

Boston, October 19.

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

The occasion on which the legislature was convened in its present session, was one of the most serious that can arise in society, that of a violent obstruction to the administration of justice. The public well know, that the supposed causes of this evil have been frequently represented to government under the name of grievances, equally various in their nature and difficult in their remedy.

To restore quiet to the community, and to relieve these grievances, so far as they are under the control of laws, seems therefore to have been the duty and inclination of the General Court. Early in the session, the Governor's speech, which contained an accurate statement of the tumults which had taken place, was put in commitment. A petition from the town of Dracut, backed by several others upon the subject of public grievances, was also noticed in the same manner.

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

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

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

Nearly every article which has been the object of popular clamour, has been attended to, either by the whole House or by Committees. The subject of the probate Court has been taken up in the former manner. A proposition was made to

establish a Probate Court and a Register's office in every town, but after two debates upon the question, the expediency of this proposal could not be evidenced.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agents, before the Revolution each 400l.

Members of Congress 265 per day, including all charges.

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

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

Collectors of Impost and Excise for the county of Suffolk, acknowledges receiving from

June 1st, 1785, to May 31st, 1786, 507l. 1s. 11d. out of which he pays two deputies 120l. each, which leaves him 267l. 1s. 11d.—Fees for taking bonds, at one shilling each, for against the expense of office, printing, paper, books, wood, coal, &c.

Naval Officer for the County of Suffolk.—Whole annual amount of fees 680l. 19s. 5d. 7-12ths of which being paid into the Treasury, leaves 289l. 14s. 9d. from which deduct for absolute expenses and rent 238l. 8s. 8d. leaves for his support 45l. 6s. 1d.

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

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

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

Breck, Shepard, and Clarke,

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

GOODS,
And now have on hand a general Assortment, which they purpose to sell on the most reasonable terms for ready pay in Cash, Grain, Pot, Potash, Salts, Flax-Seed, &c. &c.
Northampton, October 10, 1786.

THE Subscriber, Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire, hereby gives notice to all concerned, that he proposes to attend at the following places to receive the accounts and receive the said duties, viz. at West Elm Whit's in Hamfield, on Wednesday the 27th day of Nov. next, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Joel Ward's in Whately, at 11 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. David Holt's in Deerfield, at 2 o'clock P. M.—and the same day at Mr. Caleb Alvord's in Greenfield, at 5 o'clock P. M.—On Monday the 28th of said Nov. at Mr. Joshua Taylor's in Williamburgh, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Lemuel Lyon's in Gorham, at 11 o'clock A. M.—and the same day at Capt. Cole's in Chesterfield, at 1 o'clock P. M.—On Wednesday the 29th at Mr. Elisha Cook's in Halesley, at 10 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Abiel Pomeroy's in Northampton, at 2 o'clock P. M.—On Thursday the 31st at Capt. David Lyman's in Ball-Hampton, at 9 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Peter Clap's in South Hampton, at 11 o'clock A. M.—the same day at Mr. Ephraim Wright's in West Hampton, at 1 o'clock P. M.

ELIJAH HUNT.
Northampton, October 25, 1786.

FOR SALE,
At the Printing-Office in Northampton, The First, Second, and Third Part of
Webster's Institute.

A L S O,
Watt's Psalms.—Primer.—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys Poem.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1786.

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

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

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

I shall now proceed to the next thing proposed, which was to show that the redemption of the securities at their nominal value, will not afford the army any kind of relief. The Old Republican asks, whether old continental money did not first amount to nothing? and then answers, that it did; and then goes on, "and is it not a pretty argument, that because individuals have been injured in a time of war, of uncertainty and difficulty, therefore individuals should be injured again in a time of peace, when we have nothing to do but learn frugality and honesty, and pay our debts like an upright people." He then acknowledges that there is a similarity in the two cases. I shall inform him, that I conceive that the reasons why individuals were injured by continental money was not because it was not finally redeemed at the nominal value; but the real cause was, that our public credit was in such a situation, on account of the calamities of war, that an attempt to have redeemed the army, and other individuals at the nominal value, would have been productive of twenty times greater injuries than the sinking of it had been, and the relief sought after would not have been found; so that the Old Republican has put the effects for the cause. If in the present case, the Congress and the legislature of this Commonwealth have been entirely mistaken in establishing scales of depreciation,

&c. in order to relieve those who had been injured, their method should have been according to the Old Republican to have redeemed their money at the nominal value like honest people; this would have been that "righteousness which exalts a nation." I have made this distinction to point the reader to a recent instance, wherein it has been acknowledged on all hands, that the support of the public faith would have afforded no kind of relief to the injured. And in the case before us, the idea of redeeming the public securities at their nominal value, with a view to relieve the army, is as ridiculous as it would have been in the above mentioned instance; for every one must allow there is but a very small part of them in the soldiers' hands, and consequently the appreciation of them can afford them no kind of relief. But on the contrary, it must operate as an intolerable burden upon them, by their being subjected to be taxed in common with the rest of the community, to restore them to their nominal value in the present holders hands; this is so evident, that to make use of argument to prove it, would be like burning incense at noon day to enlighten the world. But to return to the Old Republican. He asks, "What decency or integrity would there be in the interposition of the government, to seize into their own hands what has been checked out of individuals?" The Old Republican seems to have forgot, or never knew, that the greater part of the war was supported this way. For cannot I suppose he meant it as a reflection upon the government for what they had done. I doubt not it is a maxim, as firmly established in his mind as the laws of the Medes and Persians, that the government can do no wrong: And now he is informed, the government have heretofore been guilty of the very conduct he condemns as unjust; it will go some ways in convincing him, that it may be just and necessary for the government to again interpose and seize into their own hands what has been checked out of individuals, if there can be no better way of relief found out. For the sufferers under the sinking of the securities at their nominal value. But the Old Republican will perhaps say, that it is the Congress have done this and not the legislature of this Commonwealth; to which I answer that it is true, that the Congress have done it so far as it respected old continental money; and the legislature of this Commonwealth have done the same, by compelling the holders of the sword-in-hand money (so called) to bring it in and take notes for it, which have since been reduced, I believe to about one third of their nominal value; so that according to our wife argument, the constitution is decidedly violated: For he says, that "an attempt to free ourselves from full payment, is decidedly a violation of the constitution" and that the legislature have done it in this instance, none can dispute. He then makes a charge upon the legislature, which would have raised his indignation to the very highest pitch, if it had been made by any other man. It will be thought that these arguments are leading to a proposal to have the state securities cancelled. I have no such proposal to make, for this obvious reason, that however just it might be, if the government had a sufficient sum of money on hand to redeem them, at what should be supposed to be their real value, it might be unjust at present, as all the government could do at present, would be to give them new notes, which in all probability would depreciate.

For the Hampshire Gazette.
The Old Republican to the Peace-Maker.
My Friend,
TRUE representations are of use to the public. After such representations the Old Republican has faithfully laboured. He hopes they will have their beneficial effect. He is sensible, that touching the eye when covered with a film, is a painful operation to the patient. But the operation is however at times very necessary. And the operator, if he does his work honestly, is entitled to thanks. The Old Republican has been employed in taking off films from the people's eyes, which have been brought on by the heats and violences of the times. If they are

not all pleased yet, he is not disappointed. For men in delusion do not love information: a man in an error do not love to be reclaimed. As water is to lime, so is truth to the misinformed. The lime and the misinformed will both ferment for a season. But neither the water nor the truth are in fault. When the lime is slacked it will be good for use; when the people are disabused and reclaimed they will be good members of society. You do the Republican justice when you say he is zealous for the laws and constitution of his country. When the Peace-Maker is better acquainted with them, he will be more pleased with them than he is at present. But my friend, fair representation becomes a writer. Why then would you scandalize the Republican as a friend to exorbitant fees, law-suits, and oppressive exactions from lawyers: these things are not in his writings. No, he leaves fee-ables and lawyers to the General Court. They understand how to manage those matters better than either the Republican or the Peace-Maker. And this last gentleman would help his reputation for fair dealing if he would help the public, as he intimates it to be his duty, that the senate have opposed the house in such useful regulations.

Mr. Peace-Maker, you seem to be fond of the Old Republican's company, when you drag him in as an admirer of mobs and conventions in 1774. But he never had any fellowship with you in those matters: he always abhorred mobs as the bane of every good cause, and the scourge of honesty and honest men. Conventions he never approved, excepting the house convention after the dissolution of the house of representatives by the tyranny of Governor Galloway. That convention opposed no General Assembly, but was all the legislature which the province could then enjoy. The Old Republican has been uniformly zealous for government: he was willing to defend it from the encroachments of the British ministry, because they were labouring to subvert law and establish tyranny. For the same reasons he is now opposed to mobs and conventions as engines of the same mischief. Truly for the Peace-Maker to compare the struggles of our legislature and the body of the people against the encroachments of a foreign usurpation, to the struggles of the convention and a number of disquieted individuals to subvert the constitution and legislation of the commonwealth, is a proof that he has a poor knack at drawing comparisons. Pray, my friend, let us have no such lame disjointed comparisons in future.—But forgetting your name, you are very angry with the Old Republican because he is not as much irritated now at the salaries of the civil officers as the people were in 1774. Perhaps it may be of service to state the difference between that time and the present. For 30 years successively the British governor received annually in a salary and perquisites to the amount of 1800 or 2000l. In Governor Hutchinson's administration, the ministry ordered him to receive out of the American revenue 2000l. annually. And the Lieut. Governor and Judges of the supreme court much more than they receive now; how much more I have forgot. The representatives voted the Governor 1300l. besides large perquisites, which he would not accept; but adhered to the ministry's grant. Of these exorbitances and encroachments there were great complaints, and that justly for two reasons. First, because the sum granted by the ministry was much too large. And secondly because the ministry had no right to make the grant: a grant which rendered the Governor and Judges wholly dependant on the crown, and detached them from the interest of the province. This was the great cause of un-

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