

Part III. THOSE who have engaged in the late risings against government plead public grievances...

Do they complain that there was too much fury, and that therefore they ought to be stopped? I would reply to that in four queries...

I have heard some of them say they are contending for liberty. But what sort of liberty are they contending for? not to be governed by good laws...

They complain of the rigour of the laws; they want a change. But were the heads of the late mob vested with authority, they would be chastised with scorpions.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty six. An Act to prevent Riots, Riots, and tumultuous Assemblies...

WHEREAS the provision already made by law for the preventing Riots, Riots and tumultuous Assemblies, and the evil Consequences thereof, has been found insufficient:

Be it therefore Enacted, by the Senate, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this Act...

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. By virtue of an act of this Commonwealth, made and passed in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six...

And if such persons, assembled as aforesaid, shall not disperse themselves within one hour after Proclamation made, or attempted to be made, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for every such Officer to Command sufficient aid, and he shall seize: such persons, who shall be had before a Justice of the Peace...

And be it further enabled, That if any person, being commanded by such Justice, Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff, or Constable, as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to afford the assistance required, and shall be convicted thereof upon the oath of either of the said Officers to commanding, or other legal evidence, he shall forfeit and pay, a sum not less than forty shillings, nor exceeding Ten pounds...

And be it further enabled, That all persons, who for the space of one hour after Proclamation made or attempted to be made as aforesaid shall unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously continue together, or shall wilfully let or hinder, any such officer, who shall be known, or shall openly declare himself to be such from making the said proclamation, shall forfeit all their Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels...

Provided always, That where there shall appear any circumstances, to mitigate or alleviate any of the offences against this act, in the judgment of the Court, before which such offence shall be tried, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of such Court, to abate the whole of the penalty of whipping, or such part thereof, as they shall judge proper...

Months; and once every three months during the said imprisonment, receive the same number of stripes on the naked back, at the public whipping-post, as aforesaid. And if any such person or persons, so riotously assembled, shall demolish, or pull down, any dwelling house, or other house or parcel thereof...

And be it further enabled, That this Act shall be read, at the opening of every Court of General Sessions of the Peace, by the Clerk of the said Court, and at the ordinary meeting of each town, within this Commonwealth, by the Town-Clerk thereof, in March, or April, annually...

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 27th, 1786. This Bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted. ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker. In SENATE, October 28th, 1786. This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted. SAMUEL PHILIPS, jun. President. By the Governor, approved. JAMES BOWDOIN. True Copy. Attest. JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

EPITAPH on a Mr. PECK. HERE lies a peck! which some men say was first of all a peck of clay: This, wrought with skill divine, while fresh Became a curious Peck of flesh: Through various forms its Maker ran, Then, adding breath, made peck a man. Full sixty years, Peck felt life's bubble, Till death reliev'd a peck of trouble. Thus fell poor peck, as all things must, And here he lies--a Peck of--DUST.

WHERE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ROBERT BLAIR, late of Montague, deceased, justice shall second said business at the house of Mr. Julius Adams, on the first Tuesday of December and second Tuesday of April next, from one to five o'clock in the afternoon on said days. No accounts allowed after said term.

WHERE the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire, to examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of WILLIAM CARRAHAN, late of Bradford, deceased, justice shall second said business at the house of Mr. Robert Blair, on the first Tuesday of December and second Tuesday of April next, from one to five o'clock in the afternoon on said days. No accounts allowed after said term.

Strong's Almanack For 1787, to be sold by the grofs, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton. CASH, Writing-Paper, Sec. given for fuel and old Fish-Net.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1786.

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

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

NUMBER IV. THE Old Republican says "we must pay the French and the Dutch because they are our own people who have fought and bled who have lent us gold and silver who have sold us beef, flour and clothing, must be cheated, for this manifest reason, because we are stronger than they and they cannot obtain satisfaction." If the cheat is already done to those who have fought and bled, by the government paying them in state securities, what was their justice in fighting for it?

There are no doubt but this is the case, that what they have received falls considerable short of what was their just due; and now if the present holder can draw for two years and a half interest, the full sum the certificates cost them, it must be a very singular comfort to the army; and they will have this additional comfort, that they must be assisting in paying it. But the Old Republican will say, that this is not a fact, for the certificates that are issued for the interest, are paid for five shillings on the pound, and consequently the purchasers do not get re-imbursed to look as I have asserted. To which I answer, if they do not, the faith of the United States is violated, for what better right have they to say they shall not for certificates for the interest, which will not for more than five shillings on the pound, than they have to say they shall have five shillings when they have been promised that it will be paid, that the army shall be paid, but it is not paid, that the collectors and the officers have money on hand; but that a very great part of them are in their hands. Besides there are those who have sold us beef, flour and clothing, and lent us money, which never have put off their notes, and if they are not redeemed at their nominal value they will be cheated. It is but the case with the generality of them, I must confess I have said nothing to the purpose: for I have asked for granted, that a very great share of them are gone from the original holders. I can think of no better way to help us to form a judgment than there are, than by informing ourselves what sums there are of them in our several towns. I suppose the whole of the state notes that are now outstanding, amount to near 1,000,000, and the share of this upon a man that paid ten pounds out of one of the continental taxes, will amount to near seventy pounds--So that we may examine and see what proportion of such a sum is in the original holders hands, in our respective towns. I believe we shall find that but a very small part of such a sum is in the hands of the inhabitants of any country town, and a much smaller sum to the hands of the original owner. In the town I live in, I do not know of but one single person that is possessor of his share of them, and he purchased them at a discount. And I believe this is much the case in other country towns. It is the case with the towns in general, there will be no great danger of their being cheated out of their service in the war, or their beef,

hour of clothing, for the cheat is already done. The country towns had their full share of it, and supplied their full share of beef, flour, &c. and if the notes are not in their hands, it is because they are transferred. But I need not have laboured to prove that the government have a good right to interpret the matter, and come as near justice as possible, if I had been as much reconciled to the present cheap mode as the Old Republican is. There is, in strict justice, a certain sum due to the holders of the notes, some of them ought to have them redeemed at their nominal value, others at five shillings on the pound, by the present mode beyond any distinction made. When the notes become payable, there if a tax levied to redeem them, and the interest is stopped; and if the holder cannot get but one shilling on the pound for his note, who is to bear the full value, our public faith is violated; and if the man is cheated, he is cheated very heavily, as observed in our public debt; and one thing is consonant to the highest justice. My useful public institutions are founded upon the credit of these securities, the lives of many widows and orphan children, and the support of our public debt, are at stake. As to the officers of the army, they have had their loss by taking their pay in state securities, made up to them in a considerable degree by their five years pay in specie. But they will tell you, that they are considerable sufferers not only in consequence of the certificates have an inferior value to the bills of the continental Congress, but also in that they have been cheated by the government. There are no doubt but this is the case, that what they have received falls considerable short of what was their just due; and now if the present holder can draw for two years and a half interest, the full sum the certificates cost them, it must be a very singular comfort to the army; and they will have this additional comfort, that they must be assisting in paying it. But the Old Republican will say, that this is not a fact, for the certificates that are issued for the interest, are paid for five shillings on the pound, and consequently the purchasers do not get re-imbursed to look as I have asserted. To which I answer, if they do not, the faith of the United States is violated, for what better right have they to say they shall not for certificates for the interest, which will not for more than five shillings on the pound, than they have to say they shall have five shillings when they have been promised that it will be paid, that the army shall be paid, but it is not paid, that the collectors and the officers have money on hand; but that a very great part of them are in their hands. Besides there are those who have sold us beef, flour and clothing, and lent us money, which never have put off their notes, and if they are not redeemed at their nominal value they will be cheated. It is but the case with the generality of them, I must confess I have said nothing to the purpose: for I have asked for granted, that a very great share of them are gone from the original holders. I can think of no better way to help us to form a judgment than there are, than by informing ourselves what sums there are of them in our several towns. I suppose the whole of the state notes that are now outstanding, amount to near 1,000,000, and the share of this upon a man that paid ten pounds out of one of the continental taxes, will amount to near seventy pounds--So that we may examine and see what proportion of such a sum is in the original holders hands, in our respective towns. I believe we shall find that but a very small part of such a sum is in the hands of the inhabitants of any country town, and a much smaller sum to the hands of the original owner. In the town I live in, I do not know of but one single person that is possessor of his share of them, and he purchased them at a discount. And I believe this is much the case in other country towns. It is the case with the towns in general, there will be no great danger of their being cheated out of their service in the war, or their beef,

I had now according to my promise, propose a new mode, which I shall not call an honest mode of cheating, as the Old Republican calls the present; but I shall call it as honest a way of doing justice as we can possibly come at. My proposal is, viz. that the impoit and excise be applied for the redemption of the notes: that the collectors throughout the commonwealth be directed to receive them in payment of the excise; and also to pay money out for them when any one applies, and they have money on hand, at five shillings on the pound, allowing interest at the same rate, which shall hereafter arise out of the notes. And what taxes are levied in future that they be made in hard money; and that the interest be allowed to be received in payment of the same rate they are in payment of the impoit and excise. And that the collectors and the officers, whenever they have any money on hand; be directed to pay it out to any one that applies to them, allowing interest upon the notes at the above-mentioned rate. This will be doing ample justice to a very great part of the present holders, considering what an exorbitant interest they have drawn this four or five years past. This will be giving them more than they sell for at present, excepting those that are now payable in taxes, which sell for six shillings on the pound. This would prevent their further depreciation, as it would lay a permanent foundation for the redemption of them at that rate within the compass of five or six years, if the impoit and excise alone were applied for this purpose. Added to this, we might pay considerable taxes every year besides paying our share of the foreign debt, which I believe the people would cheerfully submit to, if they could enjoy any prospect of the debt being extinguished. I would further propose, that there shall be no interest be paid at present, that shall hereafter be raised, excepting where the notes are offered to the treasury and the federal collectors for redemption, and in that case that they pay the interest at the same rate the notes are received at. I do not propose this with a view to compel the holders of notes who ought to have the nominal value, to give them up at five shillings on the pound; but with this view, that the government may the sooner have it in their power to do them strict justice. I would further propose,

that the government assure the original possessor of the notes, and also those who bought them at their full value, that as soon as they get rid of those that purchased them at a discount, they shall have strict justice done them, as to principal and interest both. And that there shall be no encouragement given to those who have purchased them at the rate they ever being generally transferred, as of their ever being redeemed at any other rate, than at the rate proposed. It will be objected to this mode, that the negotiating the interest annually will injure those that ought to have them redeemed at their full value; who depend on receiving their interest as it becomes due. To which I may be answered, that the inconvenience is only temporary, and is designed for their relief, and that it is much better for them to be subjected to this small inconvenience, than to be exposed as they are by the present mode to get but three-fourths of the principal. But it will be further objected, that the original possessor cannot receive his notes for long, for it will probably be in four or five years before the government can pay them. To which I answer, they might take four shillings on the pound, which is much more than they will be like to get by the present mode; but whether the Old Republican will think they are cheated as honestly as they are by the present mode, I cannot say; for however honestly they are cheated by the present mode, they are still like to be paid very honestly by it. It will be objected, that the holders of the notes do not take the money that is raised for the interest; they will keep their notes. To which I answer, that there will be nothing to hinder those that purchased them at a discount, taking hold of the money as fast as it is collected; and the original holders if it is not intended should offer theirs, if this should be the case, that the holders of the notes do not apply to fall as the money is collected. I would then propose that the government should discriminate between those that ought to have the full value, and those who bought them at a discount. But I believe that our debt will be reduced into a very narrow compass, before this will become necessary. There may be other objections to this mode, and there would be to any other that could be proposed; there can perhaps be as few made to this as any one that is possible to propose; and it is infinitely better for the creditors than the present, I mean for such of them as ought to have the full value, and it is very probable they may have justice done them in this way; but there is not a possibility of their getting it in the present way. The public have now in the real motives of my conduct; they were such as I thought justified me in doing as I have; if I had acted contrary to them, I should have been guilty of the very wickedness the Old Republican charges me with. In this situation, to be introduced as an enemy to American independence, made it necessary for me to make an attempt to defend myself, that it all I have aimed at; I might have been justified in recommending, but I shall not follow the Old Republican's example of injuring the government by my impudence. I shall let the Old Republican know who I am, by putting the initials letters of my name to my writings, that he may know where to direct his future abuses. B. S.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE. The Old Republican's compliments to his correspondents in the Hampshire Gazette: he makes them his best acknowledgements for the evidence given him, that his writings are understood & felt, and are likely to have an useful operation. He has noticed the Peace-Maker already. As to Mr. Elinh, in No. 10, who takes such singular notice and quiet expressions in the Old Republican must confess his inference is that kind of writing. His honour is to stand facts and reason upon them; but if his friend Elinh must be answered in his own way, he will give the Old Republican time to send to the bookellers and buy some little book of witty sayings to assist him in his correspondence with such a merry gentleman. Another writer, a Member of the Hatfield Convention, has already