

To the Gentleman who, in the Hampshire Gazette No. 12, styles himself an Honest Insurgent.

S I R, I AM to inform you that I am a Member of a benevolent Fraternity, who profess ourselves friends to honest men of all denominations; that on reading your safe as stated by yourself, and your request, some doubts arose in my mind, whether it was a genuine production; was urged by some that it was impossible a man of so much good sense should be an insurgent; and some other pertinent observations were made: However, as men of sense have sometimes warm feelings, it was said that such an one might hastily, and without consulting the writings of Solomon, take up on that side: we all agreed that it was possible an honest man might be an Insurgent; and that the workings of mind you express, are the natural and genuine workings of an honest sensible mind, sleeping and waking, properly reflecting on such misconduct: therefore as your person and safe are known to us only by your own representation, the veracity of which our charity, and candor was loth to mistrust; we now tell you that it is with peculiar pleasure we find you are coming to yourself, can exercise your own thoughts and reason, and see the importance of advice. As to the safe of confidence, which you propose; for in that view we take it; we must say, should yourself have decided it, according to that well known maxim, "what thou doubtst do not." For a great divine saith, "he that doth that the lawfulness whereof he doubteth is damned," we view you, Sir, as having so far recovered your reason, after a short phrenzy, that you would not so far abuse or prostitute the dictates of an enlightened understanding, as to run the awful risk. We judge it may be well nigh safe, in such case, to leave you or any other man to his own judgment, if he will but honestly & faithfully use his rational powers; and labour properly to inform himself what is truth and duty. However, Sir, by reason of the importance of neighbours or otherwise, you should have any doubt remaining on your mind, how to conduct with wisdom and prudence in the safe you propose; we would wish you to read with careful attention and well to weigh in your mind an excellent piece in Gazette No. 9, signed Pacificus, likewise that in No. 11, likewise those signed the Freethinker and other productions in said Gazette. If after all a doubt still continues in your mind, then count the cost, consider whether if you go to war with 10,000, you will be able to meet the 20,000 which will come against you? and after that suppose you should, what advantage would it be to you or the public? and where would the matter end. When you have considered these things, we doubt not you will, (as we should if needful advice) refuse the offered unwarrantable and dangerous promotion; and from an honest insurgent become a more honest and wise commonwealth's man.

Signed in behalf of the Fraternity, by your unknown Friend PHILANTHROPOS.

We have the negative qualifications you require in your counsellors, are neither Conventions nor Toms. And we have the major part of the positive ones; and, being commonwealth's-men, we judge a majority must decide the matter; there-

fore we trust our advice will be kindly received and followed; and on these terms we propose to acknowledge you as a brother in our Benevolent Fraternity.

Text. IDAM PHILANTHROPOS.

For the Hampshire Gazette. THE order, beauty and happiness of society, essentially consist in the regular movement of its several members; just as in the economy of the heavenly bodies: every individual member of the community must know and keep his place, and move regularly in his own proper sphere, and the laws of the community are the rules by which his conduct, so far at least, as it may respect others, is in all instances to be regulated; for otherwise, while one intermeddles with this, and another with that &c. which belongs not to his province, they will unavoidably interfere and clash, and disorder and confusion will be the necessary consequence, and the ruin of the whole body threatened.

The late eccentric notions of some of the luminaries of our terrestrial hemisphere have given birth to these thoughts on the subject, particularly, a letter written by Daniel Shays, to the select-men of South Hadley, published in the Hampshire Gazette, No. 11, requesting "them to assemble their men see them well officered, armed and equip with sixty rounds each, and ready to turn out at a minutes warning."

Letters of the same extraordinary tenor and signature have been received by select-men in divers other towns. That the requisition was answered at South Hadley, appears not: in some towns the select-men, pursuant to this letter speedily and without great hesitation, issued their warrants in form, and that in the name and by the authority of select-men, calling the inhabitants to assemble in town-meeting to act in the premises as stated in said letter; in some instances have used precaution that no objection should lie against the legality of their meeting. Town meetings have been actually holden, moderators chosen in form; and the matters prescribed in said letter seriously attended to and acted upon.

Select men truly hold a useful and important office; yet it will prove useful only when executed within its own prescribed limits; select-men, in this respect, are upon a footing with all other officers, in a free government; they are not set above law, no, so far from it, that their duty and whole business are precisely prescribed and limited by law. The law must govern them in every step of official conduct, otherwise they wander out of their orb and cannot vindicate their doings: in every case where they act without law they act equally without authority; their authority to call town-meetings, to transact matters which towns are not warranted by law to transact at all, is just upon a level with the authority of every body else to call town-meetings, that is, they have no authority.

By the phiz of this letter, it would be natural readily to give into it, that the writer is with general consent looked up to and acknowledged as generalissimo of our posse military; and the select-men in our towns, as taking military rank and power next immediately under him. Why else does he call upon them to assemble their men, levy troops and see them martially equipped ready for immediate action? but for what purpose is all this parade? why, to resist by force and arms and even demolish that government under which they

hold their office and authority. As the servants of government they would give aid to them who are avowedly fighting against government, and exerting every nerve for its destruction. How the select-men who obeyed the summons of the letters will secure themselves from the imputation of having been, either strangely inadvertent to their official duty, or basely timid or else, which I cannot willingly suppose, traitorously wicked, is not easy to say had they in the first place come out in open day, renounced all pretensions to office and authority under government, and acted only in character of private men assembling their men &c. they would have disabused the common people and set their own character in a better light, as to consistency and rectitude of conduct.

These remarks with equal justice (mutatis mutandis) may apply to the moderators and members who were active in town-meetings referred to.

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

A PROCLAMATION. IT having been represented to this Government, that divers persons, since the first of January 1784, have illegally entered upon, and unwarrantably taken possession of, some of the unappropriated lands belonging to this commonwealth, in the Eastern Counties; and that others are settling in like manner thereon, presuming that they shall be quieted by government in their possession.

I DO THEREFORE, at the request of the General Court, and with the advice of the Council, forbid and caution all persons against settling on any of the said lands, or committing any trespass thereon, as they would avoid being dealt with according to law and justice.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this twenty sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and eighty six, and in the seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America. JAMES BOWDOIN, By His Excellency's command, John Avery, jun. Secretary.

Fresh Goods. Prescott & Dexter, Have just opened and now ready for Sale, in their Store in Northampton, A general Assortment of Winter GOODS. N. B. Grain of all kinds, Bees-Wax, Flax-Seed, Old Pewter, Butter, and Pork, taken in exchange for the above Goods. Dec. 6, 1786.

GRAYED or Stolen from the Subscriber, about the 17th inst., a Bay Stone HORSE, two years old and high, hind feet white, was never dooked, carries his head high, has to an artificial mark. Whoever will take up said Horse, and return him to the owner, or give information where he may be hid, shall be handsomely rewarded by SIMÉON CLAF. Northampton, Nov. 29, 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 Platons—Primers—Blanks of most kinds Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys Poem.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1786.

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

AS ADDRESS from the GENERAL COURT to the PEOPLE of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS. (Continued from our last.)

AMONG the late various complaints, perhaps none is more frequently made, than that the people are ignorant what becomes of their money; that they pay large taxes, and never learn how they are disposed of. We shall therefore state the amount of the several taxes, commencing with the gold and silver tax in 1780, and including the taxes granted since that time, except the tax granted in March last, the payments that have been made on these taxes, the impost and excise, &c. and the manner in which the money, &c. applied therefrom, has been expended.

Table with columns for tax types and amounts. Includes items like 'The amount of the taxes since 1780, is Abatement to several towns on those taxes, L. 1,407,895 12 10', 'Still due upon those taxes, L. 1,111,228 2 1', 'Received into the treasury upon the above-mentioned taxes, 390,633 3 2', 'The amount of impost & excise, 1,017,252 9 8', 'The amount of one per cent duty on Auctioneers, 154,373 6 4', 'The amount of what has been received for absentee estates sold, 4,195 0 7', 'Received of Naval-Officers, 25,283, 15 11', 'Anticipated on the several taxes, and on the impost and excise, by the Treasurer's orders, 2,715 19 2', 'Received of Military Agents, Commissary-General, &c. &c. 78,431 4 0', 'L. 44,090 16 5', '1,326,378 12 1'

The following is an account of the manner, in which the money, &c. received for taxes, &c. above-mentioned, has been expended.

Table with columns for expenditure types and amounts. Includes items like 'Paid to continental Commissary, for wounded soldiers and soldiers in addition to what discharged in the first article, Committee for settling with the army, methodizing public accounts, and settling with the Commissioners of Congress, 10,335 15 0', 'President and Professors of Harvard College, since the year 1781, including a grant made to President Langdon, for services previous to that time, 2,362 16 8', 'To members of Congress, from June 1780, to September 1786, 11,558 8 2', 'Warrants in favour of the former and present Governor, from October 1780, to October 1786, 6,110 0 0', 'For the members of the Council, at 8s. per day, for each day's attendance at the Council-Board, since the year 1782, 3,387 1 10', 'For the members of the Senate, from October 1780, to October 1786, at 7s. 6d. per day, for each day's attendance, 9,652 6 1', 'For the members of the House of Representatives, for their services during the same period, at 7s. per day, for each day's attendance, 48,865 10 0', 'Treasurer and Clerks, Commissary - General,

Table with columns for expenditure types and amounts. Includes items like 'French army, while in Bolton, one and an half years prison to Richard Gridley, Esq. and a balance of a gratuity of twenty-four dollars specie, due to the soldiers of this Commonwealth's line of the army, 8,303 3 2', 'Warrants for 3 months pay of the army, in 1780, New emission bills redeemed and burnt, 80,717 7 0', 'Ditto redeemed, and now in the treasury, 150,329 15 2', 'Interest paid on the new emission bills, 44,146 3 9', 'Army notes redeemed, Bounties paid for killing wolves, 15,576 5 4', '95,624 2 10', '1,405 0 0', 'Interest paid on state notes, from July 1782, to October 1786, 26,537 1 2', 'Certificate money redeemed and burnt, which was issued in 1781, to purchase stores for the army, and receivable on the tax of that year, 8,364 0 0', 'Certificate money redeemed and now in the treasury, 9,987 0 0', 'Allowance to Peter Savory, on account, for supplies from France, 982 16 0', 'Balance of the gold and silver tax, that was due from Sberiffs, remaining to be by them accounted for, 3,858 7 6', 'Paid sundry taxes which became due on absentee estates before those estates were sold, & sundry resolves of Court to discount such taxes, 3,842 15 3', 'Paid to continental Commissary, for wounded soldiers and soldiers in addition to what discharged in the first article, Committee for settling with the army, methodizing public accounts, and settling with the Commissioners of Congress, 10,335 15 0', '2,069 13 8', '7', '2,362 16 8', '11,558 8 2', '6,110 0 0', '3,387 1 10', '9,652 6 1', '48,865 10 0', 'L. 363,156 0', '92,350 0', '18,900 0', '3500 0'

Chaplain of the Court, Messengers of the Court and of the Council, and Clerks of the Committee on valuation, 6,041 10 2, The Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, Attorney-General, in full of his services in that office, before 1783, 7,143 11 7, Committee for revising the laws, and their Clerk, 1,063 12 0, Record-books, stationary and fuel, not paid by Committee of accounts, 209 16 0, 271 19 4, 1,331,633 19 10, 25,255 7 9

The particular accounts of payments from the treasury are exceeding lengthy, and could not with any convenience be here inserted.

It appears, that of the above taxes, which have been received into the treasury, the greater part has been disbursed for defraying the expenses incurred by the war; more than one hundred and eighty thousand pounds have been collected for the use of Congress, partly in specie to enable them pay for such services as required prompt payment, to support the federal government, and pay the interest of the foreign debt, and partly in certificates of Mr. Appleton, for the payment of the interest of the domestic debt.

It also appears, that exclusive of the sums paid to Congress, the public debt has been much lessened. Almost the whole sum expressed in the first article of the account of monies expended, was paid to the militia, and for other services and supplies, in the war; and was a part of the debt of this state, although notes had not been given for it. The new emission bills, and the certificate money, &c. and the warrants for rolls &c. were also debts of the Commonwealth, although the latter were charged to the continent; and therefore, exclusive of the army notes that are redeemed, more than six hundred and fifty thousand pounds have been paid within the last six years, towards the debt of the state, besides the interest of the notes of this Commonwealth.

The taxes above-mentioned, were all made payable, either in specie or in the new emission currency, or in the army notes, or in the certificate money above-mentioned; or in the certificates of Mr. Appleton. Exclusive of these, the people of this Commonwealth have paid large taxes of a different description.

By a resolve of December 2d, 1780, 42,500 men were required to be raised by this Commonwealth, for 3 years or during the war. It appears by the returns of the several towns, that the average price of hiring those men was 8s. 13s. 0d.—The expense of the whole therefore, was 3,387 1 10, By a resolve of March 1782, 1500 men were ordered to be raised for the like term, the average price of which was 16l. 14s. 8d.—The whole expense, therefore, was 92,350 0

The average price of hiring 2700 men, for three months, in 1781, was 7l.—The whole amounted to 18,900 0, The average price of hiring 500 men, for five months, in 1781, was 7l.—And the whole amounted to 3500 0, Three beef taxes have been granted, for procuring in the whole, 8,927, 113lb. of