

informs them that the publication of Friday last, about which they have thought proper to raise a disturbance, interrupting the most consequential business, putting the legislature to trouble and delay, and the state to expense, was extracted with the *captain verbatim* from the Massachusetts Centinel of March 28, printed by Mr. Russell in Boston, which publication, excepting the words "Quintessence of Fallacy," first appeared in a Rhode-Island paper, printed at Newport, by Peter Edes. No doubt, if those gentlemen who have the DIGNITY of their state so much at heart would make a proper application to the government of Massachusetts, that that state would be as zealous in bringing to punishment the publisher of such a "SCANDALOUS LIBEL," as the state of Rhode-Island was in the issuing a Proclamation for the apprehending of the Massachusetts Infurgers.

The Printer however conceives that some honest patriot might doubt the expediency of interfering in that business. Perhaps he might allege that these honourable gentlemen forgot the dignity of their station, in noticing so trivial a business. If the accounts we have of Rhode-Island are true, the sooner known the better; but we shall then want a word more expressive of our detestation and better applicable to the great concerns of a nation, than that of *villains*—a term expressive of what is a manifest tendency to diffuse the sacred bonds of national unity and concord, to blight the blossoms of peace, to excite the horrors of intestine commotion, and to denude a rising empire in blood. If the report is false, it will pass off in the safe fabric of a wisdom—standing only as a florid monument of the honest patriotism or zealous credulity of a printer.—Do these gentlemen suppose that because our centinel gives the alarm, we instantly beat to arms, and say as Louis of France did, about the christening of a child, "come let's make war upon them"—or do they suppose that people will point at them and say, "there goes the Rhode-Island delegate."

We regret, that the intelligence, which is so much displeas'd the delegated importance of Rhode-Island, should be put on *Madagascar* wings by the mis-judging resentment of her servants, as we expect that from their conduct exciting public curiosity all the papers on the continent will record her proceedings with a greater readiness, and hallen its diffusion through all ranks of Americans; who, as they regard their country, will receive it with the mingled emotions of resentment and disgust.

But should we be so happy as to have it in our power, from good information, to contradict an account as yet uncorroborated, we promise those gentlemen to do it with the greatest readiness not in confession to us, but because we wish to make our paper the impartial vehicle of useful and political information.

If we have been guilty of any misdeemeanor, there are three modes, in which these gentlemen might have taken cognizance thereof, preferable either of them, to the one they have proposed. The first we shall but barely touch upon, as some may doubt our being serious, while others may suppose it dictated by self interest. But we do declare that had the Rhode-Island delegates, sent for a place in our next paper, a refutation of the charge of *villainy*, with additional strictures upon the impropriety of the conduct of the Massachusetts printer, we would have received it with pleasure, provided it contained no palpable misrepresentations. Secondly, This complaint might with more propriety, have been preferred to one of the honourable judges of our courts. And the legislature of this state, are too virtuous and politic, (even supposing a crime to be proved) to infringe the rights of her citizens, by an *ex post facto* law, to gratify the pique of two or three individuals. In short, these gentlemen should have prosecuted us for defamation. Upon so extraordinary occasion, part of their declaration might have been conceived in the following terms, viz.

"KNOW YE, that whereas Francis Childs has by his publication of the 6th inst. defamed and damaged Mr. Rhode-Island, a most VIRTUOUS lady, and plaintiff in this suit; because the said Francis, in calling her a villain, has absolutely treated her as a slurrer, we her counsel look to this court for reparation of the injury, and for damages, at least to the amount of ten pounds, paper currency of our state, etc. etc." In the Pleas, we should in answer observe, that commonly fame was against her, that we had asserted nothing as of our own knowledge, it was indeed true that she was dressed up in *crayon*, gaudy and tattered trappings, which gave her a very suspicious appearance, that she had lately been very wild and strange in her conduct, that she harboured in her house, men of the most infamous character, that she refused to deliberate with her sisters upon the most important concerns of the family, and that she refused to make provision for discharging her part of the domestic debt, etc. etc.

There would have been one argument alleged in her favour which would have puzzled the

wisest of them to answer, viz. her present virtuous, zealous representation in the hon. the Congress of the United States.—The third and most to Columbus would have been, by application by its learned professors, to have us reprehended for its abuse of poetical propriety.—It is because reprehension is the penalty annexed to many under collegiate government.—4thly, Because this is the proper tribunal to which to refer the discussion of a literary subject.—5thly, Because we have been apparently guilty of copying a literary error; since the justice of the protopopea demands that the professed conduct of Mrs. Rhode-Island, should have been filed in *trumpet-like* instead of *villainous*. To be as serious as this subject demands. Should the delegates of Rhode-Island be unable to convert this statement of proceedings, the event must involve consequences not only serious, but perhaps fatal to the tranquility of that state, and his duty, feels a conscious aceditude in having of his fellow citizens; and unwearied by the enroachments of despotism, or the overbearing affect his rights and privileges as a freeman, while he hopes that a truly patriotic spirit will ever pervade all ranks of men, and keep inviolate the sacred LIBERTY OF THE PRESS, which is the Palladium of all the civil, political and religious rights of the Citizens of America.

**LISBON, Dec. 9.**  
The sentence of death pronounced upon the offenders who committed a robbery upon the Royal treasury several months since, being presented to our Sovereign for confirmation, her Majesty tore the paper, saying, that as she was the only sufferer, no life should be made a sacrifice for the offence. It is imagined that it will become common to send public offenders into perpetual banishment to the coast of Africa, instead of punishing them with death.

**UIRECHT (Holland) January 15.**  
When and in what manner the differences in this Republic will be settled is totally unknown even to the deppel of our politicians; but this is certain, that the two factions begin to exceed those bounds which they have hitherto respected, and scarce a day passes without some occurrences happening, which, though of no small importance, seem to preface those of a more unhappy kind; the minds of the people get heated, and the consequences are much dreaded.

*Hague Feb. 1.* Whilst all plans for a real accommodation of the subsisting differences of this Republic are in a doubtful state of negotiation, we are much concerned to see the spirit of discontent so prevalent in many parts of these provinces. A bitterdram the people seem to grow a share of discontent, and the Regency is taking every precaution to prevent its breaking out into excess. The city of Rotterdam is most in the same state of ferment. From Deventer we have accounts that some of the Regents have fled, and that six hundred Burgers have signed an act by which they engage to defend the majority of Regents who have adopted the system of reform. Thus it is but too apparent that the spirit of party prevails throughout this Republic, and unless some means are devised to settle matters, it is feared that the consequences will be fatal to the peace and harmony of the good people of these provinces.

**LONDON, January 15.**  
The great Council which the King of France has called to meet him shortly at Versailles, is something like the Council of all the Peers of the realm, which King Charles II. summoned to attend him at York as he was marching to war with Scotland. It is thought that the question upon which the King means to take the advice of this great assembly is, the propriety of repealing the penal laws now subsisting in France against the Protestants.

The King of France is now busily employed in making the way clear to universal toleration throughout his dominions. So much has his most Christian Majesty this object at heart, that contrary to practice, for time immemorial, he has admitted into the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, members who have withdrawn themselves from the pale of the mother church. Yesterday morning, pursuant to their sentence, eighteen malefactors were executed on the platform before Newgate. They were turned off about a quarter past nine, and behaved becoming their unhappy situation.

The alarming intelligence from Rhode-Island has not a little agitated many of the American merchants. The trick of the Americans making payment of their debts in paper money is a downright robbery, as even in their own country it is depreciated above half in value; but to an Englishman, it cannot be of any service whatever.

A letter from Paris contains the following intelligence: We hear that at the end of last July, an army of 3000 English and some Seapoy,

belonging to Bengal, had gained a complete victory over some of the Asiatic Princes, and whom they had taken great riches and plundered. Jan. 20. Some of the private letters from the Continent mention a popular sedition broken out lately at Vienna; and although the accounts vary as to the effect of it, yet the fact itself seems sufficiently authenticated. It is to be taken up in the course of one day, and the profuse, considering the great number of the daughters of prostitution were dispersed in the ferent Convents, a profanation highly reprehended by the Monks, who to a man became infuriated, and joined, as were, those with the monks' peevish co-operation. In short, the fact among that part of the people, who are justly styled, the *feare that rises upon them*, the Imperial Palace was instantly surrounded, and creatures used to tremble but a few minutes before, now found himself, it is said, compelled to withdraw secretly from it, and he, compelled to the next day a Proclamation was published, containing an apology for the Sovereign in regard to his misconstruction of the law in regard to this step, represented as an act of clemency by some, was, by many more—condemned as the partaking of a dangerous weakness; but the further precaution of the Emperor, in enforcing military law, and forbidding under the most heavy penalties and punishments all such meetings, will prove more efficacious than any proclamation as alluded to, can be prejudicial in its consequence. A great number of officers, it is said, have paid with their lives for the rebellious attempt.

**Jan. 21.** The Spaniards are indispensible strengthening their marine, every possible exertion is made, not only in Europe but in the West Indies, to render their navy equal in number and force to that of the other branch of the House of Bourbon. The combined efforts of which are said to have made feasible, when the convenient moment shall arrive for changing that defective impartiality of compliance and efficiency, which is now the use of, not to harbour our sapient ministers out of their understandings (for that is it in the power of art) but to cheat the nation out of its menial sources of opulence.

The Irish papers are still full of the outrageous deprecations of the Whites; but the contributors they levy it of a more dangerous complexion, for it consists of gun-powder, even eight pounds to a bushel, necessary to take, to what purpose this gun-powder is intended, not merely to kill tracks and various crews, if unjust outrage can justify the worst consequence. We before observed, and again repeat it, that the country gentlemen cannot be too careful of their own safety and that of their families. We suffer this increasing strength among the insurgents, is asking like Charles the XIth, when his troops was set on fire at Bender: His last remark, checking the flames, was the attempt to extinguish them with brandy.

*Extract of a letter from Paris, Jan. 22.*  
"A most horrid murder was committed last week in a very populous part of the town of Paris, by a priest, whose name I say is Bardier. He was reckoned a libertine, used to game, kept a mistress, &c. His mother lived in the country, and sent several letters of admonition to him, but to no purpose. She then addressed herself to her eldest son, a very honest, industrious man; who had made his fortune in the law, and in purchasing in the public funds. She desired him to try every method to save his brother from ruin, and if gentle means should fail, to apply to the Minister and get him confined. The Abbe having got intelligence of this letter, was alarmed, and knowing that his mother always carried his whole fortune, which consisted of 200,000 crowns, about him, in a pocket book, invited him to spend the evening at his Mistress'—There, with the woman's assistance, this unworldly monster killed him, and both attempted to cut off his legs above the knee, in order to put him in a cask. They could not, however, succeed; for the body was found, thus mangled, three days after the murder. The left part of his effects the deceased had left at his lodgings. This accursed minister of Hell, and his Jesuit, went off undisturbed immediately after, and have probably reached, in three days time, a foreign shore. May such abominable plots of society meet condempnation; and disorder or remorse throw out of them, or both, into the hands of justice!"

**PHILADELPHIA, April 18.**  
A few days since, at a public sale of the effects of W—E—q, under a commission of bankruptcy, among other things a negro woman and two young children were put up at one lot, and all had been bidden for them, when a gentleman of this city interposed, and rebuking the inquiry of such sales declared he would purchase the unfortunate blacks himself, and give them their freedom: the first bidder disappearing, the gentleman generously offered \$1, which the clerk directly accepted, and knocked off the lot to him, to the universal satisfaction of all present.

On Thursday last, a little after ten, as Mr. John Rip, farmer, who resided near Reading, in this town, was returning home from Mr. Kerr's mill, near Germantown with a wagon load of manure, he was unfortunately way-laid by some atrocious villain or villains, who discharged a musket at him as he rode in the wagon, the ball of which entered his right side and penetrated almost through him, which put a period to his existence. The horse taking fright at the musket ran a way with the wagon to a considerable distance from where the accident happened, and some persons in the neighbourhood halting to see what was the matter, caused the perpetrators of this diabolical act to flee off, and prevented their design of robbing Mr. Rip which, doubtless, was their intention. The jury which sat on the body brought in their verdict, willful murder against some person or persons unknown.

**NEW-YORK, April 14.**  
Yesterday and the day before, a general anxiety pervaded the city, in consequence of a report, that the question, whether Congress will remove from this place to Philadelphia, was warmly agitated in that assembly.—It is however expected, and most sincerely wished, that this measure will not be precipitately acceded to.

*Abstract of late intelligence from London.*  
The treaty which France has entered into with England, not only in the Kingdom of England, but in Portugal, which is greatly disquieted, that treaty is materially changing with, and in some measure nullifying them. The debates ran high upon this topic, in which Mr. Pitt was not the least active. There is great clamour upon so great a non-attendance of members, when matters of the utmost importance were agitating a British writer observes:—"By this French treaty, which is not founded on mutual wants and redundancies we immediately lose a commercial treaty with Portugal, which is manifestly founded on our axiom, and by a happy experience of ages, has been proved mutually beneficial to both countries; and also hazarded the loss of our sugar islands in the West. This is marching at a snail and losing the substance out of our mouth, with a vengeance!—Even Spain, devoted as that country is to the French cabinet heads, although, and looks with a jealous eye, at the unparalleled negotiation now carrying on between the French ministry and ours! However, it will furnish them with a pretence for withdrawing their commercial intercourse from us, at least that part of it which is most flattering and beneficial to us."

Holland is like a ship at sea, without a rudder, and almost without a compass. Whether she will drive into a harbour, or dash upon a rock, is yet uncertain; but she looks like making shipwreck on the French coast.

**BOSTON, May 9.**  
WEDNESDAY the 22th ult. was the day on which the General Court, pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation of the 21th, went to meet at the State-House in this town. Many Members accordingly attended; but none sufficient number to form a quorum of both Houses till the next day, when his Excellency, at one o'clock, met the two Branches in the Senate-Chamber, and addressed them as follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, At the time of your last recess, there was no expectation of any further meeting of the present General Court; but another meeting has been thought necessary, in consequence of the death of Thomas Ingers, Esquire, by which the office of Treasurer had become vacant. As there is no law, authorizing the Governor and Council, in such a case, to make a temporary appointment; and it being apprehended the Constitution would not warrant it, the Council advised, that the General Court should be convened, as soon as might be, for the purpose of supplying the vacancy; and accordingly you are now convened for that purpose.

An interruption of business at the Treasury, must be at all times inconvenient to the public; but especially so at the present time, when there is such a multiplicity of it to be transacted, and the fulfillment of the engagements of Government depends upon its being speedily done. It is therefore, you will proceed to the choice of a Treasurer, as soon as you can obtain sufficient information and satisfaction, respecting the persons, who may be candidates for that office. The character of Mr. Ingers' successor, should be, likewise distinguished by an industry and application to business; by a happy facility in transferring it; and by the strictest integrity. This description, at the same time it throws what ought to be the character of such an officer, is but a just tribute to the memory of the deceased.

There are several other matters which also require the consideration of the General Court. You are sensible, Gentlemen, that the facilities, allowed by Congress to discharge a part of the requisition of September, 1785, are not now

receivable at the Treasury; the time of receiving them having expired the first day of the present month. A letter had therefore been written to our Delegates, recommending a speedy application to that Honourable Body to lengthen out the time for receiving those facilities. You will consider, Gentlemen, what is proper to be further done in regard to them.

Another matter for your consideration, respects the jurisdiction-line between this State and New-York.

I transmitted to Governor Clinton, with my letter of the 3d of March, an authenticated copy of our late act, allowing the Commissioners further time for settling that line, and informed his Excellency, that the Massachusetts Delegates, to whom I wrote upon that head, would, in concert with the Agents of New-York, settle the necessary preliminaries, and jointly request the Commissioners to appoint a time for settling that business. Soon after transmitting that act, and since the prorogation of the General Court, I received through the hands of our Delegates, a new act for the same purpose, passed by the Legislature of that State; repealing their former act, and making the appointment of two additional Commissioners necessary. As there was then no expectation of a meeting of the General Court for several months, and the Legislature of New-York continued sitting, I apprehend it would expedite the settlement of the line, if they should pass an act conformable to ours, for that purpose, and accordingly on the 15th of March, I wrote to, and desired our Delegates to represent this matter to Governor Clinton for his consideration. But I have not since had any information upon the subject.—The act of the Legislature of New-York will be laid before you for your consideration.

As a considerable part of the federal troops, ordered by Congress, in October last, to be raised in this State, have been enlisted, and clothing was preparing for them, they would have been soon fit for service; in which case they might have relieved a like number in our two regiments, employed in the Western Counties; or, if needful, have supplied the place of those regiments at the expiration of their time of service. But Congress has thought proper to discharge those troops, excepting two companies of artillery, who are ordered to be stationed at the Federal Arsenal in Springfield; as you will observe by several resolutions of theirs, dated the ninth instant.

With respect to those two regiments, General Lincoln informs me, that the several companies, of which they are composed, are completed; and that they are stationed as the nature of the service may require.

The Supreme Judicial Court are proceeding in their business in these counties; and the Commissioners, empowered to promise indemnity to a certain description of criminals, have been going on with their duty. The proceedings of each, contained in their respective letter to me, will be laid before you.

Nothing has made the necessary communications, I would so far bring back to your recollection the late measures of government respecting the rebellion, as to congratulate you upon the success of them; and upon the hopeful prospect there is, if those measures are continued, that the Western Counties will in a short time be restored to a state of tranquillity. This is the happy result of your cordial and spirited co-operation with the Executive in those measures; which were planned and executed pursuant to your recommendations; and have been honoured with your repeated approbation.

It has been my lot to pass through the several grades of political life, during a period the most interesting that America ever saw; and it is with real satisfaction I can take a review of it, in the solitary hour of reflection.

As I have been so long resident in it, and have had so large a share of the honours of my country, it is certainly decent to wish for retirement, that younger men, and of more ability might succeed the chief of government.

I am happy, that with this with the voice of the people co-incides; as in the contrary case, I could not have indulged it, without the imputation of deserting them in the present critical situation of their affairs.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to thank you for the confidence, with which you have honoured me; and for the favourable opinion you have, on several occasions, expressed of my administration; and be assured, that the recollection of them in future, will be a source of real pleasure. You will have the goodness to accept of my sincere and ardent wishes for your welfare and happiness; and will, I am persuaded, with equal ardour, join with me in the further wish—that the people of this Commonwealth may have just ideas of liberty, and not lose it in licentiousness and its natural consequent—despotism: That they may reverse the Constitution of their own framing, and govern their conduct by the principles of it, especially in the choice of the men, to whom, when chosen, the Constitution

has delegated the power of government: That their Delegates, actuated by the same principles, may be, not the violators, but the guardians of liberty and property; may ever pay a sacred regard to public faith; and by all their acts, in the best manner, promote the public happiness.

Under the salutary influence of such principles, the Commonwealth will rise superior to its present embarrassments, and advance to the world the mistake of those politicians, who declare, that a Government, founded like ours, on the principles of equal liberty, cannot long subsist.

May this Commonwealth, and the United States in general, be lasting monuments of the truth of a counter-declaration.

**JAMES BOWDOIN.**  
Council-Chamber, April 25, 1787.

Last Friday the Hon. the Legislature, convened in the representative Chamber, appointed ALEXANDER HODGSON, Esq.—Treasurer and Receiver-General of this Commonwealth.

The same day an Order passed in the Honourable House of Representatives, expelling therefrom Messrs. THOMAS IVERS, Esq. deceased.

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His Excellency the Governor, by request of the General Court, has been pleased to issue a BRIEF, most earnestly recommending it to the good people throughout the Commonwealth, to exercise their Christian benevolence, by contributing to the relief of the unfortunate sufferers in the late destructive fire in this town.

The Legislature, have passed an act, repealing such or parts of acts, of this Commonwealth, as may be repugnant to the treaty of Peace between the United States and his Britannic Majesty, agreeably to the recommendation of Congress.

*Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Canada to his friend in Boston, dated March 24.*  
"I am exceedingly sorry to hear of the confusion that you are involved in at present in Massachusetts, and, for my part, most fear the consequences. I saw your hero, *Sassi*, in Canada, with a number of his attendants.—Hope, for my part, he and they will meet the just rewards of their demerit. I think they are treated with suitable contempt in Canada. The poor fellow was obliged to leave his house and flight in pawn for his tavern bill."

**NORTHAMPTON, May 9.**  
On Thursday last, the High Sheriff of the county of Hampshire received Death Warrants for two of the six persons that were condemned for high treason, by the Supreme Court lately holden in this town, viz. *John Parmentier* and *Henry M. Cullick*—they are to be executed on the 24th inst.—The four others have received a pardon, and were, on Friday evening last, liberated from prison.

We are informed, that two only of those condemned in the county of Berkshire, are to be executed, viz. *Peter Wallace*, of Lee, and *Nathaniel Austin*, jun. of Sheffield.

The General Court, on Thursday last, adjourned to the Tuesday preceding the 10th Wednesday of this month.

*BRUCE'S Tavern, some time ago kept on Mount Pleasant, is now kept opposite the Meeting-house, near the Academy in Leicester.*  
\*\*A few copies of a *Travelling Sermon*, preached by the Rev. Mr. Lathrop of West-Springfield, may be had at this office.

### Zebina Montague,

INFORMS his Friends and Customers, that he has just received a fresh assortment of GOODS, suitable to the season, which are now ready for sale at his Store in Amherst—where they may be supplied with almost every article usually enquired after in a country store, as cheap for Cash as can be purchased in the country.—Well-India Goods of all sorts—Nails—Glass—Sweeds Iron—German Steel, &c. &c.

**MAY 7, 1787.**  
STRAYED from the Subscriber the latter part of April last, a brown Mare COLT, two years old, star in her forehead, not docked, and paws. Whoever will take up said Colt, and inform the subscriber, shall be well rewarded, by

**PEREZ CLAP.**  
Southampton, May 7, 1787.

### B. PRESCOTT,

HAVING enlarged his Wool-Card manufactory, is now able to supply his customers with all kinds of Wool Cards as cheap as they are sold in America.

Northampton, April 17, 1787.

A Person indebted to, or having any demands on the estate of JOSEPH MONTAGUE, late of Granby, deceased, are desired to bring in and exhibit their claims immediately to the subscriber, who is fully authorized to settle the same.

**JOHN MONTAGUE, Administrator.**  
Granby, April 25, 1787.