that it was no longer yours, until, at the expiration of the period for which it was delegated, it should again return into your hands. All the advantages of election, which you possess could possibly enjoy, had been, a few months before, in your hands. If you had not attended properly to your privileges, who was to blame for it? Under these circumstances, headed by factious and aspiring leaders, you levied War in the heart of your country, and for a time banished peace from our borders. You forsook a constitutional path, and betook yourselves to the last appeal. You chose your own ground, and your own weapons; and by the influence of a military party, endeavoured to overcome all opposition, and to lay government in the duft. The government and people which you saw fit to oppose, were forced upon their own defence, to meet you upon the ground and with the weapons which you had chosen, and not they; for they were ever willing to meet you upon a constitutional path. You have been met, you have been foiled upon your own ground, with your own weapons, not without signal frowns of providence upon your nefarious undertaking. Government, for their own security, deem it necessary to take the weapons out of your hands for a time, till you give evidence of a cordial return to your allegiance. Now, is this penalty severe for acts of treason and rebellion, for crimes which in almost every other country would expose all the principal actors to a halter and confiscation of goods; both of which are by the standing laws of the land incurred, when rebellion is declared; but instead of the forfeiture being taken, such mild conditions of peace are held up to view as are perhaps almost unparalleled, after such an unprovoked insurrection.

BUT you will say you had no design to overthrow the government; you never levied war against it, you wanted nothing but a reform and regulation of government, and an easement of some public burthens, you supposed you injuriously laboured under. But if, rising from time to time, in a threatening manner, with instruments of death in your hands, is not levying war, what will amount to such a declaration? Have you not frequently obstructed the courts of justice, and by forces of arms, hindered Judges, and other officers of government, from their duty? Has not this been done three different times in the county of Hampshire, as often in each of the counties of Worcester and Berkshire, besides sundry attempts in the counties of Bristol and Middlesex? Have you not persisted in this conduct, after government had held out a pardon in the one hand, and threatnings in the other, thereby manifesting that you spurned at the one and held the other at defiance? Did you not march in a hostile manner to Springfield, thereby making an attack, not only upon the authority of this commonwealth, but of the united states, upon the very day in which your officers had sent a mock petition to the commanding officer of government? Have you not, at least many of you, threatened the lives of many of the officers of government, as also to disarm all that opposed you, and to grace your new fangled system with numerous executions? Have not many of you, by the grossest falsehoods and misrepresentations, endeavoured to ruin the characters of all the friends of government, especially such as were of any influence? Have you not repeatedly threatened, that if your own power was not sufficient, you would bring armies from Canada, and even hosts of Indian savages, to effect your purposes? and are not such menaces thrown out by some even unto this hour, that as soon as the leaves are on the trees you will have help enough? If these are not plain declarations of hostility, I know of none that are. If a man repeatedly attacks my liberty or life by arms, he declares war against me, though there is not a word spoken. But if threats and actions go together, what can be plainer? Now, admitting all the pleas and palliations that can be made in your behalf, either by yourselves or others, such as that you have been deceived by gross misrepresentations, that you are persons of fair private characters, at least many of you, that it is the height of the commotion, a degree of innocence perhaps before unprecedented, (in such large bodies of men, collected together the Lord knows for what, and commanded none knows by whom, where every soldier was an officer, and every officer a general) but commonly marked your paths; a circumstance which must ever redound to your honour, considering your situation. And that you are now fully sensible of your folly, which, I confidently believe is the case with many of you: Yet can you in your calm hours believe the legal disqualifications to be a great penalty, or that you are injuriously treated? Had the great expence which was incurred in raising, marching and supporting a military force to curb your folly been laid solely upon you, could such a measure be charged with injustice? Would it be contrary to the principles of equity that you should be obliged to pay the expence you had occasioned? But out of tenderness for the distresses which such a measure would occasion, both to yourselves and families, it has not been done; you bear no more than your Proportion with others as a body. Now, *Fellow Citizens*, I appeal to your own feelings and views. Had you succeeded in your undertaking, and finally reduced the government of the commonwealth and all its adherents to your own terms, would you hold out terms as favourable to those you were pleased to dissinguish with the appellation of government men? Did the hard speeches concerning them, and the most virulent aspersions which were indiscriminately cast upon their persons and characters, evidence such lenity? or, were they not to expect the severest treatment? especially as your proposed reform of government was without system, and your leaders evidently destitute either of integrity or capacity for any great undertaking; and your sentiments and views as a body, disconnected and disunited. You have been baffled in your undertaking. Providence has frowned. Government holds out arms to receive you all to favour; (except a few of the most obnoxious leaders,) requiring no other conditions than your giving evidence of your return to your allegiance, and your willingness to discharge the duty of good citizens in future, only laying you under the legal disqualifications above, till such evidence is given. Did you ever expect milder conditions of peace, upon the supposition that the forces of government should prevail to disperse you? No you did not. If you are duly sensible of your folly, by your fruits it will be known, you will be more attached to the government which exercises such lenity. But while threats are still thrown out, and a hostile disposition manifested, is government to blame for being on their guard? — But many will say, (and to our shame truly) that they never threatened individuals, or manifested a hostile disposition against government in general, in what they did, they were misled, and see their folly. It may be some did no more than lend a musket, or gave some provision, or spoke two or three unadvised words, but all are treated alike, they are laid under some disqualifications with the most obstinate offenders, the leaders and officers excepted. This may be a hardship. But you are probably acquainted with the fable of the stork and the cranes, if you have been taken among the enemies of government, aiding and assisting with them, you must expect to fare in some measure as others do. After all, it is decently to be wished that a proper discrimination of characters should take place, but it is a work of some time, and cannot be done all on a sudden, and he, that feels the disposition of a good citizen, will be willing to wait with patience. Perhaps likewise there are some needlessly and injudiciously laid under this legal incapacity, persons who perhaps only spoke a word unadvisedly under the influence of the infatuation which prevailed through the land, or, in the first beginning of the confusion, inadvertently consented to another's taking his musket, before he was apprehensive of the serious consequences of the contest, or something equally, if not more frivolous. That every such person should be laid under the same disqualifications, with the principal aiders, abettors, and promoters of the insurrections, is neither agreeable to justice, or sound policy, and was (I presume) never the intention of the legislature. But has not this been done principally by your own party? apparently upon the well known maxim, that misery loves company; numbers of such, have, (I am persuaded) been informed upon, and intimidated so as to take the oath of allegiance, and submit to the disqualifying act, who never had, and probably never would have been called in question, by any of the friends of government. This is undoubtedly no manifestation of policy. However as an individual sincerely wish, that, not only all such, but all in general who are fully sensible of their folly, in rising to arms against the government of the commonwealth, and are desirous to evidence in future, their being good subjects of the State may be speedily restored to their privileges, and I feel happy to hear that proper commissioners are appointed for that purpose, when proper discriminations will undoubtedly be made, so that those of your number, who are duly sensible of the part they have acted, may be restored to every privilege of a freeman, and it is my sincere wish, how great the number may be, who may with safety be admitted to it. But while the seeds of disaffection are still sowing by some, and the fruits of chagrin and disappointment are still thrown out, and malicious hints and insinuations still given, it is not to be wondered that government should be on their guard, and that an indiscriminate removal of the legal disqualifications should be for the present suspended. These observations proceed not from any distinction either to your persons or privileges, nor from any desire to have any additional hardships brought on you. For I most sincerely desire the contrary, but to set the folly of one part you have acted in a plain light, and to remove the apprehensions, which may be upon your mind, as if you were hardly or injuriously treated by government, and that you have no cause to relent the severity: and that the only way to lead to a speedy removal of these inconveniencies, is a cordial return to your allegiance and duty. That you may this way be quickly restored to all privileges citizen-ship, and that peace and unity may prevail, is the sincere wish of

A FREEMAN.

March 20, 1787.

TITLES of the several ACTS which were passed by the legislature, and approved by the Governor, during the last session.

An act providing for the pay and subsistence of the militia that have been now are, and may be employed by government, in suppressing the dangerous Rebellion, that takes place within this Commonwealth.

An act in addition to an act entitled "an act granting indemnity to sundry offenders on certain conditions," providing for the trial of such who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the said conditions and of those who shall be guilty of like offences in future.

An act for the limitation of personal actions, and for avoiding suits at law.

An act making perpetual "an act respecting the great-shoot in Ipswich, in the county of Essex."

An act regulating the proceedings on probate bonds in the courts of common law, and directing their forms in the Supreme Court of Probate.

An act declaring the disqualifications to which persons shall be subjected who have been, or may be guilty of treason, or giving aid or support to the present rebellion, to whom a pardon may be extended.

An act for the more safe keeping the records of the courts of justice and the records of deeds within this commonwealth.

An act establishing the rights to, and the form of writs de homine de replegiando, or writs for replevying a man.

An act for the more speedy and effectual suppression of tumults and insurrections in this commonwealth.

An act for incorporating the easterly part of the town of Dartmouth, in the county of Bristol, into a separate town by the name of New-Bedford.

An act for repealing in part, a clause in an act passed the eighth day of March, 1785, entitled, "an act incorporating the plantation of Shaftsbury, in the county of York, into a town by the name of Shaftsbury, and for annexing certain lands to Lebanon."

An act directing the method for laying out highways.

An act for the due regulation of licensed houses.

An act for incorporating a certain plantation in the county of Lincoln, called Majorbigwaduce, or Nutter Town, into a town by the name of Pembroke.

An act for preventing persons serving as jurors, who, in consequence of having been concerned in the late rebellion, are by law disqualified therefor.

An act for incorporating certain persons for the purpose of building a bridge where ferry-boats have been usually kept, and for supporting the same.

An act for granting further time to the Commissioners appointed by Congress, for completing the running the line of jurisdiction between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New-York, on the westerly part of the State of New-York.

An act for dividing the county of Hampshire into two districts for the purpose of choosing Representatives of the people, and for determining the places at which Courts of Record shall in future be holden in the said county.

An act to empower the town of Lebanon, in the county of York, to assess and collect a tax upon the lands lying within the same, for ministerial charges, that have arisen since June 26, 1782, and such as may hereafter arise.

An act in addition to an act, entitled, "an act in addition to an act passed in the second year of this reign, entitled "an act to prevent the destruction of alewives and other fish in Herring River, and to facilitate the fishery of the same."

An act for fixing off that part of the house farm of William Whitney, which lays in the town of Gardner, to the town of Winchendon.

An act for naturalizing William Martin and others.

An act for determining at what times and places the several Courts of General Sessions of the Peace and Courts of Common Pleas, shall be held within and for the several counties within this commonwealth; and for repealing all laws heretofore made for that purpose.

An act in addition to an act, entitled "an act to prevent illegally to prevent the destruction of French salmon."

An act granting certain privileges to the proprietors of the fulling-mill in the town of Taunton, in the county of Bristol.

An act establishing and regulating the fees of the several officers and other persons hereafter mentioned, and for repealing the laws heretofore made for that purpose.

An act for incorporating the plantation called Hunter, in the county of York, into a town by the name of Limerick.

An act for incorporating a plantation in the county of York, called Milliken, by the name of Waterborough.

An act providing an establishment for the Attorney General.

An act in addition to an act, entitled "an act for regulating processes in law for sessions."

An act making provision for the repair and amendment of highways.

An act in addition to the several laws now in force for regulating and governing the militia of this commonwealth.

An act in addition to the act for the more easy partition of real estate, passed March 11, 1785.

ALBANY, March 8.

On Friday the 23d ult. a dog was observed at Half-Moon, about 14 miles above this city, carrying the head of a man in his mouth. On searching for the body, it was discovered at the root of a tree, with a cord hanging across one of its largest branches above the body — the cord had been recently cut, tho' the body from its appearance had been at the place 5 or 6 months. It was the prevailing opinion that he had been strangled, and the head afterwards severed from the body by cutting. A few Saxon and Polish coins were found in his watch-coat; and, from some papers about him, it appeared that his name was Christian Frederick Jang, and that he was born in the city of Leipsic, in Saxony.

NEW-YORK, March 27.

Yesterday Col. Hamilton brought forward the motion for declaring Vermont a free and independent state, which was highly approved of by the house; in consequence of which a bill was prepared for the purpose, read the first time, and ordered a second reading, with little opposition.

BOSTON, March 29.

A writer in a Philadelphia paper, mentioning the origin of our present troubles having been said to be caused by paper money, says, "I believe this to be the truth, in part, but I think we should look a little higher, and enquire into the cause why God has visited that state and Rhode-Island above all others with such severe afflictions? The answer to this question will be, their cruelty & hypocrisy in being the authors of the revival of the slave-trade in the Southern States. It is a fact, that the greatest part of the Africans that have been imported and sold in South-Carolina, since the peace, have been carried there by vessels owned by the merchants in Boston and Rhode-Island. While this is the case, a good man can hardly, with them a deliverance from their present commotions and distresses."

On Tuesday last, arrived in town, Ensign *Stickford*, of the federal troops, from Great-Barrington, in the county of Berkshire, which place he left, on Saturday last. By him we are informed, that the Hon. Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, arrived at Great-Barrington on the 18th inst. attended by General Shepard and a number of respectable gentlemen from the county of Hampshire; and on Tuesday following, the Court commenced their session, without interruption, when the Hon. Judge *Cushing* gave a spirited and solemn charge to the Grand Jury, which was composed of gentlemen of the first character in the county; as were, three full petit Juries, returned to serve at that Court; that in the afternoon of Tuesday, the rebels taken in the action at Sheffield, on the 27th of February last, together with others of a like description, under a strong guard commanded by Col. Nowel, were brought in from Pittsfield.

Extract of a letter from Newport, March 10.

"We have some of the Massachusetts insurgents walking about our streets, but being protected by our government, we cannot apprehend them. The famous *Valentine* has hired a house on the Parade, and intends settling in this state. Our present charter is gone! — taken away by our present administration: But the real friends to this state, and the United States in general, will exert themselves at the next election (which will be in about six weeks) to overthrow the present administration, and elect such men as will do honour to the state. — The majority of the present assembly are paper-money men, and of Shays's principle."

From the NEWPORT HERALD.

NEWPORT, March 22.

Proceedings of Government.

A correspondent has favoured us with a summary of the proceedings of the General Assembly, at their late session, and requests us to give it a place in the Herald, for the information of the public.

The Assembly was informed on Wednesday morning, when the public letters were read, and a committee was appointed, as usual to report on such as required the immediate attention of the Assembly. — In their report were contained a letter from the Secretary of Congress with the resolution for revising the federal government; and letters from the Governors of Virginia and North-Carolina on the same subject. — Upon the motion, whether members should be appointed to represent this State in the Convention proposed to be held in Philadelphia on the second Monday of May, agreeable to the requisition of Congress — the question was put, and it passed in the negative by a majority of 23. As it was negatived from a professed regard to the Articles of Confederation, it was proposed that an act should be passed for assessing this State's proportion of the Continental tax, agreeably to the requisition of Congress, made in pursuance of the Articles of Confederation; but this was not agreed to, and the requisition was again referred to a future session.

A committee appointed at a former session to enquire into the consideration of the public securities due from this State now reported, — That the notes which had formerly issued on an interest of six per cent. per annum, were given for money loaned to government during the late war — for the wages and depreciations of the officers and soldiers of this State — for debts due from the confiscated estates and government. — That the notes issued on an interest of four per cent. were issued in payment of debts due from government in 1777 and passed as money, and in this situation suffered a depreciation. — The committee observed that *some* of the six per cent. notes were given for Continental money which was paid out of the Treasury to individuals, in whose hands it had greatly depreciated, and they were therefore of opinion that *all* the notes give on an interest of six per cent. ought in equity to be subject to a deduction; but it was said in reply, and confessed, that government had received the gold and silver of many of the holders of the securities, and that as the notes had been consolidated, the whole of them expressed the real value of what had been received by the public — no deduction was therefore made from the principal sum, — but an act was passed ordering the payment (of the one fourth part of the principal and interest in the paper currency of this State, now passing at an acknowledged depreciation of six for one, and subjecting the holders of them to a forfeiture of that proportion who shall neglect to apply and receive it of the Treasurer within six weeks. — The interest on the same to cease from the rising of the Assembly. The committee having reported that the four per cent. notes should be discharged at the rate of one paper dollar for forty expressed in the notes; an act was read for the purpose, but objections arising from some of the most influential characters in the present administration, and who are holders of these kind of securities, this bill did not pass the Assembly, but was referred to their constituents together with a proposition made by the Upper House, "that a committee of three persons be appointed to ascertain and determine the value which was given for them by the present holders, and that an adjustment thereof be made accordingly. The tax of 20,000l. granted at the last session was now apportioned to the several towns agreeably to the apportionment of the former tax, and ordered to be paid into the Treasury on the first of July next. A Bill was also drafted for the payment of the impost of five per cent. in the articles imported; but as this would have been a severe attack on the emitting act which makes the paper money a tender in all cases and in many instances could not be executed from the impracticability of the division of the articles imported, it was, after a full discussion, referred to the wisdom of a future Assembly.

A Bill was attempted to be passed for altering the present mode of representation in Assembly, and allowing each of the towns to send only two members. This was urged upon a principle of equal representation; but it seems difficult to reconcile this idea with the inequality which subsists among the different towns as to numbers of inhabitants and value of property, the only principles to be regarded in effecting an equal representation. This Bill was also referred to the people for a decision.

A proposition was made in the Lower House by a minority, grounded upon the embarrassment, occasioned by the present depreciation of the currency, and which had already prevented the due administration of justice by the supreme Court of the State, "that the value of the present currency should be ascertained, and that the same should, in future, be a tender in payment for debts, at the rate of four for one." The members who advocated this measure observed, that the money was now passing at a depreciation of six for one, and that the bill which was then presented would, if passed into a law, in some measure restore credit to the money and harmony in the government. They assured the House of their sincerity in the opposition, and if the Bill met with their concurrence, it should have their support. It was however rejected by a majority of 17. It was then requested that the bill might be referred, with others, to the people for their instructions to a future assembly; but it was denied by the House, and the Bill was immediately voted off the table.

A petition had been presented at a former session of Assembly, signed by 104 persons, residing within this city, for annulling and vacating the Charter, heretofore granted for the incorporating the town of Newport into a city; it was opposed by a counter petition, signed by upwards of 400 of the citizens. — The Lower House upon a partial hearing of the parties, passed a resolution for vacating the Charter. — The petition with this resolution was referred to the present session by a motion of the Upper House, when the parties were heard by them. No evidence was adduced to support a single fact in the petition; but it appeared, that the petitioners against the city, did not form a fourth part of the freemen nor had property to be assessed for more than one seventh part of the city tax, and that even a considerable part of this small proportion could not be collected from them. — It was also conceded that the corporation were formed of the most respectable characters, and were not chargeable with any malconduct, nor in any instance of violating the Charter. — Notwithstanding, the resolution of the Lower House was concurred with, and the citizens thereby deprived of the many invaluable privileges guaranteed to them, in the most liberal manner by Charter, and from which they had derived the greatest advantage.

The assembly are not to meet (unless specially convened) before the General Election.

We have often heard, says a correspondent, of sinking funds — but we know of no nation who have provided one so productive as that, with which this state are now furnished — £ 30,000 in the paper currency, is to be placed in the treasury, for the discharge of a debt of upwards of £ 100,000. — The creditors are now called upon to receive he one fourth part in six weeks. It is to be presumed from the present depreciation of the currency, that this will not be attended to, and so much of the debt will of course be forfeited. — Government will continue their calls at future sessions, and in the course of six months, the debt will be extinguished, and the whole money provided for its discharge remain in the treasury.

Intelligence Extraordinary.

We are informed by good authority, that an act passed the last session, appointing a Committee to lay out 150l. paper currency in stone lime, to be sent to New-York to raise money for our Delegates in Congress.

From good authority too, we are informed, that Menhaden and Stone Lime, are the two worst articles at that market, and that the lime purchased with that sum, will not, after deducting charges, produce more, than forty specie dollars. — *Glorious Trafic! noble support!*

NORTHAMPTON, April 4.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of this town for the choice of Governors and Senators, — His Excellency James Bowdoin, Esq. had 91 votes for Governor — Hon. Benjm. Lincoln, Esq. 98 for Lieut. Governor — Hon. Caleb Strong, Esq. had 90, hon. John Hastings, Esq. 88, hon. David Saxton, Esq. 88, and Gen. Shepard 87 votes for Senators, the ensuing year.

By a gentleman from the county of Berkshire, we learn, that some of the rebels, in the night of the 9th inst. set fire to a store, owen by Messrs. Penfield and Bacon, which stood in Nobletown, in New-York, near the line of this state, which was entirely consumed, together with about 600l. in property contained therein — and on the 13th, a barn belonging to Mr. Benjamin, of Egremont, was also set fire to, and, together with the grain, hay, &c. destroyed.

The person who set fire to the above barn, is one Woods, who has since been apprehended, tried, and convicted of the fact, and sentenced to the Castle for life.

Two of the Insurgents, who were of the party that plundered Stockbridge, were last week convicted of High Treason against the state, before Supreme Judicial Court, now sitting at Great-Barrington.

The Supreme Judicial Court, which was to have opened in this town on Tuesday last, stands adjourned to Monday of next week.

From the WORCESTER MAGAZINE of last week.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Winchester, to the editor, dated March 17, 1787.

"SIR,

"Would inform you of a singular circumstance which happened in this town on Tuesday last. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon a heavy rumbling noise was heard in a mountain in the south-east part of the town, at several times, for the space of twenty of thirty minutes, when, all of a sudden, it was seen, by one Mr. Gold, who lived at the foot of the mountain, to break forth and the rocks and dirt to move in vast bodies; soon after the first motions were discovered, rocks and dirt were seen to fly in the air, though the main body made its way down the mountain. Mr. Gold stood viewing it until the noise seemed to be over, when he suddenly heard it again, and perceived a second eruption taking place, at the distance of about eight or ten feet from the first; the noise and motion were as sudden as if they had been occasioned by a blast of powder, though he saw no appearance of smoke or fire, nor did he smell any thing of a sulphurous nature. I have since been and viewed the ground, but could not discover any thing of a sulphurous kind, sufficient to cause the eruption; there are many conjectures respecting the cause of it. The distance from the place where the eruption began to where it ended, was about 10 or 12 rods, and in some places 20 or 35 feet wide, and from 4 to 8 feet in depth. Rocks of several tons weight were thrown several rods down the mountain, and I suppose, at a moderate computation there was as much as an acre of land covered with rocks and gravel. The rocks and dirt thrown out are supposed by many to be several thousand tons."

CASH given for Long HUMAN HAIR, by *John Davidson*, at his shop next door to the Printing-Office, Northampton.

April 1, 1787.

RUN away from the subscriber, an apprentice Boy, named David Warren, about 5 feet 4 inches high, had on a brown fustian jacket, blue vest, stripped overalls and a felt hat; carried with him a scarlet jacket, a pair of black everlasting breeches, two woollen shirts. Whoever will return said run-away to his master, shall be intitled to Two Dollars reward, and no charges paid.

HICOCK HUBBELL.

Lanesborough, December 15, 1786.

Justice BLANKS, after the new Forms, may be had at this Office.