

An ADDRESS to the PEOPLE of the several Towns in the County of Hampshire, from the Body now at arms.

WE have thought proper to inform you of some of the principal causes of the late risings of the people, and also of their present movement, viz.

1st. The present expensive mode of collecting debts, which by the reason of the great scarcity of cash, will of necessity fill our goals with unhappy debtors, and thereby render a reputable body of people incapable of being serviceable either to themselves or the community.

2d. The monies raised by impost and excise being appropriated to discharge the interest of governmental securities, and not the foreign debt, when these securities are not subject to taxation.

3d. A suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, by which those persons who have stepped forth to assert and maintain the rights of the people, are liable to be taken, and conveyed even to the most distant part of the commonwealth, and thereby subject to an unjust punishment.

4th. The unlimited power granted to Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Deputy-Sheriffs and Constables, by the Riot Act, indemnifying them in the prosecution thereof, when perhaps wholly actuated from a principle of revenge, hatred and envy.

It is to be assured, that this now at arms, diffuse the idea of being intimidated by British emissaries, which is to fitrenuously propagated by the enemies of our liberties: We also wish the most proper and speedy measures may be taken to discharge both our foreign and domestic debt.

Per Order, DANIEL GRAY, Chairman of a Com. for the above purpose.

To the Printer of the Hampshire Gazette.

SIR, It has some how or other fallen to my lot to be employed in a more conspicuous manner than some others of my fellow citizens, in stepping forth in defence of the rights and privileges of the people, more especially of the county of Hampshire.

Therefore, upon the desire of the people now at arms, I take this method to publish to the world of mankind in general, particularly the people of this commonwealth, some of the principal grievances we complain of, and of which we are now seeking redress, and mean to contend for until a redress can be obtained, which we hope will soon take place; and if so our brethren in this commonwealth, that do not see with us as yet, shall find we shall be as peaceable as they be.

In the first place I must refer you to a draught of grievances drawn up by a Committee of the people now at arms, under the signature of Daniel Gray, Chairman, which is heartily approved of; some others are also here added, viz.

1st. The General Court, for certain obvious reasons, must be removed out of the town of Boston.

2d. A revision of the constitution is absolutely necessary.

3d. All kinds of governmental securities, now on interest, that have been bought of the original owners for 2s. 3s. 4s. and the highest for 6s. 8d. on the pound, and have received more interest than ever the principal cost the speculator who purchased them—that if justice was done, we verily believe, nay positively know,

it would be the commonwealth thousands of pounds.

4th. Let the lands belonging to this commonwealth at the eastward, be sold at the best advantage, to pay the remainder of our domestic debt.

5th. Let the monies arising from impost and excise, be appropriated to discharge the foreign debt.

6th. Let that act, passed by the General Court last June, by a small majority of only seven, called the Supplementary Aid, for twenty-five years yet to come, be repealed.

7th. The total abolition of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.

8th. Deputy-Sheriffs totally set aside, as a useless set of officers in the community; and Constables, who are really necessary, be empowered to do the duty, by which means a large swarm of lawyers will be banished from their wonted haunts, who have been more damage to the people at large, especially the common farmers, than the savage beasts of prey.

To this I boldly sign my proper name, as a hearty well wisher to the real rights of the people.

THOMAS GROVER, Worcester, Dec. 7, 1786.

Mr. PRINTER, Please to give the following a place in your paper, and you will oblige a customer.

To Mr. A. P.

SIR, You seem to be confident that some of your county scriblers might be better employed than to have entered the list of disputants. Sir, since the perusal of your piece, I concur with you in sentiment; for I think that your writing hath the most glaring inconsistencies of any that hath appeared in public. Sir, you upbraid the Peace-Maker for his ungentleman-like language:—He appears to be as honest a writer as any that hath attempted the business, and appears to be at least a man that is a professor of christianity; but sir, I think you have treated him as a man not fit for society, nor to be worthy of a place amongst human beings. Sir, you profess to know what belongs to good manners and genteel language, but if you have used any to the Peace-Maker in your writings, I must confess I am not a judge of good manners; therefore would appeal to the public, whether your address to the Peace-Maker was not of the most blackguardly language, and uncharitable spirit in robbing your neighbour of his good name, and doing your endeavour to kick him out of the world. Sir, you say you can dispense with his disjointed ideas and other inabilities; but before you clothe with a period, you say they are unparadonable: What an inconsistency? Sir, I think the Old Republican was not so much at a loss to find out the Peace-Maker's ideas, and has not degraded him with such a garb of blackness. But Mr. A. P. after all your exertions to scandalize the Peace-Maker, I think you have mistled your mark, not being careful to take sight when you hired; being overlaid with powder the musket split, with which you received a mortal wound.

T. O.

Strong's & Bickerstaff's ALMANACKS, For 1787, to be sold by the gross, dozen or single, at the Printing-Office in Northampton.

At their Shop, opposite the Court-House, in Northampton.

The following Articles, viz.

- SCARLET, London Brown, Blue, Purple, Olive, and Cloth coloured Lamb-skins, Coatings, Runcats, Flannels and Batizes, of all widths, Velvets and Corduroys, Satin Beaver, Thickets and Janer, Shawlons, Durans Callimancoes, & Russes, Murreens, Lallings and Satinet, Tamemes, Gambitens, Silk Crapes and Puylies, Washed and Cotton Hoops, Sewing Silk and Twill, of all colours, Irish Linens, Cambricks and Mullin, Striped, figured and plain Lawns, An elegant assortment of Coloured and white Calicoes and Chincizes, Black and white Gazetes, Balloons, Black and white Gauze Handkerchiefs, Mourning, do, Caces, Mullins and Cap Wines, Black and coloured Silk Handkerchiefs, Pink & changeable Lincingines, Satins and Modes, Country Produce of most kinds will be received in payment for the above Goods. Dec. 13, 1786.

Fresh Goods. Prescott & Dexter, Have just opened and now ready for Sale at their Store in Northampton, A general Assortment of Winter GOODS.

N. B. Grain of all kinds, Bees-Wax, Flax-Seed, Old-Power, Butter, and Pork, taken in exchange for the above Goods. Dec. 6, 1786.

A Subscription School.

I. CURSON, TEACHER of the Proprietors School, Northampton, begs leave to inform the public, that he intends to open a Subscription School at Hatfield, the first day of January next, where youths will be carefully and expeditiously instructed in various branches of useful literature. For terms and other particulars, Gentlemen are desired to apply to Col. Chapin of Hatfield. December 16, 1786.

LOST between Eastampton & Northampton, on the 6th inst. a small Pocket Account-Book, containing sundry notes and papers, viz. one Note against John Backster, of Hebron, of 5l. 10s. one against Longman Little, of Hebron, of 3l. 5s. 6d. one against Job Strong, of Eastampton, of 6l. two Connecticut State Notes, one about 12l. the other 4l. also one Deed for land, and sundry other writings of no consequence to any person but the owner. Whoever has found said Book with its contents, and will return it to the owner, or give information where it may be had, shall be handsomely rewarded, by ELEAZER TIFFANY, Eastampton, Dec. 16, 1786.

STRAYED from the subscribers, some time in January last, two reading BEERS, one a dark red, with a white face; the other a brown, with considerable white about her, both marked with a half crop the upper side of the right ear, and a six under side of the same. Whoever will take up said creatures, and give information where they may be had, to the printer thereof, the subscribers shall be handsomely rewarded, by SOLOMON JUDD, West Hampton, Dec. 13, 1786.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

TO THE PUBLIC. THAT the burthens of the people at the present day are great, admits not of a doubt. But however great, most certainly they were not altogether unexpected to every serious and reflecting mind. When we began to consult with Great Britain, we justly expected to wade thro' seas of blood, and expend millions of treasure to obtain and support independency. At that time we most solemnly pledged our faith to each other, that we would with our lives and fortunes, carry on the war against that power, which had invaded our constitutional rights. We called in question the right of taxation maintained by the British Parliament. We advanced and defended this maxim, that no power on earth had a right to take our money from us without our consent; because that would be to hold our property at the will and pleasure of others, and no security of a lasting left us, save the humour and caprice of a maner. Under these circumstances America lifted war's bloody banner and prevailed. We have obtained all, yet more than we at first expected or perhaps wished for—now ranked among the nations. This is obtained by what are the drama is accomplished; and to those who have freely lavished their treasures upon us, and to the illustrious Washington with his band of brother-patriots, who fought and bled in their country's cause. To those among others I say we are indebted for our present political blessings, which are to be transmitted by us to millions yet unborn, unless meant to be forfeited by avarice, or given up by dissipation to be trampled upon by the first lawless invader. We were disposed to reason justly, when the danger of subjugation to Britain was imminent, and we wanted assistance to repel it. That danger removed, our feelings have changed with the future danger naturally operates upon the human mind, in ratio to its distance from us. We now feel ourselves secure and act accordingly. It is in nothing so strikingly evident as in religion, where infinite punishments are threatened to its professors and disobedience, yet regarded by its professors as trifling—next to nothing threatened. This is our political system, what we readily acknowledged for truth, when in want and danger, is not to be esteemed by us now. The danger removed, reason has changed sides—Our most sanguine expectations being gratified, no man is afraid of reasoning wrong, especially if he judges it productive of his present interest; though naturally subversive of the community at large; and contrary to that righteousness which exalts a nation, and agreeable to sin, which is a reproach to any people. The bulk of the people do not understand politics; neither is right reason greatly in their power; yet not a man can be found, who has honestly enough to confess it; to endeavour to reason with them, and make them see hard, as the talk would be disagreeable. For none are so willful and obstinate as the ignorant—yet none are so great pretenders, both to reason and knowledge. Though all confess the greatness of our public debt, yet but few will own it; necessity, the real cause is generally overlooked; in short the truth is, independency is gained, and we begrudge to pay for it. Little considers, that it is much too late for us now to complain of the greatness of the debt; or endeavour unjustly to get rid of it. The magnitude of the national debt is out of the question, 'tis enough that it was fairly contracted by proper authority, and brought upon us by the unanimous consent of the people, those too the most clamorous, and at the present day the greatest promoters of anarchy and confusion. This being the case, and independency gained, the greater part of the debt naturally succeeds, viz. Ways and means to liquidate the debt which is thereby contracted, at least to pay the interest of it, which is the least that we can reasonably desire to do; and an indisposition to pay that, with the principal, like honest men, seems much in fashion, and argued for by those whom, in other cases, one would scarcely think capable of such dishonesty. Justice and equity seem consequently excluded by some, but by their inquiry and unrighteousness are openly avowed and defended. To state the people whose are for issuing a bank of pa-

per money, and making it a tender in payment of public and private obligations, though given for value received, to them or their order. Others are for reducing public obligations into small ones that they may thereby be easily transferred from one to another (the interest being cast to a certain time) then to issue a tax and call them in to the treasury within the time limited, taking due care that they do not appreciate. Others are for reducing public securities by an act of the Legislature to their going price, two or six shillings on the pound. The iniquity of the first needs nothing further to make it evident, than applying to the feelings of every person who has money due on private obligations for silver and gold. There is no man in this case, but can see the difference between rags and half joes, when the former is tendered in lieu of the latter. Touch him in this way and fear a devil's face of Job he will catch in his face. As to the scheme for government to call the interest upon its securities to a given time, and issue small certificates therefor that they may be easily transferred, and then call both into the treasury within a limited time, agreeable to the performance of the gentleman in the Herald No. 229, titled an easy, honest and expeditious way to discharge the public debt of the state of Massachusetts. That it is both easy & expeditious is enough; but is it honest? Is it not founded upon wrong and unjust principles? viz. that the Legislature has a right to determine who shall have the benefit of those depreciated securities, whether the public at large or the possessor; for certainly (says he) no wrong will be done to the speculators in governmental securities, who purchased them at the going price, if they should be obliged to part with them at the same price he allows. Touch those who have not sold their securities will suffer, but not more than those who have, (the consequences) therefore if it is honest they should be compelled to do it, or he has mislaid his performance above referred to. But I esteem past contracts sacred, and that the Legislature has not the least right to interfere in the matter; all that can be said in justice was determined when the obligations were issued, they speak for themselves and nothing further is to be done but to pay them. And to say that those who have not sold their securities will not suffer more than those who have, and then to infer that they might justly be compelled for that reason to do it, is arguing thus, that because some spend their estates by luxury and profusion, therefore others may justly be compelled to spend theirs; for those who are so compelled, do not suffer more than the others who spent them voluntarily. But farther, suppose that government should now determine to require those lands at their going price, six shillings per acre, which was once granted at six pence per acre, and oblige the present holders or possessors to accept of their six pence per acre formerly given, suppose with twenty per cent interest; and thus plead for the justice thereof and say, government has a right to determine who shall be profited by those lands, for certainly no wrong will be done those Land-jobbers who purchased them at six pence per acre, if they should be compelled to part with them at the same price, if so they are repaid their six pence with such enormous interest on their money as twenty per cent, while it lay in their hands &c. The legislature a deliberate act of villany (says one) would commit an individual in any county, and for which he should be whipped, and in most governments with a galley. The cases are parallel. We will now consider the last and perhaps the most popular scheme, viz. that of reducing public securities by an act of the Legislature to their present going price. To set this matter in a just light let it be premised, that when security is given for any thing, it always implies a valuable consideration, for no man will willingly and willingly give an obligation for that which is nothing worth, that would be giving something for nothing, which is absurd. Now if government obligates itself to individuals for a valuable consideration, which every man as part of the community, who has received his proportional share, why ought not every one in his proportion to repay what he has received and had the benefit of? 'Tis but the voice of reason; because no man has a just right to the earnings of his neighbour for no equivalent, i. e. for nothing. Now if I have a government security, that obligation says that an equivalent has been received therefor, and that government is willing to pay to me or my order the sum specified therein with the interest. Government knows no one man from another, the possessor whoever he may be is the man to whom the obligation is given, and he only has a right to demand it. Whether it has passed from him to ten or ten thousand or to nobody, alters not the case as to what is due to government; the obligation is still just the same—and the benefit to the public which had received an equivalent therefor is just the same—and in the reason and fitness of things is the same, and it is equally impossible to be altered by any man or body of men, otherwise than by payment, or by express agreement with the holder, whether high or low, bond or free, black or white. To say that the possessor gave but five shillings on the pound, and therefore that government is not obliged to pay more, is to say that an obligation for twenty Spanish milled dollars received by being transferred from one to another becomes but five, and so to be paid. Though do man has ignorance, impudence and wickedness enough to pretend, but that in the hands of the original possessor, who in fact lent the money, it is twenty dollars and ought to be paid. This is implicitly confessed by the gentleman in the Herald No. 229, when he says "a discrimination if practicable will be the best way" but how can that be the best or justest way; when the original possessor himself perhaps, has sold and bought his own obligations twenty times as others did theirs, at five shillings on the pound. If it be replied that he has a right to the nominal five, because he was the original possessor, the consequence then is obvious, viz. that then transferring said obligation alters not the case. The inquiry of it appears also in this, that the true reason why governmental securities were ever sold at any discount at all was this, that government was unable to pay them when they became due. Now shall government in justice and equity take advantage of its own inability to pay according to contract, (the cause of their depreciation) and offer it as a just reason why its securities should be paid at a depreciated value only? its amount then is plainly this, that the inability of paying according to contract, but in part and by parity of reason is as sufficient, why government should refuse to pay any at all. So that I don't see but that government may, in perfect consistency with the same rule of righteousness, refuse to pay the current price as well as the discount, and upon the same principle. And this I think would be a more easy & expeditious way still, to pay the public debt of the state of Massachusetts. But farther, it directly contradicts our former principles when we began the late war; one capital article of which above-mentioned was, that no man or body of men had a right to take our property without our consent, the contrary of which is evidently wrong at the first bill, because it would in its operation render property the most precarious of any thing in the world. We might be worth thousands to day and beggars to-morrow. Yet this very thing is openly avowed and defended by some in serious earnest as righteous. For what else is reducing by a public act, twenty shillings sold one, to five or the going price, but taking my property without my consent? In short, I say one, to pay bona fide contracts for cash at a discount, is to do what would be a dishonest attempt in an individual, but for a legislature to make such a law to support and encourage such detestable villany, is like a judge who should justify the arms of a rogue over the face of justice, or a clergyman who should convert into bauby, would the temples of Jehovah—Many such is necessary, some may say, and necessity has no law, either of justice or mercy (I suppose is meant) or of reason or religion—then say, I say that it is iniquity and black ingratitude, and not attempt to varnish it over with the specious show of justice—say that we are so far in debt,