaid nothing to the purpoſe. But why can't the diſcrimination be made now, that you may know whether you have ſaid any thing to the purpoſe or not? I can think of no reaſon for putting off, unleſs it be to compel thoſe who have not ſold their notes to ſell them, and thereby fit them for another ſcaling.

You claim the character of an honeſt man; but although you confeſs the injuſtice of ſcaling the notes, as all the government could do would be to give new notes which would depreciate. Yet you propoſe to ſcale them to five ſhillings on the pound, and pay neither principal or intereſt at that rate, unleſs by taxes. You call the preſent mode of redeeming the notes at the nominal rate by taxes, cheating the public creditors, and yet modeſtly propoſe to redeem them by taxes at five ſhillings on the pound. Although you acknowledge that thoſe who have not ſold their notes ſhould receive the whole principal and intereſt, yet you are not diſpoſed to know who they are, until the debt is reduced within a very narrow compaſs; and in the mean time make no proviſion for them, except by taxes at five ſhillings on the pound. You are determined not to injure the government by your imprudence, but in almoſt every paragraph you charge them with cheating and fraud, at a time when government is weakened and reviled, as much as even its enemies wiſh; and the fraud appears becauſe they have not in all reſpects done as you would have them, although they perfectly know when, and for what the notes were given, and have before them all the acts and promiſes on the ſubject; and you are quite unacquainted with each of thoſe points. If you expect that we allow you are honeſt, you ought in your turn to concede that you are not very diſcerning.—If you would be thought a friend to government, you ought to ſpeak of them in the language of decency: if your feelings towards them are really as bitter, as they are againſt the Old Republican, you muſt prudently conceal thoſe feelings, and not treat them with unmanly abuſe and inſolent ſcurrility. You will conſider that you ſtand forth as a champion; by giving the initials of your name, you appear to ſeek applauſe; and you ought not therefore to write in ſuch a ſtyle that a man of ſentiment will bluſh to be thought your correſpondent.

A private man who is honeſt, pays his debt as ſoon as he can; if he cannot pay when the note is out, he deſigns to do it afterwards. And why ſhould not the ſtate act on the ſame principles, if they wiſh to ſupport ſuch a character.

The people of this ſtate have paid more towards the expence of the war, within the laſt five years, than the whole amount of our ſtate notes; the pretence therefore that we are unable to redeem them, is groundleſs; if we can't do it in five years, we may take as much longer time as ſhall be neceſſary: but the mode of payment may be exceeding cheap to individuals, if they are inclined to avail themſelves of it.

I before obſerved, that the ſtate notes not provided for, amount to about 1,320,000l. they are now ſold at a cheaper rate, than ever before, and may be purchaſed at four ſhillings and ſix pence on the pound; the laſt ſtate tax was upwards of 300,000l. it will therefore follow, that if any man will now lay out a ſum in ſilver, equal to the whole amount of his laſt ſtate tax, in purchaſing thoſe notes, he will have his full proportion of them.

No one has ſuppoſed it would be diſhoneſt or diſhonourable for a man to purchaſe his proportion of the notes; if he obtains his proportion, it makes no great difference to him whether they are redeemed by being received in diſcharge of taxes or by payment of money;—if they are receivable in taxes, he delivers his note, and his rate is croſſed,—if money only is receivable, he muſt collect the money and pay it, and immediately produce his note and receive the money again,—in whatever manner therefore the notes are redeemed, the man who has his part of them is indemnified.

If the ſtate redeems the notes as faſt, and pays the intereſt as punctually as it can, it is guilty of no fraud. The ſtate is to be conſidered as an individual party to a contract. Although private perſons may ſell the notes for a ſmall part of their value, the ſtate is no more criminal than if ſtrangers did it. The only juſt way for the ſtate to prevent it, would be to raiſe the credit of the notes; but that is out of its power, if it can't redeem them, or more punctually pay the intereſt.

When the notes were iſſued, government engaged in every inſtance that taxes ſhould be levied to redeem them; if a tax is granted for that ſole purpoſe, and my part of the tax is five pounds, and I have a note of that amount, is any injury done by the ſtate, if they permit me to pay that note in diſcharge of my tax? You complain of this method as unjuſt, as many people are ignorant of the current value of notes, and are impoſed upon: I confeſs it is attended with ſome difficulties, it produces in a very ſmall degree, the ſame effects as a depreciated paper currency. In this caſe, the evil is only from a ſingle transfer of the notes; in the caſe of paper money, the like evil happens a thouſand times, in putting off the ſame bill; and the injury therefore would be a thouſand times greater. It is likely you approved of the vote for a paper currency ſubject to a depreciation; but if not, you ſit quietly without making any remarks upon it. But is not this ſtraining at a gnat and ſwallowing a camel? Perhaps it is owing to the different degrees of reſpect you have, to the two bodies, by whom the two plans are reſpectively approved. However, the inconvenience complained of, may, I think, in a great meaſure be obviated: the town clerk or ſome other perſon in each town, might, with a very little trouble, inform himſelf and the other inhabitants the current price of the notes: or the printers, if they find it agreeable to their cuſtomers, would readily do it.

An objection has been made, that the notes will riſe in their current value—that may be the caſe ſome time hereafter; but I think it is hardly poſſible they ſhould riſe ſoon to any great degree. Every year a new General Court is choſen; and ſuch an opinion has been entertained even by ſome who have never ſold their notes, of a diſpoſition in many people to defraud the public creditors: that if the General Court ſhould do all in their power, they would find it difficult for a long time to wipe off that ſuſpicion. But it may be prudent for every perſon, who has not his proportion, to buy them as ſoon as may be, for they may riſe, and certainly no honeſt man can wiſh to have them any lower.

Many, it is ſaid, are unable to purchaſe their proportion, even at the low rate of four ſhillings and ſix pence on the pound. But if they were ſeriouſly diſpoſed to do it, few would fail in the attempt. If the people in this ſtate had expended no more for imported articles in the year 1786, than they did in the year 1776, it is likely the ſum ſaved, would have been ſufficient to purchaſe all the notes of this ſtate at their preſent price.

Your principal argument for reducing the notes, is drawn from the conduct of government, touching the old money; if that was wrong it ought not to be imitated: But you have not ſuggeſted, and I have never heard it ſuggeſted, that the ſtate has not received the full value of all the notes given by the Treaſurer; but was that the caſe with continental money? ſome of the later emiſſions, which were far greater than the firſt, came into circulation at a rate not better than forty for one: thoſe bills mingled with the others, and rapidly paſſed through many hands without diſcrimination; it was therefore thought extremely difficult to make a diſtinction that would do more juſtice than to conſider them all alike.

The principal cauſe why the notes have been ſold ſo low, has been, that the ſtate could not be compelled to pay; otherwiſe ſtate notes would have been ſold as high as thoſe of any town or individual. And ſhall we avoid paying our debts becauſe we can? a knave would do it, but I think an honeſt man would not.—The happineſs of the ſtate depends upon the virtue and integrity of the citizens: but can we look for integrity in private perſons, if the ſtate by its example recommends to them not to pay their debts if they can avoid it?

In modern times, a ſtate without credit is without ſecurity. This ſtate is now in its youth, and reſembles a young man juſt entering into life, whoſe character may be of more value to him, than the gain of a thouſand tricks. Suppoſe a young trader, who was not twenty-one years old, ſhould purchaſe of ſeveral merchants, a quantity of goods, and give his notes for the real value; ſome of them afterwards doubting of his honeſty, ſhould ſell them at a conſiderable diſcount. The purchaſer ſhould apply for payment; the young man ſhould tell him, I can't pay at preſent; but as ſoon as I am able, will pay according to promiſe: in ſuch caſe his character for integrity would ſtand fair. But ſuppoſe he ſhould ſay, you bought the notes at a low rate, you can recover nothing by law, but if you will take two thirds of what you gave for them, and take your pay when, and in what mode I think proper, I will pay you; otherwiſe I will pay you nothing—When the merchants who never ſold their notes apply, our gentleman ſays to them, others have ſold their notes at a low rate, and your goods were no better than theirs; but if you will take one third of the value, I will pay you in five or ſix years, otherwiſe you muſt wait till I am pleaſed to pay.—Could ſuch a young ſharper have the leaſt hope to ſucceed in

business, or restore his reputation? Indeed an age of repentance would never wash out the infamy. But what character must his friends be of, who should stand round him applauding his tricks, and flattering him that he was now in the road to figure and fortune? The condition of a community that should play off such tricks, would be more desperate than that of an individual: although no one would trust him, from an opinion of his honesty, they might from an expectation that the law would compel him to pay: but there is no law to inforce payment from a state and what some people esteem a great blessing to this state, would in the case I have mentioned, prove the greatest curse. I am, yours &c.

A. B.

The foregoing piece was received last week, for publication—but on account of its length, and being received so late, was unavoidably omitted.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

The Peace-Maker, principally to the Old Republican, or

My Countryman,

WHEN I wrote my former piece, had but little thoughts of beginning another—for I am not so great a practitioner and perhaps time not so plenty as the Old Republican: for it appears by reading the papers that his ink is not yet frozen, and, his pen has but a little respite; but perhaps the public will be willing to accept the Peace-Maker's will for the deed. But the Old Republican casts mud for the Peace-Maker's observations, he says, "true representations are of use to the public,—after such he has faithfully laboured." He further adds, "he has been employed in taking of films from the people's eyes, which have been brought on by the heats and violences of the times." But I flatter myself that the public are as proper judges when the film is taken off, or another put on, as the Old Republican or the Peace-Maker; and methinks if the former gentleman should read his Strictures attentively, he would find there has been a film on his eyes, and perhaps he would rectify his mistakes and point out his errors; for it appears that the tenor of his writings are that conventions are a body unknown in the constitution, and if this be true, it is surprising to me that our wise men never found the true meaning of the constitution till since the Hatfield convention. Some think the Old Republican bears such testimony against conventions, because they did at Hatfield vote such a number of grievances so contrary to his mind—others imagine the fundamental objection is he don't view them when assembled as a peaceable, orderly body, agreeable to the 19th article of rights; and perhaps this may be something the reason, their dress and features are disagreeable to his eye, viz. a great brimed hat and a long nose. And now Mr. Republican, we are not insensible that a skillful physician is known by his great cures, and when a patient is exercised with a film on his eyes, he is fond to apply to such a one without loss of time, and the physician undertakes the cure with the greatest freedom, and searches his skill to the bottom because he wants to get custom; he uses medicines; flatters the patient day after day for six weeks together, and all the physician can do, the patient grows worse every week, and now if he does not receive any thanks he has as much as justice would allow him. But when we find out the character of this physician, he is an imposture—sets up practising without being taught, and perhaps he has studied one author, and there he takes part of a sentence as best suits his fancy, and leaves the rest. With some disorders the physician may not be mistaken, that the distemper of the patient has come to a crisis and in a way of a recovery, at the same time the patient is slow to believe the reality; but where a physician has tryed his skill on thousand's eyes, and the distemper rather encreases, it is not strange if some of his best friends should be his greatest opposers. But the Old Republican further adds, "as water is to lime, so is truth to the misinformed, and when the lime is slacked, it will be good for use;" this invitation seems to amount to this—that when we see a dispute between individuals or parties, and almost to bloodshed, and truth wanting on on one side, or both sides, as good a way as any is for one to enrage their tempers to such a degree as water will lime, and when cool, then they will be good members of society. But this I think is very contrary from the rule we ought to go by; for when we see a dispute arise, it is the duty of all men, and more especially christians and those that have a desire to be peace-makers, to enquire into the first rise of the controversy and advise them to settle by soft and persuasive arguments. for they know not what the event will be. But he adds further, "fair representations becomes a writer;" he intimates here that the Peace-Maker has represented that the senate have opposed the house in useful regulations, and this came from a representative; but if it a mistake, I do now to believe it is the first that has been in our public papers. And he don't stop here, he says, "the present salaries do not amount to one half so much as they did in Governor Hutchinson's administration; if this be fact, I can't see why our legislatures are not blameworthy for not publishing the true state of facts before now, for how often has it been reported for facts that our heavy taxes did not diminish the principal but only the interest. But now we have a report (some think it wants confirmation) that we have but a trifle of our domestic debt. And now Mr. Republican, let us lay aside the base-born brat of envy, and perhaps if we should rehearse the back papers, we should find who began this practice first after the Hatfield convention, with an addition of scandalizing. The Old Republican adds once more, and this is more unexpected than all the rest, he cannot confess to apply to the chairman for fasting—The principal objection he gives, he don't know all would lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting; by this rule he may neglect the duty of prayer, because he don't know his hearers will lift up holy hands and humble hearts with the voice to the supreme Being. But let me tell you my friend, however light you may set by such a great privilege in such a difficulting day as the present, that if those judgements are removed, and we are prepared for such mercies, we may expect more severe vials of God's wrath on a guilty land. We have all by nature sins on our eyes, and should we immediately seek to that great Physician that has opened the eyes of one that was born blind, methinks this would scatter the dark cloud sooner than the General Court, Conventions, or the Old Republican has; or can do, and I know of no better way than by fasting and prayer. But the Old Republican after he has laboured so hard, so much said, and so often repeated, and almost if not quite sufficient to reach the patience of Job to read his strictures attentively, and seldom if ever we saw a minister in the pulpit seeing fourth the necessity of the new birth to his stony ground hearer, more engaged than he has been against conventions, until he comes to a close of his last number, he says, "the convention might have helped us against these evils, had they pursued cool and dispassionate measures, (and he promoted to the honour of being a chairman) and seriate enquiry attended their debates; he intimates he will have no objection against such an honourable body. And now it lies with the Old Republican to state the difference between a convention that votes eighteen articles of grievances, and one that pursues cool and dispassionate measures, and make choice of him for their chairman. And I cannot see that if the former is a body unknown to the constitution, why is he so desirous to be known. And one thing I shall say no more to the Old Republican at present, for he seems to think the Peace-Maker has very disjointed ideas, and a poor knack in drawing comparisons; but perhaps if this don't weary his and the public's patience too much, after a while they may hear from the Peace-Maker once more.

B. M. Elihu calls for my observation, he says, "there are many so ignorant, that if they see a man with a white shirt on, they are so much the poorer." He further adds, "if I get my living like an honest man, why may I not wear a white shirt and carry less money in my pocket." To which I answer with freedom in the affirmative. But Mr. Elihu, give me liberty to convey my ideas, and should have thought that a gentleman who pretends to have so great a share of sense, and learning, would have taken the hint before now,—I say how many and how often do we see speculators in public securities with a white shirt, perhaps ruffles and their neighbours cost on, who are well and a firm constitution. I say how often do we see such taking the advantage of the necessitous and ignorant farmers; and how often do we see from modern papers, prudence and industry recommended as a fundamental step for a relief of our burdens; and I flatter myself if those persons above described would put on a black frock, and put their shoulders to the wheel, and the people united with a divine blessing, the cart would be out of the mire. And now Mr. Elihu, I have one word more and shall conclude: if you should open the dictionary perhaps you would not find the signification of these words—let every man stick close to his calling, to be a man that labours in the ministry more than a man of any other calling.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

Please to insert the following, and you will oblige A. P.

A Consciousness of my inability, hath prevented my entering publicly the list of political disputants: and I am confident that some of our county scribblers might have been better employed, particularly the Peace-Maker, whose writings exhibit the most striking, and demonstrative proof of the depravity of human nature: a most exalted opinion of his supposed abilities, could alone induce our modern political ignoramus to venture abroad, at this inclement season, clad with a garb infinitely more black and ragged than his frock;—but I can dispense with his solecisms, and grammatical inaccuracies, being sensible that his occupation is unfriendly to such acquisitions: But surely, such an entire ignorance of the subject attempted to be discussed—such palpable inconsistences, disjointed ideas, lame comparisons, and insipid vulgar expressions, are unpardonable in any person actuated by the dictates of common sense. Mr. Peace-Maker, your ideas and sentences so obumbrate and intercept each other, that I cannot discern, whether in your opinion, conventions are bodies know to the constitution or not: addressing yourself to the Old Republican, you say, "you seem to think that the Senate is the great support of this commonwealth, but I cannot join with you; and to have any thing regulated by conventions, for they are nothing but scandalous men, persons of no principles, and almost ranked with the infernal crew." Now, if I were to guess at your meaning, it would be this, viz. that you cannot join with the Old Republican in having any thing regulated by conventions, on account of their flagitious characters; but this inference militates against another sentence, where you appear very friendly to conventions, and flatter yourself that 19-20ths of this county think they are constitutional; therefore we can draw no conclusion, except that the whole is a fiction de se. Another sentence, if possible more intricate and inconsistent than the former, is this, viz. "and I think myself that mobbing should be the last step that is taken, and we have heard that in England mobbing has answered a good purpose." Here you appear both friendly and enemical to mobs: and to remain under the pressure of your imaginary unjust, intolerable burdens, you seem desirous, by deserring to the last step, those measures which you have found by your extensive knowledge in history, beneficial in like cases;—unparalleled absurdities! a succession as lengthy as your piece, of similar jargons and obscurities, crowd upon my sight: but any further reflections on a piece which bids fair to prove so little influential on the minds of any class of people, would be superfluous, and spending my time, as you express it, for that which is neither eat, drink nor cloathing; therefore will conclude by addressing to you the words of the poet, after reminding you of the advice you gave, viz. "let every man stick close to his calling," and requesting you to ask yourself this question, "what have I done?" how have I murdered language, affronted common sense, and abused good manners? these thoughts having had due influence on your mind, more emphatically, and with greater prosperity than ever before, you will say, I have not lived as I ought to have done.

"Go wonderous creature mount where science guides;
Measure earth, weigh air, and state the tides:
Instruct the planets, in what orbs to run:
Correct old time and regulate the sun:
Go, soar with Plato, to the imperial sphere,
To thee, first good, first perfect, and first fair:
Or tread the mazy round, his followers tread:
Then quitting sense call imitating God.
As eastern priests in giddy circles run.
Then turn their heads, to imitate the sun.
Go, reach eternal wisdom how to rule,
Then drop into thyself, and be a fool."

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

AFTER thanking the Old Republican for his compliments, in Gazette, No. 12, I would enquire of him what right the people of this Commonwealth have to introduce a king in the year 1795, any more than in the year 1786? the Constitution tells us (article 7th in the declaration of rights which I have heretofore quoted, "that government is instituted for the common good: not for the profit, honour, or private interest of any one man, family or class of men) therefore the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter or totally change the same." But here I would enquire; when may they reform government; at the end of 15 years? no not so: But "when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it." If there is any clause in our frame of government that causes this right only to return at a stated period; then the constitution is so far repugnant and contradictory to this right, and therefore confounds itself; for instance, suppose it was at the Old Republican and others indicate to us it is, that the people have no power to reform government, until the 19th year of our constitution; that would be only enjoying what "incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible natural right," but one year out of 15: but such an inconsistency is "unknown to the constitution of this commonwealth;" nay the constitution "had more sense" than to leave any just ground for such interpretations: I know that the 10th article in the last chapter of the frame of government, obliges our legislature to call upon the people in the year 1795, to know whether they are contented with the constitution, or whether they desire any amendment; but that does not forbid the people exercising their incontestable right to reform government, "when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it" but instead there of does it not indicate something like what follows viz. Although the people should rest easy without manifesting any discontent, yet in order to rouse their attention and excite in them that jealousy for their liberties which is always necessary in a republican government; and for the more effectually adhering to and perfecting the rights of the constitution, the rulers are then obliged to call upon every individual citizen of this commonwealth—be you contented—or be you not—For any men (who pretend to adhere to republican principles, and vindicate the rights of our constitution,) to take an article that is wholly calculated to excite the people if they think it necessary to exercise a peculiar right of theirs, which right has it were the only fatal bar against tyranny: For them to rake such an article and make it a tool to cut off 14-15ths of that right, contradicts their profession and lays them in the lie. Can you my fellow-citizens rest easy and contented to see your constitutional rights so mangled to death by such tools? will these not with the same propriety, (after the expiration of the 15 years,) plead that the power of reforming government is wholly out of the people's hands, for there is not any other time appointed to call upon the people in that way, and perhaps by that means they will cut off the most essential step to our liberties.—I am not fond of unnecessary renovations in government, but I would that there was spirit and virtue enough in the people to shew a proper resentment even at every speculative attack upon their rights.

From one of the Community.

Mr. PRINTER,

I Happened last week at a public house in Northampton, and observed the following advertisement over the fire-place within the bar room:

"PROBATE COURT,

"For the county of Hampshire, on the last Tuesday of December next, will be held at the office of the subscriber, pretty fronting the Jail House in Northampton, and on the first Tuesday of every other month until further notice.

"By order of the Judge.

"JOHN C. WILLIAMS, Reg'r.

"Nov. 27th, 1786."

Permit me, Sir, through the channel of your paper, to congratulate the inhabitants of the county of Hampshire, in this day of tumultuous opposition to the Courts of Justice, that the Court will probably not be safely holden within the limits of the gaol-yard at Northampton; and that for the honor and dignity of the county, those important records (as appears by the Register's sign fronting the gaol) are safely kept within the same place.

Under these circumstances, and for the convenience of the good people, it must be presumed that constant attendance will be given.

Permit me likewise to inform the public, that marriages are solemnized at the same office, after two days publishment, or shorter notice, agreeably to the laws of this Commonwealth, for the usual fee—and a short prayer into the bargain.

THE INFORMER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Boston, Nov. 25, 1786.

THE Commander in chief has received information, that insurgents, in different parts of the state, are again embodying themselves to obstruct the course of law and the administration of justice in this Commonwealth.

The General Court, at their last session, convened for the express purpose of hearing the various complaints, existing in different parts of the State, have not only adopted every measure for their removal, which, after their most serious deliberation, they thought consonant to justice and the common good, but have taken the earliest opportunity of communicating their doings thereon to the public. These very measures, instead of giving quiet to the male-contents, have been added to their catalogue of grievances, and furnished them with new pretensions of complaint.

Hence it must be evident, that it is not within the reach of the Legislature, to satisfy their demands, consistently with the common interest. These outrageous proceeding, therefore, cannot longer be considered as having any thing for their object, but as levelled at the very existence of government. And the period seems to be fast approaching, when it must be determined, whether the good people of this Commonwealth, are to remain under the protection of their present free, and excellent Constitution, or submit their lives and their property to the will of the most restless and dangerous members of the community.

The Commander in Chief, relying with perfect confidence, on the countenance and support of his fellow-citizens, feels himself bound by the most sacred obligations of duty, to attempt, at all hazards, to crush every dangerous opposition to government.

He therefore calls upon the Major-Generals in this Commonwealth, immediately to see that their several divisions are perfectly organized, completely equipped, and ready to take the field at the shortest notice. He has perfect satisfaction in the belief, that the officers, at this critical period especially, will entertain so high a sense of duty, and of their responsibility to their country, that no exertions on their part will be wanting, fully to carry these orders into effect. And he flatters himself, that their task will not be arduous, as the good sense of the militia must evince their importance, and to induce a ready obedience.

LONDON, August 24.

Extract of a letter from Dublin, August 19.

"It is said that a member of the Royal Irish Society has discovered the certainty of longitude, by an application of the lunar phases. The mode would be deemed imperfect if the discovery did not accompany his calculations from the state of the dark, as well as the lucid intervals of this planet. Under the conviction of this discovery, it is said that the celebrated Mr. Parker intends to accompany Mr. Wyatt to the North-Pole, for the express purpose of making salt-petre at the extremity of the Arctick Circle."

A young gentleman of the customs in Edinburgh, has favoured us with the following extract of a letter, sent him from Dundee, dated August 17, 1786.

"Very little credit has been given to what Pontoppidan, Bishop of Bergen, in his natural history of Norway, says of a certain animal called Kraken; but if the declaration made by the master and mate of a Norway ship now here, whereof the inclosed is a copy, may be depended on, it will afford some reason to believe that there is in nature such a creature as he describes.

"It is proposed further to examine them, and the whole crew upon oath, and if any thing material occurs I shall acquaint you."

"At Dundee the 16th of August. Before J. R. Lamy, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Forfar, and Mr. John Guild, one of the present magistrates of Dundee, appeared Jens Anderson and Mads Jenson, master and mate of the Margaretta, of Eastereizer, of Norway, who declare, and it is further confirmed by their several journals produced, that on Saturday, the 5th day of this present month of August, between the hours of nine and ten in the forenoon of that day, being on their voyage to Dundee, and in latitude 56 16 N. about fifteen or sixteen leagues to the eastward of the island of Isay, they, as well as the whole crew of the said ship, perceived, within less than one mile distance to the southward of them, what they conceived to be an animal, called in Norway, a Sea Worm, a creature of a huge size, emerging from the sea: That from its appearance it seemed to form three low islands, or sand banks, of a greyish colour:—That they conceive the length of it to have been at least three English miles: That it lay stretched from S. W. to N. E. That its breadth appeared to be about 20 or 30 fathoms: That it was in sight fifty minutes, and went down gradually, without any remarkable agitation of the water. From the time of its ascending, and during its appearance on the water, the weather was perfectly calm, and it went down again as soon as a breeze came on. The waves broke on those parts of it which were above water, upon a bank. The greatest apparent height it bore above water seemed to be from two to three fathoms.

Declared and signed before us.

J. R. Lamy, J. P. Jens Anderson.
John Guild, Magist. Mads Jenson.

BALTIMORE, Nov 10.

We are informed that the jack-ass, and two she-asses, with the foreign pheasants and partridges, which arrived in the Iris on the 7th instant, from L' Orient, is a present from the Hon. the Marquis de la Fayette to His Excellency General Washington. The asses are from two to three years old, and cost at Malta three hundred guineas.—The silver and golden pheasants of China are beautiful birds, and cost sixteen guineas each. But this is not all; every expence attending their transportation has been paid, and a careful person employed, at a handsome, salary, to present them to the General.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 16.

We have it from authority, that Gen. Clark of Virginia, has lately had a rencounter with the savages in the western country, gained a capital advantage over them, and made forty of them prisoners. His army was comprised chiefly of Virginia volunteers, to whose valour and activity too much praise cannot be given.

NEWPORT, November 13.

The following proceedings were had by the Society of the Cincinnati of this State at their meeting in the town of Providence, on Thursday last, viz.

"This society, taking into their most serious consideration the situation of the United States, are convinced that the present disturbances in the several parts of the federal government, and the depredations of the savages upon their frontiers, are excited by the joint exertions of daring emissaries and disaffected citizens:—

"That the jealousies existing in the state tend to a subversion of their most essential liberties, & are dangerous to the national compact:—Therefore the virtue, the firmness, and the activity, of every class of people are necessary to meet the impending evils:

"Wherefore it is RESOLVED, nem. con.

"1st. That as we have adventured our lives and fortunes to obtain sovereignty and independence, we pledge ourselves, in the most sacred manner, to defend and support them against foreign invasions and internal enemies.

"2d. That therefore we will render our best services, whenever the cause of our country should require them, consistently with those great principles which first inspired our general orders."

BOSTON, Nov. 22.

On Saturday last, his Excellency the Governor was pleased to prorogue the General Court to Wednesday the 31st of January next.

The following are the titles of the several acts which were passed during the session, and to which the Governor was pleased to sign his approbation, &c.

An act confirming a treaty made with the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

An act for establishing a mint, for the coinage of gold, silver and copper.

An act to incorporate the plantation called Sterlington, in the county of Lincoln, into a town by the name of Union.

An act for incorporating a part of Templeton, and a part of Athol, in the county of Worcester, into a town by the name of Gerry.

An act for the altering of a certain clause in an act intitled "an act regulating the exportation of flax-seed, pot-ash, pearl-ash, beef, pork, barrelled fish, and dried fish.

An act for the confirming of the second church in Boston, so called, in their title to certain land.

An act for establishing rules and articles for governing the troops stationed in forts and garrisons within this Commonwealth; and also the militia or any part thereof, when called into actual service.

An act to prevent routs, riots and tumultuous assemblies, and the evil consequences thereof.

An act providing for the more easy payment of the specie taxes, assessed previous to the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.

An act for suspending the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus.

An act for establishing a Comptroller General.

An act to bring into the public treasury the sum of one hundred and sixty-three thousand & two hundred pounds, in public securities, by a sale of a part of the eastern lands; and to establish a lottery for that purpose.

An act for rendering processes in law less expensive.

An act granting indemnity to sundry offenders on certain conditions, and providing for the trial of such who neglect or refuse to comply with said conditions, and of those who shall be guilty of like offences.

An act for suspending the laws for the collecting of private debts, under certain limitations.

An act appropriating the revenue arising from the duties of Impost and Excise.

An act to raise public revenue by excises.

An act to raise a public revenue by impost.

NORTHAMPTON, December 6.

A slight shock of an earthquake was perceived in this and the adjacent towns, on Wednesday last, between four and five o'clock, P. M. but not preceded as usual by a rumbling noise.

It is said, that our consolidated state notes are again rising to 5 and 6 shillings on the pound

King of Prussia's Death.

At length, this veteran, after being an hundred times put to death by the London paragraphists, has actually quit this terrestial scene, and gone to that awful and impartial tribunal, where all his laurels, his victories, his conquests, will not avail, where a severe account will be demanded of that most important trust ever reposed in any of the human kind, viz. the kingly office.

This Monarch expired on the 17th of August, at 3 o'clock in the morning, in the 75th year of his age, having reigned 46 years, 2 months and 17 days.

Fresh Goods.

Prescott & Dexter,

Have just opened and now ready for Sale, at their Store in Northampton,

A general Assortment of Winter

GOODS.

N. B. Grain of all kinds, Bees-Wax, Flax, Flax-Seed, Old Pewter, Butter, and Pork, are taken in exchange for the above Goods.

Dec. 6, 1786.

STRAYED or Stolen from the Subscriber, about the 17th instant, a Bay Stone HORSE, two years old last, both hind feet white, was never docked, carries his head pretty high, has no artificial mark. Whoever will take up said Horse, and return him to the owner, or give information where he may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded by

SIMEON CLAP.

Northampton, Nov. 29, 1786.

Just Published, and to be Sold at this Office,

A Wonderful Discovery of a

HERMIT,

Who lived upwards of two hundred Years.

FOR SALE,

Two Rights of Land,

in the Township of Victory, state of Vermont. Enquire of the Printer.

Nov. 1786.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

An ACT granting INDEMNITY to sundry offenders on certain conditions, and providing for the trial of such who shall neglect or refuse to comply with said conditions, and of those who shall be guilty of like offences in future.

WHEREAS many deluded persons, from a pretence of redressing public grievances, have forcibly interrupted the regular administration of law and justice in several counties in this commonwealth, and have committed outrages which tend to the utter subversion of the constitutional authority thereof: And whereas the Legislature are willing to extend their clemency to all such deluded persons, provided they return to a due sense of their allegiance to the government, as well as determined to punish those who shall persevere in their destructive opposition:

Be it therefore enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all persons, of what description soever, who, since the first day of June last, being citizens of this commonwealth, may have been concerned in obstructing the sitting of the courts of law in any county in this commonwealth, or in any outrageous proceedings, which may have been done or committed by tumultuous bodies of men assembled for the purpose of opposing the authority of government, and due execution of the laws, be, and they are hereby required, before some lawful magistrate, to take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, prescribed in the constitution of said commonwealth, on or before the first day of January next.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the several magistrates, before whom the offenders aforesaid shall take and subscribe the said oath of allegiance, shall return certificates thereof into the secretary's office, as soon as may be, after the taking and subscribing of the same.

And be it further enacted, That all persons who may have been concerned in obstructing the sitting of the Courts of law, or in any outrageous proceedings as aforesaid, who shall, before the said first day of January, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance in manner as aforesaid, be, and they are hereby indemnified from all criminal prosecutions to which they may be liable on account of their illegal proceedings as aforesaid. *Provided, nevertheless,* that the indemnity granted by this act shall not be extended to any person or persons, who, after the publication of said act, and before the said first day of January, shall be concerned in obstructing the sitting of the courts of law, or in any outrageous proceedings, subversive of the authority of law and government; but they shall in all respects, be liable to be apprehended and tried, in manner as is hereafter provided. *And it is hereby further provided,* that nothing contained in this act shall be construed to extend to indemnify any person or persons whatever from any suits or prosecutions to which they may be liable, for injuries done or committed to the property or persons of any individuals.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all such persons who may have offended as aforesaid, and who shall neglect or refuse, before the said first day of January next, to take and subscribe the oath of allegiance, in manner as aforesaid, shall be subject to be apprehended and tried before the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, either in the county in which said offence was committed, or in any county within this commonwealth nearest thereto, where law and justice can be administered without apprehension of interruption, And all persons who shall, after the publication of this act, be guilty of the like offence, shall be liable to be tried in the same manner. And such trial shall be had, judgment rendered, and execution done, to all intents and purposes, in like manner and form, and if such offences had been committed within the body of the same county where the said trial may be had; any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

In the House of Representatives, *Nov.* 14, 1786.

This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.

In Senate, *Nov.* 15, 1786.

This Bill, having had two several readings passed to be enacted,

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
By the Governor---Approved.
JAMES BOWDOIN.
True copy Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the year of our Lord *One thousand seven hundred and eighty six.*

An ACT for suspending the privilege of the Writ of *Habeas Corpus.*

WHEREAS the violent and outrageous opposition, which hath lately been made by armed bodies of men, in several of the counties of this commonwealth, to the constitutional authority thereof, renders it expedient and necessary, that the benefit derived to the citizens from the issuing of writs of Habeas Corpus should be suspended for a limited time, in certain cases:

Be it therefore enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, be, and he hereby is, authorised and empowered, by warrant, under the seal of the commonwealth, by him subscribed, and directed to any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable, or any other person, by name, to command, and cause to be apprehended, and committed in any jail, or other safe place, within the commonwealth, any person or persons whatsoever, whom the Governor and Council shall deem the safety of the commonwealth requires should be restrained of their personal liberty, or whose enlargement is dangerous thereto; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sheriffs, deputy-sheriffs, constables, or any other persons, to whom such warrant shall be directed, are hereby authorised and empowered, whenever they shall judge it expedient, to require the aid and assistance of such and so many of the citizens of this state, in executing the same, as they shall judge necessary. And all persons, whose aid & assistance shall be thus required, are hereby enjoined to yield the same, on pain of forfeiting a sum not exceeding one hundred pounds, to be recovered by indictment before the Supreme Judicial Court;---one moiety thereof to the use of the prosecutor, and the other moiety to the use of the commonwealth.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any sheriff, deputy-sheriff, constable, or other person, to whom such warrant shall be directed, shall have full power forcibly to enter any dwelling-house or any other building, in which they shall have reason to suspect any person, required by such warrant to be apprehended, is concealed, first demanding entrance therein.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That any person who shall be apprehended and imprisoned, as aforesaid, shall be continued in imprisonment, without bail or mainprize, until he shall be discharged therefrom by order of the Governor or of the General Court.

And this act shall continue and be in force until the first day of July next and no longer.

In the House of Representatives, *Nov.* 10, 1786.

This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.

In Senate, *Nov.* 10, 1786.

This Bill having had two several readings passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
By the Governor---Approved.
JAMES BOWDOIN.
True copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In Senate, *November 15th,* 1786.

WHEREAS it was provided, in the Tax Act passed the twenty-third of March last, that one third part of said tax might be paid in certificates, issued from the Loan-office for the interest of the liquidated debt of the United States, provided that the same were paid, with a sum in specie equal to one half of such Certificates on or before the first day of January next. And whereas the delay in furnishing the Loan-Officer of this Commonwealth with Certificates, will render it inconvenient to many of the citizens thereof to pay that part of said Tax within the time aforesaid:

RESOLVED, That the Collectors of the said Tax, in the several towns, districts and plantations in this Commonwealth, be, & they hereby are, authorised and directed to receive one third part of said Tax in Certificates, issued from the Loan-Office for interest on the liquidated debt of the United States, provided they are paid, with a sum in specie equal to one half of such Certificates, on or before the first day of April next, any thing in said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.

In the House of Representatives, *Nov.* 15, 1786.

Read and concurred.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
Approved. JAMES BOWDOIN,
A true copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In Senate, November 17, 1786.

RESOLVED, That the several Naval-Officers and Collectors of Impost and Excise Duties, now in office, continue to Exercise the same, until others shall be appointed in their room and stead.—And the several Officers aforesaid are hereby impowered to discharge and perform all the duties, enjoined or required by law, of such Officers respectively; any act or acts, passed the present session of the General-Court, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President,
In the House of Representatives, Nov. 17, 1786.
Read and concurred.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
Approved. JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

DECEMBER 1786. [NUMB. 1.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

An ADDRESS from the GENERAL COURT to the PEOPLE of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

A T a period, when grievances are complained of, in divers counties of the State; when the symptoms of discontent are manifest and alarming, and individuals resort to arms, to support their disaffection, and oppose the Courts of Justice; it becomes the duty of the Legislature, to investigate, and, as far as may be, to remove the grounds of complaint; to undeceive those, who are misguided by false representation; and if lenient means are ineffectual, to vindicate by vigorous and decisive measures, the honour of government, and provide for the security of the State.

The General Court have therefore employed the greater part of the present session, hitherto, in examining the causes of uneasiness, and the objections made to the measures of government; and in providing (as far as honour and justice would allow) relief from the burthens, under which the citizens of the Commonwealth have laboured: And we now request the attention of our constituents, to the state of public affairs; and the reasons, why compliance with the wishes of some of them, would be dishonourable to us, and injurious to themselves.

We have no doubt, that endeavours are used by evil and designing men, to alienate the affections of the people in general, from those who are concerned in the administration of government; but conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we are convinced, that if the public measures are examined with candour, the confidence you lately reposed in us, will not be lessened; and that however great the public burthens are, attempts have not been wanting on our part, to alleviate them: No man in the community is exempt from these burthens; the members of the Legislature have their full share; and can it be thought they would designedly impose unnecessary burthens on themselves, or omit any thing that might tend to their relief from such burthens? Their duty and their interest, would equally forbid it, for the relief of their constituents would be their own.

As we apprehend a great part of the uneasiness in the State, has arisen from misinformation, we shall in the first place subjoin a state of the public debt, as well the particular debt of this commonwealth, as the State's proportion of the national or continental debt.

The debt of this commonwealth is in notes issued by the late Treasurer Gardner, and the present Treasurer, which are called, either consolidated or army notes.

The consolidated notes that have been issued, amount to	£.1,381,675 18 10	
The army notes amount to	250,114 14 4	
	1,631,790 13 2	
Of the army notes, provision has been made by the tax No. 4, for the redemption of 140,000l. and by tax No. 5, provision is made for the redemption of 100,000l Which being deducted, leaves	240,000 0 0	
	1,391,790 13 2	
The notes redeemed & received into the treasury for the sale of lands, &c. amount to	34,650 14 8	
Which being substracted there remains	1,357,139 18 6	
The notes for which eastern lands have been sold, and which have not yet been received into the treasury, will amount to	30,693 0 4	
There remains therefore due from the Commonwealth, for the redemption of which no provision has been made by tax, notes to the amount of	1,326,446 18 2	

Of the consolidated notes above-mentioned, about ninety thousand pounds were issued for the principal and interest of the notes, which had been given before the war by Treasurer Gray; the remainder were issued for money borrowed, and for clothing, stores, and other goods purchased, and for services performed, since the commencement of the war, at the price in silver, or reduced to that value, by the scale of depreciation.

The army notes were given to the officers and soldiers of this state's line of the army, for their wages, at the rate promised before any depreciation had taken place.

The national, continental debt, is either foreign or domestic.

The foreign debt being for money borrowed in France, Spain and Holland, according to an estimate made by Congress, amounts to 7,885,085 dollars, which is equal in the lawful money of this state, to L.2,365,525 10 0

The annual interest of which, part at 4 and part at 5 per cent. is 369,038 dollars, equal in lawful money to	110,711 8 0	
This state's proportion of the above-mentioned foreign debt, according to the last requisition, is	333,925 7 0	
This state's proportion of the annual interest of the foreign debt, is	16,564 6 0	

The continental domestic debt, which is due to the citizens of the United States, for the service of the army, and the other expences of the war, and which is on interest at the rate of 6 per cent. was estimated in the year 1783, at about thirty-four millions of dollars; but that estimate was formed partly on conjecture and by the latest accounts from Congress; it is now computed at twenty-seven millions of dollars, which is equal, in the lawful money of this state, to 8,100,000 0 0

This states proportion of the continental domestic debt, according to the last requisition, is	1,211,506 9 0	
Of which sum we have now in the treasury of this state, in loan-office certificates and final settlements, received of divers persons on settlement of accounts, for lands, and for the old continental currency,	49,705 14 0	
Remains,	1,162,200 6 0	

Exclusive of the above debt, which is due from the Continent to individuals, each state has a demand upon the confederacy, for money expended and service done for the benefit of the continent; this state has large claims, and it is supposed we are considerably in advance; but there is no ground for the suggestion, that we owe little or nothing of the continental debt; for it is to be considered, that each of the other states has demands also, and some of them large demands; and the method of settlement, therefore, must be, to examine the claims of the several states, and the whole that are allowed, will form an aggregate sum, which will be a debt due from the United States to the several states in the Union; that aggregate sum must then be apportioned on the several states, and if our claims amount to more than our proportion of that sum, we shall have credit for the balance; but although we think the balance in our favour, on the settlement of these accounts, will be considerable; we have no reason to expect it will be in any measure sufficient to answer our proportion of the above-mentioned domestic debt.

No endeavours have been wanting, on the part of this state, to effect a settlement of the above-mentioned accounts with the continent; a commissioner from Congress some time since attended nearly a year in this state for the purpose of settling accounts; his attention indeed was chiefly taken up in the settlement of private accounts; since that time, another commissioner has attended as long, for the same purpose: A committee of two persons, on the part of the state, are chiefly employed in the business: Considerable progress has been made; but the accounts are almost beyond conception numerous, intricate, and of difficult adjustment, owing in a great measure to the different modes, in which the accounts were kept, and sometimes the supposed defect of vouches; and to the different paper currencies and their different states of depreciation: But we hope the business will be accomplished, as soon as industry can effect it. The other states, have not yet settled their accounts; until that is done, if ours were settled, we should not be able to know, whether we are in advance or not.

Although from the foregoing statement, it appears that a large debt is due, yet when our resources, and the manner in which payment can be made, are considered, we think the inhabitants of the commonwealth will be satisfied, not only that they are able to pay the debt, but that it may be discharged without greatly distressing them.

The particular debt of the commonwealth is almost wholly due to its citizens; the payment therefore will not weaken the state by draining it of its property. Considerable sums are expected from the sale of lands in the easterly part of the state, and every measure that prudence will admit, is taken for the speedy sale of those lands.

Of the national or continental debt, that part which is due to foreigners, must be paid in gold or silver; if the continental impost should take place, which there is much reason to expect, it would immediately discharge us from the interest, and in a few years from the principal of this debt.

Our full share of the continental domestic debt, is undoubtedly due to the inhabitants of this state; Congress have resolved, that the lands ceded to them by the individual states, shall be disposed of for the payment of that debt; and we have lately received information, that such measures have been taken for surveying those lands, that a very large tract may in a short time be disposed of for that purpose, and that purchasers will not be wanting.

The grant of the supplementary fund is complained of: The reasons why the Legislature adopted that measure, are expressed in the preamble of the act; and we think ourselves entitled to expect, that no one will condemn the measure before he has attended to those reasons. We hope that means will soon be devised to bring into the treasury of this state, our proportion of the continental securities: In that case the act will never operate.

We are informed, that the public securities are now disposed of at a lower rate than at any former period: But suppose there was no depreciation upon any of those securities, perhaps the sums we have paid in taxes, in hiring men, and purchasing supplies for the army, within the last eight years, are more than the whole amount both of our state debt, and our proportion of the continental debt.

If the public had been able to prevent the depreciation of the public securities, we think strict justice would have required it; but notwithstanding the most solemn promises of future payment, that depreciation has taken place; perhaps therefore a criminal breach of faith is not yet imputable to the public councils: But if, when it is within our power, we refuse to redeem the securities; what excuse shall we have? Can we be willing that the history of the American revolution, shall be blackened with the tale, that we refused to redeem the securities we had given to effect it; and shall our

patiently blush to hear of the event, because the perfidy of their ancestors exceeded their blo-ny?

Some have observed, that the Continental currency is not redeemed, unless at the rate of seventy-five for one; and propose that the whole debt be reduced by law to the present current value; But is there not a wide difference between the cases? the first emissions of that currency were comparatively small; after it had suffered a depreciation beyond what has happened to any of the public securities, immense sums were brought into circulation; and the public received a confideration for them, not more than at the rate of one for forty or fifty, and perhaps more; it was therefore thought unreasonable to redeem them at the nominal value: Besides, if the securities should be reduced by law to five shillings on the pound, they would instantly fall in their current value, to one shilling; there would then be the same reason for reducing them to that sum, and from thence to nothing.

If an individual is involved in debt, both prudence and honesty require him to be frugal, and pay his debt as soon as may be. By a long and expensive war, we incurred a large public debt, though far less than that which our enemies incurred; but instead of using every effort to pay it, divers persons have employed themselves in devising methods to get rid of it, without payment; many indeed have employed much more time and money to this end than (if better employed) might have purchased their whole proportion of the public securities; they alledge, that many of the first possessors have been obliged to sell them for little more than one third of their amount, and therefore that the present holders ought to receive no more; but we should do well to remember, that the public has received the full value of all the notes they have issued; they were made transferrable by law, and many of them have been sold; but if we had paid them as we promised, very few would have been sold; and shall we take no measures to pay them now, because we have omitted the payment so long?

It is said to be unreasonable to compel the man, who has been obliged to sell his securities at a low rate, to redeem them at the nominal value: this observation is made with an ill grace, when every man, who has sold his notes, can purchase them again at a lower rate than he sold them.

The nations of Europe, are unable to maintain war without borrowing, much less could we; but in case of a war, who would lend us, if our neglecting seven years to pay the sum borrowed, will justify our not paying at all?

Policy, therefore, as well as justice, demand, that we do all in our power to satisfy our creditors. In private life, the man who avails himself of artifice and fraud, will soon find his character blasted, and himself the object of contempt; while he, who encompassed with difficulties, maintains an honest course, may hope for the friendship of man, and the favour of Heaven. The same will be the case in states and communities, so long as righteousness exalteth a nation.

(To be continued)

To the MEMBER of the Hatfield CONVENTION,

SIR,

IN compliance with your request, I shall attempt an answer to those of your questions, which I have not fully attended to before.

You enquire if the government owed 1,000,000l. and notes were given, all of which had been transferred at 1 or 6s. on the pound, by a fair sale, and the purchaser run his chance; and the government is able to redeem them; whether it would be justifiable in government to violate their promises? I answer, no; unless falsehood be right; violating a promise, when the party is able to perform it, is what people used to call a lie. The state has received the value and promised payment; but did any one ever before suppose, that the low credit of a note, is a payment by the debtor? If one of your neighbours owed me 100l. and should run away, perhaps I could not sell the note for a farthing; and is the note than paid? but if you would run the chance to give me 5, or 50l. for the note, and I should indorse it to you, is the residue of it then paid? if so, you run a poor chance indeed, for you have no chance of getting more than you have paid, and but little of getting any thing. If selling the notes at 1, or 6s. on the pound, will justify a violation of the public promises, selling them at 19s. on the pound will do it; and if it will do it in the case of the state, it will in that of an individual: But there is no private man who will designedly violate his promise, without making as much by it as he can; and why should not the state? if they have a right to break their promises half off, they have a right to snap them to pieces and demolish them at once. But the supposition you make, seems calculated to misslead people into the idea, that all the notes have been sold at a very low rate; when I can hardly suppose you believe, that one half of them have ever been sold; or that one fifth part have been sold so low as 6s. on the pound.

You again evidently refer to the scaling the old money by Congress, and the mode of redeeming the sword-in-hand money of this state, and enquire whether Congress and the state have not violated their promises? But I think you have a mistaken opinion of both these matters. In one of your pieces, you intimate that Congress made the scale of depreciation, to determine in what manner the old money should be redeemed: but there was no need of a scale for that purpose—Congress have required of each state their proportion of that money, beyond which their power does not extend; this state has long since redeemed its proportion; it was redeemed in the same manner it would have been if no scale had been made; taxes were granted, and no one thought of paying in silver at the rate of forty for one, or at any other rate;—divers, if not all the other states, have granted like taxes, although the collection of them is delayed: But it was thought necessary that the value of contracts should be determined. If you had sold a house in 1778 for 100l. which was worth only 12l. in silver, if no scale had been made you would have recovered in 1780 no more than 100l. in old money; in 1782 you might have recovered 100l. in silver; both would have been unjust. Contracts in paper money were innumerable, and a scale was necessary to determine what ought to be recovered, and for that purpose only. As to the sword-in-hand money, the state would have redeemed it by taxes if they had been able; but all the money they could raise by taxes was then necessary for the war: they were therefore under necessity of giving notes; but why either should be considered as a precedent for reducing the notes, I am unable to discover.

If the government have failed to perform their promises heretofore, it was either owing to inability or it was not; if it was owing to inability, they were not criminal, and the cases are not like the present; for you suppose and every man must suppose, that the state is able to pay the notes in question: if their former failures were not owing to inability, the government were guilty of falsehood, and does one falsehood justify another? It seems your whole endeavour is to prove, that in some instances the government have violated their promises; and if they have done it heretofore, they have thereby acquired a right henceforth to do it. By the same rule an old offender has nothing to charge himself with, but his first transgression; all the rest are justified by that.

You appear concerned, that the public faith is not supported by the present mode of redeeming the notes; and think it cannot be supposed otherwise than by redeeming them by money: but can you, in the present condition of the state, seriously propose that method? can you think that money will be collected with more ease or expedition than notes? or can you with for an experiment for any other reason, than to prevent a redemption of them at any rate?

You ask, if it is not the intention of the government when they levy a tax, that it shall not operate so as to appreciate the notes? I know of no such intention; I have often heard it was supposed by the Court, they would appreciate in some degree: but you may have better information, as you intimate a more perfect knowledge of their sentiments than I can pretend to. By the taxes No. 4 and 5, provision is made for the redemption of more than 19-20ths of the notes, called army notes; it was supposed, I am told, that what were not provided for by those taxes, either had been, or probably would be received on the sale of lands: notwithstanding which they were never sold so low as at present: their low price is therefore owing to a delay in collecting the taxes. Whether the doings of the General Court, or of the County Conventions, have most directly conduced to that delay, you, sir, will be able to determine.

You enquire, whether the original possessors have justice done them in this way, and whether they are satisfied? So long as the state appears disposed to do justice, they will make no great complaint. But why do you make such enquiries, when you propose a method, which you know would awaken all their resentment? You further enquire if you was mistaken when you said it was a palpable mistake, that the people that lent the government money supposed that this was all their security? but you said no such thing; and is it honourable to misquote your own writings? you said it was a palpable mistake that it was the expectation of the lenders, that the notes should be redeemed by taxes. I denied it, and pointed you to the act of Court for issuing the notes that disproved it.

You wish me to shew the difference between the government saying, that the holders of the notes shall not have but 6s. on the pound, and their never providing a way, whereby they shall get any more? But are you certain they never will provide such way? if so, your difficulty is at an end—let the people know it, and they never will again be imposed upon, or give more for the notes than at that rate. If the notes will probably rise in the present mode, there is a manifest difference between that mode, and declaring expressly, that the holders shall receive have but 6s. on the pound. But the difference between the present mode of redeeming the notes and that recommended by you, is this; in the present mode, the state acknowledges the whole debt and promises to pay principal and interest as fast as they can; if your mode is adopted, they will in effect say, three quarters of the debt and manage the other quarter in such a manner, as you must know will reduce it to the merest trifle.

You say that nothing was further from your thoughts, than charging the government with fraud; but you often hint, that obliging the army to receive notes, given them in notes, &c. is defrauding them of two-thirds of their dues.—If they were defrauded somebody was guilty of the fraud. I supposed you thought the government guilty; but if they were not, who was? You acquit the purchasers of the notes of any fraud—Your meaning therefore must be, that the soldiers cheated themselves.

You appologize for acknowledging yourself the author of your writings, by suggesting that you gave your sentiments largely in the convention, and it was not in your power to con eal yourself. Perhaps your fame as a public speaker was not full equal to what you believe it to be; if your reasoning had never before heard of it, but as it was a matter of great importance that they should be informed, your excuse is undoubtedly sufficient.

In your letter to me, you claim a tribute of praise, for driving the Old Republic an off the earth; and well has you have silenced him: Perhaps your arguments, under a feigned signature, would have had no great tendency to it; but when a public dispute is changing to a private quarrel, and one of the parties begins to throw dirt and call names, the other must either leave him or knock him down if he prudently declines the latter, there does not seem to be any just cause of exultation. Whether his writings will be of service or not, I will not affirm; but as they seem to have been the means of your awakening, there is much reason to expect they will finally work for your good.

You candidly acknowledge yourself mistaken in some facts, and yet say you shall be equally pleased whether you throw light upon the subject, or draw it from others by your mistakes. Is it then a matter of no consequence to mistate facts to the public? Although you may be convinced of your errors many of your readers will never know it, or if they do (at the present time) will pay little regard to it. From four cases like this, perhaps the greater part of the public troubles flow. Many persons, because they believe a thing to be true, affirm it; others believe the affirmation, and by and by a flame is kindled; and the flame will continue so long, as conjecture is thought a sufficient ground for positive declaration. A wrong representation of fact is now peculiarly dangerous, and I think ought to be avoided, but downright misrepresentation. If sir, you had not misformed the public, you would not have been troubled with the source of prudence of your humble servant,

A. B.

To ELIHU:

SIR,

UPON reading the papers of late, you first that a majority of those papers have use more fcolc and leering than you have. How far that ality you have supported your character must be determined by your productions. I good rule doubtless, with some additions, that a man be known by some of his friends which he chooses, and by the bulk of his performances. I can think of none we you had to write, but to irritate the passions of both parties, and inflame the hearts which every prudent man wishes to moderate. When speaking of the government party at Springfield you say, "they exceeded in their appearance by the help of a respectable gentleman of their party viz. Isaac Fassoun, whom they had previously engaged to powder them and regifter their beards; and the greater part of them in their absence from their wives, drank to l draughts of cocka da comfort, which gave a wonderful shine to the c countenances." Now, sir, can you think such people in this country will be pleased with such low ribaldry as these?

When you speak of the other party, you say, "if America is ever fet in happiness by the multiplicity of freaks, and Mark ones too I believe he will reach the summit of fecity, for I've as many as 1500 lately at Springfield, and were this in the thickest fence, where with the vast numbers that inhabited them, indeed made a very formidable appearance." What must have been your motive to such a course expression? what if they did wear freaks? it was no d credit to them; it was more reputable than to wear better clothes and be in a disaffected mien. What if the freaks were dirty? was this strange or infamous, when they had been travelling over dusty roads and had been some days from home? but to say their freaks were not only litterally black, but inwardly, and were what itred by vast numbers, is very rude and very false; it is too low to paint even a dirty fellow.

Whi e men of wisdom and prudence are endeavouring to alloy the heats you try to encrease them. I wish you to consider how far your conduct resembles his who is fond of the accuser of the brethren; perhaps you will think proper to alter your name: however you will be attended to by

The DETECTOR.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

AS an impartial press is the best channel of intelligence to the public, and when open to all parties is an important medium of light & security to the citizens of a free state; so I wish you to infert the following Letter and my observations upon it, and you will oblige a friend to the Laws and Liberties of this commonwealth.

Copy of a Letter sent to all the towns in the County:

"Hadley, Nov. 8, 1786.

"To the Selectmen of

"Gentlemen,

"WHEREAS the convention now convened at Hadley, for the purpose of consulting the common good, in conformity to Worcester and the other counties, have chosen a comitte, of correspondance with other counties, that thereby we might produce a union in the counties and come into uniform methods for the redress of grievance, and still the comotions that do subsist amongst us, thought fit in order to receive information from said comitte, and likewise to hold further conference upon the public good, do adjourn said convention to the first Tuesday in January next, at one o'clock P. M. at the house of Samuel Dickinson, Inholder in Hatfield; therefore the convention thought fit to invite all the towns in the county to join in convention at said adjournment, as they would seek the peas of the commonwealth.

"signed per order,

"JOHN BILLINGS, Chairman.

"A true Copy. Attest.

"SAM. PEPPER Clerk."

We are glad that the gentlemen have not assumed in their letter to be a county convention, for it is by no means clear that more than 28 towns did send, of these the greatest part were the smaller towns, and some of them chose their members only by the assistance of minors and persons not quanified to vote in town affairs. And as they had the assurance to appoint a committee of correspondence to act in conjunction with the committees, of other counties, in order to overthrow the present constitution and form of government, ratified by the solemn covenant and agreement of the body of the freemen of this county. This the citizens will most certainly consider as a most unwarrantable and arbitrary measure, even though a bare majority of towns had been pretendedly represented. The gentlemen call upon us to choose and send members to hear the report of their committee, and doubtless expect we shall sanctify these encroachments of the minority and the illegal doings of their agents. If we are for peace and order, what need have these unusual and disorderly measures. Have not these gentlemen blown up the coals of discord into a flame, which threatens the lives of thousands and the security and prosperity of the whole community: and now they have the assurance to wipe their mouths and say, they have done no wickedness; to call upon us to unite with them in their violent measures, and to brand with the epithet of enemies to peace such as will not coincide with their feral pursuits: pursuits, which I dare to say, do most effectually wound the liberties and privileges of the whole state. What need of this convention to interpose in the concerns of government? hath not a former convention created misery and expence enough in the community? Have they not armed a free and uninformed populace to lay waste all the forces of law and render insecure the personal liberty and property of all good citizens? These gentlemen, at Hadley, have the affrontery to call upon their towns, "as they seek the peace of the commonwealth," to join in their nefarious conspiracy. Do they mean that they will give no peace unless we unite with them? that they will let loose upon us the dogs of war, if we are peaceably in our calling, and abide in the same national compact which we have made? We should do well to consider what the Chief Justice, one of the first judges of law, has told us in his charge to the Middlesex Grand-Jury, That conventions are to be considered as rivals to the Supreme Legislature Power; as the authors of confusion and discord in the community; that their emissaries are striking a bargain of dismembering the commonwealth; that in every county, and in those only which have been visited with conventions, open rebellion and outrage have actually taken place." These convention-men are our advocates for peace; these are the men who are engaged to still commotion. And how? by members of that body taking arms and leading on bands of armed men to stop the course of justice and subvert the government. They are like the high-wayman, who, when he was knocked down by the brave gentleman, and was severely belabboured for his insolence, called out, Pray, sir, don't quarrel, let us be peace and honesty. Instead of complying with this request of the Hadley convention, it is presumed the towns will think it their duty not to send members to join a body who are engaged in sedition, and may perpetuate themselves by adjournments until they have sown the seeds of our utter national ruin and infamy. It is surely and seriously submitted to those towns who have already sent, whether the best testimony of their prudence and patriotism is not to recall their members from the convention; that they may not seem to have any hand in the violences and tumults of the present day.

A CENTINEL.

Dec. 4, 1786.

BOSTON, Dec. 2.

We have the pleasure of announcing to the public the very agreeable and authentick information of the safe return of the corps of volunteer horse, under the command of Colonel Hitchborn, after having atchieved the object of their expedition by the capture of Shattuck, Parker and Page, who have been the indefatigable fomentors of seditions in the county of Middlesex.

Too much credit cannot be given the officers and men on this occasion, who performed a long and disagreeable march, a great part of the way in the night, in a heavy snow storm, and in a very short period—The people every where in the country, through which they passed, so far from the opposition, which these stories threatened, cheerfully gave them every assistance that was wanted. A company of horse, under Col. Wood, of Pepperell, were particularly active, and had the honour of securing two of the prisoners before the party arrived in Groton.—Shattuck however had found the means of eluding their vigilance—but upon the arrival of the troop in the vicinity of his house, a second search commenced with renewed ardour—until he was finally discovered, pursued and apprehended—though not without a sharp conflict with one of the horse, in which much personal bravery was displayed—but upon two others coming up he was obliged to surrender.—Shattuck was badly wounded in the knee, and the gentleman immediately engaged received a slight cut on his face.—These deluded and daring violators of the public peace had been in arms the day before in Concord, on their way to Cambridge, to stop the Court of Common Pleas, which is now sitting unmolested in that town.

The most absurd and contradictory stories have been circulated throughout the county, and it may be truly said that they have supported a bad cause by the most scandalous deception, as well to their own strength, as to the views of government.

Groton is about 43 miles from this town, for that what with the direct course, and the chase which they had before the seizure of Shattuck, who immediately fled to the woods, upon being discovered behind a barn, many of the company must have rode near one hundred miles from Wednesday morning, to Thursday evening, and were some of them nine hours on horseback, without scarcely dismounting in that time. There was not a gun fired at the horse, in the whole expedition, though it was generally believed that Shattuck had fortified his house in order to a vigorous opposition:—This, however, proved not to be the case, for he had endeavoured to abscond after trying in vain to raise a party for his protection.—The troop went in aid of the Sheriff, by the order of his Excellency, when it was found that the late amnesty of the government was without effect, in reclaiming these hardened offenders.

The militia of the town of Concord stood ready to afford their assistance if required, and the artillery of Lexington turned out with their usual alacrity, as a guard to relieve the horse who were extremely fatigued with such intermitted service.—They lodged at Lexington on their return on Thursday night, and arrived with their prisoners yesterday at noon, who were immediately committed to the common gaol, where every precaution which humanity dictates, has been taken for the relief of the prisoners—On the whole we cannot help anticipating the most happy effects from this transaction.

It was last night reported, that the volunteer horse, which on Thursday evening marched from Roxbury, to reconnoitre a party of insurgents said to have been assembled at Shrewsbury, had returned—the rioters having dispersed previous to the troop's arrival at that place.

By a law of this Commonwealth, passed at the late session of the Legislature, after the first day of March, the following articles, if of foreign growth, or manufacture, are prohibited from being brought into this State, on pain of forfeiture, viz. loaf sugar, hats made of fur, hair and wool, or any or either of them; boots and shoes of every denomination, coaches and all other riding carriages, or any part thereof, and harness of all sorts, scythes, iron shovels, hoes, broad and narrow axes, flax irons for ironing cloathes, anchors, iron and brass stoves, mill-saws, saddles and bridles, wool-cards, and cotton-cards, ready made millenary, articles of dress of all kinds, white and blond lace of all sorts, fans charged at more than five shillings sterl. a piece in the invoice exhibited, embroidered patterns for waistcoats, or for any other parts of dress, gold and silver lace and trimmings, women's and children's stays, leather gloves and mitts of all sorts, message cards, playing cards, hair powder of all kinds, pomatum, and all kinds of perfumery, paper-hangings, children's toys, spelling-books, primers, novels romances and plays, whips, walking-canes, horn and tortoise-shell combs, porter, beer and ale, butter, cheese and mustard, coffin furniture of all kinds, linseed oil, candles, snuff, and all kinds of manufactured tobacco, all kinds of wearing apparel, and wooden household furniture, except the furniture brought by persons who shall come to reside in this country.

A gentlemen at Portland, by the last mail, writes, that Capt. Small arrived there on Friday last from St. Croix, and brings news, that Port-au-Prince has been sunk by an earthquake.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Portsmouth, dated Nov. 28.

"The post from Portland has just informed me that a vessel arrived there last Friday from St. Croix; and that a few days before she failed a matter of a vessel arrived there from Port-au-Prince in five days; who gave an account of its being sunk by an earthquake, and that it was judged seventeen hundred souls were lost. It was objected by some that a person could not go from Port-au-prince to St. Croix in five days, the Captain of the vessel answered, that there was a gale of wind before the earthquake, and that after it was over, the wind was West the whole time, so that he had a fair wind from Port-au-prince to St. Croix. The accident happened about the 10th of October".

NORTHAMPTON, December 13.

On Monday last, as a party of the Berkshire insurgents were returning from Worcester, through this town, a little ludicrous jocularity from six or eight of the unarmed inhabitants, produced abusive and insulting language, and even a violent onset with swords, guns and bayonets; some of each party were badly wounded in the rencounter, which must have ended very seriously, had not the speedy and timely collection of the inhabitants, under their proper officers, prevented.

The affair was happily terminated by a compromise; although by information from some of the insurgents and others, some kind of injury to the inhabitants of this town was evidently preconcerted.

From the present inflammable temper of many minds, the necessity of avoiding, even the smallest appearance of rudeness and insult, will be realized by every worthy member of society: In such circumstances, even common jocularity may be misconstrued and eventually attended with consequences that must make humanity shudder! and fill every man of feeling and sensibility with horror!

On the evening of the 11th instant, William Hartley, one of the insurgents, returning through this town to Williamsburgh, his place of residence, was unfortunately (being much fatigued) overcome with the intense severity of the weather. His body was found the next morning near the road on Mill-stone-Mountain Plain, by some of the same party, who applied to the Coroner to summons his Inquest, whose verdict, after regular process, was, that he came to his death by the misfiances of severe cold.

Died, last Saturday, Mr. Jonathan Burt, in the 90th year of his age.

Just come to hand, and to be Sold by

Tappan & Fowle,

At their Shop, opposite the Court-House, in Northampton,

The following Articles, viz.

SCARLET, London Brown, Blue, Purple, Olive, and Cloth coloured Lamb-skins, Coatings, Ratteens, Forest Cloth, Serges, Flannels and Baizes, of all widths, Velvets and Cordoroys, Scots Beavets, Tow-linens and Linen, Shalloons, Durants, Calimancoes, & Russels, Moreens, Lastings and Sattins, Tammies, Cambletteens, Silk Crapes and Persians, Worsted and Cotton Hose, Sewing Silk and Twist, of all colours, Irish Linens, Cambricks and Muslins, Striped, figured and plain Lawns, An elegant assortment of olive ground, and other Callicoes and Chintzes, Black and white Gauzes, Balloon, do. Black and white Gauze Handkerchiefs, Mourning, do. Catcut, Millinet and Cap Wire, Black and coloured Silk Handkerchiefs, Pink & changeable Lutestrings, Sattins and Modes, Broad-Cloths, Binding, Black and white Laces and Edgings of various kinds, Men's and women's Leather Gloves, Ladies' white and coloured do. Black and white silk do. Silk and worsted Mitts, A variety of Ribbons and Tapes, Black, white and coloured Plumes, Men's Worsted Caps, Dressed sheep Skins, A good assortment of mens, death head, and basket Buttons, Quality, rose and shoe Buckling, Pins and Needles, Temple and other Spectacles, Shoe and Knee Buckles, Brass and iron Candlesticks, Tinned, do. with Squirrers, Knives and Forks, Pen Knives, Shears and Scissars, H's and HL's, of different sizes, Stock Locks, Looking Glasses, A variety of Paper Hangings, Writing Paper, by the ream or quire, Bohea Tea, Chocolate, Sugar, Pepper, Allspice, Indigo & Snuff, Prayer Balons and Porringers, Large and small Spoons, with a variety of other articles.

Country Produce of most kinds will be received in payment for the above Goods.

Dec. 13, 1786.

STRAYED from the subscriber some time in June last, a two year-ing HEIFER, one a dark red, with a white face; the other a brown with considerable white about her, both marked with a half crop the upper side of the right ear, and a slit the under side of the same. Whoever will take up said creatures, and give information where they may be had, to the prisoners hereof, or the subscriber, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

SOLOMON JUDD.

West Hampton, Dec. 13, 1786.

For the Hampshire Gazette.

To the Gentleman who, in the Hampshire Gazette No. 12, stiles himself an Honest Insurgent.

SIR,

I AM to inform you that I am a Member of a benevolent Fraternity, who profess ourselves friends to honest men of all denominations; that on reading your case as stated by yourself, and your request. Some doubts arose in our minds, whether it was a genuine production; 'twas urged by some that it was impossible a man of so much good sense should be an insurgent; and some other pertinent observations were made: However, as men of sense have sometimes warm feelings, it was said that such an one might hastily, and without consulting the writings of Solomon, take up on that side: we all agreed that it was possible an honest man might be an Insurgent; and that the workings of mind you express, are the natural and genuine workings of an honest sensible mind, sleeping and waking, properly reflecting on such misconduct: therefore as your person and case are known to us only by your own representation, the veracity of which our charity, and candor was loth to mistrust; we now tell you that it is with peculiar pleasure we find you are coming to yourself, can exercise your own thoughts and reason, and see the importance of advice. As to the case of conscience which you propose; for in that view we take it; we must say, thou thyself hast decided it, according to that well known maxim, "what thou doubtest do not." For a great divine saith, "he that (doth that the lawfulness whereof he) doubteth is damned," we view you, Sir, as having so far recovered your reason, after a short phrenzy, that you would not so far "abuse or prostitute the dictates of an enlightened understanding," as to run the aweful risque. We judge it may be well nigh safe, in such case, to leave you or any other man to his own judgment, if he will but honestly & faithfully use his rational powers, and labour properly to inform himself what is truth and duty. However, sir, if by reason of the importunity of neighbours or otherwise, you should have any doubt remaining on your mind, how to conduct with wisdom and prudence in the case you propose; we would wish you to read with careful attention and well to weigh in your mind an excellent piece in Gazette No. 9, signed Pacificus, likewise that in No. 11, likewise those signed the Freethinker and other productions in said Gazette. If after all a doubt still continues in your mind, then count the cost, consider whether if you go to war with 10,000, you will be able to meet the 20,000 which will come against you? and after that suppose you should, what advantage would it be to you or the public? and where would the matter end. When you have considered these things, we doubt not you will, (as we should if needful advise) refuse the offered unwarrantable and dangerous promotion; and from an honest insurgent become a more honest and wise commonwealth's-man.

Signed in behalf of the Fraternity, by your unknown Friend

PHILANTHROPOS.

P. S. We have the negative qualifications you require in your counsellors, are neither Conventioners nor Toms. And we have the major part of the positive ones; and, being commonwealth's-men, we judge a majority must decide the matter; therefore we trust our advice will be kindly received and followed; and on these terms we propose to acknowledge you as a brother in our Benevolent Fraternity.

Test. IDEM PHILANTHROPOS.

For the Hampshire Gazette.

THE order, beauty and happiness of society, essentially consist in the regular movement of its several members: just as in the economy of the heavenly bodies: every individual member of the community must know and keep his place, and move regularly in his own proper sphere, and the laws of the community are the rules by which his conduct, so far at least, as it may respect others, is in all instances to be regulated; for otherwise, while one intermeddles with this, and another with that &c. which belongs not to his province, they will unavoidably interfere and clash, and disorder and confusion will be the necessary consequence, and the ruin of the whole body threatened.

The late eccentrick motions of some of the luminaries of our terrestrial hemisphere have given birth to these thoughts on the subject, particularly, a letter written by Daniel Shays, to the select-men of South-Hadley, published in the Hampshire Gazette, No. 11, requesting "them to assemble *their men* see them well officered, armed and equipt with sixty rounds each, and ready to turn out at a minutes warning."

Letters of the same extraordinary tenor and signature have been received by select-men in divers other towns. That the requisition was answered at South-Hadley, appears not: in some towns the select-men, pursuant to this letter speedily and without great hesitation, issued their warrants in form, and that in the name and by the authority of select-men, calling the inhabitants to assemble in town-meeting to act in the premises as stated in said letter; in some instances have used precaution that no objection should lie against the legality of their meeting. Town meetings have been actually holden, moderators chosen in form; and the matters prescribed in said letter seriously attended to and acted upon.

Select men truly hold a useful and important office; yet it will prove useful only when executed within its own prescribed limits: select-men, in this respect, are upon a footing with all other officers, in a free government, they are not set above law, no, so far from it, that their duty and whole business are precisely prescribed and limited by law. The law must govern them in every step of official conduct, otherwise they wander out of their orb and cannot vindicate their doings: in every case where they act without law they act equally without authority: their authority to call town-meetings, to transact matters which towns are not warranted by law to transact at all, is just upon a level with the authority of every body else to call town-meetings, that is, they have no authority.

By the phiz of this letter, it would be natural readily to give into it, that the writer is with general consent looked up to and acknowledged as generalissimo of our posse military: and the select-men in our towns, as taking military rank and power next immediately under him. Why else does he call upon them to assemble *their men*, levy troops and see them martially equipt and ready for immediate action? but for what purpose is all this parade? why, to resist by force and arms and even demolish that government under which they hold their office and authority. As the servants of government they would give aid to them who are avowedly fighting against government, and exerting every nerve for its destruction. How the select-men who obeyed the summons of the letter will secure themselves from the imputation of having been, either strangely inadvertent to their official duty, or basely timid or else, which I cannot willingly suppose traitorously wicked, is not easy to see. had they in the first place come out in open day, renounced all pretensions to office and authority under government, and acted only in character of private men assembling *their men* &c. they would have disabused the common people and set their own character in a better light, as to their consistency and rectitude of conduct.

These remarks with equal justness (mutatis mutandis) may apply to the makers, tors and members who were active in the town-meetings referred to.

KATOPTES.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His Excellency

JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq.

Governor *of the* Commonwealth *of Massachusetts.*

A PROCLAMATION.

IT having been represented to this Government, that divers persons, since the first of *January* 1784, have illegally entered upon, and unwarrantably taken possession of, some of the unappropriated lands belonging to this commonwealth, in the Eastern Counties; and that others are settling in like manner thereon, presuming that they shall be quieted by government in their possession:——

I DO THEREFORE, at the request of the General Court, and with the advice of the Council, forbid and caution all persons against settling on any of the said lands, or committing any trespass thereon, as they would avoid being dealt with according to law and justice.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, *this twenty sixth day of* October, *in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty six, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the* United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By his Excellency's command,

John Avery, jun. Secretary.

Fresh Goods.

Prescott & Dexter,

Have just opened and now ready for Sale, at their Store in Northampton,

A general Assortment of Winter

GOODS.

N. B. Grain of all kinds, Bees-Wax, Flax, Flax-Seed, Old Pewter, Butter, and Pork, will be taken in exchange for the above Goods.

Dec. 6, 1786.

STRAYED or Stolen from the Subscriber, about the 3d instant, a Bay Stone HORSE, two years old past, but a kind feet white, was never docked, carries his head pretty high, has no artificial mark. Whoever will take up said Horse, and return him to the owner, or give information where he may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

SIMEON CLAP.

Northampton, Nov. 29, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys's Poem.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

An ADDRESS from the GENERAL COURT to the PEOPLE of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

[Continued from our last.]

AMONG the late various complaints, perhaps none is more frequently made, than that the people are ignorant what becomes of their money; that they pay large taxes, and never learn how they are disposed of. We shall therefore state the amount of the several taxes, commencing with the gold and silver tax in 1780, and including the taxes granted since that time, except the tax granted in March last, the payments that have been made on those taxes, the impost and excise, &c. and the manner in which the money, &c. arising therefrom, has been expended.

The amount of the taxes since 1780, is	L.1,407,895 12 10	
Abatements to several towns on those taxes,	L.111,226 2 1	
Still due upon those taxes,	278,437 1 1	
	390,633 3 2	
Received into the treasury upon the abovementioned taxes,	1,017,232 9 8	
The amount of impost & excise,	154,372 6 4	
The amount of one per cent. duty on Auctioneers,	4,196 0 7	
The amount of what has been received for absentees estates sold,	25,283, 15 11	
Received of Naval-Officers,	2,715 19 2	
Anticipated on the several taxes, and on the impost and excise, by the Treasurer's orders,	78,481 4 0	
Received of sundry Agents, Commissary-General, &c. &c.	44,690 16 5	
	1,326,378 12 1	

The following is an account of the manner, in which the money, &c. received for taxes, &c. above-mentioned, has been expended.

Warrants drawn on the treasury for the payment of militia-rolls, continental teamsters, repairs of the castle, pay for the garrison there, officers and soldiers disabled in former wars, officers & soldiers disabled in the late war, Committee to purchase cannon and other warlike stores, accounts allowed by the Committee on accounts, building light-houses, Committee to settle the boundary line between this state & New-York, the survey and sale of eastern lands, &c. the warrants drawn from Oct 1781, to October, 1786, although some of the services were performed before,	295,588 1 5	
Paid to the Continental Receiver of taxes,	169,092 6 0	
Mr. Appleton's certificates, received for taxes, which are not yet paid to the Continental Receiver,	12,894 18 0	
Militia rolls for sundry services, and for the pay of three and six months men,	112,427 0 5	
For teamsters, paid Col. Jabez Hatch,	18,608 4 5	
Col. J. Allen, for Eastern Indian department,		
Freight of cloathing from France, quarters, &c. for the officers of the French army, while in Boston, one and an half years pension to Richard Gridley, Esq. and a balance of a gratuity of twenty-four dollars specie, due to the soldiers of this Commonwealth's line of the army,	4,303 3 2	
Warrants for 3 month's pay of the army, in 1780,	30,717 7 0	
New emission bills redeemed and burnt,	150,319 15 2	
Ditto redeemed, and now in the treasury,	44,146 8 9	
Interest paid on the new emission bills,	15,576 5 4	
Army notes redeemed,	95,624 2 10	
Bounties paid for killing wolves,	1,405 0 0	
Interest paid on state notes, from July 1782, to October 1786,	265,371 1 2	
Certificate money redeemed and burnt, which was issued in 1781, to purchase flores for the army, and receivable on the tax of that year,	8,364 0 0	
Certificate money redeemed and now in the treasury,	9,987 0 0	
Allowance to Peter Savory, on account, for supplies from France,	982 16 0	
Balance of the gold and silver tax, that was due from Sheriffs, remaining to be by them accounted for,	3,858 1 6	
Paid sundry taxes which became due on absentees estates before those estates were sold, & sundry resolves of Court to discount such taxes,	3,842 13 5	
Paid to continental Commissary, for wounded officers and soldiers, in addition to what is charged in the first article,	10,335 15 0	
Committee for settling with the army, methodizing public accounts, and settling with the Commissioners of Congress,	2,069 13 8	
President and Professors of Harvard College, since the year 1781, including a grant made to President Langdon, for services previous to that time,	2,362 16 8	
To members of Congress, from June 1780, to September 1786,	11,558 8 2	
Warrants in favour of the former and present Governor, from October 1780, to October 1786,	6,150 0 0	
For the members of the Council, at 8s. per day, for each day's attendance at the Council-Board, since the year 1782,	3,387 1 10	
For the members of the Senate, from October 1780, to October 1786, at 7s. 6d. per day, for each day's attendance,	9,052 6 1	
For the members of the House of Representatives, for their service during the same period, at 7s. per day, for each day's attendance,	48,865 10 0	
Treasurer and Clerks, Secretary and Clerks, Commissary-General, Chaplain of the Court, Messengers of the Court and of the Council, and Clerks of the Committee on valuation,	6,941 10 2	
The Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, Attorney-General, in full of his services in that office, before 1783,	7,143 11 7	
Committee for revising the laws, and their Clerk,	1,063 12 0	
Record-books, stationary and fuel, not paid by Committee of accounts,	209 16 0	
	271 19 4	
Deduct what remains unpaid on the warrants in favour of the Governor, the General Court, &c. &c. &c. which is,	1,351,633 19 10	
	25,255 7 9	
	1,326,378 12 1	

The particular accounts of payments from the treasury are exceeding lengthy, and could not with any convenience be here inserted.

It appears, that of the above taxes, which have been received into the treasury, the greater part has been disbursed for defraying the expenses incurred by the war; more that one hundred and eighty thousand pounds have been collected for the use of Congress, partly in specie to enable them pay for such services as required prompt payment, to support the federal government, and pay the interest of the foreign debt, and partly in certificates of Mr. Appleton, for the payment of the interest of the domestic debt.

It also appears, that exclusive of the sums paid to Congress, the public debt has been much lessened. Almost the whole sum expressed in the first article of the account of monies expended, was paid to the militia, and for other services and supplies, in the war; and was a part of the debt of this state, although notes had not been given for it. The new emission bills, and the certificate money, &c. and the warrants for rolls &c. were also debts of the Commonwealth, although the latter were charged to the continent; and therefore, exclusive of the army notes that are redeemed, more than six hundred and fifty thousand pounds have been paid within the last six years, towards the debt of the state, besides the interest of the notes of this Commonwealth.

The taxes above-mentioned, were all made payable, either in specie or in the new emission currency, or in the army notes, or in the certificate money above-mentioned, or in the certificates of Mr. Appleton. Exclusive of these, the people of this Commonwealth have paid large taxes of a different description.

By a resolve of December 30, 1780, 4230 men were required to be raised by this Commonwealth, for a year or during the war. It appears by the returns of the several towns, that the average price of hiring those men was 85l. 13s. 0d.—The expense of the whole therefore, was L.363,156 0

By a resolve of March 1782, 1500 men were ordered to be raised for the like term, the average price of which was 76l. 14s. 8d.—The whole expense, therefore, was 92,350 0

The average price of hiring 2100 men, for three months, in 1781, was 7l.—The whole amounted to 18,900 0

The average price of hiring 500 men, for five months, in 1781, was 7l.—And the whole amounted to 3500 0

Three beef taxes have been granted, for procuring in the whole, 8,927,115lb. of

beef, which at 4d. pr: lb. would amount to	148,785 5
The old emission currency redeemed and brought into the treasury, at the rate of one for 75, amounted to	122,655 12
	L. 759,346 17

The above expense, it is manifeſt, was occaſioned by the war.

The account of the manner in which the money &c. received for taxes, &c. has been expended, includes all the warrants that have been drawn on the Treaſurer from October 1781, to October 1786, the expenſe of civil government, to wit, the Governor, Council, Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives, Members of Congreſs, Judges and Attorney-General, Secretary and Treaſurer and Clerks, Commiſſary-General, Chaplain, Meſſengers, Committee for reviſing the laws, &c. would, according to this account, be ninety thouſand five hundred and forty-four pounds fifteen ſhillings and two pence, for the laſt five years: but we find that near the cloſe of the paper-currency, warrants often times were not drawn until a conſiderable time after the ſervices were performed. In the warrants mentioned in the above account in favour of the members of the General Court and of the Congreſs, only, five thouſand ſix hundred and nineteen pounds 8s. 1d. was for ſervice performed before October 1781, notwithſtanding which we ſhall conſider the above ſum of ninety thouſand five hundred and forty-four pounds fifteen ſhillings and two pence, as wholly the expenſe of civil government the laſt five years; it will then follow that eighteen thouſand one hundred and eight pounds nineteen ſhillings, has been the annual expenſe of government; about one half of this ſum is for the ſervice of the Houſe of Repreſentatives; their travel is paid by the ſtate, but their attendance is ultimately paid by the towns they reſpectively repreſent; their travel is leſs than one fifth part of the whole ſum allowed them, and therefore four-fifths of the expence of the Repreſentatives is not ſo properly the charge of the commonwealth in general as of the particular towns that chooſe them. The ſeſſions of the General Court ſince the war, have neceſſarily been frequent and lengthy. A reviſion of the laws was found neceſſary, and has taken much time: the matters to be attended to have been vaſtly numerous, and a far greater variety of difficult and important queſtions have ariſen than formerly, upon which the people in different parts of the country were divided in ſentiment; as the Repreſentatives brought to Court the views of their conſtituents, the ſeſſions have been lengthened out, by long and intereſting debates. The diſturbances at different times in the ſtate, have alſo multiplied and protracted the ſeſſions. Theſe embarraſſments we hope are nearly at an end, and whenever they ceaſe, the expenſes of civil government will be conſiderably diminiſhed.

We ſhall ſtate for your information on this ſubject, an account of the ſalaries and emoluments of the ſeveral officers of government, before and ſince the revolution.

The Governor, under the former adminiſtration, received a ſalary of 1200l. in ſpecie, he had the uſe of the province houſe, gardens, &c. he alſo received for every regiſter 5s.—for every certificate under the province ſeal, 3s.—one third part of all ſeizures and prizes, a conſiderable ſum from the naval-officer, and other emoluments, amoun ing, it is ſuppoſed, to 1000l per annum, making in the whole 2300l. he was alſo exempted from taxation.

The Governor, under the preſent conſtitution, has the yearly ſalary of 1100, no houſe or accomodations are provided for him, for he receives no perquiſites or emoluments whatever, and is not exempt from taxes. When the Governor's ſalary was ſettled, ſoon after the conſtitution, regard was had to the probability that money would ſoon be as ſcarce and valuable as it was before the war.

The Lieutenant-Governor, under the former adminiſtration, received no ſalary: but as Capt. of the Caſtle, received wages, rations, and the benefit ariſing from paſſes, all which it is ſuppoſed amounted to 250l. per annum; the chief of the time he was member of the Council.

The Lieut. Governor, under the preſent conſtitution, receives no ſalary as Lieut. Governor; but as Captain of the Caſtle, he alſo receives wages, rations, and the like benefit ariſing from paſſes, all which, it is ſuppoſed, amount to the ſame ſum of 250l. per annum; he is alſo a member of the Council.

The Judges of the Superior Court, under the former adminiſtration, received as follows,—in the year 1774 a ſalary of 300l. was granted to the Chief Juſtice, the other four received 250l. each; the fees of office, to wit, for the entry of every action 6s. 8d. &c. &c. &c. which they received, paid more than their travelling expences, which were over and above their ſalary, notwithſtanding the buſineſs was far leſs than it is at preſent; ſome of the judges at leaſt, were in other offices, as Judges of Probate, Counſellors, &c.

Soon after the preſent conſtitution took place, ſalaries were granted to the Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, as follows, to wit. To the Chief Juſtice, 320l. per annum, and to the other four Judges 300l. each. Since that time the juriſdiction of that Court has been much enlarged, new powers have been given to them to permit the ſale of lands; they are now the Supreme Court of Probate, they have juriſdiction in all caſes of divorce and alimony, which heretofore belonged to the Governor and Council. A Court is alſo holden in the county of Lincoln. In conſideration that their buſineſs was greatly increaſed, by an act of February 1783, an addition of 50l. per annum was made to each of their ſalaries, to commence January 1ſt, 1784, and continue until January 1ſt, 1787; they are reſtrained by the conſtitution from receiving any other emolument whatever; all the fees now taken by them, being deducted out of their ſalaries: great part of their time is taken up in the ſervice of the Commonwealth, on the circuits, and nearly the remainder on the public buſineſs, at their reſpective homes, in examining matters of law which are continued for their examination and judgment; and it is ſuppoſed that the ſalary of the preſent Judges, is leſs than the ſalary and perquiſites of the former Judges.

The Treaſurer under the former adminiſtration received 267l. per annum, and was Councellor during the time he was in office: the office in which his buſineſs was done, was found him by the government, beſides which an annual grant from 100 to 120l. was made him for extra-ſervices.

The preſent Treaſurer has 350l. with a houſe and office, his whole time is employed in the buſineſs, and he cannot have any other advantage whatever.

The Secretary under the former adminiſtration, received 140l. per annum, beſides his fees, which are ſuppoſed to amount to 200l. more, in the following manner, to wit. For every certificate under the province ſeal, 2s. engroſſing acts and laws, 6s. each, every commiſſion of a Juſtice of Over and Terminer and Juſtice of the Peace, 6s. 8d.—every commiſſion under the great ſeal, for places of profit, 6s. 8d —every order of the General Court for the benefit of particular perſons, 6s. 8d.—every writ for electing Repreſentatives, 5s. &c. &c.—and yet his time was not half employed, and additional grants upon many occaſions were made him.

The preſent Secretary has a ſalary of 250l. per annum; the fees of office the laſt year amounted to 140l. and were deducted from the aforeſaid ſum. He has no fees of office but what are deducted from his ſalary, which is not nearly equal to the ſalary and perquiſites of the former Secretary, notwithſtanding the ſervice rendered to government is more than double.

Before the war the province had two Agents at the Court of Great-Britain, who received a ſalary of 300l lawful money each.

The Delegates at Congreſs, received for the laſt year, thirty-three ſhillings per day, while they were in ſervice: at the laſt May ſeſſion, it was determined that they ſhould receive 26s. for each day's attendance, for the year, which commenced the firſt Monday of November current, which is to include every expenſe.

The officers of Harvard-College now receive the ſame ſalaries as they did for a number of years previous to the revolution.

The Clerk of the Houſe of Repreſentatives under the former adminiſtration, received from 90 to 100l. and received pay as a member of the Court.

The Clerk of the preſent Houſe has received at the rate of 135l. the ſeſſions being more frequent and much longer than formerly, and he cannot be a member of the Houſe.

The Meſſenger of the General Court formerly received 120l.—The preſent Meſſenger receives only 80l.

It was ſuppoſed the avails of the Attorney-General were very ſmall during the war, he was appointed to that office June 12th, 1777.

In January 1779, a grant was made him of 900l. of the old emiſſion, equal in ſpecie, to	£. 100	0
In May, 1780, another grant was made him, of 7500l. equal in ſpecie to	107	0
In March, 1784, a grant was made him in ſpecie, of	1065	12
The whole amount of what has been granted him ſince his appointment to that office, in 1777, is	1270	12

A conſiderable part of the money granted to the Attorney-General in paper, was not received till its value was much leſs than the ſums to which it is liquidated as above.

From this ſtatement of facts, our conſtituents will judge, if there is any ground for the ſuggeſtion, that the ſupport of civil government is become an inſupportable burthen upon the people.

It has been ſaid indeed, that the Governor and the General Court are paid by the Treaſurer in money, when other creditors can get nothing, except orders on the Conſtables of the ſeveral towns; but the preſent Governor has received only 45l. 1s. 3d more than two quarters of his ſalary; the amount of what he has received has not been ſufficient to diſcharge his taxes ſince his firſt election to the office of Governor; and there is not a member of the General Court, who has received a farthing in ſpecie from the Treaſurer for his ſervice the preſent year—nor have they ſince the conſtitution took place, received from the Treaſury nearly ſo much in money as their actual expences.

The firſting of the General Court in Boſton, has occaſioned uneaſineſs; doubtleſs it would be more convenient for a part of the ſtate, if it was holden at ſome other place; but the intereſt and wiſhes of a part, are not to be conſidered alone: Boſton has long been thought the moſt convenient place: ſome of the General Court have ſuppoſed otherwiſe; but the major part were againſt a removal, and ſuch the honor part therefore riſe againſt the government. Becauſe they could not have every thing as they wiſhed, could they be juſtified in reſorting to force? Such a principle would deſtroy all ſociety. Attention, however, has been paid to the inſtructions of many towns reſpecting the removal of the General Court out of the town of Boſton, and a Committee conſiſting of a member from each county, has been appointed to conſider the ſubject and report.

It never can be the caſe, that the whole community ſhall be of the ſame opinion; in a republican government the major part muſt govern: if the minor part governs, it becomes an ariſtocracy: if every one applies to his plaiſure, it is no government, it is anarchy and confuſion.

In ſome parts of the Commonwealth, it is frequently ſaid, if our repreſentative goes to Court he will do no ſervice for the meaſures he is in favour of, will not be adopted: but why will they not be adopted? Every meaſure that is propoſed, is attended to and conſidered; and if finally rejected, it is becauſe the majority think it inexpedient; and how abſurd and contradictory would the proceedings of the Court be, if every propoſition ſhould be acceded to.

The complaints in different parts of the ſtate are repugnant and petitions from different places, requeſt meaſures directly oppoſite; it is impoſſible therefore, that all ſhould be gratified—what then ſhall be done? Unleſs we ſubmit to be controuled by the greater number, the Commonwealth muſt break in pieces; but neither will the inhabitants of any county or town be all of the ſame ſentiments, each man therefore muſt be a part, and the whole reduced to a ſtate of nature.

If then it is plain, that the vote of the major part muſt govern, the queſtion is, where ſhall that vote be taken? Not in a county convention; becauſe nine-tenths of the ſtate are not repreſented, and their intereſt is intended to be conſulted: the conſtitution has pointed out the mode of repreſentation; and will any one ſuppoſe, that becauſe the perſons choſen are called a General Court, they have leſs intereſt, city or patriotiſm, than if they were called a convention?

It is even ſaid by ſome that a new convention is neceſſary; and although the ſentiments of the perſons who complain, are oppoſite on this point, the ſubject may demand ſome attention. The objection made to the preſent conſtitution is the expence of the government. From the foregoing ſtatement of that expence for the laſt five years, we find, that the expence of the Houſe of Repreſentatives is included, it does not exceed eighteen thouſand one hundred and eight pounds by the year; as there are in the ſtate more than ninety-four thouſand polls, if the whole ſum was paid by the polls, each poll muſt pay three ſhillings and ten pence and no more; but as about two-thirds of the taxes are raiſed by the eſtates, the tax upon a poll, according to the preſent mode of aſſeſſment, would be leſs than ſixteen pence.

It has been alleged, that the ſalaries given to the officers of government, are a great burthen.

The Governor has per annum	L. 1200 0 0
The Secretary	250 0 0
The Treaſurer	350 0 0
The Judges of the Supreme Court	1775 0 0
The Commiſſary General	150 0 0
Total	3625 0 0

If this ſum was wholly paid by the polls, the tax would be no more than nine pence half penny upon a poll: it muſt therefore be apparent to every reaſonable man, that the large taxes we have paid have not been applied to the ſupport of civil government.

We have but lately heard that the Senate has been thought by any one to be a grievance; if it has been ſo conſidered, we think it muſt have been owing to inattention; for we are convinced that every judicious man who attends to the nature of our government, will conſider that as an important and neceſſary branch of the Legiſlature.

Before the conſtitution was formed every town in the ſtate had a right to ſend one or more repreſentatives; the people at that time were very tenacious of their rights; it is highly probable they would be ſo at the preſent time; perhaps the very perſons who complain would not be willing to part with it, for if they preferred a Legiſlature elected by counties, to one choſen by the ſeveral towns, ſuch an aſſembly would be conſtituted like the preſent Senate, and differ only in name; however, the coſt of an experiment would far exceed the ſum propoſed to be ſaved, at a reviſion of the conſtitution may take place in 1795, when it is to be hoped the minds of men will be in a more tranquil ſtate.

As an attempt to form the preſent conſtitution was begun in the year 1777, and was not compleated until the year 1780, the coſt and trouble attending it we all remember were exceeding great, and perhaps nothing would finally have been agreed to, if an unuſual ſpirit of mutual conceſſion had not prevailed; a ſenſe of common danger from abroad produced internal harmony and union: But what hope could we now have of that mutual compliance, which would be neceſſary to agree upon a form of government, when the tempers of ſo many are in a ſtate of irritation? Something preſent government be overthrown, a ſtate of general confuſion would enſue; and after we had experienced all the horrors of anarchy, and the effects of unreſtrained violence and revenge, our dear earned freedom, would periaps be ſwallowed up, by domeſtic deſpotiſm or foreign dominion.

(To be continued)

[The average price of raiſing 1200 in the year 1781, was 61l. &c. inſtead of 18l. &c. as aſſerted in the preceding paper.]

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

I Obſerved in your Gazette, No. 13, a member of the Hadley Convention undertook to inform the public of the doings of ſaid convention; he ſays there were 32 towns repreſented, and I am informed that he reckoned Belchertown one that was repreſented to complete his number; if that be true, I think he diſcovers his ignorance as well as Mr. "I am &c." who he complains of ſo much, for Belchertown was not legally repreſented in ſaid convention;—there was a town-meeting held in ſaid town, previous to the ſitting of ſaid convention—after the meeting was legally opened, as one of the articles in the warrant was as follows viz. "To ſee if the town will ſend one or more delegates to ſit in convention at Hadley, on Tueſday the 7th day of November," the queſtion was put accordingly, and carried in the negative by a great majority, which put thoſe attached to conventions into great confuſion, who called in all ranks of men, amongſt which was one that had been a ſoldier in Burgoyne's army and was captured with him; two minors, and a conſiderable number of others not qualified by law to vote—they then moved for a reconſideration of the vote—the queſtion was put and carried in the affirmative by a majority of illegal voters. In conſequence of which, the Town-Clerk in the credentials of the pretended delegates from ſaid town, only certified that he heard the Moderator declare it was a vote for them to go.

I would further obſerve, that though at that meeting, by the help of minors and illegal voters, a Committee was choſen to take care of the town ſtock of powder; yet at a legal meeting, December 4th, the town very unanimouſly voted, that they had no need of, nor buſineſs for delegates in county convention, and alſo demanded the town ſtock of powder into the hands of the ſelect-men. We hope that truth and reaſon will ſoon gain a complete aſcendant over falſhood and error among us, and that we ſhall ſhew to the world, that we are hearty friends to our excellent conſtitution and government.

From a CITIZEN of BELCHERTOWN.

HARTFORD, December 18.

We are happy in being the firſt to announce to the public, from authority, that the territorial diſpute between the ſtates of Maſſachuſetts and New-York, was amicably terminated by the Hon. Commiſſioners from thoſe ſtates on ſaturday laſt. This diſpute, for the deciſion of which a Federal Court had been appointed, has excited great attention and occaſioned much anxiety to the ſincere friends of the union. The ſucceſs of this negotiation does infinite honour to the Gentlemen who have conducted it on both ſides with ſo much temper & wiſdom. This friendly accommodation affords an important leſſon to States and nations in general; when we conſider how much treaſure and blood have been expended, in diſputes concerning territories much leſs valuable and extenſive.

In the evening of the 30th of November laſt the dwelling houſe of Mr. Reuben Meſſenger, of New-Hartford, accidentally took fire (while he with his wife were from home) & was conſumed——Two children, one 7, the other four years of age, periſhed in the flames.

BENNINGTON, (Vermont) Nov. 20

It is currently reported, and the report gains credit, that ſecret emiſſaries from New-York and creatures corrupted by their influence are ſecretly at work in every part of this State, fomenting uneaſineſs among the people, and promoting inſurrections, the firſt eſſay is ſaid to be to raiſe a jealouſy reſpecting us in the United States, by induſtriouſly ſpreading reports that we were in ſecret treaty with Great-Britain, and on any future emergency ſhall eſpouſe her cauſe; and then, under ſpecious pretences, to raiſe cabals in this State, induce the unwary to join in the nefarious ſchemes, to riſe in oppoſition to legal authority and ſtop the courſe of juſtice. Ariſe ye freemen of Vermont! Defend your injured independence! Let no inſidious foe precipitate your ruin, by perſwading you to raiſe the arm of deſperation againſt your own life! liberty and property!

BOSTON, December 15.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Worceſter, to his friend in this town.

Friday Morning, Dec. 8, 1786.

"You have already heard of the proceedings of the inſurgents, to Tueſday morning. After the Court was adjourned, a guard was placed at Mr. Allen's houſe, the Clerk of the Court, where Judge Ward reſided—a petition from the towns of Douglas and Sutton to the Juſtices of the Pleas was preſented to Judge Ward, the purport of which was to requeſt the Court might be adjourned to March term, in order to prevent "carnage, ſcarcity and confuſion." On Wedneſday morning Mr. Juſtice Baker was ſtopped as he was going out of town on his return home, by a guard who were placed on the hill at the entrance of the north-eaſt part of the town; he was, however, ſoon after releaſed.—Several parties joined the inſurgents this day (Wedneſday) and about one o'clock all who were in town were paraded and went to meet Shays and his party from Rutland. Shays's party conſiſted of about 350 men, who collected to him while at the barracks in Rutland, from this county and that of Hampſhire.—Shays's were diſtinguiſhed by ſprigs of the pine tree in their hats—they appeared to be under good diſcipline, as did alſo the others. They were all paraded in the ſtreet together, fronting the Court-Houſe; Shays and one of his aids were mounted on white horſes; the whole body of them paraded, were about 800 men. Soon after, Shays's party marched towards the Meeting-Houſe, and billited his men on the inhabitants: I do not learn that he abſolutely forced them on any, but ſtrongly urged the matter; a number refuſed taking, and they went elſewhere. After billiting his men, he joined the council or convention of the leaders, at Patch's. In the evening, he went to his lodging with a ſtrong guard. Centries were placed along the ſtreet, upon heights of lands, and all the avenues to the town, and none ſuffered, to paſs without examination. One or two travellers were taken up and detained all night. Committees were choſen by ſome of the neighbouring towns, it is ſaid, by requeſt of the inſurgents, to join in petition to the Court and Governor. I am told the deſire of the petition is to be, that the priſoners in Boſton may be releaſed—that no more warrants may be granted againſt the leaders of the inſurgents—another act of indemnity be paſſed—the General Court to be called together ſooner than the time ſet for that purpoſe—and that no more courts be held until after a new choice of Repreſentatives, &c.—This modeſt requeſt being granted, they will lay down their arms. The leaders are certainly afraid of releaſing their men; they dread another excurſion of the "Light Horſe." By the beſt information I can get they are much perplexed what ſteps to take—every exertion is made to collect and keep their men together—thouſands of untruths are propogated for this purpoſe, one of which I cannot help mentioning, viz. That the horſemen who took Shattuck, not content with cutting and hacking him to pieces, entered his houſe, put out an eye of a woman with a bayonet, and ſtubbed another in the breaſt, and cruelly beat and abuſed an infant——This ſtory is now circulating in order to inflame the minds of people and exaſperate them to fly to arms; I am ſorry to add, that it has conſiderable effect. But as the ſtory is untrue, it muſt hurt their cauſe finally. About three o'clock in the afternoon of Thurſday, Shays's men and a part of Wheeler's purſued to the amount of about 500, and began their march to Paxton; it is thought they will proceed to Rutland, and a great part of them quarter in the barracks, for they give out that they do not mean to diſperſe till matters are ſettled; a number more, to the amount of perhaps 200 marched to the north part of the town, in order, as it was ſaid, to quarter at Bigelow's tavern, about 4 miles. Yeſterday ſeveral celebrated characters in our convention were in town, and had a conference with the leaders of the inſurgents; theſe men are undoubtedly guilty of great duplicity; on one hand they pretend not to juſtify the men who riſe in arms; and, on the other hand they are accuſed even by ſome of the inſurgents of ſpiriting them on—In the evening centries were placed as uſual, the guard at the Court-Houſe was diſcontinued there, but kept up at the tavern, where a number of their leaders remained, and centries placed at almoſt every door, inſide and out of the houſe. Captain Day on the march from Springfield, with, it is ſaid, 200 men. If I may hazard a conjecture, the inſurgents mean for the preſent to keep their main body at Rutland; they will try to muſter all their ſtrength, but want of proviſions, &c. if nothing elſe, will prevent their keeping together a large number. I think they cannot muſter in all their united force, in the three Counties of W. H. and B. more than 2000 men if they all turned out who would bear arms:——Provided there was a force againſt them, their number would be leſs, and when the veil of ignorance which is now thrown over them by their leaders, ſhall be taken off, their number muſt be very trifling. I ſincerely believe, all their leaders are now after, is, to contrive ſome plan to ſave themſelves from puniſhment by government, and to ſcreen themſelves from the rage of the people, ſhould they quit them. I, however, may be miſtaken."

Friday evening 9 o'clock.

Extract of another letter from a gentleman at Worceſter, to his friend in this town.

"Dear Sir,

"I have but little to inform you concerning what has been tranſacted among the inſurgents, ſince writing to you this morning. The day has been ſpent by the leaders in conſultation. I have heard by ſome of their men, that Shays returned laſt evening (himſelf alone and privately) and is with them in council. I believe nothing is yet determined on; they are much perplexed, but the general cry among their inferior officers is, that it is beſt to have matters ſettled; that they do not want bloodſhed; ſome ſay, but their leaders are not ſafe, &c. &c.—The leaders confidently report, that Shattuck died of his wounds, for they had ſeen a perſon directly from Boſton who gave them the information. Day with his party have arrived at Leiceſter, ſix miles from this town. From the beſt information which comes through ſeveral hands that I can get, he has but 115 men with him, himſelf included; about 50 more are following him, and theſe are all that I can hear are now coming to join the inſurgents from Hampſhire: It is a fact that many deſert from them, and ſome belonging to the neighbouring towns have been permitted to go home. We have now a little more liberty. I believe there are not above 150 in town. It is ſaid, and I believe it is true, that they are ſending out to ſeveral towns to join them in a petition to the Governor."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Springfield, December 4, 1786,

"By the beſt accounts I can get, Capt. Day received orders yeſterday, by expreſs from Capt. Shays, to march to Worceſter all the men he could raiſe. He hath ſpared no pains to collect them. However I expect two-thirds of the men, whom he expects, will fail him. Perhaps his party from Weſtfield and Weſt-Springfield will conſiſt of 100 or 130 men. The mob party from Long-Meadow have this moment arrived, after two or three expreſſes ſent them; but their number is only four poor boys."

Shattuck, the ſtate priſoner now in this town, is amply provided with all the neceſſaries and conveniencies proper for any perſon labouring under ſuch a wound, as he received in his violent and obſtinate reſiſtance to the gentlemen who apprehended him; he is conſtantly attended by a number of reſpectable gentlemen of the Faculty, and treated with all the humanity that could poſſibly be ſhewn to any perſon whatever.

NORTHAMPTON, December 20.

A gentleman from Eaſt Springfield informs, that their delegate to the late convention finiſhed (agreeable to the doings of that town about a fortnight ſince) his political exiſtence; and that on Friday laſt, his reſurrection was attempted in a ſpecial meeting, by only the feeble efforts of eight or ten perſons out of near one hundred.

The General Aſſembly of Virginia, in October laſt, paſſed a bill, enacting, "That from and after the paſſing thereof, no ſlave or ſlaves ſhould be imported into that ſtate, or if imported, be ſold or bought by any perſon whatever, on penalty of forfeiting one thouſand pounds for every ſlave ſo imported, and five hundred pounds for every ſlave ſo ſold or bought—and likewiſe enacting, that every ſlave imported contrary to the intent of this act, ſhould upon ſuch importation, become free."

His Excellency the Governor has been pleaſed to appoint Col. Iſrael Keith, Ajutant-General of the militia of this Commonwealth, with the rank of Brigadier-General.

Col. Robert Oliver, of Cheſter, is apointed Deputy Ajutant-General for the fourth diviſion of militia in this Commonwealth.

The feſtival of ST. JOHN the evangeliſt, will be celebrated by the Maſter, Wardens and brethren of Hampſhire Lodge, on Wedneſday the 27th inſt. at the Lodge-Room in Northampton.

Laſt Thurſday evening the houſe of Mr.——Higgins, of Weſt-Hampton, (the family being from home) accidentally took fire and was entirely conſumed, together with the houſehold furniture, &c.

Died laſt Sunday morning, Mr. Selah Wright, in the 65th year of his age.

Belchertown, December 4, 1786.

AT a town-meeting held in this town, to tranſact town affairs, it was voted, by a great majo.ity, to diſmiſs their delegates to the late convention from any further attendance,—and they were accordingly diſmiſſed.

Teſt, ELIJAH DWIGHT, T. C.

A Subſcription School.

I. CURSON,

TEACHER of the Proprietors School, Northampton, begs leave to inform the public, that he intends to open a Subſcription School at Hatfield, the firſt day of January next, where youths will be careſully and expeditiouſly inſtructed in various branches of uſeful Literature. For terms and other particulars, Gentlemen are deſired to apply to Col. Chapin of Hatfield.

December 16, 1786.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six.

An Act, for suspending the laws for the collection of private debts, under certain limitations.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That all the laws heretofore enacted, and now in force in this Commonwealth, for the collection of private debts, in specie, be, and they are hereby suspended for the term of eight months from and after the passing of this act.

And whereas the circumstances of some debtors may be so embarrassed as to render it expedient for their creditors to secure their demands, and some creditors may be disposed to receive their dues in specific articles, rather than to wait 'till the expiration of this act;

Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when, and so often as any creditors shall commence any action against a debtor, and recover judgment and execution thereon, and in all cases where execution hath been already issued on judgment rendered, unless the creditor shall chuse to have his execution issued on a judgment already rendered, returned unsatisfied (in which case the creditor shall be intitled to interest on his said execution so long as the same shall remain unsatisfied) it shall, and may be lawful for the said debtor to pay and discharge the said execution in real or personal estate, or both, on condition that the debtor shall make declaration under oath of all his property of every kind, if required by the creditors. If the debtor shall give false information respecting his property, or conceal any part thereof, he shall be liable to prosecution therefor; and the creditor shall have a right to take his choice of the debtor's estate real or personal, or both, except household furniture, necessary for upholding life, farming utensils, wearing-apparel, necessary for cloathing, and the tools of mechanics necessary for prosecuting his or their trades. And the said execution shall be levied in the manner following, viz. The debtor being the legal owner and possessor of such estate, it shall be received by the said creditors in discharge of the said execution at the appraisal of three disinterested and discreet men, being freeholders of the same county, and chosen in the following manner; *that is to say,* the creditor shall chuse one, the debtor shall chuse one, and the officer serving the said execution, shall chuse the other of the said appraisers. And in case either of the parties shall neglect or refuse to chuse as aforesaid, the said officer shall chuse in the room of the party thus neglecting or refusing. And the persons thus chosen, shall, previous to their entering on the said business, before some Justice of the Peace, within the same county, be sworn faithfully and truly to appraise such real or personal estate, as shall be presented unto them for the purpose aforesaid, at the true and real value thereof in specie, according to their best skill and judgment. And the said officer shall, at the time and place of appraisal, duely deliver the said estate, thus appraised, to the said creditor, his agent or attorney, and endorse the whole amount thereof on the said execution, in full, or in part discharge thereof, as the case may be. And for want of estate sufficient to satisfy such execution, it shall and may be lawful, by virtue of the same execution, to take the body of such debtor, and him commit to the common gaol of the county, there to remain until he shall pay and satisfy the remainder of the said execution, or be discharged by the creditor, or otherwise, in due course of law. *Provided always,* That where real estate is taken at the election of the creditor, one year shall be allowed for the redemption of the same; but, if taken at the option of the debtor, he shall be deprived of his right of redemption.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any suit shall hereafter be commenced within this Commonwealth, against any debtor being a citizen thereof, such debtor, after due notice given to the creditor or creditors commencing such suit, or to his or their agent or attorney, is hereby authorised to tender real or personal estate in full satisfaction of the debt due to the said creditor, together with all legal costs of suit to the time the said tender was made: in which case, if the said debtor shall make declaration under oath, of all his property of every kind, and shall consent that his creditor shall take his choice thereof, in manner aforesaid, and that the same should be appraised by appraisers, chosen as aforesaid, (saving that the appraisers, which in the case of an execution is to be chosen by the officer serving the same, shall be appointed by a Justice of the Peace) or in case the creditor shall chuse to receive the debt in real estate, if the said debtor, after the same is appraised and set off, shall make and execute a good and lawful deed thereof to the creditor, sufficient to hold the same in fee with warranty, such citizen or debtor, on making a tender as aforesaid, to the said creditor, his agent or attorney, before two or more good and lawful witnesses, or on executing a deed as aforesaid, shall never be holden to pay any cost of suit or interest that may arise on said debt, after the time the said tender was made.

Provided nevertheless, That nothing in this act shall be construed to extend to any public officer or officers, agent or agents, attorney or attornies, who may have in his or their hands, monies in trust, the property of individuals: nor shall any creditor be hereby debarred from bringing an action, for the recovery of interest, in specie, on contracts where interest, in specie, is promised; but such creditor or creditors, may, and they hereby are impowered to commence an action or actions, as the case may be, for interest only; and prosecute the same to final judgment and execution; and when recovered, to indorse the same on the obligation on which such action was founded.

Provided also, That nothing in this act shall be construed to extend to any bills of exchange which have been, or which shall hereafter be protested according to law. *Provided also,* That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to militate or interfere with any treaty or treaties now subsisting, or which may be formed between the United States of America, and any other nation; any thing in this act, to the contrary notwithstanding. *Provided also,* That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to effect any notes due to, or from the President and Directors of the Massachusetts-Bank.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases when the debtor shall have a right to tender real or personal estate to be received at an appraised value, it shall be expressed in the execution, which shall be hereafter issued against him.

This act to continue, and be in force for the term of eight months, from the passing thereof and no longer.

In the House of Representatives, Nov. 14, 1786.

This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.

In Senate, Nov. 15, 1786.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.

By the Governor, Approved.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

True copy. Attest

JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'ry.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In Senate, *November* 10, 1786.

WHEREAS at the time for holding the Supreme Judicial Court at Great-Barrington, within and for the county of Berkshire, on the first Tuesday of October last, the justices of the said Court, by reason of the commotions, tumults and disorders in the said county, were prevented from holding the said Courts at the said time and place, within and for the said county: Therefore,

RESOLVED, That the said Supreme Judicial Court, be held at Lenox, within & for the said county of Berkshire, on the first Tuesday of May next, then and there to transact and do all the business, and to hear and determine, all the several causes, complaints, and other matters and things which would regularly have come before the said Court, had it been held on the first Tuesday of October last as aforesaid; and likewise all the several causes, complaints, recognizances, and other matters and things which may regularly be brought before the said Court, that have arisen or may arise, in the said county, from the said first Tuesday of October last, until the holding of the said Court on the first Tuesday of May as aforesaid; and that all appeals, writs, recognizances, warrants, complaints, and other causes, which were to have been returned, received, considered and proceeded upon by the said Court, at their term in October last, as aforesaid, shall be returned, received considered and proceeded upon, heard and determined, in like manner, as the same might, and ought to have been returned, received, considered, proceeded upon, heard and determined before the said Court, if the same Court had been held in the said county, on the first Tuesday, of October last, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.

In the House of Representatives, Nov. 14, 1786.

Read and concurred.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.

Approved,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

A true copy. Attest.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

STRAYED from the subscriber, some time in June last, two yearling HEIFERS, one a dark red, with a white face; the other a brown, with considerable white about her, both marked with a half crop the upper side of the right ear, and a slit the under side of the same. Whoever will take up said creatures, and give information where they may be had, to the primer hereof, or the subscriber, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

SOLOMON JUDD.

West-Hampton, Dec. 13, 1786.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

The First, Second, and Third Part of

Webster's Institute.

ALSO,

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys's Poem.

DECEMBER 1786. THE NUMB. 17.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1786.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

An ADDRESS from the GENERAL COURT to the PEOPLE of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

[Concluded from our last.]

THE constitution is as free and popular as the preservation of society will admit; and indeed fome have feared, it is more fo: It has been highly applauded by foreigners and approved by the people. All perfons employed in the legiflative or executive parts of government, depend annually upon the people for their choice; if the people are diffatisfied with their conduct, they have an opportunity yearly to appoint others, in whom they can more fully confide. Can there be any neceffity then, of reforting to irregular, or violent meafures, to obtain redrefs of grievances?

That the people are overburthened with taxes is faid to be a grievance: The taxes have indeed been very great; perhaps the General Court have mifjudged of the abilities of their conftituents, but it may be that thofe who complain, if they knew the ftate of the public debt, and the wants of the Legiflature, would be fatisfied. We fhall therefore ftate them.

The fums applied to the ufe of the United States, were efteemed by Congrefs to be indifpenfibly neceffary: And the General Court in former years fuppofed they could not with any regard to their duty as a part of the union refufe the payment; nor could we think ourfelves under lefs obligations to provide for the payment of that part of the tax granted laft, which is appropriated to the ufe of the Government.

The neceffity of a fpeedy payment of the before mentioned part of that tax, is complained of as a grievance. By the refolve of Congrefs of September 27, 1785, it was provided, that the Commiffioners of the Continental Loan-Office fhould not on any pretence whatever, iffue any certificates for the intereft of the Continental debt, until the State for which he was Loan-Officer, fhould have paffed a Legiflative act, complying with the requifition in the faid refolve; and by the fame refolve it was required, that the Legiflature of each State fhould provide in the act complying with that requifition, that if on the firft day of January, 1787, the faid certificates fhould not be in the hand of fome proper officer, the deficiency fhould be paid in fpecie. It was therefore abfolutely neceffary, that the act fhould be conftructed as it was, otherwife no certificates could have been iffued; notwithftanding which, application is now made to Congrefs, that the term for receiving thofe certificates may be prolonged.

The army notes were made payable, one third part in 1784, one third in 1785, and the remainder in 1786. The fervice of the officers and foldiers of the late army, was acknowledged by all to be exceedingly meritorious, and perhaps no part of the community had greater reafon to complain of grievances than they. It was reprefented that many of them were urgent to have the notes redeemed: They were iffued upon this expreſs condition, that they fhould be receivable in the firft taxes after they fhould become payable, and the General Court well knew, that if the abilities of the people were fufficient, it would be greatly for their advantage to redeem them.

We think the obfervations that have been made will explain the neceffity of that part of the taxes, which has been applied to the fupport of civil government. With regard to the refidue of the taxes it is apparent, from the manner in which the expenditures have been made that they were occafioned by the war. When the war firft commenced, the people folemnly engaged to each other to carry it on until they obtained fecurity of their rights, although their LIVES and FORTUNES fhould be the PRICE OF THE PURCHASE: If there was the leaft truth or fincerity in thefe declarations, could it be fuppofed, they would individually grudge the contribution of their part of the expence, when the event exceeded their moft fanguine expectation?

Public credit is one of the moft important fruits committed to the Legiflature; in proportion as that declines, the State is weakened and in danger. It is of the fame importance to a community, as a character for truth is to individuals. The want of a paper currency has been complained of as a grievance; but we find that in divers places where complaints have arifen, the idea of a paper currency is rejected with marks of great diſapprobation. Indeed a little attention to the fubject, we conceive, muft fatisfy every intelligent and unprejudiced mind, that the emiffion of fuch a currency would be exceedingly prejudicial. If it could be carried into circulation, the folid coin would be exported, the morals of the people would become more depraved, defigning men would practife innumerable frauds, and if it fhould ever after be redeemed, it would plunge the State in deeper diſtreſs: If it fhould not be redeemed, it would cauſe the ruin of many individuals, and brand the State with infamy. And upon whom would that ruin fall? Not upon the artful and unprincipled, they would gain by the fraud; not upon the prudent and diſcerning, they would be guarded againſt it; but the loſs would chiefly happen to the widow and the orphan, the ſimple and unwary; the moſt innocent and defenceleſs part of the community; that part, whoſe intereſts the Legiſlature ought to defend with peculiar attention. —The widow and orphan are the ſpecial charge of the Supreme Being, and all are enjoined to exerciſe vigilance and tenderneſs for their welfare. This injunction every man, poſſeſſed of natural affections, muſt feel the force of; for who can tell how ſoon his wife and his childr. may fall a prey to ſharpers and ſpeculators, if a paper money ſyſtem ſhall be adopted.

A full experiment of this State's ability to uphold the credit of a paper medium, was made in the caſe of the new emiſſion: The faith of the United States, and of this State, were both pledged for its ſupport; a fund was provided, ſufficient to pay the intereſt; and although, when it firſt came into circulation, it paſſed at the rate of one & ſeven-eighths for one, intereſt on a large amount in ſilver was paid upon the nominal ſum; notwithſtanding which, at the very time the intereſt was paying, the currency rapidly depreciated.

We preſume there is not a man in the State, who ſuppoſes, that if we emitted a paper currency, it would not depreciate; and if it depreciates, it will paſs at different rates in different places, and to different perſons, at the ſame time; it will therefore produce the ſame effect as divers weights and divers meaſures, which we are aſſured are an abomination.

We feel in common with our neighbours the ſcarcity of money, but is not this ſcarcity owing to our own folly? At the cloſe of the war, there was no complaint of it; ſince, that time our fields have yielded their increaſe, and heaven has ſhowered its bleſſings on us in uncommon abundance; but are not we conſtrained to allow that immenſe ſums have been expended, for what is of no value, for the gew-gaws imported from Europe, and the more pernicious produce of the Weſt-Indies; and the dread of a paper currency impedes the circulation of what remains: It is ſaid however, that ſuch a currency would give us preſent relief; but like the pleaſure of ſin, it would be but for a ſeaſon; and like that too, it would be a reproach to the community, and would produce calamities without end.

Until the people can forget the injuries and frauds occaſioned by paper currencies, in their own time; we think they muſt be ſatisfied, of the inexpediency and injuſtice, of making new emiſſions.

Within a few years the habits of luxury have exceedingly increaſed; the uſual manufactures of the country have been little attended to. That we can buy goods cheaper than we can make them, is often repeated, and is even become a maxim in œconomy, although a moſt abſurd and deſtructive one. While theſe habits continue, the wiſeſt Legiſlature will not be able to remove our complaints: The emiſſion of a paper currency, and ſuch like expedients, may ſeem to refreſh us for a moment; but they will ſerve to fan the flame, that muſt eventually conſume us.

Without a reformation of manners, we can have little hope to proſper in our public or private concerns. At the cloſe of the war we greedily adopted the luxurious modes of foreign nations. Although our country abounds with all the neceſſaries of life, the importations from abroad, for our own conſumption, have been almoſt beyond calculation; we have indulged ourſelves in fantaſtical and expenſive fathions and intemperate living; by theſe means our property has been leſſened and immenſe ſums in ſpecie have been exported. Government is complained of, as if they had devoured them; and the cry of many perſons now is, make us paper money. This requeſt is next in point of imprudence to that of the Iſraelites to Aaron, to make them a calf; and a compliance would be but a little more honourable or advantageous, in the one caſe, than it was in the other.

As the difficulty in paying debts increaſed, a diſregard to honeſty, juſtice and good faith, in public and private tranſactions, became more manifeſt. That virtue, which is neceſſary to ſupport a Republic, has declined; and as a people, we are now in the preciſe channel, in which the liberty of States has generally been ſwallowed up. But ſtill our caſe is not deſperate; by recurring to the principles of integrity and public ſpirit, and the practice of induſtry, ſobriety, œconomy and fidelity in contracts, and by acquieſcing in laws neceſſary for the public good, the impending ruin may be averted, and we be come reſpectable and happy. By ſo doing we may ſatisfy the invidious predi[ctions] mies, that we ſhall [not] ſhould be [unable] to maintain dom. In ſuch [a] we may hope [the Lord] of our fathers [will] has defended us [hitherto], will proſper the work of his hands, and ſave the fair ſtructure of American liberty from falling into ruin.

We make no boaſt of uncommon ſkill in legiſlation; but ſacredly regarding the oaths we have taken, we claim the merit of upright intention, and of purſuing as far as we can judge, meaſures formed on the principles of juſtice, and calculated to promote the honour, the ſafety and happineſs of the State.

In a Commonwealth, where a ſpirit of unreaſonable jealouſy and a complaining temper, are indulged and countenanced, it will be impoſſible to give ſatisfaction to the people: if Angels in ſuch caſe were to govern us, oppoſition would be made to their adminiſtration; indeed we have a ſtriking inſtance that when ſuch humours prevail, even the authority of the Supreme Being will be thought a grievance. The people of Iſrael were under his particular care and government; He was their Lawgiver and Judge; He delivered them from their oppreſſors; He led them through the ſea; He rained them down the corn of Heaven and ſent them meat to the full; but notwithſtanding, they complained of His government and wantonly provoked His anger; like that people, we have experienced aſtoniſhing teſtimonies of the divine favour. God forbid! that like them, we ſhould requite him with murmuring and ingratitude, and provoke him to deſtroy us.

When the people are diſſatisfied with the conduct of any government, it may at leaſt deſerve a reflection, whether the diſcontent is not with themſelves. At the laſt election in this ſt[ate] perhaps a greater number of new me[n] returned, than at any former period; they came together with a fixed deſign, to gratify their conſtituents in every thing which the intereſt of the community would permit; and they never loſt ſight of that object; notwithſtanding which, greater diſſatisfaction with public meaſures is expreſſed at this time, than ever before ſince the revolution. The Legiſlature have attended to all the petitions that have been preſented, and all the complaints that have been made; ſo far as juſtice will allow, they will comply with the requeſts in theſe petitions, and remove the grounds of thoſe complaints. If they poſſeſs abilities and integrity equal to the other members of the community, the advantages they derive from the information collected from all parts of the ſtate and a public diſcuſſion of ſubjects, render them more capable to judge of the ſtateſs of public meaſures; but if they are to have the favour of the people, and a voice in the public councils, only on condition of their eſtabliſhing iniquity by law, they are willing to loſe the ſhameful pre-eminence.

The General Court have heard with in[dig]preſſi-

ble concern, of the insurrections in several counties in the State. The pretence that the Court of Common Pleas is a sinecure, affords but a wretched excuse for such outrageous proceedings; that Court, except a small alteration in the name, has existed time immemorial; no complaints were heard against it in former times; no application has been made to the Legislature before this session to abolish it. The fees except those of jurors and witnesses, are in many instances less, and we think in none greater than they were before the war. Provision has been made to enable the citizens to settle their demands without resorting to that Court, if they are disposed to do it; several years since the Justices of the Peace were authorised to take acknowledgments of debts, even to the largest amount; and more lately an act was passed to enable any persons in difference, who would agree to refer their disputes, to resort to a Justice and enter into a rule for that purpose, without being subject to the expence of an action. But if the Court of Common Pleas has been by any supposed unnecessary, how surprizing then, the idea, that any persons could think themselves justified in oppoing by force, an ancient institution, without taking a single step to obtain redress in a regular method. But not content with obstructing the Court of Common Pleas, the disaffected have taken arms to prevent the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court; against which not a single complaint has been uttered. These proceedings are the more alarming, as they can be accounted for only on the supposition, that the instigators wish to subvert all order and government, and reduce the Commonwealth to the most deplorable state of wretchedness and contempt.

In this view, our situation appears exceedingly alarming; sufficiently so, to arrest the most serious attention, and summon the united efforts, of all orders in the State. Some persons have artfully affected to make distinction between the government and people, as though their interests were different and even opposite; but we presume, the good sense of our constituents will discover the deceit and falsity of those insinuations. Within a few months the authority delegated to us will cease, and all the citizens will be equally candidates in a future election; we are therefore no more interested to preserve the constitution and support the government, than others; but while the authority given us continues, we are bound to exercise it for the benefit of our constituents. And we now call upon persons of all ranks and characters to exert themselves for the public safety. Upon the Ministers of religion as they industriously inculcate upon the minds of their people, the principles of justice and public virtue; that they earnestly endeavour to impress them with sentiments of reverence to the Deity and benevolence to men, and convince them of the ruinous effects of luxury and licentiousness. Upon the officers of every denomination, that they endeavour to inform the ignorant; and by their example of economy, to induce others to the practice of the same virtue; and that they use their utmost efforts to suppress the insurrections of such lawless and violent men, as may wish to [illegible] deface the fabrick of law and government [illegible] with the dust. And upon the whole body of the people, that they provide for the instruction of the rising generation; that they practice all those virtues which are the ornament and strength of society, and abstain from those vices and follies, that weaken the State, & have a tendency to its ruin; and especially, that they oppose with fortitude and perseverance, all attempts to impede the course of justice and render their own lives and property insecure.

Many who disapprove of insurrections against the government, neglect to afford their aid in suppressing them; but to stand still, inactive spectators in such case, is like a man who when his house is in flames, should stand with folded arms and console himself with this, that he did not set it on fire.

We persuade ourselves, that the far greater part of those who have been concerned in the late dangerous tumults, have been deluded by the false representations of men who go about to deceive; and we wish them to reflect how fatal such proceedings may prove in the issue, to themselves and their children; that they must increase the public burthens, and embarrass the measures calculated for relief; that it is their own consti- and laws they are endeavouring to overthrow; that this constitution, and these laws formed for the safety of every member of society, and that the man who attempts to destroy those laws, and that constitution, does not make attempt upon the life, liberty and property of every member of the community; and we conjure them, by all that they hold dear and sacred, forthwith to desist from such ruinous pursuits.

Perhaps there are some, who deaf to the voice of reason, and lost to all sense of justice and virtue, may resolve to continue in their dangerous course; but let them be assured, although they flatter themselves that the considerations of friendship and affinity, may delay the time of recompence; yet the vengeance of an injured community, must one day, pursue and overtake them.

TREASURY-OFFICE, 27th October, 1786.

I HAVE examined and compared the statements that are here presented to the public, and so far as respects the accounts in this office, I find they are just and true.

THOMAS IVERS, Treasurer.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

ONE of your correspondents, Gazette No. 14, who animadverts upon the writings of the Old Republican, merits particular notice: Not he forsooth who stiles himself, the Peace-Maker, but he who signs himself "One of the Community." In No. 11, this gentleman began his publications, by an attempt to prove the legality of county conventions. In No. 12, he was called upon to shew by evidence, the legitimacy of such bodies. It is an argument of his good sense, that he has not attempted that more than herculean labour, but has dropped the claims which he first set up for those useless and dangerous assemblies: dangerous, I mean, when they assume to canvass the affairs of government. I congratulate my friend on his escape from the shackles of conventions. I hope to be so happy as to convince him and others, That we have no right to make a king according to the customs of the miserable nations of the Eastern Continent.

Our writer calls upon me to say, "What right the people of this Commonwealth have to introduce a king in the year 1795 any more than in the year 1786." In frank acknowledgement of my former error, that the people might introduce a king in 1795, I reply, that they have no right either now or in any future period to introduce a king, that is, a magistrate with what is commonly called kingly power. Supposing mankind to have an indefeasable right to civil liberty and to govern themselves, they can never constitutionally with this right introduce a king. They have no authority thus to destroy themselves or their posterity. From several articles in the frame of government, especially in the bill of rights, which articles are founded in indubitable truth, it is apparent, that kingly power is inconsistent both with civil liberty and civil government; and may at any fit opportunity be dissolved by the power of the people. Not to trouble the press with numerous quotations, I beg leave to support these sentiments by allusions to the preamble of the constitution, and to the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 23d, and 30th articles of the bill of rights. To the testimony of these essential maxims of civil liberty and policy, I would subjoin the prove of experience, in the inferiority, servility and abject wretchedness of those nations who are afflicted with the rod of kingly domination. To receive a king is to receive a messenger of God's wrath, a scourge of human wickedness. The Old Republican was in a mistake when he supposed, that our present sticklers for royalty might consistently with the constitution in the year 1795, exert themselves for the introduction of a king. For we are bound by the most solemn obligations never to bring in a king or any princely and hereditary power into the Commonwealth. —Further: The articles of confederation and perpetual union between the American states, do sacredly bind them to a free republican form of government. In one of the articles which I can only quote from memory, it is declared and agreed, that there shall be no prince or hereditary nobility in any one of the United States. It therefore concerns not only the Massachusetts, but all the states of the union not to introduce a prince or hereditary nobility, as they would regard their liberty and safety, and be faithful to their plighted vows. By this time I hope that my friend of the Community and all who have examined the evidences to which I allude, are convinced that we can never introduce a king without betraying our solemn faith. The Old Republican would never have hinted so hurtful an idea, had he attended properly to these evidences. Having according to the custom of several writers, and perhaps with as much pertinancy as some of them written against the Old Republican; my next attempt will be to shew, that the present form of government is a solemn covenant and agreement of the people of this commonwealth, to dwell together as a BODY POLITIC, and to be governed according to the principles of the present constitution for a term not less than seven years, and forever after until two thirds of the freemen shall see fit to alter or amend it.

And should any future events render it necessary to alter or amend any article of the constitution, I shall show how such alteration is to be made. I shall adduce several passages from the constitution, and then apply them to the reasoning of my opponent—The preamble says, "The end of the institution, maintainance and administration of government, is to secure the existence of the body politic; to protect it; and the power of enjoying in safety and tranquility their natural rights and the blessings of life, &c. The body politic is formed by a voluntary association of individuals. It is a social compact by which the whole people covenants with each citizen, and each citizen with the whole people, &c." Having stated the nature and use of government, the preamble records the covenant which the people, under the acknowledged eye of God, entered into with each other individually." They do enter into an original, explicit and solemn compact with each other and do form a new constitution of civil government for themselves and their posterity. And devoutly imploring God's direction in so interesting a design, do agree upon, ordain and establish the following declaration of Rights and frame of government as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Those who will carry back their attention to the events of eight or ten past years, must remember that the work of forming and ratifying our present constitution was the deliberate labour of three years. One constitution was formed, sent out to the towns, coolly deliberated and finally rejected. The second was formed by the wisest and most patriotick members of the Community. By the singular interposition of that power who turneth the hearts of men as the rivers of water are turned, the deliberations of those members were succeeded and the minds of the people were inclined to receive, ratify and establish our present form of government, after the most dispassionate deliberation. The articles were all ratified by two thirds and the generality of them by more than 9-10ths of the citizens. The constitution was ratified and enacted as it expresly certifies deliberately and peaceably, without fraud violence or surprize. To this established form of government we agreed for ourselves and for our posterity. This proves that our frame of government was avowedly designed for continuance and perpetuity. Not to be the work of a year or six years, but of a long duration. It was designedly and fixedly established for the security of each individual against the other citizens and to protect if need should require one part of the State against another. So that it is in the power of every individual citizen to hold the whole body politic to their agreement, not to amend or alter the constitution, but only in the way prescribed by the first compact.—As the labours of the wisest are imperfect, and circumstances may alter in such manner as to render amendments necessary, so our constitution has made provision for such useful alterations and limited the, time for attending to that matter & the way in which all alterations shall be effected. The time specified is in 1795. Then it may be lawful to attempt a revision of the constitution and not till then, "Chap. vi. Art. 10. In order more effectually to adhere to the principles of the constitution, and to correct those violations which by any means may be made therein, as well as to form such alterations as from experience shall be found necessary, the General Court which shall be in the year of our Lord 1795, shall issue precepts to the selectmen of the several towns and to the assessors of the unincorporated plantations, directing them to convene the qualified voters of their respective towns and plantations for the purpose of collecting their sentiments on the necessity or expediency of revising the constitution in order to amendments. And if it shall appear by the returns made, that two thirds of the qualified voters throughout the State, who shall assemble and vote in consequence of the said precepts are in favour of such revision or amendment, the General Court shall issue precepts to the several towns to elect delegates to meet in convention for the purpose aforesaid. The said delegates to be chosen in the same manner and proportion as their representatives in the second branch are by this constitution to be chosen." Here we have the exact time and manner of revising the constitution: To which time and manner we are limited by our express and solemn covenant. What is the conclusion we should naturally draw from these paragraphs of our constitution? Why this, that government is to be maintained and protected for the safety of the citizens. And as they have the sole right to frame, so it lies with them to ascertain the principles and the continuance of their government. Having ordained a free government, it is in their breast to determine how long it shall continue and to specify the time for revising their constitution, if it should be then thought necessary. It is a stupid idea, that any civil constitution can be called a government adapted to the security of individuals and the body politic, which has no permanency, but may be shifted and changed in its forms and principles every year or every month, which like the clay, is forever under the hands of the potter: which will allow and encourage restless persons in attempts to disquiet the community and unsettle it's foundations whenever their poverty, their ambition, and their vices shall prompt them to innovations, in direct the peace and security of the commonwealth. In forming our constitution, the people evidently designed to fix a number of political maxims for individual and general protection; maxims to abide until their prescribed period of revision. Then if alterations were necessary they designed to have them made in the manner and form by them specified. Not to subject the community to the ignorant and mischievous attempts of restless and interested politicians, by which the minds of the people would be continually perplexed and unsettled. Fifteen years they thought and others will think with them, was in all reason a period short enough in which to prove the utility of their system of government. Here let it be observed, that such a limitation of the constitution to fifteen years, without alteration, is not an abridgement, but the perfection of the people's right to govern themselves: It is not possessing their privilege only one year in fifteen, but it is using their innate power to say how they will be governed, and how long they will be governed upon such principles. Yet we are frequently saluted with Art. 7th of the bill of rights, as an argument that the people may change their government every year or every month; that they may covenant with each other and with each individual and call God to witness that they will dwell together in a body politic for fifteen years under such regulations, and then they have a right the next week to say they will not dwell together under such regulations nor as a body politic. They have a right to make solemn promises to institute a fixed government; to swear their officers to abide by and defend that government and then they have a right to mangre all their fixed stipulations with each individual to collect the State, and in matters not by what artifices, tumults and factions and declare that they will not abide by their first covenant, and their officers shall not administer the government which they have sworn to defend. This extraordinary power can be denied from no other source, but from the chair of infallibility at Rome by which they are placed above the moral law. But let us hear what the 7th article affirms, "Government is instituted for the common good, for the protection, prosperity and happiness of the people, and not for the profit, honour or private interest of any one man, family or class of men: Therefore the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable and indefeasible right to institute government, & to reform, alter or change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it." That is, the power of instituting and fixing the forms of government, is in the hands of the people: they have a right to associate into a body politic and to make contracts with each other, and when their prosperity requires it they have a right, as sovereignes conclude, to break their contracts & to throw individuals out of the body politic, and for aside the obligation of oaths and promises; to make new associations upon new principles, and disannul them again. This must be a wonderful "protection, prosperity and happiness" which requires such an exercise of the people's right. No, my friend of the Community, who by these given arguments would be a fraud on one of the community, to-morrow your reasoning is not good, it is sophistical & inconclusive. The article says to this effect, the people may institute governments for one fifteen or an hundred years as they please; government is for their good, and they must form and limit it. No one man, family or class of men, have a right to intercept the given law to these people in this matter. When government is formed, it must be formed by the people—when it is altered, it must be altered by the people, no representative body of theirs has a right to presume upon the exercise of this power. This article is a barrier against innovations from all orders and families of men: It is the confirmation of the people's power over all individuals and declares to the community in the work of framing and altering the constitution, to which all must avail themselves and be in subjection. It is not a confirmation of the people's right to disannul contracts and violate their own engagements to which engagements every individual is a party. And further, this article declares the people's right to limit the time and manner of revising the constitution, which they have done very minutely in chap. vi. art. 10. And by this article every subject is convicted of usurpation and a dangerous design to establish himself or his party against the power and majesty of the people, who attempts an alteration of the constitution out of the due order and before the time appointed. And he is a daring offender against this law, who for the interest of any man or number of men presumes to alter the word which has gone out of the mouth of the people. And now my good correspondent, a-gainst whom is this 7th article leveled? whom does it lay in the dust? whom does it hold up as the wretched tools who are mangling our country and our liberty to death? upon whom does it scorn the resentment of an abused people for open active attempts upon their unalienable privileges? Is it those who are vindicating their national compact and dignity; is not those who dutifully abide in their station as friends to the authority and ordinance of the body politic: but such as are attempting the overthrow of our common government and our only civil barrier against the encroachments of self seeking and desperate citizens. Speculative if not treasonable: but as you regard the obligations of a good citizen, and as those who fear the oath of God, do not arrogate innovations for which our public compact gives you no allowance. Write not in favour of a king in the year 1795; your wishes, if such they are, are incompatible with the 7 article of the bill of rights. It is the attempt of one man, for his own supposed advantage, to defraud the people of their unalienable right. This article, sir if you dare the feelings which a man of your sense may be supposed to have, you will consider as a blow at the foundation of all your new structures of government: It is the death warrant of conventions, of committees of correspondence who are fat nursing for a change of government: It is a rock to unite freemen of this commonwealth against all armed insurgents in their attempts to subvert the laws and liberties of their country, and to introduce the power of one man, who, by placing himself at the head of his adherents to the Great Majority of this extensive and ancient republic: Who in profecution of his ambitious purposes has assumed the style and the powers of a prince and dictator. If I let me ask my friend of the Community, let me ask those deluded people who have taken arms against their native country and have levied war in the heart of the State, what occasion for all these unnatural violences? Can they suppose that these are the methods for effecting government so "deliberately & peaceably, without fraud, violence & surprize?" Can they possibly suppose themselves with all this delusion, that elective and temporary modes of government is the effect of fear and apprehension? Can they suppose that a jail God will not eventually punish and confound such high-handed wickedness? Remember my infatuated countrymen, while in the reflection may be the means of your preservation, and save the country from blood and mourning. That the arm of the people is now ardent for their own protection, under God, and for the punishment of evil doers.

An Old REPUBLICAN.

Dec. 5, 1786.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

I HAVE attended to the Old Republican, Elihu and A P. pointing out the inconsistencies of the Peace-Maker, No. 8; but with difference to those critics, in my candid opinion, the greatest inconsistency, or rather paradox is unnoticed by either: and I am the more confirmed in this, by a perusal of the Peace-Maker's second elaborate production, No. 13: He informs us, in his first, he gets his living by hard labour: now I appeal to the impartial public whether leisure sufficient for the acquisition of such surprizing and eminent degrees of literature, as our favorite author, in his writings, gives incontestable proofs of, and a subsistence obtained by hard labour, are not inconsistent or at least paradoxical: surely all, but the envious novice, will concede they are.

His pieces, in a most conspicuous manner, proclaim him an accurate Gramarian, thoroughly versed in Logic and Rhetoric, an adept in Divinity and Politics, universally acquainted with History, in fine a Prodigy of Erudition, and yet earn a support by hard labour? impossible! at least incomparable with the idea of intellectual depravity. We are informed of the ancient sages that each had a stile peculiar to himself, and is not this strictly true of the Peace-Make-? surely such an original, in our day, is rara avis in terris. Mr. Peace-Maker, notwithstanding the above pedants have attempted by lampooning your compositions, to depreciate them, and the minds of the vulgar; yet believe, that judges of composition are very impatient for a third specimen of your superior abilities; and can by no means consent to take the will for the deed. Should you gratify their fond expectations, you would oblige one of your admirers, if there you would point out the mode of regenerating honey ground harrows, as I never heard it insisted on, in or out of the pulpit.

IRONICUS.

RICHMOND, (Virginia) Nov. 10.

A report is now current, that General Clark has gone on an expedition against the Indians, who, having information of his design, removed their corn and other property, together with their women and squaws, to some of the Shippewa towns; but that Col. Logan was dispatched to destroy their stores, while Gen. Clark was to attack the Indians in the front: In both these enterprises our arms were successful. Col. Logan burnt their towns and above 4000 bushels of corn, and took some prisoners, and Gen. Clark routed the party which he attacked, after a short engagement, making great slaughter amongst them, and capturing 60 prisoners.

WINDSOR, (Vermont) November 18.

In consequence of Robert Morrison being apprehended by a warrant issued by the court, and called to answer to an information filed against him, for heading a mob under arms, to impede and hinder the county court of said county from sitting, on the last of October, a mob consisted of about fifty men, under arms collected at Capt. Lull's in Hartland, about five miles north of the court-house, with a fixed determination to set Morrison at liberty. The sheriff getting intelligence of the design, on the 16th of November, under the direction of the court (who through the whole, have acted with the greatest firmness) called on the militia. Capt. Dart, from Weathersfield, with his company, and the Windsor militia were collected the same evening. The court called a council, the Lieutenant-General being present, and concluded, from the situation of the mob, that it was the best policy to take them by surprise.

The high sheriff, Col. Wait, with about forty men under arms, between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning of the 17th, marched to the ground, passed their guards by a circuitous rout, entered the house in two divisions, and after a short but very resolute resistance captivated 27 of them; their leaders escaped. The high-sheriff was badly wounded in the head, but was still able to attend court, and to have headed his regiment if necessity had required it. Several others among whom was the State's Attorney, were slightly wounded.—The militia who turned out on the occasion, discovered the greatest degree of humanity, and at the same time as great a degree of firmness. Capt Dart especially, and his company, deserve the particular thanks of the freemen. The party returned after a march of eleven miles, and had the culprits safely lodged in goal before sunrise. The State's Attorney by order of the court, filed information against them; and on Saturday the 18th, 600 of the militia, under the command of brigadier general Olcott, were assembled under arms. A reinforcement of the mob of 100 men assembled at the said Lull's, but finding the strength of government, retired. The prisoners on Saturday were called to plead, they plead guilty, appeared very humble and penitent, and were treated with great tenderness by the court.

ALBANY, Nov. 30.

A letter from Detroit to a gentleman in Schenectady, mentions the death of that noted Indian partizan, Col. Joseph Brandt, Chief Sachem and Head Warrior of the Mohawk tribe of Indians. He is said to have been on his way from Niagara to the Ohio, at the head of 60 warriors of the Six Nations, in order to hold a council with the Southern Indians, and to have fallen in a rencounter with Gen. Clarke. The death of this Chief will, no doubt, greatly damp the spirit for war which has lately prevailed throughout the Indian country.

NORTHAMPTON, Dec. 27.

We have it from good authority, that several officers commanding companies, — paid. meeting at Pelham, on their return from Worcester, and voted, that it was highly necessary that the several companies and regiments in the county of Hampshire be properly organized and officered; and raised a Committee of 17 from the several regiments to put the aforesaid vote in execution.

We are credibly informed, that the renowned Mr. Shays, has been, for this fortnight past, so extremely careful of his own preservation, as to keep a constant guard about his person, and also his SEAT, in Pelham—And that — Billings, of Amherst, has likewise kept about 30 men on duty to guard him from a supposed danger of being taken by light-horse men.

From the WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

The following shocking accident may serve to remind us of the many ills to which we are daily exposed.—On Saturday last a little lad about 9 years of age, named Stephen Salisbury, son of Mr. Samuel Salisbury of Boston, and a favourite nephew of Mr. Stephen Salisbury of this town, with whom he lived, as he was running out of the door, was from a fall upon the ice, partly to rise, and fall again; he was taken up and carried senseless into the house: a small wound was observed upon his temple; which was dressed; but the child continuing in the same senseless state, the dressing was taken off; when a large fail-needle (which he probably had in his hand as a plaything) was discovered and extracted; it was found to have entered his temple nearly two inches and then broken off. For some time he appeared to be convulsed; then lay a few hours as if asleep until he expired.

LONDON.

The poor *Taylor*, who lately jumped out of bed in a fright, is christened by the ladies the *sensitive plant*, as they reckon his organs are to fine, that, in the language of Pope "He would die of a rose in aromatic pain."

This *virtuous Taylor of Exmouth*, is said to have been lately chosen pastor of a dissenting congregation; and he considered it as departing from their established *tenets* to administer *spiritual consolation* to a damsel not of the *elect*.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office in Northampton,

Webster's Institute.

Watt's Psalms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys' Poem.

Worcester December 7, 1786.

An ADDRESS to the PEOPLE of the several Towns in the County of Hampshire, from the Body now at arms.

Gentlemen,

WE have thought proper to inform you of some of the principal causes of the late risings of the people, and also of their present movement, viz.

1st. The present expensive mode of collecting debts, which by the reason of the great scarcity of cash, will of necessity fill our gaols with unhappy debtors, and thereby render a reputable body of people incapable of being serviceable either to themselves or the community.

2d. The monies raised by impost and excise being appropriated to discharge the interest of governmental securities, and not the foreign debt, when these securities are not subject to taxation.

3d. A suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, by which those persons who have stepped forth to assert and maintain the rights of the people, are liable to be taken, and conveyed even to the most distant part of the commonwealth, and thereby subject to an unjust punishment.

4th. The unlimited power granted to Justices of the Peace, Seriffs, Deputy-Seriffs and Constables, by the Riot Act, indemnifying them in the prosecution thereof, when perhaps wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred and envy.

Fellow-citizens, be assured, that this body now at arms, dispise the idea of being instigated by British emissaries, which is so strenuously propagated by the enemies of our liberties: We also wish the most proper and speedy measures may be taken to discharge both our foreign and domestic debt.

Per Order,
DANIEL GRAY, Chairman of a Com. for the above purpose.

To the Printer of the Hampshire Gazette.

SIR,

IT has some how or other fallen to my lot to be employed in a more conspicuous manner than some others of my fellow citizens, in stepping forth in defence of the rights and privileges of the people, more especially of the county of Hampshire.

Therefore, upon the desire of the people now at arms, I take this method to publish to the world of mankind in general, particularly the people of this commonwealth, some of the principal grievances we complain of, and of which we are now seeking redress, and mean to contend for until a redress can be obtained, which we hope will soon take place; and if so our brethren in this commonwealth, that do not see with us as yet, shall find we shall be as peaceable as they be.

In the first place I must refer you to a draught of grievances drawn up by a Committee of the people now at arms, under the signature of Daniel Gray, Chairman, which is heartily approved of; some others are also here added, viz.

1st. The General Court, for certain obvious reasons, must be removed out of the town of Boston.

2d. A revision of the constitution is absolutely necessary.

3d. All kinds of governmental securities, now on interest, that have been bought of the original owners for 2s. 3s. 4s. and the highest for 6s. 8d. on the pound, and have received more interest than ever the principal cost the speculator who purchased them—that if justice was done, we verily believe, nay positively know, it would save this commonwealth thousands of pounds,

4th. Let the lands belonging to this commonwealth at the eastward, be sold at the best advantage, to pay the remainder of our domestic debt.

5th. Let the monies arising from impost and excise, be appropriated to discharge the foreign debt.

6th. Let that act, passed by the General Court last June, by a small majority of only seven, called the Supplementary Aid, for twenty-five years yet to come, be repealed.

7th. The total abolition of the Inferiour Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.

8th. Deputy-Seriffs totally set aside, as a useless set of officers in the community; and Constables, who are really necessary, be impowered to do the the duty, by which means a large swarm of lawyers will be banished from their wonted haunts, who have been more damage to the people at large, especially the common farmers, than the savage beasts of prey.

To this I boldly sign my proper name, as a hearty well wisher to the real rights of the people.

THOMAS GROVER.

Worcester, Dec. 7, 1786.

Mr. PRINTER,

Please to give the following a place in your paper, and you will oblige a customer.

To Mr. A. P.

SIR,

YOU seem to be confident that some of our county scribblers might be better employed than to have entered the list of disputants. Sir, since the perusal of your piece, I concord with you in sentiment; for I think that your writing hath the most glaring inconsistences of any that hath appeared in public: Sir, you upbraid the Peace-Maker for his ungentleman-like language:—He appears to be as honest a writer as any that hath attempted the business, and appears to be at least a man that is a professor of christianity; but sir, I think you have treated him as a man not fit for society, nor to be worthy of a place amongst human beings. Sir, you profess to know what belongs to good manners and genteel language, but if you have used any to the Peace Maker in your writings, I must confess I am not a judge of good manners; therefore would appeal to the public, whether your address to the Peace Maker was not of the most blackgardly language, and uncharitable spirit in robbing your neighbour of his good name, and doing your endeavour to kick him out of the world. Sir, you say you can dispense with his disjointed ideas and other inabilities; but before you close with a period, you say they are unpardonable: What an inconsistency? Sir, I think the Old Republican was not so much at a loss to find out the Peace-Maker's ideas, and has not degraded him with such a garb of blackness. But Mr. A. P. after all your exertions to scandalize the Peace-Maker, I think you have missed your mark, not being careful to take sight when you fired; being over loaded with powder the musket split, with which you received a mortal wound.

T. O.

Strong's & Bickerstaff's

ALMANACKS,

For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

Just come to hand, and to be Sold by

Tappan & Fowle,

At their Shop, opposite the Court-House, in Northampton,

The following Articles, viz.

SCARLET, London Brown, Blue, Purple, Olive, and Cloth coloured } Broad-Cloths.
Lamb-skins.
Coatings.
Ratteens.
Fusee Cloth.
Serges.
Flannels and Baizes, of all widths.
Velvets and Cordurays.
Satin Beaver.
Thickfects and Janet.
Shalloons, Durants Calimancoes, & Russels.
Morocens.
Lastings and Satinet.
Tammies, Cambleteens, Silk Crapes and Persians.
Worsted and Cotton Hose.
Sewing Silk and Twist, of all colours.
Irish Linens.
Cambricks and Muslin.
Striped, figured and plain Lawn.
An elegant assortment of olive ground, and other Callicoes and Chintzes.
Black and white Gauzes.
Balloon, do.
Black and white Gauze Handkerchiefs.
Mourning, do.
Carpet, Millinet and Cap Wire.
Black and coloured Silk Handkerchiefs.
Pink & changable Lutestrings.
Satins and Modes.

Pink and White Tabbey,
Wide and narrow Velvet Binding.
Black and white Laces and Edgings of various kinds.
Men's and women's Leather Gloves.
Ladies white and coloured do.
Black and white Silk do.
Silk and worsted Mitts.
A variety of Ribbons and Tafte.
Black, white and coloured Plumes.
Men's Worsted Caps.
Dressed Sheep Skins.
A good assortment of mens Beath head, and basket buttons.
Quarley, coat and shoe Nailing.
Pins and Needles.
Temple, and other Spectacles.
Shoe and Knee Buckles.
Brass and iron Candlesticks.
Japanned, do. with Snuffers.
Knives and Forks.
Pen Knives.
Shears and scissars.
Hi's and Hl's, of different sizes.
Stock Locks.
Looking Glasses.
A variety of Paper Hangings.
Writing Paper, by the ream or quire.
Bohea Tea, Chocolate, Spice, Pepper, Alspice, Indigo & Snuff.
Pewter Ealons and Porringers.
Large and small Spoons, viz a variety of other articles.

Country Produce of most kinds will be received in payment for the above Goods.

Dec. 13, 1786.

Fresh Goods.

Prescott & Dexter,

Have just opened and now ready for Sale, at their Store in Northampton,

A general Assortment of Winter

GOODS.

N. B. Grain of all kinds, Bees-Wax, Flax, Flax-Seed, Old Pewter, Butter, and Pork, are taken in exchange for the above Goods.

Dec. 6, 1786.

A Subscription School.

I. CURSON,

TEACHER of the Proprietors School, Northampton, begs leave to inform the public, that he intends to open a Subscription School at Hatfield, the first day of January next, where youths will be carefully and expeditiously instructed in various branches of useful Literature. For terms and other particulars, Gentlemen are desired to apply to Col. Chapin of Hatfield.

December 16, 1786.

LOST between Eastampton & Northampton, on the 6th inst. a small Pocket Account-Book, containing sundry notes and papers, viz. one Note against John Backster, of Hebron, of 5l. 10s.—one against Longman Little, of Hebron, of 3l. 5s. 6d.—one against Job Strong, of Eastampton, of 6l.—two Connecticut State Notes, one about 12l. the other 5l.—also one Deed for land, and sundry other writings of no consequence to any person but the owner. Whoever has found said Book with its contents, and will return it to the owner, or give information where it may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

ELEAZER TIFFANY.

Eastampton, Dec. 16, 1786.

STRAYED from the subscriber, some time in June last, two yearling HEIFERS, one a dark red, with a white face; the other a brown, with considerable white about her, both marked with a half crop the upper side of the right ear, and a dit the under side of the same. Whoever will take up said creatures, and give information where they may be had, to the printer hereof, or the subscriber, shall be handsomely rewarded, by

SOLOMON JUDD.

West Hampton, Dec. 13, 1786.

JANUARY 1787. THE NUMB. 18.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1787.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THAT the burthens of the people at the present day are great, admits not of a doubt. But however great, most certainly they were not altogether unexpected to every serious and reflecting mind. When we began the contest with Great-Britain, we justly expected to wade through seas of blood, and expend millions of treasure, to obtain and support independency. At that time most solemnly pledged our faith to and with each other, that we would with our lives and fortunes, carry on the war against that power which had invaded our constitutional rights. We called in question the right of taxation maintained by the British Parliament. We advanced and defended this maxim, that no power on earth had a right to take our money from us without our consent; because that would be to hold our property at the will and pleasure of others, and to security of a farthing left us, save the humour and caprice of a master. Under these circumstances America listed war's bloody banner and prevailed. We have obtained all, yea more than we at first expected or perhaps wished for—are now ranked among the nations. This is obtained; one part of the drama is accomplished; and to whom are we indebted therefor? To those who have freely lavished their treasures upon us, and to the illustrious Washington with his band of brother-patriots, who fought and bled in their country's cause. To those among others I say we are indebted for our present political blessings, which are to be transmitted by us, to millions yet unborn, unless it is meantly forfeited by avariee, or given up by dissentions to be trampled upon by the first lawless invader. We were disposed to reason justly, when the danger of subjugation to Britain was imminent, and we wanted assistance to repel it. That danger removed, our feelings have changed with it—future danger naturally operates upon the human mind, in ratio to its distance from us. We now feel ourselves secure and act accordingly. It is in nothing so strikingly evident as in religion, where infinite punishments are threatened to the lawless and disobedient, yet regarded by its professors next to no punishment—next to nothing threatned. Thus also in our political system what we readily acknowledged for truth, when in want and danger, is not so esteemed by us now—The danger removed, reason has changed sides—Our most sanguine expectations being gratified, no man is afraid of reasoning wrong, especially if he judges it productive of his present interest; though naturally subversive of the community at large; and contrary to that righteousness which exalts a nation, and agreeable to sin which is a reproach to any people. The bulk of the people do not understand politics, neither is right reason greatly in their power; yet not a man perhaps can be found, who has honesty enough to confess it: to endeavour to reason with them, and make them see their ignorance, and confess it, would be as hard, as the task would be disagreeable. For none are so willfull and obstinate as the ignorant—yet none are so great pretenders, both to reason and knowledge. Though all confess the greatness of our public debt, yet but few will own it's necessity, the real cause is generally overlooked: in short the truth is, independency is gained, and we begrudge to pay for it. Little considering, that it is much too late for us now to complain of the greatness of the debt: or endeavour unjustly to get rid of it. The magnitude of the national debt is out of the question, 'tis enough that it was lastly contracted by proper authority, and brought upon us by the unanimous consent of the people, those too the most clamorous, and at the present day the greatest promoters of anarchy and confusion. This being the case, and independency gained, the other part of the drama naturally succeeds, viz. Ways and means to liquidate the debt which is thereby contracted, at least to pay the interest of it, which is the least that we can reasonably desire to do; and an indisposition to pay that, with the principal, like honest men, seems much in fashion, and argued for by those whom, in other cases, one would scarcely think capable of such dishonesty. Justice and equity seem consequentially excluded by some, but by others iniquity and unrighteousness are openly avowed and defended. To ease the people some are for issuing a bank of paper money, and making it a tender in payment of public and private obligations, though given for value received, to them or their order. Others are for reducing public obligations into small ones that they may thereby be easily transfered from one to another (the interest being cast to a certain time) then to issue a tax and call them into the treasury within the time limited, taking due care that they do not appreciate. Others are for reducing public securities by an act of the Legislature to their going price, two or six shillings on the pound. The iniquity of the first needs nothing farther to make it evident, than applying to the feelings of every person who has money due on private obligations for silver and gold. There is no man in this case, but can see the difference between rags and half joes, when the former is tendered in lieu of the latter. Touch him in this way and (as the devil said of Job) he will curse thee to thy face. As to the scheme for government to cast the interest upon its securities to a given time, and issue small certificates therefor that they may be easily transferred, and then call both into the treasury within a limited time, agreeable to the performance of the gentleman in the Herald No. 229, stiled an easy, honest and expeditious way to discharge the public debt of the state of Massachusetts. That it is both easy & expeditious is allowed: but is it honest? Is it not founded upon wrong and unjustifiable principles? viz. that the Legislature has a right to determine who shall have the benefit of those depreciated securities, whether the public at large or the possessor; for certainly (says he) no wrong will be done to the speculators in governmental securities, who purchased them at the going price, if they should be obliged to part with them at the same price; he allows that those who have not sold their securities will suffer, but not more than those who have, (the consequences) therefore it is honest they should be compelled to do it, or he has miscalled his performance above referred to. But I esteem past contracts sacred, and that the Legislature has not the least right to interfere in the matter; all that can be said in justice was determined when the obligations were issued, they speak for themselves and nothing farther is to be done but to pay them. And to say that those who have not sold their securities will not suffer more than those who have, and then to infer that they might justly be compelled for that reason to do it, is arguing thus, that because some spend their estates by luxury and profusion, therefore others may justly be compelled so to spend theirs; for those who are so compelled, do not suffer more than the others who spend them voluntarily. But farther, suppose that government should now determine to regrant those lands at their going price, six shillings per acre, which was once granted at six pence per acre, and oblige the present holders or possessors to accept of their six pence per acre formerly given, suppose with twenty per cent interest: and thus plead for the justice thereof and say, government has a right to determine who shall be profited by those lands, for certainly no wrong will be done those Land-jobbers who purchased them at six pence per acre, if they should be compelled to part with them at the same price, if so be they are repaid their six-pence with such enormous interest on their money as twenty per cent. while it lay in those lands &c. "The legislature which should do this (says one) would commit a deliberate act of villany, an act for which an individual in any government would be honoured with a whipping-post, and in most governments with a gallows." The cases are parallel. We will now consider the last and perhaps the most popular scheme, viz. that of reducing public securities by an act of the Legislature to their present going price. To set this matter in a just light let it be premised, that when security is given for any thing, it always implies a valuable consideration, for no man will wittingly and willingly give an obligation for that which is nothing worth, that would be giving something for nothing, which is absurd. Now if government obligates itself to individuals for a valuable consideration, of which every man as part of the community, has received his proportional share, why ought not every one in his proportion to repay what he has received and had the benefit of? 'Tis but the voice of reason: because no man has a just right to the earnings of his neighbour for no equivalent, i. e. for nothing. Now if I have a governmental security, that obligation says that an equivalent has been received therefor, and that government is willing to pay to me or my order the sum specified therein with the interest. government knows no one man from another, the possessor whoever he may be is the man to whom the obligation is given, and he only has a right to demand it. Whether it has passed from him to ten or ten thousand or to nobody, alters not the case a whit as to government; the obligation is still just the same—and the benefit to the public which had received an equivalent therefor is just the same—and in the reason and fitness of things it is the same, and it is equally impossible to be altered by any man or body of men, otherwise than by payment, or by express agreement with the holder, whether high or low, bond or free, black or white. To say that the possessor gave but five shillings on the pound, and therefore that government is not obliged to pay more, is to say that an obligation for twenty spanish milled dollars received by being transfered from one to another becomes but five, and so to be paid. Though no man has ignorance, impudence and wickedness enough to pretend, but that in the hands of the original possessor, who in fact lent the money, it is twenty dollars and ought so to be paid. This is implicitly confessed by the gentleman in the Herald No. 229, when he says "a discrimination if practicable will be the best way" but how can that be the best or justest way; when the original possessor himself perhaps, has sold and bought his own obligation twenty times as others did theirs, at five shillings on the pound. If it be replied that he has a right to the nominal sum, because he was the original possessor, the consequence then is obvious, viz. that then transfering said obligation alters not the case. The iniquity of it appears also in this, that the true reason why governmental securities were ever sold at any discount at all was this, that government was unable to pay them when they became due. Now shall government in justice and equity take advantage of its own inability to pay according to contract, (the cause of their depreciation) and offer it as a just reason why its securities should be paid at a depreciated value only? its amount then is plainly this, that their inability of paying according to contract, is a just reason why they should pay but in part: and that by parity of reason is as sufficient, why government should refuse to pay any at all. So that I don't see but that government may, in perfect consistency with the same rule of right-conduct, refuse to pay the current price as well as the discount, and upon the same principle. And this I think would be a more easy & expeditious way still, to pay the public debt of the state of Massachusetts. But farther, it directly counteracts our former principles when we began the late war: one capital article of which above-mentioned was, that no man or body of men had a right to take our property without our consent, the contrary of which is evidently wrong at the first bluff, because it would in its operation render property the most precarious of any thing in the world—We might be worth thousands to day and beggars to-morrow. Yet this very thing is openly avowed and defended by some in serious earnest as righteous. For what else is reducing by a public act, twenty shillings solid coin, to five or the going price, but taking my property without my consent? In short, says one, to pay bona fide contracts for cash at a discount, is to do what would be a dishonest attempt in an individual, but for a legislature to make such a law to support and encourage such detestible villainy, is like a judge who should inscribe the arms of a rogue over the seat of justice, or clergymen who should convert into bawdy-houses the temples of Jehovah—Mankind would detest them as a nest of robbers. But 'tis necessary, some may say, and necessity has no law, either of justice or mercy (I suppose is meant) or of reason or religion—then say so, say that it is iniquity and black ingratitude, and not attempt to varnish it over with the specious shew of justice—say that we are so far in debt,