

THAT three persons be appointed Commissioners, to proceed without delay into the Counties of Middlesex, Hampshire, Worcester, and Berkshire, whose duty it shall be, upon application made to them for indemnity, by or in behalf of any of the persons who have been concerned in the present Rebellion, and who are not entitled to the benefits of an ACT, describing the disqualifications of certain persons, passed by the General Court, on the 16th of February last, to make full and particular enquiry, into the characters and conduct of such persons; and thereupon, in the name and behalf of the General Court, to promise indemnity, to such of the said persons (on their taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance to this Commonwealth) in favour of whom, satisfactory evidence shall be produced, that they are duly penitent for their crimes, and properly disposed to return to their allegiance to the State, and to discharge the duty of good and faithful citizens thereof; and to do this, either with or without, any or all the conditions, restrictions and disqualifications, enumerated in the Act aforesaid, and with or without the further condition, of their being bound to keep the peace, and be of the good behaviour, for a limited term of time, not exceeding three years.

Provided, That the Commissioners aforesaid, shall not be empowered to promise indemnity, in any manner, whate'er, to DANIEL SHAYS, ADAM WHEELER, ELI PARSONS, or LUKE DAY; or to any persons, who have fired upon, or killed any of the citizens in the peace of the commonwealth; or to the person commanding the party, to which such person, or persons belonged; or to any of those persons, who have been considered and acted as a council of War for, and regulated the movements of the rebel forces, since the twentieth of January last; or to any person or persons, against whom a warrant from the Governor and Council shall have issued except to such as the Governor has or shall liberate on bail, or otherwise.

And it shall be also the duty of the said Commissioners, upon application made to them, by or in behalf, of any of the persons who are intitled to the benefit of the Act aforesaid, to make the like full and particular enquiry into their characters and conduct; and thereupon, in behalf of the General Court, to promise a remission of the said conditions, restrictions and disqualifications, in whole, or in part, to such of the said last mentioned persons, in favour of whom satisfactory evidence shall be produced, that they are duly penitent for their crimes, and properly disposed to return to their allegiance to the Commonwealth, and to discharge the duty of faithful citizens, in such manner, as shall appear to the said Commissioners, will be most promotive of the safety, honour, and happiness of the Commonwealth.

And the said Commissioners are hereby empowered, to call before them any person or persons, whom they shall judge necessary to give evidence, relative to the character and conduct of any person or persons, concerning whom application shall be made to them as aforesaid; and also to administer oaths, for the better discovery of truth, in any case which may come before them.

And the said Commissioners are hereby instructed, not to attend to the cases of the last described persons, in such manner, as to interfere with the duty which is herein first assigned to them; and the agreement to determine every question, that shall come before them.

And it is further Resolved, That in case either of the Commissioners who may be appointed in pursuance of the foregoing Resolve, shall decline accepting the trust, or be unable to proceed, or continue in the execution thereof; in such case the Governor be, and he is hereby authorized and requested, with advice of Council, to appoint others in their room.

Sent down for concurrence.
SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
In the House of Representatives, March 10th, 1787.

Read and concurred.
ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
Approved,

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

March 17, 1787.
IN pursuance of the above Resolve, Benjamin Lincoln, Samuel Phillips, and Samuel Abney Otis, Esquires, were appointed commissioners, who will give public notice of the times when, and places where, they will attend on the business of their Commission.

B. LINCOLN.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and eighty-seven.

An ACT in addition to an act, entitled, "An Act, for rendering processes in law less expensive."

WHEREAS in and by the act entitled, "An Act for rendering processes in law less expensive," it is enacted, "that all writs and summonses issued by virtue of this act, shall be issued by a Justice of the Peace in the county where the debtor or defendant resides."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said clause in the act aforesaid be repealed and that all writs and summonses issued by virtue of the act aforesaid, shall and may be issued by a Justice of the Peace in the county where either the plaintiff or the defendant may reside; and the said writs and summonses may run into any county or place, and are hereby made awardable into any county or place in this commonwealth, and shall be there executed by the Sheriff, Deputy-Sheriff or Constable, to whom they shall be directed.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all processes of replevin, and all processes upon an act, entitled "An Act to enable creditors to receive their just debts out of the effects of their absent or absconding debtors," shall be commenced and prosecuted before the Court of Common Pleas, in the same manner as if the act entitled, "An Act for rendering processes in law less expensive," had never been made.

In the House of Representatives, March 8, 1787.

This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
In Senate, March 8, 1787.

This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
By the Governor. Approved.

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the House of Representatives, March 10, 1787.

RESOLVED, That the several persons that have been or may hereafter be chosen for the present year as selectmen, Assessors, Town-Clerk, Town-Treasurer, Constables and Collectors, in the several

towns, districts, and plantations of this Commonwealth, be, and they hereby are required, before the Town-Clerk, or before some Justice of the Peace, to take and subscribe the oath of allegiance as prescribed in the constitution of this Commonwealth, and the same certificate shall be made, if taken before a Justice of the Peace, as is already provided by law for the oaths of town, district or plantation officers; and the town-Clerk is directed to record the same in the book in which he is directed by law to record the several oaths to be taken by the said Officers respectively, to qualify them to perform the duties thereof; and no act of either of the Officers aforesaid, shall after six months from the passing of this Resolve, be esteemed valid in law, until they have taken and subscribed the oath aforesaid; any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

And it is further Resolved, That in case any person chosen to either of the offices aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse, within one month from the passing of this Resolve, and hereafter annually, within seven days from the time of his election, the town to which such person or persons belongs, at a legal meeting appointed for that purpose, shall proceed to make choice of some other person or persons, to serve in the office or offices to which the person or persons is neglecting or refusing, had been elected; and the person or persons so refusing or neglecting to take the oath as aforesaid, shall be liable to the same penalties as by law provided in case of refusal to serve in the office to which he or they have been elected. And that the Secretary be, and he hereby is directed, to publish these resolves in the several news-papers, three weeks, at least, successively, and to transmit a copy of the same to the Clerk of each town, district, and plantation in this Commonwealth.

Sent up for concurrence.
ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
In Senate, March 10, 1787.

Read and concurred.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
Approved,

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A True Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

THE subscriber hereby informs those whom it may concern, that he is appointed by the Commissary General, to receive such specific articles as may be delivered at Deerfield, in discharge of specific Taxes assessed previous to the year 1782, pursuant to an act of the General Court, passed Nov. 8th, 1786.

JOHN WILLIAMS.
Deerfield, March 2, 1787.

THE Subscriber begs leave to present his due respects to his friends, and the public, and to inform them, that he is taking in school-are for the next quarter, which will commence the 15th of April next, and begs that those gentlemen, who intend to favour him with the tuition of their children, would favour him with their names, and the number they intend to send, as his school is likely to be full immediately, and they will oblige

The public's most humble and obedient servant,
JONATHAN CURSON.
Hatfield, 17th March 1787.

TAKEN by the rebels, from Elias Lyman Tavern Northampton, on the 26th of January last, two MARES, one a black, the two near feet white, a star in the forehead, and trots all; the other a sorrel, with a star in the forehead, trots and paces. Whoever will give information of, or return said Mares to the subscriber, shall be generously rewarded by LEMUEL POMEROY.

Southampton, March 9, 1787.

FOR SALE,
Two Rights of Land,
In the Township of Victory, and State of Vermont.—Said Land lies within 100 miles of an Eastern market, and will be sold very cheap.
Enquire of the Printer.

APRIL 4 1787 THE HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1787.
NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the House of Representatives, March 2, 1787.

RESOLVED, That all Pay-masters of the Massachusetts line of the late Continental army, who have not delivered to the Secretary the certificates of the balances, which upon a final settlement were found due to that part of the said army, for which they are respectively Pay-masters, be, and they are hereby required, to make returns of the whole of said final settlements, which they have remaining in their hands, into the Secretary's office, on or before the first day of June next, taking duplicate receipts therefor, one of which, to be lodged with the Treasurer of the commonwealth.

And it is further Resolved, That those Pay-masters who neglect to comply with this resolve shall not be entitled to receive an allowance of pay for their services in the trust in which they have been employed. And the Secretary is directed to publish the above resolves three weeks successively, in the public news-papers, as by law directed.

Sent up for concurrence.
ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
In Senate, March 5, 1787.

Read and concurred.
SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
Approved,

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the House of Representatives, March 2, 1787.

WHEREAS in an Act for appropriating the revenue arising from the duties of impost and excise, passed the 17th of November, 1786, it is provided, "That one third part thereof shall be annually paid into the Treasury of this commonwealth, for the exigencies of government." And whereas the demands of government are now such as to make it necessary that a specific part of said duties be paid into the Treasury as soon as possible:

RESOLVED, That the several Collectors of said impost and excise within this Commonwealth, shall receive one third part of all duties of impost and excise that may hereafter become due since the first day of January, 1787, or may hereafter become due, in specie only, and the other two thirds in orders or certificates of the Treasurer of this commonwealth, if they are preferred; provided that the one third part be paid in specie at the same time, and not otherwise.

Sent up for concurrence.
ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
In Senate, March 5, 1787.

Read and concurred.
SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
Approved,

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and eighty-seven.

An Act for dividing the county of Hampshire into three Districts, for the purpose of choosing Registers of Deeds, and for determining the places at which Courts of Probate shall in future be holden in the said county.

WHEREAS a great part of the inhabitants of the county of Hampshire, by reason of their distance from the place where the office of Registry of Deeds, by the laws now being directed to be kept, are subjected to great inconveniences in procuring their conveyances of real estate to be recorded: For remedy whereof

lie between any of the said towns, be and they hereby are constituted a District for the Registry of Deeds, and the inhabitants of the said towns and districts are hereby authorized to choose a Register of deeds for the said district, in the manner provided by law; and the Register so chosen shall keep his office in the said town of Northampton, and Ebenezer Parker, Esq. of said Hadley, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue his warrants, directed to the Selectmen of the several towns and districts aforesaid, ordering them forthwith to convene the inhabitants of their respective towns or districts, qualified to vote for representatives, that they may proceed to the choice of some meet person, qualified by law for the office of Registry of deeds, and ordering the selectmen to seal up and transmit a transcript of the record of the number of votes and person or persons voted for in their respective towns or districts, together with the warrants, to the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, next to be holden at Springfield, within and for the county of Hampshire, on the third Tuesday of May next, to be opened and compared with the like returns from the other towns of such district, and the person having the majority of votes, after being sworn, and giving bond as by law directed, shall be Register of deeds in the said district, and shall continue in the said office, until the last day of March one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, and until another is chosen.

Be it further enacted, That the towns, plantations and lands in the said county of Hampshire, which lie north of the town above enumerated, be and they hereby are constituted a separate district for the Registry of deeds; and the inhabitants of the said towns and plantations, are hereby authorized to choose a Register of deeds for the said district in the manner provided by law; and the Register so chosen, shall keep his office in the town of Deerfield, within the said district; and David Smith, Esq. of Greenfield, within the said district, is hereby authorized to issue his warrant to the Selectmen of the several towns, and to some principal inhabitant of each of the plantations in said district, in manner, and returnable as aforesaid; and the votes being opened and compared in the said Court of General Sessions of the Peace, the person having the majority of votes, after being sworn and giving bond as aforesaid, shall continue in the said office until the last day of March above-mentioned, and until another is chosen: And if it shall appear that no person has a majority of votes in the said district, or either of them, the same proceedings shall be had as are directed by law in other cases of vacancy in the office of Registry of deeds.

And it is further enacted, That the persons chosen as aforesaid shall be subject to the rules and disqualifications to which Registers of deeds for the several counties are subject; and from and after the first day of June next, shall be fully authorized and empowered to register and record all deeds of conveyance of any lands or other real estate, lying within the districts for which they are respectively chosen; and the record of deeds as aforesaid shall be valid to all intents and purposes whatever; and the record of any deeds of conveyance of land or other real estate, lying within the said district, which, after the said first day of June, shall be made by any other than the persons to be chosen as aforesaid, by the said districts respectively, shall be void and of no effect; and the Registers to be chosen as aforesaid, shall be intitled to the same fees in the execution of their respective offices, as Registers of deeds in the several counties are intitled to.

And be it further enacted, That the towns, districts, plantations and lands in the said county of Hampshire, which lie south of the towns above enumerated, shall be a separate district for the registry of deeds, in which district the office of Register shall be kept in the town of Springfield; and nothing in this act shall be taken in any manner to effect the choice of the present Register of deeds for the said county, so far as it respects the district last aforesaid.

Hampshire be, and hereby is directed from and after the first day of June next, to hold his Courts of Probate, within the said county, at the following places, viz: Three in the town of Springfield; three in the town of Northampton; three in the town of Hadley, and three in the town of Deerfield, annually; any usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

In the House of Representatives, Feb. 28, 1787.
This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

ARTEMAS WARD, Speaker.
In Senate, March 1, 1787.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.
By the Governor. Approved.

JAMES BOWDOIN.
A true Copy. Attest.
JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

For the HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.
A friendly ADDRESS to that part of the Community, who have been concerned in the late Infractions in this Commonwealth.

THE public attention to general, and yours in particular, has already been so frequently called (in the public papers) to the subject of the late infractions in this commonwealth, which have come to such a alarming crisis, that it may, by many, be deemed needless to resume it again. Persons of different abilities, sentiments and views, have wrote upon it; who doubtless have been a means of communicating light to the public, as well as of convincing many of your number of the gross mistake which you have been guilty of. It may therefore seem needless to add any thing upon so thread-bare a topic. I hope nevertheless, you will receive kindly the following remarks upon your present situation, which are communicated by one who in your real friend, though a constant and heavy disapprover of your late conduct. The time has lately been, when your eyes, in a great measure, were that against the light of truth, but I trust that period is nearly, or quite over: You have been sold in your late attempt to overthrow, or new model the government of this commonwealth; your forces have been dispersed; you are for a time disarmed, and laid under some legal disqualifications, by an act of the General Court; you complain that you are injured—this is your present situation. Let me apply to your reason and conscience, and see whether, as the case is circumstanced, there is any just foundation for this complaint. You think hard of the measures taken by government, but whatever inconveniences you may thereby labour under, have you not brought them upon yourselves? Have you not been the aggressors in the present dispute? If one man repeatedly holds a pistol to another's breast, in a threatening manner, every principle would justify the person threatened, in endeavouring by force to take the weapon out of the other's hand. Had you been upon a par with the friends of our constitution and government, as to rightful authority; had half of the constitutional powers and resources of the commonwealth been on your side, and had you, under these circumstances, made an attack by force of arms upon the other half, the principles of self-defence, which are agreeable both to the laws of God and nature, would have been a sufficient warrant for those you opposed to have acted upon the defensive; and, unless a compromise took place, the strongest party must undoubtedly rule. Had the party which you opposed prevailed under these circumstances, the principles of self-preservation would undoubtedly have warranted them to take some wise measures to prevent such attacks in future. But this was not the case; you were not thus upon a par with the authority you opposed; it was against the majority of the freemen, as well as against the whole constitutional authority of the commonwealth, that you levied war. You made a violent attack upon the liberties and privilege of your fellow-citizens; you endeavoured by force of arms to resume a power which was not yours. (For it is a self-evident proposition, that the same power cannot be at the same time in me, and by me delegated to another person.) You had committed your power in government matters to your representatives; it is self-evident then,