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Worcester, Nov. 7th, 1786.

Worcester Magazine.

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For the *Second* Week in FEBRUARY, 1787.

WORCESTER, (*Massachusetts*) Printed by I. THOMAS, by whom Subscriptions, Essays, &c. &c. for this Work are taken in.

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B O S T O N , February 5.

WEDNESDAY, the 31st ult. was the day to which the Hon. General Court stood adjourned; but they not appearing a sufficient number of members to form a quorum of the House, the Court could not proceed on business until Saturday the 3^d of February inst. when a Committee from the two Branches of the Legislature waited upon his Excellency.

The SPEECH of his Excellency JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq; Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the Hon. LEGISLATURE.

Gentlemen of the SENATE, and
Gentlemen of the House of REPRESENTATIVES,
It was expected by the General Court, that their proceedings at their last session, respecting the Insurgents, would have answered the purposes for which they were intended, viz those proceedings, there were held forth to them, punishment, on the one hand, and pardon on the other. Punishment, in case of perseverance in their criminal conduct; pardon and indemnity, if they desisted from it; and by a given time, should take the oath of allegiance. This application to their feelings, and to that actuating principle, a desire of personal safety, it was apprehended would have had a forcible influence to bring them to their duty. But unhappily, he did not produce any good effect, except upon a few individuals of them. On the contrary, the fealty and subservience of government were treated with contempt, and inspired by them to an inability of defending itself. And some of your last Acts have been adduced to their list of grievances.

But the clearest and most unequivocal evidence of their perseverance, in opposition to Government, is deduced from their proceedings, respecting the Judicial Courts, in several of the Counties, since the last session of the General Court. They twice, with an armed force, stopped those Courts in Worcester; and would not suffer them to open in Hampshire. They attempted it, though unsuccessfully, in Middlesex; and in consequence of that attempt, several of them were taken into custody, by virtue of State Warrants; in the execution of which, the Sheriff and other persons, to whom the warrants were directed, had the aid and support of a number of split-ed gentlemen of that County and Suffolk.

At the last time of their assembling in Worcester, there were nearly a thousand of them in arms, who, to the great annoyance and terror of the vicinity, continued embodied, for several days after the Court had adjourned; meditating, as it was apprehended, further outrages; which were providentially prevented by the continued rains of that week.

Their violent and treasonable proceedings of the Insurgents were perpetrated after the publication of the last acts of the General Court respecting them; and demonstrated, not only a total disregard of those acts, and the authority by which they were enacted, but a contempt of all constitutional government, and a fixed determination to persevere in measures for subverting it.

This determination, and these measures, were also manifested by their printed declarations; and by some of the private transactions of their leaders, when the main body of the Insurgents were last assembled at Worcester; by which it appeared, the Insurgents were formed into regiments, and that a committee was appointed for each regiment, to see that it should, without delay, be properly officered and equipped; and completely ready, whenever called upon.

That this is the state of things in the western counties, was further confirmed by letters I received from time to time of the most respectable characters in those counties; and by the oral testimony of many intelligent persons from thence, who all agreed in the necessity of speedy and vigorous measures being taken, for the effectual suppression of the Insurgents; without which the well-affected might, from a principle of self-preservation, be obliged to join them; and the insurrection become general.

The safety and well being of the Commonwealth being thus in hazard, and the lenient, conciliating measures of the General Court having been rejected by the Insurgents, I conceived myself under every obligation, of honour and duty, to exert the powers vested in me by Law and the Constitution, for the protection and defence of the Commonwealth, against the hostile and nefarious attempts of those lawless men.

Pursuant to this idea, I laid before the Council all the information and intelligence I had collected, relative to the proceedings and designs of those men; and the Council were unanimously of opinion, and accordingly advised, that vigorous and effectual measures should be taken to protect the Judicial Courts, particularly those that were then next to be holden at Worcester; to aid the Civil Magistrate in executing the laws to repel all Insurgents against the Government; and to apprehend all disturbers of the public peace; particularly such of them as might be named in any State Warrant or Warrants.

For these purposes, upon the effecting of which all good Government, and indeed the happy existence of the Commonwealth, do essentially depend; I have called forth from several counties, a respectable body of the Militia, the command of which I have given to Major-General Lincoln, with orders to carry those purposes into effectual execution.

Those orders are now in operation, and will be laid before you, with the general orders, containing the plan of measures, by which the Commonwealth was to be defended against its present assailants.

I congratulate you, Gentlemen, on the success of those measures hitherto; and hope it is a prelude to final success, and to the re-establishment of perfect tranquillity. The dispatches concerning it, which I have received from General Lincoln, and General Sheppard, will be laid before you.

Thus, Gentlemen, from a principle of duty to the Commonwealth, and in conformity to your resolution of the 24th of October, in which you express a full confidence "that I will still persevere in the exercise of such powers as are vested in me by the Constitution, for preventing any attempt to in-

terrupt the administration of law and justice, and for enforcing due obedience to the authority and laws of government," I have taken the measures above represented. I trust they will meet with your entire approbation, and with this support, which is naturally to be expected from the guardians of the public safety.

On my part, I have done, in this business, what the duty of my office, and the oath of qualification, indispensably require; And I have the fullest confidence, that on your part, nothing will be wanting to carry into complete effect the measures that have been taken, or that may be further necessary to suppress the present insurrection; and to ensure a strict obedience to the laws. This is so essential to the peace and safety of the Commonwealth, that it requires your immediate attention, and the speedy application of further means, if those already taken should be deemed insufficient for that purpose.

Among those means, you may deem it necessary to establish some criterion, for discriminating between good citizens and Insurgents, that each might be regarded according to their characters. The former, as their country's friends, and to be protected; and the latter as public enemies, and to be effectually suppressed. At such a time as the present, every man ought to show his colours, and take his side. No neutral characters should be allowed; nor any one further to vibrate between the two.

Vigour, decision and energy will soon terminate this unnatural, this unprovoked insurrection; and prevent the effusion of blood; but the contrary may involve the Commonwealth in a civil war, and all its dreadful consequences; which may extend, not only to the neighbouring States, but even to the whole Confederacy, and finally destroy the fair temple of American liberty; in the erecting of which, besides the vast expence of it, many thousands of valuable citizens have been sacrificed.

There are many things resulting from the measures in operation, which require your immediate attention.

The money immediately wanted for carrying them into execution, was supplied by voluntary loan from a number of gentlemen, and in a manner which does them much honour. I must earnestly recommend to you to provide for its reimbursement; which, upon the principles of policy, as well as justice, should be made as speedily as possible. Provision also should be made for defraying the general expence.

Should the time be too short to effect the great purpose, for which the Militia were called forth, it may be necessary that General Lincoln should be empowered to continue them in service by enlistment, until those purposes shall be accomplished. The men being already embodied, and the arrangements for supporting them perfected, the expence of such a continuance, will be much less than that of raising a new body for the same service.

There are defects in our Militia act, which require an immediate remedy; and which I shall mention to you in a separate communication.

These Gentlemen, are matters of importance; but the general subject of this address, is of the first magnitude, and demands your immediate and most serious attention. It is taken up with proper spirit—if the measures in operation be seconded with firmness and decision—and if the powers of the several branches of government be united in a wise and vigorous exertion, we may reasonably expect a speedy and happy issue to the present insurrection; to which happy issue, every exertion on my part has been, and shall be applied.

But on the contrary, if indecision, languor or dissension, should, on this occasion pervade our public councils, insurrection, though checked for the present, would gain new strength, and like a torrent, might sweep away every mound of the constitution, and overwhelm the Commonwealth in every species of calamity. In such a case, if brought on by remissness, or relaxation on our part, we should be not only involved in the most essentially involved in that calamity, but justly chargeable with betraying the trust reposed in us, by our fellow-citizens—and chargeable with ignominiously deserting the posts assigned us, as guardians of the peace, the safety and happiness of the Commonwealth.

But very happily—this is only a possible case; for your patriotism, your virtue, your regard for your own liberties and property, and for those of your families and posterity, must induce you to call forth every power of government, into vigorous exertion, for preventing such a complication, such an accumulation of evils.

On this occasion it is proper, Gentlemen, to inform you, that I have received from several towns, petitions, directed to the Governor and Council, and also to the General Court, relative to the Insurgents. The petitions, being eight in number, do disapprove of the proceedings of Government, in regard to these people.

But as the things prayed for were, for the most part, not conceivable by the Governor and Council; and such as were so, could not be granted by them, consistently with the duty they owe to the Commonwealth—the petitions will be laid before you, for your consideration.

There are other matters to which your attention, Gentlemen, is necessary, and they will be communicated by message.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Governor's Chamber, Feb. 5. 1837.

WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

For the First Week in February, 1787.

HISTORY of the late WAR in AMERICA.

From the BRITISH ANNUAL REGISTER, for 1778.

IN the mean time, the British army arrived at the high lands of Navesink, in the neighbourhood of Sandy Hook, on the last of June; at which latter place, the fleet from the Delaware, under Lord Howe, after being detained in that river by calms, had most fortunately arrived on the preceding day. It had happened in the preceding winter, that the peninsula of Sandy Hook, had been cut off from the continent, and converted to an absolute island, by a violent breach of the sea; a circumstance then of little moment, but which might now have been attended with the most fatal consequences. By the happy arrival of the fleet, at the instant when its assistance was so critically necessary, the ability of the noble commander, and the extraordinary efforts of the seamen, this impediment was speedily removed; a bridge of boats being completed with such expedition, that the whole army was passed over this new channel on the 5th of July; and were afterwards conveyed with ease to New-York; neither army nor navy yet knowing the circumstances of danger and ruin in which they had been to nearly involved.

For an unexpected enemy had now arrived on the coast of North America, who was to give a new, and a strange turn to the circumstances of the war. On the second day after the conveyance of the army from Sandy Hook, Lord Howe received intelligence by his cruisers, that D'EStaing's fleet had been seen on the coast of Virginia, on the very day that the army had passed the bridge at Sandy Hook. If D'EStaing had met the transports, either in the Delaware, or on the passage from thence, loaded and encumbered as they were, and conveyed only by two ships of the line, with a number of frigates, the consequence with respect to the fleet is obvious. But

it may not so immediately appear, that the fate of the army was so intimately combined with that of the fleet, that the destruction of the one, would have been the inevitable loss of the other. For as the army could not then, by any possible means, have prosecuted its way to New-York, and would have been enclosed on one side by the American army, and on the other by the French fleet, cut off from all supply of provision, and destitute of every resource, a repetition of the Saratoga catastrophe, must have been the certain consequence.

Although this fatal event was prevented by the bad weather, and unexpected impediments which D'EStaing met with on his voyage; yet, if he had directed his course directly to New-York instead of the Chesapeake of Delaware, things could scarcely have been better; as he would then have come upon the fleet and army, when they were entangled, either with the laying or passing of the bridge at Sandy Hook. In either circumstance destruction would have been inevitable; and would have been of an amount and magnitude, with respect both to the marine and land service, and the consequences hanging upon it, which perhaps, has not been equalled of late ages. But D'EStaing's great object was the surprise of the fleet in the Delaware and the consequent enclosure of the army at Philadelphia; fortunately the winds and weather frustrated his design. Upon the whole, it may not be easy to point out a more signal or providential deliverance.

The danger, though lessened, was not, however, immediately removed; and it still required the most consummate ability and fortitude, to render the kindness of fortune effective. On the 4th day after the account was received of his arrival on the coast, and subsequent advice of

His having anchored at the Delaware being also received, D'Eslaign *July 11th.* appeared suddenly, and ran ther unexpectedly, in sight of the British fleet at Sandy Hook. His force was great, and in good condition, consisting of twelve ships of the line, and three frigates of superiour size. Among the former, were several ships of great force and weight of metal; one carrying 90, another 80, and six carrying 74 guns each; and the Squadron was said to have no less than eleven thousand men on board. On the other side, the British fleet under Lord Howe, consisted of six sixty-four gun ships, three of fifty, and two of forty guns, with some frigates and sloops. Most of the former had been long on service, were accordingly in bad condition, and were also wretchedly manned. If any thing, however, could remedy such essential defects, it might have been hoped for, from the superiour abilities of their Commander, and the excellency of his officers.

They had, however, the advantage of being in possession of that port or harbour which is formed by Sandy Hook; the entrance of which is covered by a bar, and from whence the inlet passes to New-York. The expected, and avowed object of D'Eslaign, was to force that passage, and to attack the English Squadron in the harbour. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions of preparation made by Lord Howe, that the time could possibly admit; yet, from contrary winds, and other unavoidable incidents, the ships were not completely arrived in their respective situations of defence, nor had there been time to choose those situations with the judgment which was afterwards exercised, when D'Eslaign appeared without the Hook. Under these circumstances, which, with respect to the effect, might be considered, in some degree, as affording the advantages of a surprise, if he had pushed on directly to pass the bar and force the passage, it would seem, that neither the advantage of situation, nor any eminence of ability or virtue on the other side, could be capable of counteracting the vast superiority of his force. The conflict would have been undoubtedly dreadful; and perhaps, in that respect, might have exceeded any thing known in naval history; but the greatest portion of human spirit, must require some adequate degree of strength, to render its exertions effective.

A diversity of opinion seems to prevail, on the practicability of the great

ships of the French fleet passing in force through the strait, and over the bar. Some are of opinion that it might have been attempted, with prudence. If so, it may be considered as a happiness on all sides, that D'Eslaign was not possessed of that spirit of enterprize which would have been equal to so arduous an attempt; that the terror of the British flag was yet in no degree weakened; and that the name of the noble Commander who opposed him, added some weight to that effect. D'Eslaign accordingly cast anchor on the Jersey side, about four miles without the Hook, and in the vicinity of the small town of Shrewsbury.

The spirit that was displayed on this occasion, not only in the fleet and army, but through every order and denomination of seamen, was never exceeded, and will not often be equalled. A thousand volunteers were immediately dispatched from the transports to the fleet. The remainder of the crews, could not restrain their indignation at being left behind, and sought every possible means, by hiding in the boats or otherwise, to escape on board the men of war; so that the agents could scarcely keep by force a sufficient number of hands for the watch of their respective ships. The masters and mates of the merchantmen and traders at New-York, solicited employment with the greatest earnestness; and took their stations at the guns with the common sailors. Others hazarded every thing, by putting to sea in light vessels, to watch the motions of the enemy, and performed other necessary service. One in particular, with a noble disinterestedness and gallantry, which may be compared with any thing known in history, offered to convert his vessel (in which his whole hope and fortune lay) into a fire-ship, to be conducted by himself; and spurned with disdain every proposal of indemnification or reward.

It will afford no surprise, that this spirit should shine out in the army with equal lustre; and that the light infantry and grenadiers, who had scarcely recovered the fatigue of a most toilsome and dangerous march, and with many of the Officers wounds still green and sore, should notwithstanding, contend with such eagerness, to serve on board the men of war as marines, that the point of honour was obliged to be decided by lots. In a word, the publick spirit, zeal, bravery, and magnanimity, displayed upon this occasion, would have stamped a character upon a nation that before had

none; and is an honour even to this country. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the popularity of the noble Commander, and the confidence founded on his great qualities, contributed not a little to these exertions.

The French fleet continued at anchor in the position we have mentioned, and taking in water and provisions, for eleven days. It may be well supposed, that as D'Estaing did not profit of the first opportunity that offered, that any attempt made by him, after the exertions on the other side had taken their full effect, and the judicious defensive dispositions made by the British Admiral were completed, would have been not only ineffectual, but probably (notwithstanding the superiority of his force) ruinous. Neither the confidence arising from D'Estaing's hesitation, or from their own courage, was however, any allay to the mixed passions of grief and indignation which now agitated the British seamen. They endured the mortification, for the first time, of seeing a British fleet blocked up and insulted in their own harbour, and the French flag flying triumphant without; and this was still more deeply embittered and aggravated, by beholding every day, vessels under English colours (who had still been ignorant of the loss of their usual protection) captured under their eyes by the enemy. They looked out every hour with the utmost anxiety, and in the most eager expectation, for the arrival of Byron's squadron.

D'Estaing's fleet at length appeared under way; and as the wind was favourable; and the spring tides *July 22d.* at the highest (the water rising that afternoon thirty feet on the bar) it was expected that he intended to carry his long delayed menace into execution; and that day would have afforded one of the hottest and most desperate engagements that had ever been fought, during the long enmity and rivalry that

had subsisted between the two nations. Every thing was at stake on the British side. If the naval force was destroyed, (and nothing less than destruction or victory could have ended the conflict) the vast fleets of transports and victualers, with the army, must all have fallen along with it. D'Estaing, however, thought the attempt too dangerous; and shaping his course another way, was in a few hours out of sight.

Nothing was ever more critical, than this commander's stay at Sandy Hook; and few things could be more fortunate in the present circumstances, than his departure at the exact period that he did. For if the whole, or any part, of Admiral Byron's fleet had arrived during his stay, considering the ruined state in which it reached the coasts of America, there could scarcely have been a hope of its not falling, almost, a defenceless prey into his hands. That unfortunate squadron is said to have been, in many respects, badly equipped and provided. In this state they had the fortune of meeting unusually bad weather for the season; and being separated in different storms, and lingering through a tedious passage, arrived, scattered, broken, sickly, dismasted, or otherwise damaged, in various degrees of distress, upon different and remote parts of the coast of America. Between the departure of D'Estaing on the 22d and the 30th of July, the *Renown*, of 50 guns, from the West-Indies, the *Raisonable* and *Centurion* of 64 and 50 from Halifax, and the *Cornwall* (one of Admiral Byron's squadron) of 74 guns, all arrived singly at Sandy Hook. The joy arising from this reinforcement, could scarcely be superiour to that excited by a sense of the imminent danger which they had so fortunately escaped. It seemed no less an instance of good fortune, that the *Cornwall* was in better condition than most of their ships of that squadron.

[To be continued.]

CURIOUS SUBTERRANEAN DISCOVERY,

From a late New-York Paper.

A FEW months ago, a very extraordinary cavern, at a place called by the Indians Sepascoot, on the estate of the Miss Rutens, at Rhynebeck, in Dutchess county, state of New-York, was discovered. A lad by chance passing near its entrance, which lay between two huge rocks, on the declivity of a steep hill, on prying into the gloomy recess, saw the top of a ladder, by which he

descended about ten feet, and found himself in a subterraneous apartment more capacious than he then chose to investigate.—He found, however, that it had been the abode of persons, who, probably, during the war, not daring to be seen openly, had taken shelter there, as bits of cloth, and pieces of leather, were scattered about its floor. He then left the place, and little more was thought about

It, until three weeks ago, the writer of this account made one of a large party who went from the seat of a gentleman in the neighbourhood, on purpose to examine it. We found its entrance much smaller than we expected, and with some difficulty gained the ladder, by means of which the remaining descent was made tolerably easy. Two young ladies were with us, who had heroism enough to make the Trophonium tour with us.—We had six candles to scrutinize the recesses of the apartment, where perhaps light, for upwards of five thousand years before, had never gleamed. We found the cave divided by a narrow passage into two divisions; the first being about seventeen feet in length, and so low, that a child of eight years old could but just walk upright in it; the breadth about eight or ten feet. The second between twelve and fourteen feet in length, but much higher and broader than the first. In this last room we found that three bats had taken up their winter quarters, and hung suspended from the roof, as it were, by the very tips of their wings. But what makes this cave peculiarly worthy of notice, is the petrifying quality of the water, that, by a gentle oozing, continually drops from every part of the ceiling, the whole of which exactly resembles a mill gutter in a frosty morning, with a thousand icicles impending. These concretions are formed by the water, and probably are constantly encreasing. They have in almost every respect the appearance of icicles, and may be broken off by the hand if not

more than two inches in circumference. They appear of a consistence much like indurated lime, almost transparent, and are all perforated quite through the whole length, with a hole of the size of that in a tobacco pipe, through which aperture the water unremittedly drops, although very slow. When a person is in the remotest room, and the lights are moved into the first, those pendent drops of water make an appearance more splendid than can well be imagined. Some of those stony icicles, have at length reached the bottom of the cave, and now form pillars, some of more than two feet in girth, of the appearance of marble, and almost as hard. They put one in mind of Solomon's Jachin and Boaz—imagination very easily giving them pedestals and chapiters, and even wreathen work.

But what we most admired, was the skeleton of a large snake, turned into solid stone by the petrifying quality of the water before mentioned. It was with some difficulty torn up with an axe from the rock it lay upon (some of which adhered to it) and is now in the possession of the relater.

We found the inmost recess of this cavern very warm, and felt the want of free air, by difficult respiration, although the candles burnt perfectly clear.

After an abode of near half an hour in this gloomy receptacle, we again revisited the world, and found the laughing fields, and the vivifying sun, tenfold more charming from the contrast we had experienced.

From a late Northampton Paper.

IT appears by the address from the General Court, that the whole of the notes of this state which have not been provided for, by taxes, amount to 1,326,446l. the amount of the last state rate is 311,441l. a Poll in that rate pays twenty five shillings; the proportion therefore which each poll must pay of the State notes, if all the notes are redeemed by taxes, is five pounds six shillings and five pence. But as the notes have lately been sold at the rate of four shillings and six pence on the pound, the proportion which a poll must pay of those notes, may now be purchased in silver, for twenty three shillings and eleven pence—It will be easy for any one to know what is his proportion of the notes, and how much silver money will purchase them; if, for instance, he pays five pounds in the last state rate, he pays as much as four polls, and his whole proportion of the notes will be 21l. 5s. 8d. which may now be purchased in silver for four pounds fifteen shillings and eight pence.

By the abovementioned address, it ap-

pears, that if the continental impost should take place, which the General Court expect will be the case, it would immediately discharge us from the interest, and in a few years, from the principal of the foreign debt.

This state's proportion of the continental domestick debt is, 1,162,200l.—The state is endeavouring to bring into the treasury our proportion of the continental securities; but suppose nothing of that kind should be done, the proportion which each poll must pay of that debt, if the whole should be redeemed by taxes, would be four pounds thirteen shillings and three pence; but as the final settlements are sold as low as 2s. 6d. on the pound, the proportion which a poll must pay of the continental domestick debt, may now be purchased in silver, for eleven shillings and seven pence.—If a man pays five pounds in the last state rate, his proportion of the continental domestick debt is eighteen pounds thirteen shillings, which may now be purchased in silver for forty-six shillings and eight pence.

The supplementary fund which has been often complained of and misrepresented, was designed as a fund for the payment of the above domestick debt : It was a grant made at the earnest and repeated requests of congress of 224,427 dollars, which is equal in lawful money to £. 67,328, by the year, for 25 years, if the principal and interest is not discharged before that term expires—the tax is made payable in certificates for the interest of the domestick debt ; but the act is not to take effect, until *all* the other states shall make the same provision, whether the other states will adopt the measure or not is altogether uncertain : But if they should, the tax upon a poll according to the present mode of assessment, would not be five shillings and five pence a-year ; and that sum may be paid yearly by the interest of the aforementioned sum of four pounds thirteen shillings and three pence, which is the proportion that a poll must pay of the domestick debt ; so that if any one who pays only a poll tax, will now lay out eleven shillings and seven pence in silver, in purchasing final settlement securities, he may purchase four pounds thirteen shillings and three pence of those securities, with which he will be able ever after to pay his proportion of the supplementary fund, or any other tax that shall be made for redeeming the continental domestick debt ; and the man who pays five pounds in the last state rate, will be able with the above sum of forty-six shillings and eight

pence, in silver, to purchase final settlement securities sufficient to indemnify him from the supplementary fund, or any other tax for redeeming the said domestick debt.

From the foregoing observations it will follow, that excepting the foreign debt, which it is supposed will be paid by the continental impost, any person who has paid his former taxes and who pays only a poll tax, may now redeem his proportion of the whole publick debt for thirty-five shillings and six pence, in silver. Some have lately thought that in this way they can pay their proportion of the publick debt with less expence than they can overturn the government. But if the government should be overthrown, that would not pay the debt, unless the people are all destroyed ; the inhabitants of this territory must pay it whatever form the government assumes ; it was never known that changing the name of a town discharged the inhabitants from paying the town debts ; indeed a considerable part of our present state debt was contracted by the old Province of Massachusetts-Bay.

The act granting a supplementary fund, has been strangely misrepresented ; the Clerk of every town has or ought to have it ; if any one supposes I have given a wrong account of it, I wish him to examine the act, and he will be convinced of his error or be able to confute mine.

A. CITIZEN.

For the WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

CHRESTON'S MISCELLANY. No. V.

IN all the catalogue of human frailties, there are none which more corrupt the heart, or deprave the understanding, than the follies of religion.

Extensive learning and abilities are not incompatible with a narrow judgment.

Zeno, the philosopher, being present where a person of a loquacious disposition displayed himself, said, with an air of concern in his countenance, " That poor gentlemen is ill ; he has a violent flux upon him."—The company was alarmed and the Rhetorician stopped in his career ;—" Yes added the philosopher, the flux is so violent that it has carried his ears into his tongue."

Man's continual discontentment may be a good argument for the eternity of his duration.

Great men in the wrong, are powerful engines of mischief, and, like bursting

bombs, destroy themselves and all around them.

The best means to arrive at the true pleasures of the body is to preserve and cultivate the powers of the soul.

Study and reflection will convince any one that felicity does not consist in affluence.

He shall never enjoy his *present* hour who never thinks on his *last*.

The lowest price of virtue is vigilance and industry ; and if it costs us no more it comes very cheap.

It is a principle in human nature, to incline one way more than another, even in matters where we are wholly unconcerned.

Man overlooks the most instructive book in his study, if he reads not his own heart.

It is dangerous to dip into most men

below the surface, lest our curiosity should rob us of our good opinion of them.

There is a propensity in human nature to communicate emotions and passions to related objects, and the properties and qualities of an object to its accessories :—Hence,

When we love or hate a man, we love or hate all that appertains to him : Hence also,

The foundation of all fashions, for as we esteem the great, we esteem their manners, and reciprocally : Hence,

A grand encouragement to render our manners and possessions agreeable and beautiful, as thereby the owners will become more respectable.

Prejudices of education are never wholly eradicated, even when they are discovered to be erroneous and absurd.—Such habits of thinking as interest the grand passions, cleave to the human heart in such a manner, that though an effort of reason may force them from their hold for a moment, this violence no sooner ceases, than they resume their grasp with an increased elasticity and adhesion.

For the WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

MR. EDITOR,

The following are the INSTRUCTIONS of the Town of LANCASTER to their REPRESENTATIVE, January 22d, 1787.

To Capt. EPHRAIM CARTER, jun.

S I R,

THE law is the will of the state, and those laws seem most perfect, which are the most equitable and convenient adjustments of the sentiments and interests of the whole people ; it is therefore the duty, as well as the right of constituents, to furnish their Representative with those essential ingredients of legislation ; and no one will doubt that the General Court are the only body to make the adjustments we now express. Your town have paid due attention to the late address to the people ; the submission of our publick affairs, and the doings of the General Court, to the inspection and examination of the people, we think a laudable, and truly republican measure, and is an evidence of the integrity, as well as ability of the members of that honourable body—and could they have complied with some instructions to their members, which they have not yet done, we conceive they would have still further served the interest of the Commonwealth. Your constituents are of opinion, that in the ensuing session, it will be indispensably necessary to attend to the enacting of such laws, as may alleviate the present distresses of the people, reconcile their jarring opinions, and restore tranquillity to the state ; we therefore instruct you to attend particularly to the following articles,

1st. The present mode of taxation has become so burthensome to the farming interest, that if continued in the same degree, will, as we think, not only totally discourage the industrious husbandman (on whom this commonwealth will probably ever depend for its greatest strength)

but fail of affording so large a revenue, as the state of our publick affairs may require.—If the abilities of the people of this commonwealth could be placed in a fair point of view, we presume good policy would dictate, that the greatest part of our revenues should be raised by duties ;—such a mode, in our opinion, would divide the burden more equally, and better answer the requirements of government. Impost and excise, we suppose, might be much further extended, to the ease of the people in general, and with the legislature to consider if the following articles, &c. &c. may not be proper subjects for such an extension ;—clocks, time-pieces, watches, silver-plate, spermaceti candles, tallow consumed in every family above a certain number of pounds, cyder, painted sleighs, glass windows beyond a certain number of squares in each house, commissions for a justice of the peace, and dogs.

2^d. That you endeavour the total abolition of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace ; and that their jurisdiction be transferred to the Supreme Judicial Court ; and that all processes originate there, excepting some part of the business of the sessions, may be transacted by three justices of the peace quorum unus ; this indeed will make it necessary to increase the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, and instead of their clerk's office being kept in Boston, it must be kept in the several counties ; such a change in that office, we conceive, would be highly beneficial to the people ; nor will the increase of the number of

judges, be a great increase of expence, if two judges be made a quorum on the circuit; and compared with the present expence of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, will be a saving worthy our attention;—and by a power of reviewing or granting a new trial, in certain cases, no great failure of justice can be feared; to make every necessary change, in the above transfer of jurisdiction, would be to furnish a bill, rather than instructions, and improper here.

3d. While we are burdened with so large a debt, we think the abilities of the people of this commonwealth, will not admit of supporting that courtly dignity, which, in more affluent circumstances, might be thought necessary.—Would it not therefore become us to consider our chief magistrate, as a state officer, under no further obligations of expence, than what arises from the discharge of his official duties; if our opinion in this respect, is admissible, you will use your endeavours to have the Governour's, and all other salaries, set as low, as justice will admit of.

4th. The demands against the commonwealth for services, are generally made with avidity—you are therefore, particularly instructed against grants, which heretofore have been too often made, without due caution, have exceeded the value of the service done, and have been a matter of offence, and a burden to the people.

5th. It has been suggested by some, that government ought to call in their securities, at their present depreciated value: We think such an attempt would be inconsistent with justice and good policy;—nevertheless, we presume that if such as have loaned monies to government, would realize the present burden—the difficulties of collecting monies by taxation—the importance of supporting our credit with foreign nations, and the necessity of supporting our federal government, they would not complain, if government should delay even the payment of their interest for the present, especially when they reflect, that what they have thus loaned them, has been, and probably will be free from taxation:—and we cannot think that any one who has become a creditor to government, by purchasing its securities, could complain of such a measure with a good grace, if he calls to mind the amazing disproportion there is between the property he parted

with, and the claims he has on government.—If necessity ever had a right to claim indulgence, we think, considering the circumstances of the people, government are entitled to it; therefore expect you will oppose the appropriating any part of our revenue, to the discharge of either the principal or interest of the domestic debt, excepting the necessitous circumstances of some of the original creditors of government shall require it.

6th. You are to endeavour that many fines which have heretofore been otherwise appropriated, be paid into the state treasury.

7th. Although we are persuaded that great advantages may be derived from a well regulated commerce; yet we think the commercial interest of this commonwealth, ought never to engross so much of the attention of the legislature, as to prevent their giving every due encouragement to our own manufactures.

8th. The proportion of the taxes now laid on the polls, is a burden that the poorer part of the people can very ill support—you are therefore directed to endeavour a change in that proportion—and that it be made much lighter.

9th. The setting of the General Court in the town of Boston, is a matter which the citizens of this commonwealth are not generally satisfied with—we therefore wish further attention may be paid to that subject, and that the Court may be removed to some other town, until the propriety of that question may be determined from experience.

10th. The late outrageous and treasonable opposition to government, demands the most serious attention, and greatest wisdom of the legislature.—The late pardon to the insurgents, was truly humane and benevolent; and although the conduct of those people thereupon, was a high aggravation of their former offences, yet, considering them as a part of the whole with us, we wish a further extension of mercy; but we assure the legislature, that we are ready to support our government, according to our constitution: And while government is suppressing the insurrections of a wicked, and deluded party, we wish that the right of the subject may be attended to, in all their exertions; and if any of the servants or forces of government have, or shall unlawfully invade the person, or property of any citizen, whatever may be his del-

eraption—let such invader be punished with the same justice, that ought to overtake the vilest traitor.

By order of the committee.
SAMUEL WARD, Chairman.
Lancaster, Jan. 22, 1787.

Important Intelligence.

COPY of a Letter from General LINCOLN to Captain SHAYS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. Hadley, 30th January, 1787.
To Captain SHAYS, and the Officers commanding the Men in Arms against the Government of this Commonwealth.

WHETHER you are convinced or not of your error in flying to arms, I am fully persuaded that before this hour you must have the fullest conviction upon your own minds that you are not able to execute your original purposes. Your resources are few—your force is inconsiderable, and hourly decreasing, from the disaffections of your men. You are in a post where you have neither cover nor supplies, and in a situation in which you can neither give aid to your friends nor discomfort to the supporters of good order and government. Under these circumstances you cannot hesitate a moment to disband your deluded followers; if you should not, I must approach and apprehend the most influential characters, among you.

Should you attempt to fire upon the troops of government, the consequences must be fatal to many of your men, the least guilty. To prevent bloodshed, you will communicate to your privates, that if they will instantly lay down their arms, surrender themselves to government, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance to this commonwealth, they shall be recommended to the General Court for mercy.—If you should either withhold this information from them, or suffer your people to fire upon our approach, you must be answerable for all the ills which may exist in consequence thereof.

B. LINCOLN,
Commanding the forces under government.

The following is a Copy of a Letter from General LINCOLN, to a person who applied to him in behalf of some of the Insurgents, requesting his aid to obtain their Pardon.

S I R,
YOU may assure the privates, not only of your town, but those of the several towns, in arms against government, that if they will come in, and surrender themselves to some justice of the Peace, within either of the counties of Hampshire or Worcester, deliver up their arms, and before him, take and subscribe the oath of allegiance of this

state, in three days from this date, they will be recommended to the General Court for a pardon of their past offences, in appearing in arms against the government of this commonwealth. I am, Sir, your humble Servant,
B. LINCOLN.

[In Consequence of the foregoing many of the Insurgents have come in on the terms mentioned.]

FOR THE WORCESTER MAGAZINE.

MR. EDITOR,

IF what has been published in your Magazine, concerning county Conventions, &c. doth not seem to satisfy the publick, if you think proper you may publish the following facts. The two members chosen from this town perhaps have done as much as any persons in the town, towards encouraging a rising spirit; as they have been very illiberal when handling the characters of those who are in authority in the state, and have heaped encomiums on Shays, and others of

similar complexion. One of them is an Innholder, the other a Miller, and a nominal retailer: The latter has four sons (and all he has) who are all now among the insurgents, two of them young men, and live with him. One of his sons was clerk of the Convention which lately sat in Hampshire county, and, as such, signed the result of that body lately made publick.

New-Braintree, Jan. 24th, 1787.

Authentick INSURGENT PAPERS.

The following extraordinary paper, called "a PETITION," was inclosed in a letter from a gentleman in General Lincoln's army, to his friend in Bolton, and published in the Massachusetts Centinel, printed on Saturday the 27th inst. two days after its date, which was Thursday last, the day on which Capt. Shays attacked General Sheperd.

To the Honourable Major-General LINCOLN.

S I R,
UNWILLING to be any way accessory to the shedding of blood, and greatly desirous of restoring peace and harmony to this convulsed Commonwealth, we propose that all the troops on

the part of government be disbanded immediately; and that all and every person, who has been acting, or any way aiding or assisting in any of the late risings of the people, may be indemnified in their

person and property, until the sitting of the next General Court—and no person be taken, molested, or injured, on account of the above said risings of the people, until a fair opportunity can be had for a hearing in the next General Court, respecting the matters of complaints of the people; and that all matters rest as they are on all parts, until that time, and all the persons that have been taken on the part of government, be released without punishment. The above conditions to

be made sure by Proclamation, issued by his Excellency the Governour: On which conditions, the people now in arms, in defence of their lives and liberties, will quietly return to their respective habitations, patiently waiting and hoping for constitutional relief, from the insupportable burdens they now labour under.

DANIEL SHAYS.

Per order, DANIEL GRAY, Chairman.
Wilbraham, January 25, 1787.

The following is a copy of a *very modest* SUMMONS from Luke Day, at West-Springfield, to the Commanding Officer at Springfield.

Head-Quarters, West-Springfield, January 25th, 1787.

THE body of the people assembled in arms, adhering to the first principles in nature, self-preservation, do in the most peremptory manner demand, 1st. That the troops in Springfield lay down their arms. 2d. That their arms be deposited in the publick stores under

the care of the proper officers, to be returned to the owners at the termination of the present contest. 3d. That the troops return to their homes upon parole.

LUKE DAY,

Capt. commandant of this division.
To the commanding officer at Springfield.

The following is a copy of a letter from a number of principal INSURGENTS, convened at Pelham on the 15th instant, to John Brown of Whately.

"Pelham, January 15th, 1787.

"S I R,

ACCORDING to undoubted intelligence received from various parts of this Commonwealth, it is determined by the Governour and his adherents, not only to support the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace, to be holden at Worcester next week, by point of sword, but to crush the power of the people at one bold stroke, and render them incapable of ever opposing the cruel power, Tyranny, hereafter, by bringing those who have stepped forth to ward off the evil that threatens the people with immediate ruin, to an unconditioned submission, and their leaders with an infamous punishment. Notwithstanding it is thought prudent, by a number of officers and others, convened at Pelham on the 15th Jan. inst. to consult on the exigencies of the pre-

sent times, that the people of the county of Hampshire immediately assemble in arms, to support and maintain, not only the rights and liberties of the people, since our opponents, by their hasty movement, refuse to give opportunity to wait the effect of their prayers and petitions, This is therefore to desire you to assemble the company under your command, well armed and equipped, with ten days provision, and march there in season, to be at or near Dr. Hinds's in Pelham, by Friday the 19th instant, there to receive further orders.

("Signed) D. SHAYS,
J. POWERS,
R. DICKINSON,
J. BORDWEL,
J. BILLINGS.

"Capt. John Brown, Whately."

ANECDOTE of two Maryland Lawyers.*

ON the late bill before the House of Delegates, for striking in paper money Three hundred and Fifty Thousand pounds, Mr. Chase, the father of this measure, said "he would stake his

reputation to a farthing on the propriety thereof." Mr. Jennings on his reply observed, "he should not oppose the stake, as he thought it an *equal bet*."

* Samuel Chase and Thomas Jennings, Esquires.

Mr. EDITOR,

Please to insert the following, and you will oblige some of your readers.

An extraordinary C U R E.

THE following accident (and perhaps the most extraordinary of the kind, that ever happened in this part of the country) befel a lad in the tenth year of his age—second son to Capt. William Cowce, of Western, in the county of Worcester.

On the 9th day of April, 1786, about sun-set, Capt. Cowce's three oldest children, viz. a daughter, and two sons, were at his barn, taking care of his cattle; the youngest son was on the hay-mow, about six feet high, and slid down in haste from off the mow; there being at the same time a large wooden hay-hook, sticking slightly in the mow, which dropped down with the sharp end up, on which the lad came, which entered his body, in the following most shocking manner, viz. into the scrotum, or purse between the two testicles, until it met the os pubis, or share bone, then passed on the outside of said bone, towards the right groin, between the peritoneum, and muscles of the abdomen, up to the short ribs—then entered the trunk of the body, and came out between two ribs, one inch and an half below the shoulder-blade, and as near to the backbone, on the right side—only the sharp end came through the skin, between the ribs, the hook turned back into the trunk of the body;—this circumstance was not discovered, until two or three days after he received the hurt; the child, after he had fallen, cried out, he had killed himself! His brother and sister took him up in their arms, to carry him to the house, with the hook remaining in his body; they carried him about seven or eight rods, and were met by their parents; the father immediately drew out the hook,

by the same way it went in, and it is supposed, with the hook part towards the bowels, as some of his intestines were wounded, and no external skin broken by drawing back the hook—though the handle was more than one inch diameter, three feet and seven inches long;—one half of the length of the hook part, was broken off, before the accident happened, and left in a rough and shattered situation. On the 12th of April, the 3d day after the accident, his excrements came out of the wound in his scrotum. About the 20th, a large tumor broke a little above the os pubis, on his belly; and there were five broken successively— at three of them, the excrements came out—and forty-two large worms made their way out at these ulcers. In about four weeks, the lower wound, where the hook first entered, was healed. In eight weeks, the discharge of excrements, by these ulcers, began to abate, and in the tenth week entirely stopped. The genital parts, and urinary passages were not wounded—and by the seventeenth week, he was entirely well, sound, and remains as sprightly and active as any lad, and feels no manner of indisposition or debility, from the above described accident.— It may be further observed, that there was a small discharge of excrement, once in three or four days, the natural way, but very small; and it was often noticed, that what he eat, or drank, came out at the ulcers in fifteen minutes after; and glysters would run out at the lower wound, when administered.

The above narrative, the publick may depend on, is not exaggerated in any one circumstance.

From a Providence News-Paper.

MR. PRINTER,

MUCH is said about vanity in women, and are you sure, my young men, that those who say it are always remarkable for modesty? When human beings confidently reproach the characters of others, with those very follies which are conspicuous in their own; and which they are hourly labouring, by their example, to propagate—we then smile, pity, despise and condemn at once.

Mankind are naturally querulous, and each one is desirous to transfer his own faults to another.—This reflection was suggested by observing, that there has lately appeared many publications, in a number of news-papers,

replete with the most acrimonious, unmanly and unmerited railing against the fairest part of creation.—Female extravagance is the darling theme of many a spendthrift, and the constant topick of those corrupt hearts and barren heads, which have no other method to kill the tedious hour, and hence expose their ignorance and illiberal rancour, in abusing those lovely objects, whose beauties, virtues and graces constitute the CHARM of life. In fact, Mr. Printer, this class of cynical scribblers, with the most brazen effrontery, impute our present sufferings to the Ladies.—Sufferings, into which perhaps the idleness and vices of those clamorous censors,

have not a little contributed to involve us. One cannot forbear feeling a ludicrous contempt, to observe whole pages crowded with elaborate declamations against the tea-table furniture; and all the powers of language exhausted to prove the immense expence of a little guaze and a yard of ribbon, while those boasted lords of the creation may be traced, constant as the revolving night, to the tavern and the gaming-table, paying their midnight devotions at the shrine of Bacchus, —not to mention the more obscene, brutal and destructive pleasures, for which they repair to the infamous brothel; while perhaps the faithful and affectionate wife is left to weep in silent obscurity, and the wakeful, anxious parental breast throbs with unutterable anguish, and deprecates the ruin of a favourite son.—These, Mr. Printer, are not imaginary but real grievances, and were their consequences to be enumerated, your Press would groan with the melancholy tale.—If the men wish to insist on the trite, hacknied subject of female vanity, let them first reform; let them discontinue their own extra-

vagant vices—and then they may reprove with a graceful propriety. That heart must be depraved which feels no attachment to an amiable female society: From this delightful source the bosom of a virtuous man derives its most pleasing and elegant enjoyments—"the near and frequent view of female excellence," says a polished writer, "is a very powerful guard against the sorcery of vice"—who has not felt the sentiment? What can the human mind conceive more innocent, lovely, and alluring than

—"These graceful acts,"

"Those thousand decencies that daily flow

"From all their words and actions."

If we cultivate, Mr. Printer, a more intimate acquaintance with the merit and the charms of the sex, we shall feel and acknowledge their claim to the most tender and respectful attention, and to the constant exercise of "endearing sensibilities,"—we shall not cease to love, to admire, and to cherish them as "heaven's last best gift."

A FRIEND to the SEX.

Summary of late Intelligence.

L O N D O N, November 1.

Extract of a letter by the Officer, Capt. Rogers, from China.

"The Sea Otter, Capt. Hannah, is arrived from King George's Sound, on the west coast of America, after one of the most prosperous voyages, perhaps, ever made in so short a time. This brig, which is only 60 tons, and manned with 20 men, was fitted out in April, 1785, by Capt. McIntosh, the Contractor, and some other gentlemen, in the Company's service, as an experiment, while the Capt. is gone to England to procure a licence from the East-India Company, for the carrying on this trade. Should he succeed in his application, of which I presume there is little doubt, I am sensible it will secure them a tremendous fortune. You will be astonished when I tell you that the whole outfit of the vessel did not cost them 100l. and though she was not more than one month on the coast, the furs she had collected were sold at Canton for upwards of 30,000l. Had they had goods to have bartered, and had been two or three months more on the coast, Capt. Hannah assured me, he would have collected above 100,000l. worth of furs. The beauty of these furs is beyond description, and held by the Chinese in the highest estimation; it is astonishing with what rapidity they purchased them. Capt. Hannah acquainted me that there were several sent home to England as presents."

N E W - Y O R K, January 19.

On the authority of a gentleman, just arrived in this city, who was present at the conflagration, we communicate to our readers the melancholy intelligence, that, on Monday the 3th instant, at four o'clock in the morn-

ing, a fire broke out at Richmond, Virginia, in a store near Mr. Anderson's tavern, in that part of the town called Shokae; which in a short time made such dreadful progress, as to baffle every effort to extinguish it. Before it ceased, 72 houses, on each side of the street, fell victims to its fury, as also the State Ware-house, said to have contained at the time 300 hogheads of Tobacco, 170 only of which were saved. It is very astonishing, that in so capital a town, and where wooden buildings are so numerous, the only efficacious mean of extinguishing a fire, is one engine, which, on the above occasion, was little used, supposed to be owing to the individual exertions of the inhabitants to remove their property.

Extract of a letter of 21st December last, from the Sieur OTTO, Charge des Affairs of France, to Mr. JAY.

"Several members of Congress having enquired of me with a degree of earnestness, whether the news concerning the pretended exchange with Spain in the southern part of this Continent was well founded; I cannot answer that question better than by communicating to you the following passage in a dispatch from Comte de Vergennes, of the 25th of August last.

"The exchange of Louisiana for a French possession in the West-Indies has never been in question, and if any thing should be again said of it, you will be pleased to contradict it formally."

The General assembly of the State of Pennsylvania has passed the following resolution, viz.—Resolved, That the delegates of this State in Congress, be instructed to assure the United States of the sincere design of

Pennsylvania, to make an adequate provision for all debts of the union; that this desire, fully evinced by her compliance with past requisitions, will equally operate on future determinations; that the distress of her citizens, to whom large sums were due, and who were at the same time compelled to pay their proportion of supplies for the current expenditures, called loudly for relief.

That having waited in vain for a general assent to the measures proposed by Congress, until the grievances complained of, could no longer be borne, it became necessary to assume the payment of those sums, which were due by the union to her own citizens.

That in consequence, the funds now required by the United States, were appropriated to this object, and the debts due to individuals were transferred to the State, whereby Pennsylvania became the creditor of the union.

PORTSMOUTH.

Jan. 19. Yesterday the Great and General Court of this state concluded their late sessions, and were adjourned to the sixth of June next, then to meet at Concord.

The General Assembly of this state have directed that an address be presented to Congress, stating the situation of the publick affairs of this state; and the impossibility of ever supplying the federal treasury, unless some method can be devised for regulating the commerce of the United States.

They have also passed an act, "to vest the United States, in Congress assembled, with full powers to regulate trade, enter into treaties of commerce," &c.

WORCESTER.

In our last Magazine (published on Wednesday the 24th of January) we mentioned the arrival of the troops on the Monday preceding, under the command of the Hon. Major-General Lincoln, to protect the Court of Common Pleas then holding in this town. The troops from the northern part of this county, about 500, who rendezvoused at Lancaster, arrived in town on Wednesday evening following; those from the southern part of the county, who rendezvoused at Leicester, joined with the Worcester Regiment of Horse under Col. Crafts, amounted to about 600. Early on Thursday morning the whole body of the troops were in motion, and about 7 o'clock proceeded on their march to Springfield, excepting the Worcester troops from the northern part of the county, and one company of artillery, with two field-pieces; these last followed on in the rear, about two o'clock in the afternoon. The whole number amounted to above 3000, all in high spirits.

General Shepherd, who we mentioned to be posted at Springfield, on Continental Hill, to protect the military stores belonging to the continent, we are told was reinforced from Hampshire county with about 400 men, making the number called for, under his command, complete, amounting in the whole to about 1400. Before General Lincoln left

this place, intelligence was received from all quarters, that Capt. Shays, the principal leader of the insurgents, had mustered a large force, to the amount of 2000—that Capt. Day, another leader, had about 700 more under his command—and a Capt. Parsons, from Berkshire county, said to be a man of abilities in the military line, had another party of about 500 insurgents. Day was posted west of Continental Hill, Parsons about north-east, and Shays had marched to Wiltbraham, about south-east. All accounts agreed that Shays intended an attack on General Shepherd, in order to wrest the continental stores out of his hands—the event proved the truth of those accounts, for, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the day on which General Lincoln left this place, Shays marched up the men under his immediate command, in a solid column, to General Shepherd's lines, and drove in a part of the General's horse, who were reconnoitring—General Shepherd sent to inform Shays, as he approached his lines, not to proceed further, and of the consequences should he presume to—no attention is said to have been paid to this message, and the General sent a second—it is said that Shays then answered, rather laconically, that "he knew his own business, and Shepherd might mind his"—his men marched on to the lines, General Shepherd fired a small cannon, loaded only with powder—this answered no purpose—he fired a second time with ball, which, it is said, killed one man—the insurgents still pressed on; Gen. Shepherd then gave orders to fire with grape shot, and was ready for immediate action; the discharge of one piece with grape shot killed two more of the insurgents and mortally wounded another, broke the whole column of insurgents, who fled with great precipitation to Springfield Plains, about five miles, nor could Shays rally them to renew the attack. Shays rode a-head of his men, and placed a guard to prevent desertion, notwithstanding which many are said to have gone off. Afterwards Shays joined Parsons, and retreated to Ludlow, a few miles distant from the Plains, and northward of the great road—from thence to Amherst, and afterwards to the place of his residence, Pelham, where he was posted when we received our last intelligence; and if we may credit reports, was deserted by a great number of the men who were with him, when he made the attack on Gen. Shepherd.

General Lincoln, with the main body of the army, arrived, the first day's march from this place, at the further part of Brookfield, about 22 or 23 miles; the next morning the troops were under march, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, at 5 o'clock; the army arrived at Palmer that day, and before day light the next morning joined General Shepherd. The intention of the army, we presume, is, in the first place, to protect the Courts of Justice. Next week the Court of Common Pleas, &c. is by law to be holden

at Lenox, for the county of Berkshire, and the week after at Northampton, in the county of Hampshire.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon, of Saturday, after General Lincoln had refreshed his men for a few hours, he sent a party across the river to West-Springfield, to reconnoitre Mr. Day; but Day with his whole body of men immediately fled, excepting about 40 that the General's party found in barns, &c. Day left behind him, his baggage and provision sleighs, four in number—the party having pursued Day a few miles, returned to Springfield with their prisoners, who, it is said, being desirous of taking the oath of allegiance, were afterwards liberated—Day reached Northampton that night, as it is said, with only 300 of his men, and afterwards joined Shays at Amherst.—General Lincoln is said to have marched his army on Sunday, in two divisions, one division towards Northampton, the other towards Amherst; and we since learn, that the main body of his army is now at Amherst, but about eight miles from Shays. We hear that on Monday,

Committee called *Mediators*, from several towns, waited on Gen. Lincoln at Amherst—he received them very politely; particulars on this subject, we have not learned. A report prevails, that a guard of Shays fired on a party of his own men, as they were retreating from Ludlow, supposing them to belong to General Lincoln, and killed an Adjutant and one or two more.

When Gen. Lincoln left this place, orders were issued to raise another body of men, to reinforce the army, if necessary; and we are informed that the spirit to quell the insurrection is so great, and in many towns in this county in particular, that men of the best estates, and greatest property, immediately turned out volunteers in the service, and are continually coming into this town, the place of rendezvous. General Brooks, with another division of troops, from the county of Middlesex, was ordered on to Worcester, when General Lincoln marched to Springfield, but since his arrival at Springfield, Gen. Lincoln thinking it not expedient for Gen. Brooks's division to come at present—the first orders were countermanded when the division was actually on its march.

The insurgents in this county, and about 100 from the county of Middlesex, we are informed, during the last week rendezvoused at several places, and on Saturday, being all collected into one body at New-Braintree, marched from thence, about 650 strong, and we hear have since joined Shays at Pelham. They left a small guard at New-Braintree.

Jesse Weare of New-Braintree, was appointed by the insurgents, President of their Committee of Safety; but we are told he is now superseded by a Mr. Stone, who has orders to guard the roads, take up all suspicious travellers, and intercept provisions, &c. which may be going on to Gen. Lincoln's army.

Worcester county CONVENTION stands

adjourned to the second Tuesday in February, to meet in this town.—Uxbridge and Rutland, we hear, have added to the number of those towns, who have dismissed their members of Convention.

Extract of a letter from the Southern part of this county, to a gentleman in this town, dated January 27th, 1787.

“The alteration in the face of our public affairs is surprising—people now begin to have their eyes opened, and see how they have been deluded and led astray by artful and designing men, who, under the mask of redressing grievances, were endeavouring to overthrow the constitution, and bring about a revolution, in order to get themselves promoted to the several places which fill the departments of government; but men who could not manage their own private affairs, are very unfit to govern those of the state—the artifice becomes more and more visible, and we are now animated to support government—that government of our own choosing, which we have hitherto unthinkingly permitted to be grossly insulted. I am certain that about a month since, we could not get one man, where we can now get eight. I think that now is the time to exert ourselves, “and flee from the wrath to come.”

Extract of a letter from Brookfield, January 29th, 1787.

“I have seen Gen. Lincoln's army—and was greatly pleased at the order and regularity of their march—it was surprising, considering them as a part of the militia; the spirit that pervaded them, charmed me; they wished to injure no man—but only to bring to justice the disturbers of the public peace, and restore the tranquillity of the state. The time is come, when the majesty of the people shall no longer be insulted with impunity, by lawless men, who, in hostile array, have repeatedly set all law, and respect for government at open defiance, and are now, avowedly attempting to destroy our happy constitution. Some persons who have been taken up, and examined by the insurgents in this county report, that the insurgents were using every artifice in their power, to get men to turn out in support of their cause—they asserted, among other things equally as absurd, that Shays had taken Gen. Shepherd prisoner, and made himself master of the continental stores—that Shays's army was 10,000 strong, that several thousands more were on their march, and that 700 men from Marblehead only, would soon join them—and what is more absurd still, that the troops in support of government, would chiefly desert and join them;—I am further informed, that many who had joined them, finding they had been imposed on by such false stories, quitted them, and had gone quietly home, heartily repenting of their folly.”

Complaints having been lodged against Col. Luke Drury of Grafton, and Caleb Curtis, formerly a minister at Charlton, of stirring up, and fomenting the insurrection, they were apprehended and committed to goal.