

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1788.

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. PROCEEDINGS of CONVENTION. (Continued from our last.) On Biennial Elections.

MR. AMES, I do not regret, Mr. President, we are not unanimous upon this question. I do not consider the diversity of sentiment which prevails, as an impediment in our way to the discovery of truth. In order that we may think alike upon this subject at last, we shall be compelled to discuss it, by ascending to the principles upon which the doctrine of representation is grounded.

Without premeditation, in a situation to reveal, and avowed by the respect which I feel for this venerable assembly, I distrust extremely my own feelings, as well as my competency to prosecute this enquiry. With the hope of an indulgent hearing, I will attempt to proceed. I am sensible, fir, that the doctrine of frequent elections, has been sanctified by antiquity; and is still more endeared to us by our recent experience, and uniform habits of thinking.

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ment, in person; but by their servants, they govern—they do not renounce their power—they do not sacrifice their rights—they become the true sovereigns of the country when they delegate that power, which they cannot use themselves to their trustees.

I know, fir, that people talk about the liberty of nature, and assert that we divest ourselves of a portion of it, when we enter into society. This is a declaration against matter of fact. We cannot live without society; and as to liberty, how can I be said to enjoy that which another may take from me, when he pleases? The liberty of one depends not so much on the removal of all restraint from him, as on the due restraint, upon the liberty of others.

I hope, fir, that these reflections, will have some tendency to remove the ill-impressions which are made by proposing to divest the people of their power. That they may never be divested of it, I repeat that I am in favour of frequent elections. They who commend annual elections, are desirous to consider, that the question is, whether biennial elections are a defect in the constitution; for it does not follow, because annual elections are safe, that biennial are dangerous; for both may be good.

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abusing their honest credulity shall be the means of acquiring power. A democracy is a volcano, which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction. These will produce an eruption, and carry desolation in their way. The people always mean right, and if time is allowed for reflection and information, they will do right. I would not have the first with the momentary impulse of the public mind, become law. For it is not always the sense of the people, with whom, I admit, that all power resides.

The member chosen for two years, will feel some independence in his seat. The factions of the day will expire before the end of his term. The people will be proportionally attentive to the merits of a candidate. Two years will afford opportunity to the member to deserve well of them, and they will require evidence that he has done it.

But, fir, the representatives are the grand acquisition of the union. They are by impeachment to bring great offenders to justice. One year will not suffice to detect guilt, and to pursue it to conviction. Therefore they will escape, and the balance of the two branches, will be destroyed; and the people oppressed with impunity. The senators will represent the sovereignty of the states. The representatives are to represent the people. The officers ought to bear some proportion in point of importance. This will be impossible if they are chosen for one year only.

Will the people then blind the eyes of their own watchmen? Will they bind the hands which are to hold the sword for their defence? Will they impair their own power, by an unreasonable jealousy of themselves? For these reasons, I am clearly of opinion, that the article is entitled to our approbation as it stands; and as it has been demanded, why annual elections are not preferred to biennial, permit me to re-visit the question, and to enquire in my turn, what reason can be given why, if annual elections are good, biennial elections are not better?

THE FORSAKEN.

"The Song of the Heart, and the offspring of Love." OPPRESSED by the weight of my woe, Yet loth my fond cares to unfold;

Alas! for they know not my pain, The charms of his person and mind; But now he's forsaken the plain, Nor left one his equal behind.

Remor'd from a far distant shore, Some happier maiden to prove; What Delia must hope for no more, Thy tender embraces and love.

For Damon alone I admire, Independent of wealth, and of power; Pure love have kindled the fire, 'Till burn until life's latest hour.

With him 'e'en a despair will smile, Nor ought of his horrors appear; What now can the hours beguile, Since Damon, my world, is not here?

O Memory! awakener of woe! Recall not the hours that are past; Unless to remark as they flow, The scenes, tho' sad, cannot last.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven. An Act authorizing the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, to license the sale of real estate by married women, in certain cases, and for other purposes in the act mentioned.

WHEREAS it is sometimes happens that husbands absent themselves from this Commonwealth, and abandon their wives, not making sufficient provision for their support, who may be thereby reduced to great distress, not being able to make any valid contracts, or dispose of any estate of their own: For remedy whereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That in all such cases where any married man has heretofore, or may hereafter absent himself from this Commonwealth, abandon his wife, and not make sufficient provision for her support and maintenance, the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court are hereby authorized, at any of the terms of the said Court, upon the application of any such wife, to empower and enable her, during the absence of her husband from this Commonwealth, and no longer, in her own name, to make and execute any contract, either under seal, or otherwise, and to sell and convey any estate, real or personal, of which at the time of such sale, she shall be seized or possessed in her own right, and to commence, prosecute and defend any suit in law or equity, to final judgment and execution, in the same manner, as if she was sole and unmarried; or the said Justices may grant to any wife, any or all the powers above described, according as they shall judge the circumstances of such wife shall require.

and no suit pending, wherein his wife shall be a party, pursuant to the said powers, shall abate by his return into the Commonwealth.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That when application shall be made by any wife for any or all of the powers aforesaid, the Justices of the said Court, shall, previous to their granting any of the powers aforesaid, cause such public notice of the said application to be given, as by law they are directed in case of any libel filed by any married woman for a divorce.

In the House of Representatives, Nov. 21, 1787. This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted. JAMES WARREN, Speaker. In Senate, Nov. 21, 1787. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted. SAMUEL ADAMS, President. Approved—JOHN HANCOCK, 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 the continuance of, and in addition to an act, entitled, "An act for suspending the laws for the collection of private debts under certain limitations."

WHEREAS the time limited for the duration of the said act, is near expiring; Therefore, Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the aforesaid act shall continue and be in force, until the 3d Wednesday of the next sitting of the General Court, and no longer.

And be it further enacted, That when any execution shall be levied in pursuance of the act aforesaid, the appraisers shall be chosen in the following manner, and not otherwise. The creditor shall choose one, and the debtor one; but if the debtor shall neglect or refuse to choose aforesaid, the other party shall choose one or other appraizer. And in either case, the two appraisers chosen as aforesaid, shall choose the third; any thing in the aforesaid act notwithstanding.

Provided however, That, in case the two appraisers chosen as aforesaid, shall not agree on a third appraizer, the Justice before whom they shall be sworn, shall appoint a third person. In the House of Representatives, Nov. 13, 1787. This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted. JAMES WARREN, Speaker. In Senate, Nov. 15, 1787. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted. SAMUEL ADAMS, President. True copy. Attest. JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GAD SMITH, of Whately, and AARON GARRISH, of Deerfield, having mutually agreed to dissolve their partnership, solemnly request all Persons indebted to them, or either of them, to make immediate payment, or their Notes and accounts will be put in suit by the first of February next, without other notice.

FOR S A L E, at the Printing-Office in Northampton, The First, Second, and Third Part of Webster's Institute. A. L. S. O. STRONG'S and BAKER'S AFF'S ALMANACK, For the Year 1788.

NOTICE is hereby given to Licen. Matthew Gray, non-resident proprietor of land in the town of Belchertown, in the county of Hampshire, that his land is affected as follows, viz.

Table with columns: State tax, Town tax, Mill tax, School tax, and various land parcels with their respective owners and values.

NOTICE is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Leverett, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are taxed to a town tax for the year 1787, and 1788, as follows, viz.

Table with columns: Name, Acres, l. d. q., and various land parcels with their respective owners and values.

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NOTICE is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Cheshire, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in the Constitutional No. 1, and No. 2, in the year 1787; also in town tax, as follows, viz.

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