

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1787

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

For the Hampshire Gazette. Mr. PRINTER, AS the political disputes are received, at this present period, to a serious crisis, I think it will be agreeable to many of your readers that the following extract of a letter from a gentleman of Raynham in the county of Bristol, to his correspondent in the town of Colrain, be inserted in your paper. That when the unhappy opposition was particularly pointed at the Courts of Justice, a party of insurgents, from Freetown, headed by one Valentine, being influenced by a set of designing men in our county, which was the cause of their flying to arms, to oppose the fitting of the court; for the particulars of which I refer you to the ads published in the Newspapers: However, the spirited exertions of Gen. Cobb and those under him in favour of government, blasted their determination of suppressing the Court. Being disappointed in their passionate resolution, they were determined, seeing they could not vent the heat of their diabolical disposition, to present one Mr. Chafe, who was one of their party, as a victim; being a man far advanced in the decline of life, they intimated to him that he had lived long enough, therefore said we will see how you will grace a halter, they got one as endeavoured to get it round his neck, but happily he made his escape (their situation being near Taunton River, so called) in a boat, and being out of reach of their pursuit, they fired a volley at this poor unfortunate victim of their resentment, by which means he was very severely peppered with buck shot in his breast and face, but being at such a distance we may well hope that his wounds will not prove mortal. This my fellow-citizens is a sample of the effects of disappointed passions, when they could not spit their venom on the object of their supposed resentment, happily found one of their own class as a proper subject. This is the happy reformation in government, which they have for repeatedly advanced in their declarations.

til his advanced party gave intelligence of an enemy being in the vicinity; having discovered them, completely armed and posted in front, and at the same instant by his other party, they were believed to be likewise on his flanks; but this intrepid commander not being terrified by misfortune, as could be reasonably expected, with great calmness of mind gave the word halt, and having consulted his under-officers, they concluded to hazard the attack. Upon which making proper arrangements, he continued his march, previously detaching a strong party to attack the enemy in front, assuring them they should be supported; securely thus he proceeded with the greatest silence to the place where the enemy were first discovered. But the barrenness of human language is such, that words cannot form ideas that will do justice to those characters; indeed the pen of a Homer or a Virgil, the speech of a Demosthenes, the eloquence of a Cicero or a Paul, would give but a faint description of the feats of that day. The troops under this intrepid commander, with that firmness that would have done honor to the oldest veterans, began the assault, and were most obstinately opposed by an old cart that was armed with a lumber body (so called) for the purpose of conveying wood to a furnace, and fluting mill in the neighbourhood, having exceeding long stakes and well sharpened; and reeking their vengeance on the object, which being far advanced in years, was not capable of making a long resistance against such superior force; having examined their wounds (fortunately there being none killed, though exposed to the hottest fire of the enemy and most furious attack of the sharp stakes) they proceeded to the place of rendezvous. It appears that the wounds received in this combat, were not mortal, the most unfortunate being Capt. R. who in heat of action supposing himself badly wounded, gave vent backwards, to something less odious than his voice, which being of an infectious nature, the contagion spread through the camp that few escaped.

- Each Dead Body humbly pray that the Present flag may have Leave and liberty to fetch the Whole Number of the Dead with them as in Duty Bound shall ever pray
Greenfield } Solomon Root brother
Ezekiel Root }
Greenfield } William Webster Brother
Aril Webster }
Shelborn } James Anderson friend
John Hunter }
Pelham } Thomas McMillen Brother
Jeremiah McMillen }
was woun. & missing }
Leyden } Thomas Crawford Fisher in Law
Jabez Spycer }

For General Sheppard Commander of the County Hampshire Troops in Springfield

The following is a Copy of Shays's answer, to General Lincoln's letter of the 30th ult. Pelham, January 30, 1787. To General LINCOLN, commanding the government troops at Hadley.

S I R, THE people assembled in arms from the counties of Middlesex, Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire, taking into serious consideration the purport of the flag just received, return for answer, That however unjustifiable the measure may be which the people have adopted, in having recourse to arms, various circumstances hath induced them thereto. We are sensible of the embarrassments the people are under; but that virtue which truly characterizes the citizens of a republican government hath hitherto marked our path with a degree of innocence; and we wish and trust it will fill be the case. At the same time, the people are willing to lay down their arms on the condition of a general pardon, and return to their respective homes, as they are unwilling to stain the land, which we in the late war purchased at so dear a rate, with the blood of our brethren and neighbours, therefore we pray that hostilities may cease, on your part, until our united prayers may be presented to the General Court, and we receive an answer, as a person is gone for that purpose. If this request may be complied with, government shall meet with no interruption from the people; but let each army occupy the posts whereto they now are. DANIEL SHAYS, Cap.

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 Literatures. For terms and other particulars, Gentlemen are desired to apply to Col. Chapin of Hatfield. December 16, 1786.

Public Notice is hereby given, that by leave of the Court Common Pleas, in the County of Worcester, will be SOLD, by me the Subcriber, on the 21st day of Present near, at PUBLIC AUCTION, THREE hundred ACRES of LAND, lying in PARTRIDGEFIELD in the County of Berkshire, one half of the same is under good improvement; and on which is two HOUSES and two BARNES. The said Estate is capable of making one of the best FARMS in the County and belongs to the Estate of WILLIAM DUNSMORE, Esq. late of Leicester, in the County of Worcester, deceased. The place of SALE will be on the aforesaid premises. EDWARD RAYNSFORD, Administrator on said Estate.

FOR R S A L E, At the Printing-Office in Northampton, Webster's Institute. Watt's Palms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, and a few copies of Col. Humphreys's Poem.

I beg leave to ask what security can the subject expect in his person and property, when our reformers are actuated by such barbarous principles, as would shock the most cruel savage of the wilderness; in order to carry this new dispensation of government into execution, they have adapted a new legislation, and new fangled the militia of this commonwealth, under the auspicious direction of a committee of seventeen in the county of Hampshire, composed of a set of men, whom I leave the world to judge of their abilities by their known character. And as King Tom observes in some of his important political writings, "it has come how or other fallen," that this commonwealth is thrown into a serious political discord, which requires every member of this community at the present period, to take a decided part, and determine what basis government shall be supported on.

AN E C D O T E. THE insurgents in the county of Bristol being on their march to Taunton Court House, commanded by Capt. M. R. he with all the precaution of an experienced commander, keep out his advance and flank guards, and on approaching a large pine plain in their rout, gave particular orders to the commanders of his respective guards to keep a good look out, and putting his men in the most accurate position of defence, with great military pomp continued his march. But O the uncertainty of fortune! he had not proceeded far un-

BOSTON, Saturday, February 3. The following letters, are copied verbatim et literatim from the original ones. West Springfield, Jan. 25, 1787.

S I R, I HAVE dispatched Capt. Walker with my resolutions, Have ordered Colo. Parsons, to treat with Gen. Sheppard and in case Gen. Sheppard does not comply with the terms, I shall put all the Troops under my Command in motion to support my demands, precisely at 4 o'clock the time is prefix; But shall not expect them to Come to Action this day Luke Day

To Capt Shays To Genl Sheppard or the Commanding Officer in Springfield Sir I D fire you to Send My Dead and Wound men by My Flag So that I can Bury My Dead Men and Take Care of my Wounded if not my Wounded by Lt Williams Who is the Bearer of this Flag I am yours Daniel Shays Capt

Chickabury 27th Jan 1787 Honoured Sir, BY the flag that was sent to your Honour yesterday informs us that if the friends of the Dead in Custody Sends in after them the Bodys Shall Be Rezined— We the friends hereafter Subscribed for

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

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Court of this Commonwealth, did, on the 4th of February instant, declare, that a horrid and unnatural Rebellion and War had been openly and traitorously raised, and levied against this Commonwealth, with a design to subvert and overthrow the Constitution and form of Government thereof. And whereas it appears that DANIEL SHAYS, of Pelham, and LUKE DAY, of West-Springfield, in the county of Hampshire, ADAM WHEELER, of Hubbardston, in the county of Worcester, and ELL PARSONS, of Adams, in the county of Berkshire, have been the principal, and abettors and supporters of this unnatural, unprovoked and wicked Rebellion, against the dignity, authority and government of the said Commonwealth.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, and after the desire of the General Court, to issue this Proclamation; hereby require all Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Grand Jurors, Constables and other officers, civil and military, and also recommending it to all other good subjects, within this Commonwealth, to use their utmost endeavours for discovering and apprehending the said Daniel Shays, Luke Day, Adam Wheeler, and Ell Parsons, and them to deliver to the High Sheriff of the county of Suffolk, that he may, or either of them may be rendered to justice. And for the encouragement of such persons as shall apprehend the said Daniel Shays, Luke Day, Adam Wheeler, and Ell Parsons, or either of them, and deliver them to the Sheriff as aforesaid—it is hereby declared, that he or they, shall thereupon be entitled to receive out of the public treasury, for that service, a reward of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds for Daniel Shays, and One Hundred Pounds each, for Luke Day, Adam Wheeler, and Ell Parsons. And all persons whatsoever, are hereby strictly commanded not to harbour, entertain, or conceal the said Daniel Shays, Luke Day, Adam Wheeler, or Ell Parsons, as they will answer in this case by law provided.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this ninth day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, and in the eleventh year of the Independence of the United States of America. JAMES BOWDOIN, By His Excellency Commanding, John Avery, jun. Secy.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. To The Honourable the Senate, and the Honourable House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, at their next Session. A PETITION of the Officers of the Counties of Worcester, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Berkshire, now at arms humbly sheweth: THAT your petitioners being sensible that we have been in an error in having recourse to arms, and not seeking redress in a constitutional way; we therefore heartily pray your Honours to overlook our failing in respect to our rifles in arms, as your Honours must be sensible, we had a great cause of uneasiness, as will appear by yet we declare that it is our hearts desire that good government may be kept up in a constitutional way; and as it appears to us that the time is near approaching when such human blood will be spilt, unless a reconciliation can immediately take place; which ignes strike us with horror, let the foundation cause be where it may.

We therefore solemnly promise that we will lay down our arms, and repair to our respective homes in a peaceable and quiet manner, and so remain, provided your Honours will grant to your petitioners, and all those of our brethren who have had recourse to arms, or other ways

aided or assisted in our cause, a general pardon for their past offences.—All which we humbly submit to the wisdom, candour and benevolence of your Honours.—As we in duty bound shall ever pray.

FRANCIS STONE, Chairman of the Committee, Read and accepted by the Officers. BELLEVUE, Jan. 20, 1787.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. In SENATE, February 7, 1787.

THE Committee of both Houses, appointed to state the reasons why a proposal made in a certain paper, signed Francis Stone, chairman of a committee of certain officers from the counties of Worcester, Hampshire, Middlesex and Berkshire, who are in arms against the Government, cannot be complied with—do leave to

A PAPER, called a petition from the officers of the counties of Worcester, Hampshire, Middlesex and Berkshire, now at arms, and signed by Francis Stone, chairman of the committee from the above counties, and addressed to the General Court, was read:

Whereupon voted, That the said paper cannot be supplied. First—Because those concerned therein openly avow themselves to be at arms, and in a state of hostility against the Government; and for this reason alone, the said paper would be unsuitable, even if the tenor of the application had discovered a spirit suitable to the object of it.

Secondly—Because it does not appear, what officers or how many are represented in the said paper, or that the said Senate had authority from any officers whatsoever, to make the application by him subscribed.

Thirdly—Because the applicants, although they call themselves petitioners, and acknowledge an error, yet consider that error only as a falling, and attempt, at least in part, to justify themselves therein.

Fourthly—The said applicants appear to view themselves as equal, if not better standing, than the Legislature, by proposing "a reconciliation."

Fifthly—They appear to threaten the Authority and Government of the Commonwealth with great effusion of blood, unless this "reconciliation" can immediately take place.

Sixthly—They implicitly declare their determination to continue in arms, unless all who now are, and who have been in a state of open war against the Government, including those who have been apprehended, and are now in custody, are well satisfied with the way they have taken or assisted in their cause, can have another full pardon granted, for all offences, in addition to that which they have so lately despised.

Seventhly—If the paper presented had been a proper petition, subscribed by the persons who desire a pardon, and expressive of a true sense of their crime, with proper requisitions of amendment; yet their engagements could not be depended upon; as their cause has been supported by a multitude of falsehoods; and as no engagement can be more inhuman than those made by the leaders of the Rebels in the county of Middlesex, on the week before the Judicial Courts fell in the said county, that they would not take any measures to obstruct the sitting of the said Courts; which engagements were so far regarded, as to induce the Commander in Chief to write counter orders to a considerable part of the militia, whom he had ordered to be detached; and yet those engagements were on the next day violated.

Sent down for concurrence. SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President. In the House of Representatives, Feb. 8, 1787. Read and considered, and ordered; that the Secretary cause the said paper, and the report thereon, to be published. ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker. Approved. JAMES BOWDOIN: A true copy. JOHN AVERY, jun. Secy.

For the Hampshire Gazette. Mr. PRINTER,

THE attention of the public has been frequently turned to the controversy, Whether our frame of government can be lawfully altered before the year 1795—that it would be a grievous abate of patience to multiply observations upon a subject so nearly exhausted. Country Conventions and their champion, One of the Community have itressually appeared for the abridgment; they have been opposed by the Old Republican, and writers of great judgment on the acquire. As the dispute is now a question of right and not a question of expediency, since four fifth of the people are evidently pleased with the Constitution, it will be needful to say the less. One of the Community will examine it in the greatest part of his publication as foreign to the point, and attend only to two or three passages which bear some semblance of aiding his cause. As to his reasoning concerning conventions (who have, his friend intimates in the last paper, been laughed out of credit and existence) I need only to recommend to him a second reading of his arguments, which will be a sufficient refutation of them and mortification of the author. We will therefore say no more of conventions at present, since their evil deeds far exceed their good deeds, and the old maxim is, Nil de mortuis nisi bonum—Say nothing of the dead, unless you can say something which is good. We come to the point of rescinding or altering the Constitution. Our correspondent argues, that there is no more necessary for a frame of government to be permanent and fixed in its principles and operations, than for statute laws which may be amended and repealed at the will of the Legislature. Therefore the people may amend and repeal their original principles and maxims of government. This I believe is the sum of his argument in that particular. The fallacy of it is this—statute laws are ever known and understood to be under the hands of the Legislature, unless they contain a conveyance of property or certain personal immunities, and where there is such conveyance, the statute can never with good faith, be repealed. The Constitution being a compact of the whole people with each individual, all are individually parties; and the Constitution being in the highest sense a solemn conveyance, both of general and personal privileges and immunities, and giving no intimation of their being resumed until 1795; it is irrevocable, nor to be altered until that stipulated period. So that my correspondent falls essentially in the comparison he has alleged.— We will now attend to that part where he shews his didionary knowledge in defining the words incontestible, unchangeable and indefeasible. We allow his definition to be accurate: But it would have been more in his point to have proved, that the people have no right to institute a form of government for a given time, by which each contractor may be assured of the condition in which he lives, and the tenure by which he holds his privileges and property. If he can establish this interpretation of the contested article, it will be in point, and prove that a people can never emerge out of a state of nature into a state of civil society. This interpretation established, then at any hour particular towns and counties, yet particular subjects may be lawfully thrown out of the body politic without forfeiture, process or trial. Diffuse the body and refuse to admit them into the compact and your work is done to your hand. It is obvious that the people may institute government for a given time, and then a idea of their protection, prosperity or happiness (at least in common cases) will render it consistent or lawful for them to redress upon their own appointed time. But I need not multiply; It is evident that the Constitution has fixed a time of revision; it is an elaborate, consistent, uniform production; it is not a collection; it may and ought to be interpreted by itself in its various parts and connections. The 7th article is introduced as a natural consequence from the 6th, and is designed to show that the power of instituting and altering government is with the people at large, and belongs not to one man, family or class of men. The 6th article is a denial of hereditary power, and introduces na-