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 lucubrations 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 accounts 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 thieves cannot be taken, and where jails may be forceably 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 fashood 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 supreme court is soon to sit 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 proportioned among 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 they sink or swim without the protection of government. This we 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 indeterred 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 stripes man,
"who slops at nothing, will frize all he can:
Justice or merit, will weak aid afford,
Her balance fail'n, usefulness 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 if, 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 of the Deity is inforced on the whole as the efficacious 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. It is supported 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. It is 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 profitest religion [illegible], 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 institution, why shou d 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 treat 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 laudable exertions 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. A religious society establish 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 ruffed 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. Bliezer 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.

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

On a 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, be 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, 0,01

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

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

That between 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 dim: 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 wt. 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 out 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 29th 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 Cincinnatus Maximus retires to enjoy ostium 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 salt 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, recounced the mutual tye, 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 iniquity."

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 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 oeconomy 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 Grant, 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. Humphrey's Poem.

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