

in the other, a great part of the criminal is triable. Nevertheless, if the general will is for an alteration, the regular mode is plainly pointed out by the constitution, by an orderly application of towns to the legislative body; who, if upon due deliberation they could devise a mode less expeditious to the people, and more adapted to the public good, would, no doubt, readily adopt it. And what was there to prevent every town in the state, if they thought proper or necessary, from making this peaceable application?

But surely to abolish two courts of such ancient standing, and large jurisdiction, if it should be found necessary, and substitute a perfectly new plan, free from all inconveniences, is not a matter to be undertaken, but with the greatest care and deliberation, for the sake of order. Some may perhaps suppose a single Justice may do all matters, even of the first magnitude, allowing only an appeal. But query, the necessity of that mode within the XVth article of the Bill of Rights, which declares, "That no Court of Justice shall be suspended, nor the jurisdiction taken away from them, except in cases, in which it has heretofore been otherwise used, and provided the parties have a right to trial by a Jury; and this method of trial shall be held fast." &c.

Then it may be said that Justice may summon a Jury to his aid. Suppose then, a large County, that requires four or five Justices, and each one summons a Jury; here may be no objection, for the Jury will be as large as if the whole County were kept in continual session, and every cause would be tried by a Jury, and this method of trial shall be held fast, &c.

It is impossible in the nature of things, to substitute any mode whatever for the recovery of right, or redress of wrongs, that shall not be attended with expense and loss of time, so long as the law is open to every subject; and as the 3th article of the Bill of Rights expressly declares it shall not be "complicated, promiscuous and ambiguous." As to the weight of public credit, as our Representatives lay no burdens upon their constituents, but what fall equally on themselves; we cannot doubt their disposition to take as far as is consistent with the public safety, and the health of our foreign and domestic concerns, to be free from the least credit in the least credit, far from sinking under the weight and cruet of foreign dominion.

Should public faith be violated and given up, what might be the consequence? Suppose another war (which for ought we know may be the case) we are obliged to take up arms, to save the State? Would we be rather be tempted to strike up his chest, and remove to some foreign country, where though there may not be so much liberty, yet where private property, the great object of all men's pursuit, has more constant security than in the State?

The want of a circulating medium is ranked among the principal grievances; but that is not within the reach of human power to remedy instantly. And the difficulty has been greatly increased by the late discovery of counterfeit gold and silver, and the various orders, whereby taking away all confidence in government, and discouraging those who have money, from lending and lending it into circulation, for fear of being paid only nominally in paper, in lieu of the hard specie.

The objection which some others can be heard only by time, peace, industry, frugality, a due attention to manufactures, with navigation and commerce placed upon a proper footing: that the interests of agriculture have been greatly neglected, burdens in the way of the farmer, the general of this State in particular, and especially of the mercantile part of it, is owing to the want of one regulating binding power over the whole. A power which would make men think to have their money, and that it ought long ago to have existed in Congress.

The General Court are now sitting, ready to hear petitions and complaints from all quarters of the State, and from every individual who will decently apply. In the mean time, and at all times, the great and good, have been severely reprobated in doing their duty, in supporting the magistracy in the execution of his office, in supporting the representatives, while they are exercising themselves to clear away every obstacle that may impede the general prosperity, and to the public good, to their God, to their constituents, and to posterity, they may be ready to rise as one man, if need be, to suppress all unreasonable intrusions upon public justice, and to support, as every hazard that government, upon which all these temporal interests and safety depend.

If by all faith and confidence between one part of the community and another, is to be banished, and the most sacred, binding engagements are no longer to be taken upon men's consciences, and in the hands of whomsoever they stand up, whether by internal or external enemies, shall be suffered to rage and prevail, and to raise every man's hand against his brother—farewell to peace, to property, and to the United States.

It is not however, despair of the Commonwealth, being adured that a large, substantial majority of the good people of this State stand firm to their original, sacred compact of government, and that they will have sufficient virtue and sense of their own interests to govern themselves, and support their own government, and laws, against all designing, unprincipled individuals, and to prevail over all civil and political disorders.

For the Hampshire Gazette. The Member of the Hatfield Convention to A. B.

It seems that the Old Republican has took his flight, and is now soaring above among the planetary orbs. I have answered my purpose, which was to make use of his way of writing as the only means of making him quit this earth, and re-ascend to the place of his abode, and leave us inhabitants of this earth to settle our affairs of government among ourselves. It has been a very general opinion, that his desecration has been attended with very bad consequences to the government. If I have contributed any thing towards his leaving us, I think I have done some good, however disagreeable it seems to me to go through with the talk. It seems Mr. A. B. that you are so much in the disquietude, as exceedingly happy in finding that you are disposed to argue the subject fairly and coolly—I believe some of your reproaches are just—I am

entirely willing to stand reprov'd. There are others, that had my meaning been as you have supposed, I would as readily have acknowledged. You reprove me for charging government with fraud; there is nothing that was farther from my intention than making such a charge. When I have said that making a payment to the army in state notes, was in fact defrauding the army of more than two thirds of their just dues. My meaning has been uniformly this, that a payment when our credit was in such a situation, had operated as a fraud, and not that the government intended it as such. I very readily agree with you that it was impossible for the government at that time to pay them any other way. There are several things that appear to me to be of considerable importance, that I wish you would be so kind as to clear up to me. I will put a case. Let us suppose at the conclusion of the war, that the government was indebted to the army 1,000,000. and that all this could do for them was to give them notes, which were to be redeemed at some future time. Let it be supposed that the credit of the State soon after was in such a situation, owing to an inability in the government to support it, that their notes would fall for but one shilling on the pound. Let it be supposed, that the whole of the notes were transferred at that rate; and that the sale was fair, the purchaser ran his chance. Let it be supposed, when the time of payment arrives, that the government is able to redeem them, and that they were knowing to it that the possessor had given but one shilling on the pound—and that the soldier had never received more than one shilling for his dues. Whether in this case it would be justifiable for the government to violate their promise? If it would be right in this case, whether it would be right if they had been transferred at six shillings on the pound? And whether the Congress and the legislature of this Commonwealth have not violated their promise upon this principle? The next thing I wish to have you satisfy me about is this: Whether redeeming securities by a tax when they are depreciated so low as six shillings on the pound, is supporting the public faith? And if it is, whether it should depreciate to one shilling on the pound—whether redeeming them by a tax at that rate, is not as much supporting it? And whether it is not the intention of the government when they levy a tax, that it shall not operate so as to appreciate the notes? And whether when the No. 4 tax was levied, there was not a part of the notes that were not provided with this view? And whether the original possessor have justice done to them, if they can not get but six shillings on the pound, if they were in such a situation as to have their notes at par? I was mistaken when I said that it was a palpable mistake that the people that lent the government money supposed that this was all their security? The next thing I wish to have you satisfy me about is this, viz. Whether it is justifiable amongst the several members of the community as the No. 4 tax has? You seem to have mistook my meaning, when I said that a great part of the legislature are furnish'd of the evil of the present mode;—my meaning was this, that they were satisfied of the evil of the unequal operation of taxes that are levied this way. I have heard a very considerable number of members acknowledge this, and declare their wishes that there could be some other way found out to redeem our securities that should operate more equally. And I believe there is nothing more complained of in the country; and I believe there is none that are complained of with more justice. I wish to have you show the essential difference there is between the government's laying, that the holders of the notes shall not have but six shillings on the pound, and their never providing a way whereby they shall get any more. Your being very particular in your answers to the several enquiries I have made, may convince me of my error; if I am in one. I have done what every man must do: I have acted and wrote according to my information: I have had some of my mistakes pointed out, and am willing the whole of them should be: I shall be equally pleased whether I throw any light upon the subject, or draw it from others by my mistake. If I have thrown a single reflection upon the government, it has dropped from me inadvertently, for I feel no dissatisfaction to it. Except that I shall be told that I have been guilty of a very great impropriety, in acknowledging myself the author of my writings—that it looks too ostentatious: this would be strictly true if I had had it in my power to have concealed myself. But to attempt to conceal myself under an imaginary name, when I could say nothing upon the subject but what I could point the reader to the real author, I think would have been a still greater impropriety. I was an opposer to almost every article of grievance complained of by the convention; but I supposed that there were well founded, I gave my sentiments largely

upon them, and when I took up the pen to defend them, I knew it was impossible for me to conceal myself; I therefore thought it was vain to make the attempt.

FOR THE HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

Mr. PRINCE, IN your Gazette, No. 14. the impartial Spectator made an attempt to inform the public of the doings of the late convention at Hatfield; but his information discovers his ignorance of the Convention or their doings, otherwise his partiality, or both. He says, there were 34 members from 27 or 28 towns, when at the same time when they formed, there were 32 towns represented. If Mr. "I am &c." is disposed to inform the public, let him first get information himself. As to a committee being appointed to dispute the Old Republican, there was none such, nor was their any movement for it. Notwithstanding the Spectator (in some respects) is excusable for this mistake; for there was a Committee appointed for sundry branches of business, which were desired to form an address to the people and for their constitutional rights, and thereby to create those fallacious arguments against the rights of the people, which have lately crowded our Gazettes. Doubtless the Spectator was sensible that the Old Republican had been the most infamous in that way; therefore he might conclude it must be in answer to him.

The convention stands adjourn'd to Mr. Dickinson's innkeeper at Hatfield, on the 1st Inst. day of January next, two o'clock P. M. From a number of said Convention.

FOR THE HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

The Dispute Compromised.

SOME of the late writers on county conventions, say they are constitutional; others say they are not. Those who say they are not constitutional, mean they are not a body pointed out, described or known by the constitution: that they are not vested by the constitution with any legal authority; or that they have no more authority in a constitutional view, than any other body of men convened, of the same number and size.—I hope who say county conventions are constitutional bodies, mean that they are not forbid by the constitution, but tolerated. To compromise the dispute, I beg leave to adduce an anecdote of an honest Hugonian Man, who hearing some of her neighbours disputing and finding that they grew warm in a fruitless dispute, stepped up to them and addressed them thus, "halloo, my friends, ye've said enough on both sides; I'll tell ye how it's yo'r self 's right, and ye'r self 's wrong." The truth is, that the constitution mentions nothing of any such conventions. A dispute of this sort is just as fruitless, as it would be to dispute, whether man with a fish-net wrapt round his naked body, fradling a great ram, was clothed or unclothed, on foot or on horseback. He is neither. So county conventions are neither constitutional nor unconstitutional. Under some circumstances they might do good: under others they do no wrong.

JANUARY ARBITER.

The Governor's ADDRESS to the MILITIA, at the REVIEW at Cambridge.

Gentlemen of the Militia.

THE review I have just had of so respectable a body of the militia affords me the sincerest pleasure. That pleasure is enhanced by the consideration, that in the neighbourhood, a much larger body of militia, is now in readiness to join this body, at the shortest notice, for the important purpose of supporting, free and uncontroled, the administration of justice: And other bodies of militia, had there been occasion, would cheerfully, and with the utmost alacrity, have appeared for the same purpose.

This general and spirited disposition, in every class of citizens, to support that administration, in the support of which is involved the support of the constitution, the laws and government of the Commonwealth, must convince those persons who are engaged in the nefarious plan of overturning them, that their base attempts will prove abortive; and at the same time, bring upon their own heads, the destruction they meditate against the Commonwealth.

Influenced by your example, an example worthy of universal adoption, the good sense of the people of this Commonwealth, and their regard for their own happiness, must on due reflection, excite them to reprobate and prevent proceedings, that have a tendency to obstruct justice; to interrupt the due execution of the laws; or in any instance to contravene our excellent constitution of government; framed by their authority, and which they have, with so much wisdom, adopted.

That constitution it is their duty, and equally their interest, to defend, as well against internal as external foes; and to that defence the virtue

of our patriotic citizens, if duly in exercise, is abundantly adequate.

When dangers threaten the patriot's mind "Strolls in proportion to the menacing danger."

By such a conduct, our enemies of every description will find, that their machination to overturn the government, can produce no other effect, than a firmer union among ourselves; and a determination to discover, and bring to punishment, the authors of those machinations and all other disturbers of the public peace.

Such a conduct also, will demonstrate, that we know the value of the constitution; that we are determined to support it; and that we are not undervaluing the liberty it secures to us; that liberty, and that constitution for which we have so nobly contended; and to oblige which so many of our citizens have, with a patriotic heroism, shed their blood.

"O let them never perish in your hands, but let them pass to your children."

In such a case, their benedictions will be gratefully bestowed on their fathers of the present generation, until time, the great extinguisher itself had expired.

It is with pleasure gentlemen, I take this opportunity to declare, and justice to you demands the declaration, that your spirited conduct on this occasion, merits the applause of every friend to the constitution. As one of them, and also as the Representative of this Commonwealth, I now give you, both officers and soldiers, my warmest thanks for it: And amongst your officers the Major-General, in particular, justly invited to them.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica) Sept. 16.

The fate of his Majesty's ship Cato, of 50 guns, has at length transpired, by means of a letter from a gentleman at Bombay, to his friend in this island, which contains, in substance, the following account of that melancholy affair, generated from the deposition of three persons who escaped the dreadful catastrophe, and got safe, suffering variety of misery, to the Portuguese settlement of Goa, where they were examined with great solemnity, before the officers of a court of justice.

"The Cato man of war was wrecked on King's Island, one of the Maldivas. Vice-Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, the rest of the officers, and the whole of the crew, who went on shore from the shipwreck, excepting only the three depositors, were tied two and two together, by the Mahan natives; and thrown into a deep pit, in which they were buried alive."

NEW-YORK, November 8.

SHIP NEWS.

BY the late accounts from the combined American fleet we learn, "That after having put to sea with a fair wind, and a glorious prospect of a successful voyage, some dispute arose on board of several of the ships. The officers and part of the crew refusing to obey the directions of the Admiral and Commandors, resolved to flee their own course, the ship York leading the way; by this imprudent conduct, they were driven to wards leeward shore and embayed—the Hampshire had near been lost amongst the breakers, but for the spirited conduct of the Captain and some of his officers, who kept in the mid a dangerous conspiracy of the crew for destroying the ship."

The Boston, the oldest ship in the fleet, is, by the outrageous conduct of the crew, land-locked amongst rocks and sand banks; and it is not likely to get clear, unless the officers and men fee their common danger and inevitable ruin, and join hands to warp the ship in the main channel again, or assistance is sent for that purpose from the other ships.

The crew on board the Rhode-Island, are all in an uproar, the officers having introduced paper tickets in lieu of gold and silver as pay notes; this is likely to cause a dangerous mutiny or desertion of part of the crew, if persisted in.

Notwithstanding there has subsisted a difference between the officers of the Philadelphia, a very fine ship, yet the Captain being an old experienced veteran, knows so well how to play his cards, as to keep in with both parties, and to prevent that difference from being detrimental to the voyage. It is said to be his wish, and the Commandors are obeyed; and the most of the other ships are come to an anchor, waiting to observe the conduct and fate of the York.

It is said that the man at the sounding line and lead, has excited them to take the pilot-boat, and, excited them to cut over ship, the water wheels, gravely bottoms and breakers a-head, without being headed by rough-hewer the master pilot; many of the well wishers to the fleet hope, as it has been suspected, that the pilot overboard, and that the fleet might be dispersed, as it has been suspected, that he meant to pilfer the ship shore. But most people entertain some hopes, that the stated meeting of the officers, may resolve to put the ship about, before any other fleet are really lost on the coast

of France or Holland.—The news farther is, that the Lion and Unicorn ships of observation, being the usual enemy of the American, anxiously expecting that part of the fleet will get mean to take the advantage of their situation and commence hostilities.—May they be disappointed, is the wish of TOM BOWLING.

S. A. L. E. M., Nov. 11.

The Kingdom of Ireland, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, seem to be in a similar situation—both imperiously rebuked by native malecontents—But it has been remarked, that as the works of creation are executed on a larger scale in any other plan, in this quarter of the globe, than in any other, the views and objects of its inhabitants are proportionably more grand and extensive.—While the white boys, or the right boys of Ireland are only endeavouring to shake off the oppression of their tyrant farmers, and voracious priesthood, and lighten the burden of the oppressed, the Mobility of Massachusetts are determined to divest themselves of the intolerable grievance of natural evil in general, and enjoy the pure pleasures of paradise. While the patriots nobly resolve to oppose their moral opposition, humanity raises her angel voice in the Council of the nation, to protect the toiling peasant; the latter, more enterprising, aim a home stroke at Nature herself, and pull down her confederates, abolish her laws, and totally annihilate the evils which have, until this error of the Millennium, been tacked to human life!

BOSTON, November 17.

The following paragraph contains particulars of the transactions at Taunton, during the late session of the Supreme Judicial Court at that place, which we have not yet published. On Sunday, previous to the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court at Taunton, Gen. Cobb received information, that the mob intended an opposition. In consequence of this, the night following, he directed fifteen or twenty men to take possession of the Court-House, and secure the building. Also called upon the same militia, who had for effectually supported the Court of Common Pleas, to make their appearance once more on the present occasion. They arrived in season, and consisted of two or three companies from Bridgewater, under the command of Col. Orr; two companies from Raynham—a town celebrated for its unanimous attachment to government, led on by their captains Hall and Walburn; a spirited Volunteer company from Rehoboth, headed by Lieutenants Peake and Currier; and a Volunteer company from Taunton, under Capt. Williams. The mob assembled on Tuesday, but under such apprehension, they did not choose to approach nearer than a mile and a half of the scene of action. Peake, one of their leaders, returned in the evening, advising the rest, before he withdrew, to disperse; telling them he had been deceived relative to the disposition of the country; if they persisted, it would certainly terminate in disgrace. However, a David Valentine, who pretended to be the principal command, intimated confidence enough to prevent this, and sent two adjutants, first to the Court-House, and on Wednesday, about two o'clock in the afternoon, to the militia, under the command of Valentine. Their numbers were 144 armed, and about 36 unarmed. The militia at this time were reinforced by a large company from the south of Taunton, under Capt. Townend, and two companies from Dighton, under the Captains Walker and Talbot. The mob appeared to have an inclination to march into the rear of the militia; but the bayonets which were ready to receive them, and charging the field piece in their fight, brought them to their senses; and they retreated to proper distance. They had foolishly imagined that some of the militia would join them; but instead of that, some of their own party withdrew and went over to the militia. Valentine then asked permission to wait on the Court, which was granted; He there presented a petition, signed only by himself, in behalf of the county of Bristol, about all civil actions, might be continued to the next term. He no longer presented this, than he was seized with a panic, and discovered an inclination to withdraw without an answer. But his Honour the Chief Justice called after him, stop man, with an authority that occasioned his instant return. He was then reprimanded, for his folly and presumption, in such a manner, that he has confessed "he thrunk into nothing, and seemed to himself dropping through the floor of the Court-House, which would have been a relief to him had it taken place." He after this joined his party, and sometime in the evening they all dispersed, and were heard of no more. The militia were not diffused until Friday in the afternoon, when the business of the Court was over. They justly deserve to themselves great honour and applause for their order, regularity and

firmness.—They one and all acted from principle—from a thorough conviction that they were securing the good and happiness of their country; and held the mob in such desolation, that they solemnly declared, if the vengeance lumbered on, and did not reach them in a constitutional way, they themselves would execute it in that complete and exemplary manner, that very few hereafter, in the county of Bristol, would be disposed to disturb the common peace, and thus daringly insult the majesty of the people.

WOBURSTON, Nov. 23.

Notwithstanding all that has been done to ease the people by the General Court, on Tuesday last, the day to which the Court of Sessions for this County stood adjourn'd, a company of armed men, about 60 in number, and headed by a Mr. Gale of Princeton, entered the North part of the town, with a view to prevent said Court's doing any business.—The Court met and adjourn'd until ten o'clock next day, about 30 more armed men, it is said, from Shrewsbury, arrived in the evening. Early the next morning, about 24 men in arms, for the like purpose, arrived also from Shrewsbury, and soon after 50 more from Hubbardston, and the neighbouring towns. The Court met according to adjournment, at Mr. Paich's tavern—a petition was presented to them by a committee from the insurgents, requesting them to adjourn until after a new choice of Representatives—this it was not in the power of the Court to comply with. After this the men in arms, with all their leaders, took possession of the ground adjoining the Court-House—without standing this the Court's floor after, preceded by the High Sheriff, made an attempt to enter the Court-House—they walked through the ranks of the insurgents, who had opened to the right and left, but were stopp'd a little distance from the steps by three rows of pointed bayonets—the High Sheriff then read the proclamation in the Riot-Act, and assured them he would do his duty. The Justices being finally refused admittance into the Court-House, dispersed without doing any business. It is to be remarked that as there was no expectation of an opposition to the sitting of the Sessions, so no previous steps were taken by government to protect the Court.

The General Court ended the business of the late Session on Saturday last. In our next we hope to give our readers the heads of the several Acts they have passed—among which are—the Tender-Act—Act of indemnity—Act reducing the Fee-Bill—Act for the more easy paying of back Taxes—Act regulating the Courts of Common Pleas and Sessions of the Peace.

It must give every lover of his country pleasure to be informed, that the mail manufactory is brought to such perfection throughout the United States of America, as to stop the impetration of such articles, and there remains but a double but this and many other branches of manufactures, if countenance by government, would soon rival the British.

DIED, yesterday, very suddenly, Licu. A. Wright, in the 46th year of his age.

GRAVED or stolen from the Subscribers, about the 17th Instant, a Bay Horse BIRTHS, two years old, half blood, hind feet white, was never do red, carries his head pretty high, has no artificial mark. Whoever will take up said Horse, and return him to the owner, or give information where he may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded by S. T. SIMON CLAPP.

New-Hampshire, Nov. 29, 1786.

Just Imported from LONDON,

By Levi Shepherd,

A general Assortment of

DRUGS,

Which are now ready for sale at his Store,

north of the Court-House, in Northampton, where Physicians and private families may be supplied upon such terms as, he has no doubt, will give entire satisfaction to the purchaser.

He has likewise a variety of other Articles,

Nov. 13, 1786.

PAINTER'S Colours, Crockery Ware, Gim-

ber by the cwt, or less quantity, Cinnamon,

Clives, Nutmegs, Mastic, &c. of Virral by the cwt or any quantity. Indigo of a superior

quality, Logwood, Fustic, Redwood, Allam,

Coppers, Spirits of Turpentine by the gallon,

Varnish, Rofin, Lamp Slack,

A L O,

Webber's Institute, 1st, 2d and 3d part, Press,

Papers, Writing-Paper, Sealing-Wax, and

Wafers at 4s. per pound.

Said Shepherd receives in pay for any of the

above articles, almost every kind of Country Pro-

duce, and will pay Cash for Shipping Furrs and

Bees-Wax.

Nov. 15, 1786.

Just Published, and to be sold at this Office,

A Wonderful Discovery of a

HERMIT,

Who lived upwards of two hundred

Years.