honoured him with three discharges, and demands his particular acknowledgements for his talent at quoting and misquoting his writings; for his attention to the point in debate; for his solid way of refuting arguments by professions of his own integrity, by levelling his budget at the head of his opponent—throwing dirt upon his clothes—stealing away from the question when it is dangerous to stick to it—raising new questions and arguing upon them without an opponent—in a word, for seeming to say a great deal and yet saying very little. Certainly he has some qualifications of a convention-man, yet he fails in many which are very essential: he is not radically opposed to order and government. Whether he has got his ideas of public credit from speculating in public securities, it is impossible to determine. His conclusions seem to be drawn from the school of jobbers and speculators, and will not read so well in a treatise upon TRUE STATE POLICY FOUNDED ON MORAL HONESTY. Our Member of the Hatfield Convention is the new comet of 1786, with a long train, whose revolution cannot yet be ascertained, but by his third appearance he must be near the sun. He grows hotter and hotter to the very close, & his train is driven to an amazing length; says he, "I may perhaps serve my country with as warm a zeal (as the Old Republican) although it is not kindled into such a rage," &c. &c. The public may expect soon to see our new comet return from the neighbourhood of the sun, when he will be more cool and less fiery red: unless perhaps in his zeal for the common good he may drop into that luminous orb, mingle his vivifying and assistin future in vivifying and facial rays, and assist in future in vivifying and enlightening this opaque globe. If none shall dare to enter the lists with our Member of Convention, perhaps after he has performed his revolution the Old Republican may adventure to take up the ba[illegible]publick. But should another writer appear, the Old Republican must beg the writer accept the present compliments as the conclusion of his correspondence.

The Old Republican's acknowledgements are especially due to One of the Community, Gazette [illegible]. For however he is a mere writer, with [illegible]ware of pepper, yet he has more [illegible]rance of argument than the whole of those [illegible] spread on the file of conventions.

[illegible]Community, it would have been well [illegible] in your complaint of the Old Republican, for saying "county conventions are a body unknown to the constitution of this commonwealth," to have mentioned chapter and verse, which speak of such conventions either by name or implication: or to have shewn the public that all our natural and essential rights are not effectually secured by the constitution. You should have shewn, that meetings of towns, which are legal corporations, or the meeting of the respective inhabitants of several towns, is the same in its nature and tendency as to empower committees or representatives to act for them. To meet individually and representatively are essentially different in their nature and operations. And when the constitution had provided for one equal and effectual representation, it had more sense than to institute a second representation to rival the first and controul it. Let the body controul their representatives, but not let one set of representatives controul another. Two representations would destroy each other. His argument for conventions, that they do not act authoritatively, is a proof that he has never read their doings nor observed the operation of their doings. It still lies upon "One of the Community" to prove the legitimacy of conventions. Because the people may change their government in a certain way, it is no reason why they may change it in another way. I know if all the community were for introducing a king in the year 1795, they have a right to do it: but this does not justify the labour of those gentlemen who are writing against the Old Republican and opposing the government, that they may accomplish it at the present period. The Old Republican will venture a step further in his system and affirm, that not only are conventions without foundation in the laws and constitution of this commonwealth, but that his good correspondent will find it difficult to vindicate the selectmen of any town in warning a town meeting to choose a member. There is no law for it: the meeting is illegal, and the town-clerk who records the votes of such a meeting as of a legal meeting, stretches the power of his office. This is a new thought which the Old Republican suggests to the convention of the minor part of the county (as they are said to have been) who lately met at Hadley, and prays their committee for answering the Old Republican to take up this matter and debate it when they can get time to answer his writings against county conventions.

To the Gentleman who calls himself a Member of the Hatfield Convention.

SIR,

IT is of great importance to the public, that the doings of the legislature should not be misunderstood. In the three last papers I think you have misstated a number of facts; and I shall therefore take the liberty to make some remarks on your writings, and express my own sentiments touching the public debt.

You observe, that "upon the settlement with the army, a great part of the notes that have been issued were given for what they had suffered in their pay by receiving it in depreciated paper money; that the army were necessitated to put them off from their situation, and the inability of the government to make suitable provision for them, as to cloathing, &c." No doubt you designed to represent the facts truly, but you have mistaken them, both as to the proportion given to the soldiers, and the time when they were given.

All the notes that have been issued to the soldiers, were given to those who first engaged for three years or during the war: the number for the war was small, and very few if any of those notes were delivered to the three years men until the time of their service had expired. Indeed the acts which direct the form in which a great part of them should be issued, were passed after that time.—The cause therefore of their being sold at a low rate, was not the distress of the soldiers while in the army—during the war, it was more owing to a doubt in what manner the war would terminate. It was supposed if it ifsued favourably for Great-Britain, the notes would be of no value. You have justly assigned two of the reasons why they passed at so low a rate after the war; the time of payment was postponed, and provison was not made for the punctual payment of interest: You might have added as further reasons, that the state was then unable to pay the principal, and at no time could be compelled to do it.

The whole amount of the notes due from this state (for the redemption of which provision has not been made by taxes) is about 1,320,000l. You suppose they were chiefly given for the service of soldiers; but that was not the case. About 90,000l. have been issued to redeem the notes given by treasurer Gray before the war. Many were issued for silver money borrowed in the year 1781, when the paper currencies failed, and the legislature urged the lending hard money by every motive of patriotism and every assurance they could give of future payment,—many more have been issued for money borrowed, for cloathing and military & other stores purchased at different periods of the war, at the price in silver.——Provision has been made by the taxes No. 4 and 5 for redeeming 140,000l. of the soldiers notes; and those given to the army make but a small part of what remain unprovided for. Although many of the soldiers sold their notes, it is supposed by persons who have the best means of knowledge, that not one half of the notes now due from the state have ever been sold; and a great part of what have been sold, were disposed of for double the sum which they can now be purchased for.

You have more than once observed, that obliging the army to receive what was their just due in state securities, was in fact defrauding them of two thirds of their just dues; but I wish you to consider whether this accusation is just:—you say they would have preferred a payment in silver—they would do; but was government then able to pay them in silver? You must be constrained to answer they were not. Were they able to satisfy them in any better way, than by giving the best security in their power for the future payment of the principal and the annual interest? I think you must allow they were not, and that no man could devise better securities that could have been given by the state than those notes, or stronger assurances of future payment than were contained in the acts which directed them to be issued. Where then is the fraud? If your neighbour was unable to pay a debt when you called upon him, but was willing to give his note to pay the principal at a future time, and the interest yearly, would you call him a knave? to be sure, I never before heard that poverty and knavery were so closely connected. If you would not charge an individual with fraud in such a case, why do you so accuse the government? When the army insisted in 1777, they expected their pay in paper money; but it depreciated so fast, that they received but a part of the nominal sum in that way. The inability of the state to pay them in silver, was fully known to them, and they had too much sense to charge the state with fraud for not performing impossibilities.

There are in your performance divers imputations of fraud upon the government, which, I hope when you coolly revise them, you will ascribe to the hurry and heat of disputation. Indeed at present you seem determined to have no claims on the score of modesty, for we have seldom seen a piece so replete with invectives, or in which the author enjoyed so many imaginary triumphs, or appeared so perfectly satisfied with the demonstrative force of his own reasoning.

The General Court, I know, have been complained of before you wrote, for postponing the time of payment and neglecting to pay the interest yearly. If they have done either with unnecessity, they have been guilty of injustice; how far the complaints are well grounded, I will not pretend to affirm: some members have informed me that they were obliged to pay the militia out of the taxes first due, after their service was performed—that the credit of the state, near the close of the war, was so low that they could not purchase a great part of the stores and supplies necessary to carry it on without paying in the same ways: and that it was impossible to redeem the notes faster, or pay the interest more punctually without greater taxes. Perhaps it will be said the taxes ought to have been higher—it becomes only the Court, but the people have thought otherwise.

But suppose the General Court by unpeccable delays of payment, have caused the notes to depreciate. How it follow that they may now justly refuse to redeem them, unless at a reduced rate? if so, they may go on with easy measures until not a note can be sold, and then honestly declare they are good for nothing. The community that approves of stratagems like this, will never be celebrated for its morality.

At the same time that you zealously charge the government with fraud in not preventing the depreciation of the notes, you attempt to shew that because of that depreciation, they ought not to be redeemed as the government proposes. This is like a man who pretends to abhor theirs, but demands his share of the plunder.

Because some persons have sold their notes, would you demolish those that have not been sold? But why does the selling the notes lessen the obligation of the state to redeem them? they were made payable to the promises or his order, and were therefore negotiable; was it ever heard the selling a negotiable note, excused the man who gave it from paying more than one third of its value? private notes are often sold below their nominal worth; but was there ever a law in this or any other state, that made a difference on that account? You say that "you are far from considering the purchasers of them as guilty of fraud and oppression in obtaining them, and think that people in general would not have given more than two shillings in the pound, at the time they were generally transferred," which you suppose to be during the war: but why are the times were they so lightly esteemed when the day of payment had not arrived: it was because there was a hazard of a total loss; this would have happened if we had been subdued. If the sale was fair, the whole property of the seller was transferred to the purchaser. If there was a real hazard, and the event has been favourable to the purchaser, would you deprive him of the who[illegible] benefit? because there is a law to compel the state to do justice, would you declare that the man who trusts the government shall run the hazard of losing his whole property, and shall have no chance of increasing it? Such a rule was never adopted in any other state; if it was designed to be in this, the people ought to have known it before.

You say it is a palpable mistake, that it was the expectation of the lenders that the notes would be redeemed by us. I am sorry you did not look into some of the acts of Court by virtue of which the notes were issued; if you had, you would hardly have made that assertion. Not a single note has been laid out but by virtue of some act, which ren[illegible] that a tax shall be levied to redeem the no[illegible] which directs that the army no[illegible] ly provides, that both princi[illegible] shall be received for taxes in[illegible] ars 1784, 1785; and yet fraudu[illegible] ment for redeeming them in that way. If y[illegible] lender, I think you would have known what provision government had made to pay you.

You further assert, that a very great part of the legislature are satisfied of the evil of taxes to call in our securities, and are in favour of altering the mode; and that every body has found by experience that the measure is unjustifiable: but had you sufficient ground to make this declaration to the public, when you must know, that the tax for calling in 140,000l. of the army notes was granted in July 1786, and no longer ago than last March, the General Court granted another tax for calling in ten 000l. of the same notes? and I presume you will not pretend the subject has been debated by the General Court since that time.

I most sincerely wish that the notes may be redeemed in the cheapest manner, that public justice will allow; but I exceedingly doubt the policy of facrificing that principle. Nevertheless I believe, and shall endeavour to shew, the notes may be redeemed in a manner as cheap to individuals as any reasonable man can wish, and without violating the public faith. No more at present from yours, &c.

A. B.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINTER,

Please to insert the following in your next, and you will oblige yours, &c.

THE Freethinker presents his compliments to Elihu; acknowledges the honour done him, in introducing his into the company of the Old Republican, Paulinus, Artifex and the Regulator. But thinks however that he scandalously betrayed his trust, in introducing some, whom he ought to have known did not belong to the club, particularly to mean a person as Isaac Fadoom,—He begs leave also to congratulate Elihu upon his superior skill in logic, particularly in drawing consequences, and shewing that one who does the friendly office to the mob, of pointing out their errors to them, and giving them good counsel thereby shews that he approves their conduct. And asks upon his peculiar knack of refuting authors without pointing out the fallacy of their positions, or offering any argument against them. Doubtless intelligent readers will perceive the sagacity of his plan, and give him merited honours. As he seems anxious, and even prays to know who and what the Freethinker is—this may inform him, that he is an honest benevolent old man, who friends much of mankind in forming, and thinks freely and liberally, and who wishes others would follow his examples and if they don't think right at first time, then think again. Whether he thinks persuasively or not, will not be decided solely by Elihu, but by the impartial public.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His Excellency
JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq.
Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A Proclamation

For a General THANKSGIVING.

AS there is a moral fitness in expressing our gratitude to our benefactors, and as it becomes us in proportion to the benefits conferred, we are under the highest obligation, both as a people and as individuals, to express to the Supreme Author of all good, our fervent and most grateful acknowledgements, for the numberless unmerited blessings his Providence has bestowed upon us; and in particular for those of the last year: for which it is our duty, in a social manner, to render HIM our most elevated praises.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, to appoint, and do hereby appoint, Thursday, the fourteenth day of December next, to be observed as a day of public and general Thanksgiving, throughout this Commonwealth: recommending to ministers and people of every denomination, to assemble on that day, in their several places of religious worship, and to unite in celebrating the praises of Almighty God, for the innumerable instances of HIS goodness to us: particularly that, in the course of the past year, HE has been pleased to afford so remarkable a degree of health to the people of this Commonwealth; to order the seasons so favourably, that the labour of the husbandman has been blessed with a plenty of the produce of the earth; to increase our fisheries; to enlarge our manufactories; and above all, that it has pleased HIM to continue to us the light of the blessed gospel, and the full enjoyment of our religious liberty.

And I further recommend to ministers and people, to accompany their thanksgivings with devout and fervent prayers to the great Governor of the world, that, notwithstanding our ingratitude and multiplied transgressions, HE would continue HIS gracious Providence over us; and preserve our Frontiers and all parts of the United States, from the incursions and depredations of savage enemies; that HE would prosper our public councils, and inspire both rulers and people with a disinterested love to their country; that HE would endue the people with a due sense of the value, extent and importance of their privileges, both civil and religious; and with a sense of their obligations to support government and good order, without which the existence of those privileges must be endangered; and in fine, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, benevolence and undefiled religion, may universally prevail.

And I do recommend a suspension of all unnecessary labour and recreation, unsuitable to the [illegible] exercise of the day.

Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, in the [illegible] number among us, and of our Independence, and preserving the [illegible] one thousand seven hundred and [illegible] eighty-six, and the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By His Excellency's command,
With the advice and consent of the Council.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth.

SAVANAH, Oct. 4.

The Creek Indians have lately received large supplies of ammunition from Pensacola, which with their having warned the settlers to remove from the Oconee lands by the first of October next, leaves little or no room to doubt of a war taking place immediately.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at the Falls of the Ohio, dated September 20.

"In my last letter I informed you that the state of Virginia had formed an expedition against the Indians, and now I can say that the troops, consisting of 1700 men, actually took up their march on the 15, 16, and 17th instant. Two field pieces and 103 men will be sent off tomorrow from Fort St. Vincent. What the result will be, God only knows. Capt. Carbury goes out as Adjutant-General to the detachment from Virginia."

NEW-YORK, Nov. 8.

Extract of a letter, from Charleston, Oct. 10.

"Should the intelligence prove true, that is generally reported, and indeed publicly asserted in the Georgia Gazette, that the Spaniards have assisted the Creek Indians with military implements, a war with Spain will inevitably follow, unless this ungenerous assistance has been given to the Indians by private individuals. Indeed it would appear as if Congress had some weighty affairs to adjust with Spain, from their having withdrawn Mr. Adams from the English Court, and sent him to Madrid, notwithstanding this able Minister's presence was certainly necessary at the British Court, in order to facilitate the negociations between Great-Britain and America."

A letter from an eminent mercantile house in Lisbon, to a gentleman in Baltimore, dated August 16, contains the following very interesting paragraph:—"We are extremely happy to acquaint you, that by letters from Tangier, of the 15th of July, we are informed, that a few days before, Mr. Barclay the Ambassador, had concluded his negociation with the Emperor of Morocco, to his entire satisfaction, having made a treaty of peace on the very same terms as that between the Emperor and the King of Spain. This intelligence you may depend upon.—The negotiation at Algiers has not proved so successful."

We learn that Mr. Barclay was honoured with an escort of thirty chosen horsemen on his return from the Moorish Court.

By the United States in Congress assembled,
Nov. 3, 1786.

Resolved, That the several matters now before Congress, be referred over and recommended to the attention of the United States in Congress assembled, to meet at this place on Monday next.

Resolved, That the thanks of Congress be given to his Excellency Nathaniel Gorham, for his able and faithful discharge of the duties of President, while acting in that important station.

Nov. 12. The military spirit which at present pervades our youth in this city, must give the most heart-felt satisfaction to every friend of this rising empire, and the readiness with which the several companies have been completed, affords us the joyful prospect of being speedily furnished with a respectable military force, sufficiently formidable to defend us against the incursions of our enemies.

ALBANY, Nov. 2.

We have it from good authority that the Governor of Canada has forbidden the Canadian and Nova-Scotia Refugees, who have had lands granted them by this state on lake Champlain, settling at Point-o'-Fair on said lake; as it is a British garrison, which he alledges he has orders not to evacuate or surrender.

HARTFORD, Nov. 6.

It is indeed painful to think of deriving advantages from the calamities of our sister states; but while Rhode-Island and Massachusetts are banishing industry, economy, and hard money, from their dominions, it affords some consolation to see them take refuge here rather than re-cross the Atlantick. Perhaps greater encouragement never was given to these cardinal virtues, in this state, than at the present moment. The people, not having changed the form of their government in the late revolution, are habituated to consider it as the best possible form, and are not desirous of change; the labours of the husbandman are abundantly repaid, with every production of the soil, the arrearages of our taxes are in a fair way to be settled soon, and the glorious stand we have made against Paper Money, tender laws, and every Demon of dishonesty, that haunts our neighbours, will redound to our present honour and future advantage.

PORTLAND, Nov. 2.

Capt. Jonathan Armstrong, in the sloop Minerva, who arrived last evening from Demarara, in 29 days, informs, that he saw Capt. Savage, belonging to Kennebeck, with a load of mules from the coast of Barbary—who informed him that a peace between the Americans and Algerines had been concluded before he left the coast.—This, Capt. Savage said might be depended on.

PORTSMOUTH, Nov. 7.

On Saturday last a woman in this town, lately married, was detected in the murder of her infant child;—the circumstances which led to this discovery we have not been able to collect. A Jury was immediately summoned to sit on the body, who reported, as their opinion, that the infant came to its end by a stroke, or strokes on its head. It was a male child, born and murdered on the Thursday morning preceding the discovery.

BOSTON, November 16.

Proceedings of Government.

Habeas-Corpus.

On Saturday last the engrossed bill for suspending the writ of Habeas Corpus passed to be enacted.

Civil processes in Law.

On Monday the Hon. House passed to be enacted, the bill for rendering processes in law less expensive. Of this bill we have already given a full description. The time of its operation is limited to two years.

Bill for granting Indemnity &c.

On Tuesday last the House passed to be enacted, the bill for granting indemnity to sundry offenders on certain conditions, and providing for the trial of such who shall neglect or refuse to comply with said conditions, and of those who shall be guilty of like offences in future. This bill particularly respects the insurgents lately concerned in impeding the sitting of the Judicial Courts.

Tender-Act.

On the same day, the House passed to be enacted the bill for suspending the laws for the collection of private debts under certain limitations, commonly called the tender-act. Bills of exchange, notes due to the Massachusetts Bank, and contracts under the treaty of peace, are excepted from the bill.

Impost Duty.

Yesterday was employed in attempting to conciliate the two Houses, with respect to the appropriation of the revenue arising from the impost duty. The Senate adhere to the old system, of paying the interest on the consolidated debt, while the house are desirous of applying only half of it to that use, and paying the remainder into the public treasury, as we related in our last paper. As the clause of appropriation is annexed to the Bills, this difference hazards the whole system of revenue; though it is to be hoped, that some compromise will take place; to save so important a source for relieving the public exigences.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of Council, has appointed Gen. HENRY JACKSON, to the command of the quota of federal troops from this State, by a late requisition of Congress; and we further learn, that Col. DAVID HUMPHREYS, is appointed to the command of those from Connecticut.

Extract of a letter from Savannah, dated September 15.

"The Indians are coming down in a large body, to attack this place; they seem bent upon the destruction of all our settlements and towns. The people in general are in great consternation, for their lives and property. However, we have now about 15 or 1600 men in arms, that are marching to oppose their progress, who will be able to give some account of them."

NOVEMBER 18.

The late commotions in this State, have awakened that spirit of military ambition, which so nobly distinguished us in 1774 and 1775. In all parts of the country, troops, and companies of horse and foot are raising. In this town, which a few weeks since, had to lament the want of a single company of soldiery, besides the standing militia, can now produce four companies, all in the whole of which completely disciplined and equipped, viz. the Ancient and Honourable, the Independent Cadets, the Republican Volunteers, and the Independent Light Infantry, a company by the name of the Massachusetts Fuzilliers, is also now forming with rapidity, and bids fair to be completed in a short time. Such a military spirit, [illegible]es a correspondent, diffusing itself through our Commonwealth, must afford the highest satisfaction to every sincere friend and well wisher to our Independence, and fully justifies the observation, that while Massachusetts can boast of citizens who possess a knowledge of military affairs, and understand the use of arms, they can have nothing to fear from foreign or domestick foes.

Leonard Jarvis Esq; was on Saturday last, by the Hon. Legislature, appointed Comptroller General of this Commonwealth.

NORTAMPTON, Nov. 21.

The act of the Assembly of Virginia, establishing religious freedom, has been translated and published in several kingdoms of Europe—it was lately printed at paris, and is characterized, as affording an example of Legislative wisdom, and liberality never before known. "Had" says the publisher of it "the principles which have dictated it, been always acted upon by civil governments, the demon of persecution would never have existed; sincere enquiries would never have been discouraged; truth and reason would have had fair play; and most of the evils which have disturbed the peace of the world, and obstructed human improvement, would have been prevented."

Several of the most reputable towns of the State of New-Hampshire, have voted their disapprobation of the plan proposed to their consideration by their General Court, for emitting paper money.

*** The Address to the Public, part IV. was received too late for publication this week.

Died, last Saturday, Mr. Elkanah Burt, in 69th year of his age.

Strong's Almanack

For 1787, to be sold by the groſs, dozen or ſingle, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

ALSO,

Watt's Pſalms—Primers—Blanks of moſt kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys's Poem.

CASH, Writing-Paper, &c. given for Rags and old Fiſh-Net.