

To the Editor of the Massachusetts CENTINEL.

S I R,

As it may be of importance to the public to be informed of the warning given to Shays of the consequences which would attend his attack of the troops commanded by General Shepard, and posted for the defence of the arsenal, at Springfield, I send you the affidavits of the officers who were sent by General Shepard to assure Shays of his resolution to defend the post.

Yours, A. B. SAMUEL BUFFINTON, of Cambridge, in the County of Hampshire, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of lawful age, do declare and say, That on Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, having the command of a company of light-horse, and being under the command of Maj. Gen. William Shepard, (who commanded the forces stationed at Springfield for the defence of the arsenal and public buildings) I was ordered to reconnoitre, with a party of horse, the main road from Springfield to Wilbraham, to watch the motions of the Insurgents, under Daniel Shays, who were approaching.

I accordingly met them at five miles distance from Springfield, on the main road, at which time they were halted—several of their officers, on seeing me, advanced to me—I asked them if they were Shays's party? they said yes—I then asked, if Shays was with them? they said yes; and then observed, they had a fine body of troops; I readily assented, and asked the officer, who, by his conversation seemed chief, to exchange names, which he declined; another officer coming up, and calling my name, several of them said I should not return—one of them then said, if the matter was not settled before sunset, New-England would see such a day as the never had yet seen—I answered probably enough the night, and left them. On their nearer approach to the arsenal I again met them, spoke with their officers, and asked, if Capt. Shays was yet with them? they answered, General Shays was, on which he advanced with his sword in his left hand drawn, his pistol in his right hand, and familiarly asked how are you Buffinton?—I replied, you see I am here in defence of that country you are endeavouring to destroy—he rejoined, if you are in defence of the country, we are both defending the same cause; I added, I expected we should take very different parts before night; he said the part he should take, would be the hill, on which the arsenal and public buildings stood; I told him if he attempted it, he would meet a very warm reception; He asked, who would I fight? I replied they undoubtedly would; he answered, that was all he wanted; I then observed to him, if he advanced, he must meet the men we both had once been accustomed to obey.

When the Insurgents had advanced within about one hundred rods of our line, I was again sent, in company with Mr. Lyman, Gen. Shepard's aid, to tell Shays, that Gen. Shepard was posted not only by the authority of this State, but by Congress, and that the post would be defended at all hazards. On coming to the front of their column, we called for the commanding officer; they asked if Gen. Shepard was there? we answered yes; they said he was not; they did not see him, on either of those horses, and replied, if Gen. Shepard will come here, Gen. Shays will come forward; we

asked, will he not without? they said no; we told them they might go about their business then: they said they meant to: we told them as soon as they pleased. I told them, Gen. Shepard bid me tell Shays, he was posted not only by the authority of this State, but by Congress, and that he should defend the post at all hazards. I was sent to observe their motions again, and to tell them if they advanced five feet, they would be fired on, which I accordingly did, in company with Mr. Lyman the General's aid: they said it was all they wanted, and immediately gave orders, march on—march on.

SAMUEL BUFFINTON. Hampshire, ff. Springfield Feb. 18. 1787. PERSONALLY appeared, Capt. SAMUEL BUFFINTON, subscriber to the above Declaration, and made solemn Oath to the truth of the same, before SAMUEL MATHER Just. Peace.

WILLIAM LYMAN, of Northampton, in the County of Hampshire, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of lawful age, do say and declare, That on the twenty-fifth day of January, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, being under the command of, and an aid-camp to Maj. Gen. William Shepard, who was posted at Springfield, for the defence of the arsenal and continental buildings, was, on the near approach of the Insurgents, under Daniel Shays, sent to demand of them the motives of their advancing in arms and military array. On coming to the front of their column, then about one hundred rods from Gen. Shepard's line, in company with Capt. Samuel Buffinton—he asked for Capt. Shays; a person, mounted on horseback, rode down their columns, as we supposed, to call Shays, and soon two persons advanced to the front, and asked, if Gen. Shepard was there? Buffinton said yes; they said he was not; they did not see him on either of those horses; and continued, if Gen. Shepard would come there, Shays will come here: Buffinton asked, if they would not without? they said no; I then told them they might go about their business; they said they meant to go about it; I told them as soon as they pleased, and turned to ride off, but stopped, and Buffinton told them to tell Shays, Gen. Shepard was posted not only by the Authority of the State, but by Congress; and that the post would be defended at all hazards; we then rode, and reported to Gen. Shepard, who again sent us to observe their motions; we advanced within about fifteen rods of the front of the Insurgents, and fat on our horses to observe whether they were about to form a column either to the right or left; one of their officers came forward and asked, if we wanted any thing? I asked his name; he said it was no matter; I asked again; he said it was Wheeler; I told him we wanted him to come on; but I would do this message to him, from Gen. Shepard, That if they presumed to advance, or put their troops in motion, they would inevitably be fired on; that is all we want, by God, said Wheeler; I told him then he would have it, as Gen. Shepard was posted, not only by the authority of this State, but by Congress, and that the post would be defended at all hazards; they then ordered march on, march on; and came on briskly; we rode to Gen. Shepard and reported; he then ordered Major Stevens to fire the guns, but to let the two first be elevated above them; at which discharge, they made the appearance of a brisk charge, and to display their

column; the artillery was then ordered to be pointed at them.

WILLIAM LYMAN. SUFFOLK, ff. February 6th 1787. THEN Major WILLIAM LYMAN personally appeared, and made solemn Oath, that the above is a true representation of the transaction therein referred before. STEVEN METCALF, Just. of the Peace.

JOSHUA L. WOODBRIDGE, of Northfield, in the County of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, of lawful age, testify and declare, That on the twenty-fifth day of January last, at Springfield, in said county, I met Capt. Shays on the road, marching a body of men towards Ordnance-Hill, in Springfield, where Gen. Shepard had his troops posted; after a little conversation, Shays asked me, whether we had barracks room enough? I told him we had; he then said, he meant, or intended to lodge in them that night; I informed him he would purchase them very hard (or dear) he said he had a fine body of troops; I assented; but told him if he attempted to get the barracks, he would either lodge in heaven, or hell; and wished him to be even, and left him.

JOSHUA L. WOODBRIDGE. HAMPSHIRE, ff. February 18, 1787. PERSONALLY appeared, JOSHUA WOODBRIDGE, the subscriber to the above declaration, and made oath to the truth of the same, before E. MATTOON, jun. Just. Peace.

CARLISLE, Jan. 10.

On Sunday evening last, between the hours of seven and eight, David [name], as he was travelling from Lancaster county, from which he had removed some time ago) to Juniata, in Bedford county, where he lately resided, was attacked on the road from Louisa, about six miles below Carlisle, and murdered in a most barbarous manner, and robbed of a sum of money and his watch. The conflict was heard at some distance by John Junken and others. The strokes resembled the cutting of saplings; and a gun or pistol being discharged, Mr. Junken supposed some waggons were encamping and kindling a fire, which prevented him from running to the place, as he intended, when he first heard the noise. Next morning the body was found; some who saw it have seen the bodies of many who had been lacerated by the savages, but never saw one so dreadfully mangled as was that of the deceased. His gun was found by him broken in pieces, and a bludgeon was lying by him, the end of which was shivered as to resemble a hickory broom, which had been stepped in blood.

The coroner's inquest found, that he had been willfully murdered by some person or persons unknown.

STOLEN from the stable of Mr. Samuel Cook, in New-Salem, on the night of the 14th inst, a dark chestnut coloured MARE, about 14 and half hands high, with a small star in her forehead, trots wholly, high carriage, and very great spirits, the mane on the near side. Whoever will take up and secure the thief, and return the Mare to the subscriber, shall have TEN DOLLARS, and for the Mare only, Five Dollars, and all reasonable charges paid, by ABEL WHITNEY. Westfield, Feb. 7, 1787.

FOR SALE, At the Printing-Office in Northampton, Websters's Institute. Watt's Palms—Primers—Blanks of most kinds, Writing-Paper, Wrapping-Paper, and a few copies of Col Humphreys's Post.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1787.

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

THE CRISIS. Number II.

THANKS to that kind and gracious Providence, which has ever watched over us and our fathers for good: the politico pestiferous disorder, which, from its operation, may be termed influenza, that lately raged in some parts of this Commonwealth, and particularly appeared with a threatening aspect in this country, has come to a crisis; and that there are hopeful symptoms of a recovery. The author pretends to thank the gentlemen of the faculty, for their judicious and spirited exertions to relieve the unhappy infatuated delirians; and to regret the fatal spread and effects of the demoniac generated phrenzy. The author also pays his acknowledgments to the very large and respectable number of good and wholesome inhabitants, who, influenced by considerations of duty, and kindness to the poor deluded delirians, as well as the public safety, have, in this time of contagion and danger, cheerfully contributed, left their private business, and assisted the physicians to relieve the unhappy patients, and prevent the spread and unhappy effects of the demoniac influenza. The author also feels a sensible satisfaction, in finding that fact and experience have verified the truth of his observations, in No. I. respecting the proper method of treating this disorder. A little phlebotomy and a few doses of medicine, particularly a composition of iron, sulphur and charcoal, with a few pills of rhy iron, have been found abundantly sufficient to happily successful, to bring that malignant disorder speedily & favourably off; when a variety of lenients and emollients had been long used to very little purpose. And what, it is found that there is strength of constitution yet remaining, abundantly sufficient to grapple with the disease; and many of the unhappy patients begin to recover their reason.

But, Gentlemen of the Faculty and Friends of mankind, think not that your work is done. There are yet remains of this unhappy disorder, even in the bowels of the commonwealth; many are yet delirious; there is danger of a relapse and fatal spread of the disease, unless proper remedies are speedily and vigorously applied. Believe me, your greatest vigilance, skill, wisdom, diligence and application are yet necessary, to prevent a relapse and effect a radical cure. You need well to understand the nature of the disease, and not only attend carefully to the diagnostic, but critically watch the pathognomonic symptoms; critically consider the peculiar constitution of each patient, how far the disease has operated on him—what medicine in the whole materia medica he needs, and the most proper method of application to patients of every class. It would be an unhappy mistake, should you rely on emollients where strictures are absolutely necessary. These madmen have run about so much in the snow of late, that they have frozen some of their limbs: others have grown callous; they cannot be cured without some amputations. Nor is it safe to suffer them to have any dangerous weapon within their reach, lest the phrenzy return, and they harm themselves or others. Such is the nature of this calamitous influenza, that it may secretly lurk within them some years, and then break out again: therefore, in my humble opinion, they ought not to be trusted with the management of any affairs of importance; but be under proper guardians, till a series of sober conversations convince the physicians, that they have obtained a radical cure. As, unhappily, delirious persons usually have a particular antipathy against their best friends; so have many of these seized the physicians and attendants: perhaps such must be confined till they recover their reason; so far, at least, as to be convinced that the physicians are friendly, would not harm them but only prevent their harming themselves or others and recover them to reason.

Gentlemen of the faculty, you have been at great expense, and taken singular pains for the cure of these unhappy madmen: I hope you will take proper care to obtain an adequate reward of them. It is just, and will be the means of preventing the spread of the disease in future: for, if the cost of cure be exacted of them, peo-

ple will be careful to avoid persons infected with the contagion. I am sensible many of them have not wherewith to pay; but others of them have, and as they were combined, it is reasonable that those who have estate should pay the cost: and believe me, the law, if you apply to it, will oblige them to it. But besides all this, there are some illiterate quacks, who, pretending skill, have been guilty of mal-practice, and under pretence of assisting these delirians with counter-let and medicine, have given them poisonous doses, which have increased the disorder, and made a radical cure more difficult. These, and their assistants, ought to be prosecuted in law, and their fines appropriated to pay the physicians bill, &c.

I close this number with a Greeting wish, that the physicians may be skillful and successful, effect a radical cure and prevent a relapse; and that they, and their alert attendants, may obtain an adequate reward for their extraordinary care and exertions, in this day of peculiar contagion and distress.

Mr. PRINTER, OBSERVING some time past in the Hampshire Gazette, a remarkable publication, to which the author had the vanity, or rather madness to sign his proper name, Thomas Gover; it brought to my mind an old song, which with a little addition be pleased to publish.

The Song. I'm old mad Tom; behold me! My wit are quite unfram'd; I'm mad I've fear, and past all cure, And no hopes of being reclaim'd.

I'll climb the snowy mountain, And there confront the weather; I'll pluck the rainbow from the sky, And flick both ends together.

I'll mount the primum mob, lo! And there I'll fright the gypsies, I'll play at bowls with sun and moon, And shade them in eclipses.

I practice was to vulcan, And I serv'd my master faithful In framing tools for Shays and fools; In that all will prove ungrateful.

I'll break the Constitution, Change customs times and laws; Push Judges from the bench, Nor let them know the cause:

With pointed Swords and guns, And bayonets at their breast, From boys with files and drams: Their laws are all a jest!

I'll drive from their old seat The powers legislative, And else where they must meet, When'er I call for drive.

Or else the eastern hills I'll rend from their foundation, With rocks and woods and hills, And hurl them on this nation.

This is not all I've fear'd, I still to increase my fame, Conspicuous heretofore, Mad Tom's my proper name.

As the conduct and publication of this man has rendered him almost as conspicuous as he was who formerly burnt down the temple of Diana at Ephesus, with a view to eternize his name; but afterwards being struck with a palsy at the infamous punishment which he might probably suffer, threw himself into the flames and was consumed with it. It may not be unacceptable to our readers (who remember his foregoing at Hadley of his Generalship not firing the face of Col, and his bearing the Mouths of Cannon &c.) to inform them that at the battle at Springfield he was far in the rear, otherwise Gen. Shepard might doubtless have had an opportunity of discharging him from the mouth of a cannon or howitzer Shays's army, where his long shanks might have done more execution than several chain shot. The next account we

have of his prowess, was at South-Hadley, in the retreat towards Pelham, when the centry, from a small guard fired two alarm guns at Shays; approach: when his men bravely and repeatedly fired at the centry, as they retreated, and happened to kill the adjutant of their own army, who marched in front encouraging them to press on and boldly attack a guard of 12 men. Our hero was so enraged at the loss of the adjutant, who was his neighbour, that he ran back toward Springfield, far beyond the rear of his brave men, meaning no doubt one more to face the cannon here. He is far however recovered from this fit of phrenzy and military rage, as to return and join his friends, who after taking a few prisoners, stealing some horses and fleigs, and plundering a few of the inhabitants, and rifling their houses, returned to Pelham; where he did not stay but a day or two before he returned to his own house from whence taking every mouthful of bread and meat from his family, which they had left, (having nobly expended the rest of their stores for winter in defence of the rights and privileges of his fellow-citizens, in the case of whom he had so early and repeatedly stepped forth) and in addition to his rations a bushel of oats, he proceeded to Brattleborough, in the State of Vermont, in company with Carter the renowned squaw-hunter, who took with him a train of small men, which he stole at South-Hadley, from one Mr. Bingham, a traveller, at which place he has sold them, as Mr. Smith of that town informs. What will be the next manoeuvre of this redoubled warrior is uncertain. The soldiers, who have returned, say he left the army without leave or information; but as secrecy is one of the grand requisites in an accomplished General, in all probability he has gone for Canada to bring down the copper coloured gentry of the northern regions, to assist in the vindication of their rights of his fellow countrymen,—since Shays has taken the same rout, it tends to increase the suspicion. And as these great warriors and authors have given us a specimen of their talents in the cabinet and in the field, they have undoubtedly taken the hint, from Xenophon's retreat in the dead of winter, through Asia Minor, after having formed rackets or snow-shoes for his beasts of burden, as well as his men and so returned safe to the country from which he set out.

As one of our heroes, at least, is a practitioner in the snow-shoe way, it is not impossible that he may put into practice all the arts of the ancient warrior just mentioned. Be on your guard my countrymen! I may expect them soon to return at the head of a numerous army of savages, walking on snow-shoes, or drawn by moose and wild bears on rackets likewise, after the manner of Xenophon's retreat with their baggage, when should the depth of snow, and the crust continue, they may obtain unexpected advantages; especially as their army may prove as numerous as that of the Lilliputians, described in Gulliver's travels, with which our learned Generals are undoubtedly acquainted, and from whose history they probably learnt to vindicate the rights of their country. But as every reader may not be acquainted with the cause of war at Lilliput, I will inform him. Those petty nations whose common sized men were about six inches high, lived on the two opposite sides of a hill, and were at first two distinct nations. At length extending their improvements, they met together, and began to incorporate with each other; when disputes arose respecting the rights and privileges of each nation. The one had from time immemorial enjoyed the right of breaking an egg at the great end; and the other nation had long been accustomed to crack their eggs at the little end; and each nation being equally tenacious of their invaluable privileges, bloody wars and contentions arose among them, and many a valiant Lilliputian bled and died in the cause, before matters of such magnitude could be settled. But before I dismiss this history, I shall, for the sake of illustrating the subject, inform my readers, that Gulliver after visiting this nation, removed to a different part of the country, called Brobdignag, the inhabitants of which as much exceeded him in stature as the Lilliputians fell short. A common sized