

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

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

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

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

I am, &c. THOMPSON.

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

NUMBER III.

MY COUNTRYMEN,  
THE Hatfield Convention say, "that their grievances are the following, viz.  
1st. "The existence of the Senate."  
Ancient republics found several branches of government necessary. The States in the union have been of the same opinion. One branch was appointed to aid and upon occasion check the other: When this balance has been destroyed, the government has immediately become a tyranny in the hands of one man. The freemen of this commonwealth approved the policy of having two branches of legislation. And the Senate was constituted by the harmonious voices of a State convention, and the great body of the people who gave their personal consent to the institution. But it seems, that the determination of the body of the people, in whose hands the power lay, to be governed by the help of a Senate is a grievance, a wicked and oppressive measure. The people had no right to make such a compact, though a vote of them were agreed in it. And the Hatfield convention have reason to be grieved at the usurpation. Certainly the freeholders will hold themselves greatly indebted to the state legislature of these gentlemen, in discovering, that a part of the constitution which they once thought an essential mean of national security, is a grievance, and ought to be pruned off as a pestiferous branch. Sublime discovery! How can we fall of ascribing to the benevolent authors what was said of a famous politician some thousand years ago, "THEY ARE WISER THAN ALL MEN."—But discovery trends upon the heels of discovery. They have found,  
2d. "That the present mode of Representation" is a grievance.  
This is part of the compact; and the people it seems had no right to make it. The people unable to meet collectively, agreed to meet by their representatives. The small corporations were tenants of the privilege of choosing separately: they thought it would be inconvenient and raise future jealousies were they annexed to larger corporations. It was therefore agreed, that these small corporations should be particularly represented: and the representation is equal. But the convention are grieved because the people have taken it upon them to say how they will meet in assembly. If I have hit their meaning it is lucky, since it is couched in mystery. But more,  
3d. "The officers of government not being annually dependent on the General Court for their salaries." And,  
4th. "All civil officers not being annually chosen by the General Assembly," are grievances.  
That civil officers, while subject to impeachment and removal for maleadministration, should be placed in a station of security and dignity above the clamours of a temporary faction, has been thought necessary for the public safety. The people of this commonwealth, in forming their compact, thought it to be a necessary expedient against violent and arbitrary measures. Perhaps our modern politicians will shew us that the people had no right to determine for themselves, what dignity and authority to put upon their judicial and executive magistrates; and that it would be more safe and reputable to adopt a mode of administration similar to that in Rhode-Island,

where, when the fury of a sudden madness shall dictate, they may have paper money in reams, and those who refuse the fraudulent tender may be liable to tool penalties, disfranchisement, trials, condemnations and imprisonments, by packed judges and without the embursement of a jury. To hold criminal professions without juries, will bring on baleful days; when an insolent rabble of knavish laborers will hold the reins, and he who departs from inequity will make himself their prey.—But our convention have found another grievance.  
5th. "The existence of the Courts of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace."  
Had they suggested, that the court of sessions might more conveniently and economically be constituted of the judges of the common pleas, their sentiments would have accorded with many honest republicans. By the tenor of the vote and some subsequent transgressions, it appears, that this is not the burden of the complaint. The court of common pleas have authority to compel delinquent debtors to pay their debts. The court of sessions are empowered to try criminals for breaches of law; to oversee and chastise rioters and infurgents against the government. And who dare say in these times of liberty, that these courts are not a grievance and a breach of privilege. In aid of the good cause may we not add, that the Supreme Judicial Court is a grievance still more intolerable? For has not that court presumed to crop, pillory and hang men only for taking their liberty? But,  
6th. "The Fee-Table as it now stands," is a grievance.  
Whether the fees are too high or too low, the gentlemen have not been kind enough to inform us. The question was not examined in convention. The discovery was made by intuition. We are willing to refer the matter to the legislature, and let them augment or diminish the fees as they shall find for the public good.  
7th. The 8th. and 10th. grievances relate to the appropriation of the impost and excise; the grants to public officers, and the present mode of paying governmental securities. If indulged, shall give the public a separate number upon those complaints, and I believe it will not be difficult to make it appear probable, that the clamours raised against government on those accounts are the mere progeny of ignorance in some; and the ebullitions of fraud in others, and the exertion of disaffection to American independence in those who set up the cry. The convention say, 9th. "The supplementary aid" is a grievance.  
But why they are grieved at the supplementary aid to Congress, I cannot comprehend; unless they avow themselves grieved with the fair, bold and essential endeavours of the legislature to pay our debts and save a sinking nation from irretrievable ruin. Do the convention wish for a dissolution of the continental union? Or do they hope for personal advantage and influence in seasons of general convulsion? The attack upon the supplementary aid is to be viewed as a seditious attack upon the federal government.  
11th. "The present mode adopted for the payment and speedy collection of the salt tax," is a grievance.  
Congress are under the most pressing necessity for their part of the salt tax. I doubt not the people comply generally pay it in cash, or in remissions would be able to cut the sinews of your—But if upon proper exertion the urgent calls of Congress cannot be answered without material injury to the people, every charitable man will rest secure in this, that the legislature will take paternal care of their brethren and constituents.  
12th. "The present mode of taxation as it operates unequally between the polls and estates, and between the landed and mercantile interests," is a grievance.  
This we believe when we are assured, that a body of men generally unacquainted with the nice subject of taxation, and who are collected only from one county, are better judges concerning an equal taxation, than the whole representation of the commonwealth after months attentive deliberation. What a growth of politicians in this county! Who can confidently decide upon a question in fifteen minutes, which the General Assembly thought it hard to decide in twelve months. These gentlemen have settled more questions in three days, than our puny legislature would have thought it safe to have settled in half a year. DOUBTLESS THERE ARE THE PEOPLE AND WISDOM SHALL DIE WITH THEM. But the fate of all men is in their hands. For they say,  
13th. "The present method of practice of the Attorneys at Law," is a grievance.  
Every man has a constitutional and natural right to employ an attorney to plead his cause. Attorneys are known in law, and we had much rather part with conventions than part with them. That they may be reduced under some regular and liberal system is a general wish. They are before the legislature, who we hope will treat

them justly and candidly, and tender their practice a public benefit, and prevent greedy practitioners extorting from honest and indigent people. But again,  
14th. "The want of a sufficient medium of trade to remedy the mischief arising from a scarcity of money," is a grievance.  
The medium of trade is money. The want of money to remedy the scarcity of money, is a grievance: that is, a plenty of money would make money plenty. Falling strange! My dear friends, let the people choose good rulers: let the rulers take care of the government: let them set examples of public honesty; let them encourage manufactures; tax luxuries; make unnecessary laws. Let conventions return home to their proper callings; meddle with government when they are called to it: let the people be honest, temperate, frugal, enterprising, persevering: let all men be contented with their own property, and pay their debts as fast as they can: let the public spirit succeed to selfishness and mean suspicion. Take away the rod of violence and the heightened colourings of falsehood; and let modesty and infidelities be suppressed, and justice be uninterrupted; and I will pledge myself with sufficient boldness, that your grievances shall all vanish. Earn money, and you shall have money enough.  
15th. "The General Court sitting in Boston," is a grievance.  
This comes in very naturally after the complaint of the want of money: for we all know that the people are very able at the present juncture, to be at the heavy charge of public buildings and removing the seat of government to some other town, as Ipswich or Newbury for instance, to accommodate the eastern counties. But,  
16th. "The present embarrassments on the Press," is a grievance.  
Mr. Mr. Printers, my what is as necessary for the support of the public as advertisements in our newspapers. And do you not think that I may well complain of the convention's partiality, that they have not voted the taxes or embarrasments upon my sheet? Is not a grievance. Fair play gentlemen, we insist upon fair play, we will have no more embarrasments upon what fields.—But the reach of the convention is extensive. For,  
17th. "The neglect of the settlement of important matters depending between the commonwealth and the Congress, relating to monies and averages," is a grievance.  
The Congress and the Assembly say, that they are settling their accounts as fast as they can: that their accounts are long, intricate and perplexing, and require much time and care to bring them to a fair adjustment. With submission to the clear information of the convention, we cannot but think this to be the case, and that a fair adjustment will take place as soon as possible.  
18th. This article furnishes us with a speedy remedy for many complaints. We are to have a bank of paper money to redeem governmental securities, as the members of convention say, at their nominal value, and this paper money is to be as good as silver and gold, and to be a legal tender. Now is not this benevolent towards gentlemen who hold public securities, once in three months—that there should be three justices in every town, one of which to be a judge of a supreme court, to try and determine all appeals from the other two—that no man should hold or exercise an office more than one year in five: this would brighten every man's prospects, and prevent the clamorous about the fees of office, as every one might, in a short time, have a crack at them.  
If this plan should not be thought a good one, would propose, that all the officers, both civil and military in the several towns, should be put up at auction once in three, six or twelve months, whichever should be thought best, and struck off to the highest bidder, and the money thus procured, be applied to pay the taxes of the town, then every man who did not obtain an office, would be benefited by the money paid.—This would be a government on wheels, whose frequent rotations will prevent its getting stuck in the mire of the present government (is) and give life, grace and energy to the whole body politic.

PACIFICUS.

DUBLIN, July 2.  
Some days ago, as a gentleman was riding towards town, through the county of Kildare, he happened to overtake a fellow with a dog, whose name was two or three sacks; to which the dog stuck very close, constantly smelling. The gentleman having rode some distance, he missed him, returned, and the dog not following his call, he whipped him, yet the animal still continued to go from one side of the river to the other; on which the gentleman

thinking he was hungry, asked the carrier what he had got, and upon being told it was bacon, he defied the fellow to open his sack; and gave him a cut of the meat, for which he would pay him. The carrier replied, he could not open it till he came to town. The gentleman on his refusal, began to suspect that all was not right, and proceeded slowly until he reached a cabin near the road, where he applied to have the car stopped, and the fellow secured, which the carrier seeing into, he leaped into an adjoining field, and escaped. Upon examining a bag, they found the body of a female murdered, and bleeding fresh. A carriage was, on Tuesday last, taken in this city, and lodged in the county goal. After a long examination it appeared, that the deceased was a passenger, who, on paying him for a horse, she changed out of the corner of her handkerchief, which also contained a couple of guineas; and this, it is supposed, tempted the villain to lay violent hands on her, in this barbarous manner above related.

NEW-YORK, September 22.  
A correspondent writes us, that an expedition is vigorously prosecuting by the state of Georgia against the Creek and Cherokee Indian nations, with a very formidable body of men, under the command of General Elbert, and that Dr. James Lauder is appointed director general of the army, John Ap, Esq. quarter-master general, and Colonel Lewis, adjutant general.

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

BOSTON, Sept. 23.  
We hear, that on Wednesday evening last, an express arrived at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, from his Excellency President Sullivan, then at Exeter, with orders for a troop of horse, a company of artillery, and the militia of Portsmouth for Exeter, in order to disperse a body of infurgents, who had assembled there from different parts of the country. Their numbers, according to report amount to 500; and their professed design was to oblige the General Court, then sitting to pass an act for the immediate emission of paper money.—The militia of Portsmouth, it is said, murdered very spiritedly, and it was hoped would soon put a stop to the outrages of the mob.

NORTHAMPTON, October 4.  
By one of our correspondents we are furnished with the particulars of the transactions at Springfield the week past, which we are happy to communicate for the right information of the public.  
In consequence of undoubted advice that the mobility were making every effort, not only to prevent the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, but to abolish all law, destroy the government and our excellent constitution, the whole militia of this county were ordered out under arms, and to march and arrive at Springfield by nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, the day appointed by law for opening the court aforesaid;—also private orders were given to the militia of Northampton, Hadley and Springfield, to take possession of the court-house on Saturday night proceedings, which was accordingly done with as many as two hundred men, who were reinforced on Monday evening and Tuesday morning with about five hundred more.—The infurgents in the mean time had collected from various parts of the county, and assembled at a number, stilling themselves "the body of the people," and sent to the Judges, who arrived the day preceding, to demand redress of grievances, which on explanation was found to intend that the Court should not open or do any business, and that they should be indemnified for all past and future riots. However, finding the firmness of the Justices of the Court, and that they were well supported, they had recourse to their usual resort, ARRESTING AND LYING, by sending to various parts of not only this, but the adjacent counties of Worcester and Berkshire, through which means they obtained about eight hundred more by Thursday noon, making in all about fourteen hundred, though not more than one

half armed with muskets, and those mostly furnished for service.  
The militia, who were advantageously posted near the court-house, were also reinforced by two or three hundred of the most respectable gentlemen in the county, who turned out as volunteers for the support of government, was about nine hundred, besides a very large and respectable number, who were unarmed.—The observation of some gentlemen present was, that those who appeared for government not only exceeded the infurgents in number, but in point of property the proportion of one hundred to one. We cannot omit mentioning the endeavors of divers gentlemen to inform and appease the infurgents from the beginning, although all attempts proved vain. So totally blinded and obstinate were they to all conviction, it was at length agreed after the Court had finished their business on Thursday, that the infurgents should be allowed to march and counter-march through the town, previous to their dispersing, agreeable to proposals to prevent individual outrages which might otherwise have taken place—which was accordingly done without the infurgents having obtained any one purpose: but which they had in view, which it is to be hoped will serve as a lesson against all such irregular conduct in future. The number, characters, and decent, steady conduct of those gentlemen for government, were such as deserve the sincerest thanks of their country, and occasioned the most pleasing sensations in the breasts of all present.  
Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the Ohio country, to his friend in this town, dated August 14, 1786.  
"After a very pleasant journey, we arrived at Pittsburgh in eighteen days from our departure, and from thence immediately proceeded to this place to join the Geographer, where we are encamped on the banks of one of the most beautiful rivers in the world—I cannot undertake to describe all the beauties of this country, thereof. The place where we now are, is thirty-five miles from Pittsburgh—the lands produce 15 or 16 tons of corn per acre, being so rich as to produce Indian corn yielding from eighty to one hundred bushels per acre; and indeed it is impossible to prefer a better either in point of soil or temperature of climate. The Ohio river is about four hundred yards wide—the current is gentle—the prospect is enchanting, as you sail either up or down,—first the eye is saluted with beautiful forests of cypress, towering elms, black walnut, &c. which grow on those excellent bottoms or flats, which extend from the banks of the river, from half a mile to three miles back, and form an emburage for a great variety of plants and vines, which grow spontaneously in great abundance.—next, the gradual rise of land, forming the hills and uplands, covered with different kinds of timber, these the islands interspersed in the river, and the great numbers of rivulets or creeks, which rushing from the adjacent hills, gently glide through the valleys and discharge themselves into the Ohio, seem to indicate that it is the seat of the mutes;—and the warbling of innumerable numbers of harmonious birds which inhabit the groves, appear to be an invitation to stop and partake in the scene.  
"I have been down the river about forty miles from this, and find that the land is better the farther we proceed. The soil is excellent for the produce of every necessary of life.—Rice is easily produced here. The great quantities of mulberry trees which grow, will render it easy to produce silk if we can find manufacturers.  
"From the best account I can get from gentlemen who have been down the river, some where near the Mufkinging, which is about two hundred miles below this, will be the place where the Ohio company will probably make their pitch.—The furveys are going on, and I believe we shall meet with no obstructions.—nine furveyors only are present.—if the people in general were sensible of the quality, situation, and beauty of this western world, the Ohio company would be completed in a very short time, and inhabitants from all quarters would flock here like sheep to their fold.—I am so far prejudiced in favour of this new world, that I believe I shall return no more.—The Indians appear no ways hostile, and I believe will not molest us."

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