

From a Philadelphia Paper:
LETTER of his Excellency General WASHINGTON, assigning his reasons for declining the Presidential Chair of the General Society of Cincinnati.

Mount Vernon in Virginia,
October 31st, 1787.
[CIRCULAR.]

SIR,
I TAKE this early opportunity, in my character of President of the Cincinnati, of announcing to you, that the triennial general meeting of the society is to be convened at the city of Philadelphia, on the first Monday of May, in the year 1787. As it will not be in my power (for reasons which I shall have the honour of immediately communicating) to attend the next general meeting, and as it may become more and more inconvenient for me to be absent from my farms, or to receive appointments which will divert me from my private affairs, I think it proper also to acquaint you, for the information of your delegates to the general meeting, that it is my desire not to be re-elected to the presidency, since I should find myself under the necessity of declining the acceptance of it.

The numerous application for information, advice, or assistance, which are made to me in consequence of my military command; the multiplicity of my correspondences in this country, as well as in many parts of Europe; the variety and perplexity of my own private concerns, which having been much deranged by my absence through the war, demand my entire and unremitting attention; the arduousness of the task, in which I have been as it were unavoidably engaged, of superintending the opening the navigation of the great rivers in this state; the natural desire of tranquillity and relaxation from business, which almost every one experiences at my time of life, particularly after having acted (during a considerable period) as no idle spectator in uncommonly busy and important scenes; and the present imbecility of my health, occasioned by a violent attack of the fever and ague, succeeded by rheumatic pains (to which, till of late, I have been an entire stranger) will, I doubt not, be considered as reasons of sufficient validity to justify my conduct in the present instance.

Although the whole of these reasons could not have before operated, yet in conformity to my determination of passing the remainder of my days in a state of retirement, I should certainly have refused to accept the office of President, with which I was honoured in 1784; but from an apprehension that my refusal, at that time, might have been misrepresented as a kind of dereliction of the society on my part, or imputed to a disapprobation of the principles on which it was then established. To convince the opposers of the institution, should any such remain, that this was not the fact, and to give no coloured pretext for unreasonable attacks, I prevailed upon myself to accept the appointment, with a view of holding it only until the next election; before which time I expected the jealousy that had been excited, would subside, and this, I am happy to be informed, has universally taken place.

Highly approving, as I do, the principles on which the society is now constituted, and pleased to find so far as I have been able to learn from reiterated enquiries, that it is acceptable to the good people of the United States in general, I only remain for me to express the sense I entertain of the honour conferred by the last general meeting, in electing me their president, and to implore in future the bene-

dition of Heaven on the virtuous associates in this illustrious institution.

During the residue of my continuance in office, I shall be constantly ready to sign such diplomas as may be requisite for the members of your state society, being sincerely desirous of giving every possible proof of attachment, esteem and affection for them; as well as of demonstrating the sentiments of perfect consideration and respect, with which

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient and
Most humble servant,
G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I have thought it expedient to forward a transcript of this circular address to Major-General Gates, Vice-President of the society, in order that the general meeting may suffer no embarrassment for want of an official character to preside at the opening of it.
The President of the society of the Cincinnati in Pennsylvania.

From the NEWPORT HERALD.
The following is an Oration lately spoken to a private company of young gentlemen and ladies, by a sensible young man, fond of rhetoric and oratory.

IT is with concern, that I acquaint you, my young friends, that marriage an ordinance of GOD, so honourable in itself, and so absolutely necessary for the maintenance of society, is at present greatly on the decline.—The cause of this decay, in so sacred and beneficial an institution, ordained for the happiness of both sexes, in this chequered state of trial and probation, are various and many; arising from the inadvertencies of both parties, but particularly with respect to the female sex. I am sorry to say, there is too great occasion to fear it proceeds from the gaiety, levity and extravagance, which so dreadfully appears throughout the whole nation; Be assured, my amiable hearers, were you to endeavour by a sober, prudent and discreet behaviour, especially in public, to gain admiration and esteem, you would not want for admirers among the sensible part of mankind, however the insignificant coxcombs may laugh at it, and despise you for it; and how pleasing it is, to have the love and favour of the discerning few, I leave you to determine, fully convinced of the rectitude of your judgments, and the depth of your understandings. I am persuaded, ye tender and discerning fair, were you but to exert one half of that good humour and fragility you are mistress of, accompanied with those lovely intellectual graces, your Maker has endowed you with (though not possessed with those beautiful features some of your sex may have) you would gain universal love, and be proof against the strongest attacks of malice and ill-nature; let me intreat you, as you value your own characters and the good opinion of the world; to try the experiment without delay; suffer not the fashions of a licentious age, or the delusive pleasures of riot and dissipation, to throw off your affections from the improvement of your minds, the practice of religion and the love of virtue; lay aside the anxiety and solicitude of public amusement, which is but too evident throughout your whole conduct; hearken not to the voice of adulation, and thus, O thou, the flatterer with a just disdain: Consider yourselves as created for nobler purposes than to be gazed at by the passing croud, and act up to your dignity, as immortal beings; aim to be neat, but not fine; agreeable, not handsome; and virtuous without formality; let your conversation be intermingled with the sprightliness of wit, the flowings of good sense and the sweetness of affabi-

lity; your behaviour intermingled with modesty, without reserve; and merriment without levity; be sober but not dull; pleasant without folly, and prudent without ostentation—endeavour to be truly beautiful within, and your persons cannot fail of being lovely, thus acting, Fear not, ye angelic inhabitants of this low world, to make the lords of the creation your slaves and vassals; ready to obey your commands by no means to court your company by a smile, and joyfully accept of your hands, with a whisper of benevolence, and good nature.

SHELburne, (N. Brunswick) April 1787.
The New-England papers we have received are stuffed with electioneering squibs on the choice of a Governor and Lieutenant Governor for the state of Massachusetts, which was to take place on Monday last. The principal candidates for Governor are Bowdoin, Hancock and Lincoln. The parties for each are exceedingly violent; and verbal accounts from the friends of us, that they were carrying matters to such lengths, as must occasion great confusion and tumult at the election. Accounts further represent them as a wretched and distracted people—so far, in short, that the troubles arising from the late infurrection of some of their people (which is by no means quelled) appear to be among the least of their distresses. Poverty, idleness, faction and anarchy must ere long drive them to the last acts of desperation; and lucky then will he think himself who has quitted them timely enough to avoid the scene.

A NECDOTE.
A SCHOLAR of Dr. Busby coming into a parlour where the Dr. had laid down a fine bunch of grapes for his own eating, takes it up, and says aloud, "I publish the bans between these grapes and my mouth, if any one knows any just cause or impediment why these two should not be joined together, let them declare it." The Dr. being but in the next room, overheard all that was said, and, coming into the school, ordered the boy who had eaten his grapes to be taken up on another boy's back; but before he proceeded to the usual discipline, he cried out aloud, as the delinquent had done; "I publish the bans between my rod and this boy's breach, if any one knows any just cause or impediment why these two should not be joined together, let them declare it." "I forbid the bans, cried the boy. Why so? said the Dr. Because the parties are not agreed, replied the boy. Which answer pleased the Dr. who loved to find any readiness of wit in his scholars, that he ordered the boy to be set down.

Tappan and Fowle,
Have just received a good Assortment of ENGLISH GOODS, Which they will dispose of, at their Shop opposite the Court-House in Northampton, at the most reasonable terms.
May 16, 1787.

THE Partnership of WOODBRIDGE & DICKINSON, being this day, by mutual consent, dissolved, they request all persons that have accounts unsettled with them, to make an immediate settlement, with the subscriber.
OBADIAH DICKINSON.
Northfield, May 8, 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.
Feb. 1787.
Enquire of the Printer.
For Sale at this Office, Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States.
By Baron STEUBEN.

JUNE 1787.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

THE

NUMB. 40.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1787.

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

Sentence of Death,
Against John Wheeler, Henry McCulloch, John Parmenter, Daniel Luddington, Alpheus Cleton, and James White, for treason, passed at the Supreme Juouical Court at Northampton, the 11th of April, 1787: Pronounced by the Hon. WILLIAM CUSHING, Esq. Chief Justice.

Prisoners at the Bar!
YOU have been severally indicted, fairly tried, and found guilty upon the fullest evidence, of the heinous, all-destructive crime of Treason, of renouncing your allegiance to the community and its laws, from which you received protection to your persons and estates, of conspiring to levy and actually levying a public and cruel war, against your fellow-countrymen, to overthrow the whole administration of public justice, to subvert all rule and government, and to reduce the good people to lawless power, anarchy and confusion, and for these horrid purposes, of frequently and traitorously assembling in arms and warlike array, plundering, capturing, killing and murdering divers good and peaceable citizens of the Commonwealth.

Standing convicted of these horrid treasons, the Attorney-General has been obliged, by the duty of his office, to move for the judgment of the law, which is DEATH, to be awarded against each of you, for your offence. It becomes you now to argue, in favour of a sense of the nature and aggravation of your crimes, and of that heavy weight of guilt which is brought upon you, by rising in arms against government; which is the only mean that Heaven hath put into our hands to secure the blessings of society against the violence of wicked, passionate and restless men; free guilt by rising in rebellion against that free and excellent constitution, which has been the admiration of the world, which but a few years since, was expressly and solemnly established by the great body of the people through the whole state, for themselves and their posterity, and adapted as much as human wisdom could devise, to guard all the civil and sacred rights of every subject, to secure the peace and security, that is justly due in society.

You have with an inveterate spirit conspired and rised up in arms from time to time, against the administration of public justice, with threats and violence, and with a high hand stopping or endeavouring to stop the whole course and execution of the laws, the only regular means that can be instituted to redress all private injuries, the only dread of and security against the midnight burglar and highway robber and assassin.

Instead of obeying that sacred law of charity, of kindness, of mutual good will, of following peace with all men, and as much as possible, promoting one another's happiness, so strictly commanded by the Saviour of the world; have you not been rising up rage and tumult, war and bloodshed, and as much as in you lay, endeavouring to spread universal misery and distress among your brethren, fellow-citizens of the same community? Instead of a due reverence to authority, and submission to government, enjoined in the holy scriptures as indispensable duties upon all Christians, have you not endeavoured with all your might, to overturn all government and order, to shake off all restraints, human and divine, to give up yourselves wholly to the power of the m. e. restless, malevolent, destructive, tormenting passions? To introduce wild anarchy and confusion through the whole country, with all the horrors, cruelties and carnage of civil war, which some of your impious leaders have actually threatened, tending to involve numerous families, men, women and children, in anxiety and ruin inconceivable? Civil war! the sink of all calamities, the most dreadful curse that can befall a guilty people, devoted by God to destruction!

You have enlisted into such an impious conspiracy against your country, its government and all its laws, into such a bloody dangerous course of conduct, naturally tending to every species of mischief and criminality, as must make you partakers in the horrid guilt of all the consequent evils. Evils and mischiefs of your country, which a long life to repentance and regular virtuous conduct could never fully atone for. You have abused the reason which God has given you, rejected the kind advice of your friends,

neighbours and relations, despised the unparalleled mercy of government, which freely offered pardon for past offences, upon the mild condition alone of ceasing your outrages and engaging to be faithful citizens for the future.

Ridiculing this mercy, you have gone on obstinately hardening your hearts more and more, shewing yourselves irreclaimable, and that your lives are inconsistent with the peace and preservation of society. You have trampled upon the most sacred laws of your maker, violating all those sacred ties which bind man to man in friendly, happy connection, and which hold fast together. You and your accomplices have seized and carried about as prisoners, good and peaceable citizens, for no other cause than being faithful to their oaths and to the government, from which they and we all receive protection; bayoneting, plundering and firing upon innocent people, without provocation. Add to all these heinous crimes of murder, which lie at the door of every one of you, unhappy prisoners at the bar. The innocent blood of Walker, to whom you, Parmenter, gave the malicious, cruel deadly blow, cries aloud against you for vengeance, which forbids not murderers to live.

What but a barren void of the fear of God, ready to be a prey to the rage and hardened against all sense of social duties, could induce you? How dared you lift a murderous hand against a faithful citizen, in the execution of his duty, only to apprehend you to answer to lawful authority for your treasonable practices. And although the rest was not present at the horrid fact, yet that vicious union which linked you all together in rebellion against government, against peace, order, public justice, against your virtuous fellow subjects, naturally producing the most dreadful effects of every kind, must make you all sharers in each others guilt. The innocent of innocents from Berkshire, slain by your treasonous accomplices, join in the call for justice and satisfaction.

And where are those your companions, who fell victims to their own folly and yours, in the desperate attempt upon the Arsenal? God forbid! But may not their souls, in the dark shades below, where hope never comes, be now complaining in torment, that your enmity, your influence or orders, under Shays, were the cause which plunged them into eternity, thoughtless and unprepared? Your own consciences, upon reflection of these things, must strongly dictate that you have forfeited your lives to your abused, offended, injured country. And by those only, by the laws of God and man, can your numerous injuries be atoned for, or your guilt be done away.

It becomes you then seriously to turn your thoughts inward, to summon up all the powers of your souls to prepare for the solemn scenes which lie before you. Man has but one life, and that a short one, to prepare for eternity. Yours is almost run out, being hurried on by crimes to a untimely fate; a crime, which require that you should suffer as malefactors and public examples of terror to the world, to deter from such dangerous all-destructive inroads upon society. You must therefore soon appear for another, and infinitely more solemn trial, at the tremendous bar of Almighty God, the final and Supreme Judge of all mankind, to answer for all the wrongs and violences you have committed against your fellow-men, and for every injury, vicious thought and action of your lives, which will then be brought into judgment. Can time heart endure, and thine hands be strong when the Lord thy God shall deal with thee?

Think not to avoid the justice of human laws, but prepare to escape the righteous judgment of Heaven, which will fall heavy upon all impious, presumptuous, hard-hearted offenders. Far be it from us to wish to aggravate your unrepentant crimes. From our souls we pity, and exhort and pray for you, that you may so improve the few precious moments of life that remain to you, in tears of bitter repentance and contrition, in unceasing prayer and fervent application to the mercy of Almighty God, through the merits of the great Redeemer of the world, as that you may obtain his pardon and everlasting favour.

And now the solemn sentence and judgment of the law, and of your country, which the Court have awarded for your offence, and must

be pronounced against each of you—painful to us, but fatal to you, as to this world,—is this: "You shall go from hence to prison, from whence you came, and thence to the place of execution, and there be each of you hanged by the neck, till you are dead." And God Almighty have mercy on each of your souls!

CHARGE
To the Middlesex Grand Jury, delivered at the opening of the Supreme Judicial Court at Concord, the 24th of May, 1787—by the Hon. WILLIAM CUSHING, Esq. Chief Justice.
(Published at the desire of the Grand Jury.)
Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

IN virtue of our respective offices, and bound by solemn oath, we are called to defend and support the government, under which we live; consecrated with each other, that all should be governed by laws made for the common good; by which are warranted and secured to each citizen from all the rest, the sacred rights of conscience, the rights of his person and of his property;—to support that free and excellent Constitution, which has cost the blood of thousands of our friends and fellow-citizens to establish; that Constitution, which has carefully separated and distinguished the principal departments of power, that they might never combine against the liberty of the subject; which has marked out the limits and outlines of power, which are not to be transferred, and ascertained those great and essential rights of freedom, which are to stand forever sacred and untouched, by any or none of the principal branches of government, much more by inferior magistrates and private individuals.

We are called to support the general liberty of the people, not an undue interference with the rights of our neighbour, or to pull down that Constitution which has been reared at the expense of precious blood and treasure; but that liberty which is secured to every man to pursue his own happiness and prosperity as he pleases, only within the allowance of the Constitution and the known laws of his country.

We are called to support and execute those standing laws, which have been made or approved by the free representatives of the people; approved also by the Constitution; laws for the recovery of right, and redress of private injuries; laws defining all public offences and providing for the suppression and punishment of offenders and disturbers of the peace or society.

These offences are the objects of your present attention and duty; and the Court give it you in solemn charge, according to the oath you have taken, diligently to enquire into all high crimes and misdemeanors, dangerous to the Commonwealth or its peace,—against public justice, or of a publicly evil example, committed within the body of this county, and present them to the Court, that the law may have its course, and the safety of the community be preserved; all high crimes, whether capital or not capital, from high handed disturbances of the peace, riots and unlawful assemblies, up to treason, the highest crime which a man can commit against the community from which he receives protection, and to which he owes allegiance.

This crime, according to our statute, consists in a citizen's wickedly violating his faith and allegiance, by levying or conspiring to levy war against the Commonwealth; which may be, by any wicked attempt, by overt act, by force, to overthrow our free and happy Constitution of government and laws, by rising in arms to alter or suspend the execution of the laws, or from the Courts of Justice, or controlling the measures of government, or with force, in a hostile manner, to attack a fort, a garrison, or any where to attack the forces of the Commonwealth. And in the execution of such dangerous and daring enterprises, for every innocent peaceable citizen killed, all present aiding and abetting, are chargeable also with the heinous crime of murder; while for the life of every such unprincipled lawless enterpriser, taken in defence of the Commonwealth, it is fully justified by law and the Constitution.

This high crime against the people at large, comprehends in its train, and naturally produces, unless feebly checked, almost every spe-