

FRIDAY, the coroner's inquest sat on the body of a young female in the neighbourhood of Rathbone place, who was found dead in her apartment on Sunday last, and, after examining a number of evidences, brought in their verdict, "Died by the visitation of God."

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.

Extra from a letter of a late date from Nova Scotia. "I cannot forbear communicating to you some intelligence, wherein the hand of God was singularly manifested in bringing to light the most atrocious and cruel robbery and murder, which was perpetrated in the city of St. John's, Nova Scotia, about three years since."

"I thank you for your kind congratulations on my safe return from the Convention, and am pleased that the proceedings of it have met your approbation. My decided opinion of the matter is, that there is no alternative between the adoption of it and anarchy. If one state (however important it may conceive itself to be) or a minority of them, should suppose that they can dictate a constitution to the union (unless they have the power of applying the ultima ratio to good effect) they will find themselves deceived."

"I am not a blind admirer, for I saw the imperfections of the constitution I aided in the birth of, before it was handed to the public; but I am fully persuaded it is the best that can be obtained at this time, that it is free from many of the imperfections with which it is charged, and that it, or a diffusion is before us to choose from. If the first is our election, when the defects of it are experienced, a constitutional door is opened for amendments, and may be adopted in a

putting him to death, alledging that it was by no means dangerous, and that he could manage it so as that that should never be the means of a discovery being made: But they deafened their ears to his cries, and all his pleas could not avail; they carried him off bodily, and after cutting a hole in the ice, they thrust him under, and then dividing their booty, they took their different routs. This man had left a wife and children, on the banks of the river St. John's, to bemoan his loss, and who not, until very lately, were made acquainted with his hard fate. Notwithstanding every possible means had been taken to discover the villains, all means proved abortive, until God, in his wife providence, disposed one of the gang to visit, very lately, the uncle of that child, whose life was preserved, on business: Scarce had the wretch seated himself, but the child viewed him attentively, and recollecting his features, the infant said to her uncle, This man, uncle, killed my pappa; this he repeated, and caused her uncle to notice her; upon which he taxed the man with it, but he denied it, though he was exceedingly confused; however, he found means to detain him until a warrant could be had; with which he was apprehended on suspicion, and carried forthwith before Gayret Clapper, who is a magistrate in that place. He, by stratagem, extorted a full confession, on his assuring him that his life should be preserved, on his turning King's Evidence. This he has done, and unravelled the whole affair. He is safely lodged in goal, and special warrants have been issued to apprehend his accomplices, and it is to be hoped they may be secured, and meet with their just demerits."

HARTFORD, Jan. 21.

Extra from a letter, of a late date, from the illustrious President of the Federal Convention, to his friend in Frederickburgh, Virginia. Extra from Mr. Green's Virginia Herald.

"I thank you for your kind congratulations on my safe return from the Convention, and am pleased that the proceedings of it have met your approbation. My decided opinion of the matter is, that there is no alternative between the adoption of it and anarchy. If one state (however important it may conceive itself to be) or a minority of them, should suppose that they can dictate a constitution to the union (unless they have the power of applying the ultima ratio to good effect) they will find themselves deceived. All the opposition to it that I have yet seen, I must confess, is addressed more to the passions than to reason; and clear I am, if another Federal Convention is attempted, that the sentiments of the members will be more discordant or less accommodating than the last. In fine, they will agree upon no general plan. General government is now suspended by a thread, I might go further, and say it is really at an end, and what will be the consequence of a fruitless attempt to amend the one which is offered, before it is tried, or of the delay from the attempt, does not in my judgment need the gift of prophecy to predict."

"I am not a blind admirer, for I saw the imperfections of the constitution I aided in the birth of, before it was handed to the public; but I am fully persuaded it is the best that can be obtained at this time, that it is free from many of the imperfections with which it is charged, and that it, or a diffusion is before us to choose from. If the first is our election, when the defects of it are experienced, a constitutional door is opened for amendments, and may be adopted in a

peaceable manner, without tumult or disorder."

NOTICE is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land lying in Granby, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are taxed in rate bills commencing on the 1st day of January, 1788, viz.

Table listing landowners and their respective taxes in Granby, Hampshire. Includes names like William Taylor, Joseph Gilbert, and Deacon David Nash.

Notice is hereby given to the following resident proprietors of land in the town of Chester, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in rate bills commencing on the 1st day of January, 1788, viz.

Table listing landowners and their respective taxes in Chester, Hampshire. Includes names like David Hodges, Richard Falley, and John Kelly.

NOTICE is hereby given to the following resident proprietors of land in the town of Berrardston, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in rate bills commencing on the 1st day of January, 1788, viz.

Table listing landowners and their respective taxes in Berrardston, Hampshire. Includes names like John Kelly, John Kelly, and John Kelly.

NOTICE is hereby given to the non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Berrardston, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in rate bills commencing on the 1st day of January, 1788, viz.

Table listing landowners and their respective taxes in Berrardston, Hampshire. Includes names like John Kelly, John Kelly, and John Kelly.

WHEAT, RYE, AND INDIAN CORN, TAKEN by the Subscribers, at their Store, for which immediate pay will be made. One third in Cash, the remainder in English and West-India Goods.

FOR SALE, at the Printing-Office in Northampton, STRONG'S and BICKERS'S AFFY ALMANACK, For the Year 1788.

HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1788.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION.

(Continued from the Supplement.)

REV. Mr. Well. Rises to express my astonishment at the arguments of some gentlemen against this section. They have only stated possible objections. I wish the gentlemen could show us, that what they so much deprecate is probable. Is it probable, that we shall be able to ruin us? Are we to object to all governments; and because power may be abused, shall we be reduced to anarchy and a state of nature? What hinders our legal power from being their power? They may violate the constitution—they may levy taxes oppressive and intolerable, to the amount of all our property. An argument which proves too much, if it is not, never nothing. Some say, Congress may remove the place of elections to the State of South Carolina; this is inconsistent with the words of the constitution, which says, "that the electors shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof." &c. and that representation shall be apportioned according to numbers; it will frustrate the end of the constitution—and is a resolution on the gentlemen who formed it: Can, sir, suppose them so wicked, so vile, as to recommend an article so dangerous? Surely gentlemen who argue these propositions, they are a very weak set. That we may all be free from passions, prepossessions and party spirit, I sincerely hope, otherwise reason will have no effect—I hope there are none here but who are open to conviction, as it is the surest method to gain the assent of our constituents. The gentleman from Scituate has told us, that the people of England, at the restoration, in contempt of the inconveniences of the confused state of the Commonwealth, run mad with loyalty. If the gentleman means to apply this to us, we ought to adopt this constitution—for if the people are running mad after an energetic government, it is best to stop now, as by this rule they may run further and get a worse one; therefore the gentleman's arguments turn right against himself, if it is possible that imperfect man can make a perfect constitution. Is it possible that a frame of government can be devised by such weak and frail creatures, but what most favours that weakness? Though there are some things that I do not like in this constitution, yet I think it necessary that it should be adopted. For may we not rationally conclude, that the persons we shall chuse to administer it; will be in general good men.

Gen. Thompson. Mr. President, I have frequently heard of the abilities and the fame of the learned and reverend gentleman last speaking, and now I am witness to them: But, first, one thing surprises me—it is, to hear the worthy gentleman insinuate that our federal rulers will undoubtedly be good men, and that therefore we have little to fear from their being intrusted with all power. This, sir, is quite contrary to the common language of the clergy, who are continually representing mankind as reprobate and deceitful, and that we really grow worse and worse day after day. I really believe we do, sir, and I make no doubt to prove it before I sit down, and the old testament. When I consider the man who flew the lion and the bear, and that he was man after God's own heart; and that I consider his son, built with all wisdom—and the error they fell into, I extremely doubt the infallibility of human nature. Still I suspect my own heart, and I shall suspect our rulers. Dr. Hosten thought this paragraph necessary to a complete system of government. (But the Hon. Gentleman speaks so low that we could not hear him distinctly throughout.)

Capt. Snow. It has been said, Mr. President, that there is too much power delegated to Congress, by the sect under consideration—I doubt it. I think power the hinge on which the whole constitution turns. Gentlemen have talked about Congress moving the place of elections from Georgia to the Mohawk river, but I never can believe it. I will venture to confide we shall have some honest men in our Congress. We read that there were two who brought a good report, Caleb and Joshua—Now, if there are but two in Congress who are honest men, and Congress should attempt to do what the gentlemen say they will (which will be high treason) they will bring a report of it—and I stand ready to leave my wife and family—sing my knapsack—

travel westward—to cut their heads off. I fear, since the war, have had commences with six different nations of the globe, and I have enquired in what estimation America is held—and I find it is a very good, honest, creditable man. I find this country held in the same light by foreign nations as well-behaved negroes, in a country man's family. Suppose, Mr. President, I had a chance to make a good voyage, but I tie my captain up to such strict orders, that he can go to no other island to sell my vessel, altho' there is a certainty of his doing well—the consequence is, he returns, but makes a bad voyage, because he had not power enough to do his judgment—(for honest men do right)—Thus, Sir, Congress cannot save us from destruction, because we tie their hands and give them no power; (I think people have lost their privileges by not improving them) and I like this power being vested in Congress as well as any paragraph in the constitution; for as the man is accountable for his conduct, I think there is no danger. Now, Mr. President, to take all things into consideration, something more will be said, to convince me to the contrary, than what I have yet heard.

Several other gentlemen went largely into the debate on the 4th sect.—which those in favour of it demonstrated to be necessary.—First, as it may be used to correct a negligence in elections. Secondly, as it will prevent the dissolution of the government, by designing and refractory states. Thirdly, as it will operate as a check, in favour of the people against any designs of the federal senate, and their constituents, the state legislatures, to deprive the people of their rights of election, and thereby, as it provides a remedy for the evil, should any state, by invasion, or other means, not have it in its power to oppose their federal representatives. These arguments were urged that the power is unlimited, and unqualified.

The 2d paragraph of the 1st sect. of the first article was reverted to—and some debates had thereon.—Gen. Thompson thought there should have been some qualification of property in a representative, for says he, when men have nothing to lose they have nothing to fear.

Hon. Mr. Sedgwick said, that this objection was founded on an anti-democratical principle—and was furnished that gentlemen who appeared so strenuously to advocate the rights of the people, should wish to exclude from the federal government a good man, because he was not a rich one.

Mr. King said, that gentlemen had made it a question, why a qualification of property in a representative is omitted; and that they thought the provision of such a qualification necessary—he thought otherwise, he never knew that property was an index to abilities. We often see men, said he, who though destitute of property, are superior to any man in genius and rectitude; and men who have most injured the country, have most commonly been rich men. Such a qualification was proposed in convention: but by the delegates of Massachusetts, it was concluded that it should not obtain. He observed that no such qualification is required by the confederation. In reply to Gen. Thompson's question, why disqualification of age was not added—the hon. gentleman said, that it would not extend to all parts of the continent alike. Life, says he, in a great measure, depends on climate. What in the southern states would be accounted long life, would be but the meridian in the northern—what here is the time of ripened judgment, is old age there. Therefore the want of such a disqualification, cannot be made an objection to the constitution.

The third paragraph of the 2d sect. being read, Mr. King rose to explain it. There has, says he, been much misconception of this sect. It is a principle of this constitution, that representation and taxation should go hand in hand. This paragraph states, that the number of free persons shall be determined, adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound from Georgia to the Mohawk river, but I never can believe it. I will venture to confide we shall have some honest men in our Congress. We read that there were two who brought a good report, Caleb and Joshua—Now, if there are but two in Congress who are honest men, and Congress should attempt to do what the gentlemen say they will (which will be high treason) they will bring a report of it—and I stand ready to leave my wife and family—sing my knapsack—

thereon, in the several states. But that it hath never been in the power of Congress to follow that rule; the returns from the several states being too very imperfect.

Dr. Taylor thought that the number of members to be chosen for the house of representatives, was too small. The whole union was entitled to send but 65: whereas by the old confederation, they sent 60—a reduction of 50 per cent. He had heard it objected, that if a larger number was sent, the house would be unwieldy. He thought our house of representatives, which sometimes consists of 110, was not unwieldy; and if the number of the federal representatives was enlarged to twice 65; he thought it would not be too large. He then proceeded to answer another objection, "that an increase of numbers would be an increase of expence," and by calculation demonstrated, that the salaries of the full number he wished, would in a year amount only to £280, about one penny on a poll; and by this increase, he thought every part of the Commonwealth would be represented. The distresses of the people would thereby be more fully known and relieved.

Mr. Wedgery asked, if a boy of six years of age, was to be considered as a free person. Mr. King, in answer, said all persons born free, were to be considered as free men; and to make the idea of taxation by numbers more intelligible, said, that five negro children of South Carolina, are to pay as much tax as the three Government of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Mr. Gorham thought the proposed sect. was in favour of Massachusetts—and if it operated against any state, it was Pennsylvania, because they have more white persons bound than any other. Mr. G. corrected an observation of Dr. Taylor's, that the states now send 60 delegates to Congress—which was not the case. The states do not, he said, send near that number—and influenced Massachusetts, which sends but 4. He concluded by saying that the constitution provides for an increase of members, as numbers increase; and that in 50 years there will be 360—in 100 years 14 or 1500—if the constitution fall to long.

Judge Dana, remarking on the attention that the number of federal representatives was too small as to endanger the liberties of the people, said, that this state was at liberty to send seven members to Congress, and though as many have been elected; the legislature had never yet thought proper to send more than four, and that liberty had not been endangered thereby. The hon. gentleman drew a parallel between the eastern and southern states, and showed the injustice done the farmers, by the present mode of apportioning taxes, according to surveyed land and improvements; and the consequent advantage therefrom to the latter; their property not lying in improvements, in buildings, &c. In reply to the remark of some gentlemen, that the southern states were favoured in this mode of apportionment, by having 5 of their negroes set against 3 persons in the eastern; the Hon. Judge observed, that the negroes of the southern states, work no longer than when the eye of the driver is on them. Can, asked he, that land flourish like this, which is cultivated by the hands of freemen? And are not three of these independent freemen of more real advantage to a state, than five of those poor slaves? As a friend to equal taxation, he rejoiced that an opportunity was presented in this constitution, to change this unjust mode of apportionment: Indeed, concluded he, from a survey of every part of the constitution, he thought it the best wisdom of men could suggest.

Mr. Nasson remarked on the statement of the Hon. Mr. King; by saying that the hon. gentleman should have gone further; and shewn us the other side of the question.—It is a good rule that works both ways—and the gentleman should also have told us, that three of our infants in the cradle, are to be rated as high as five of the working negroes of Virginia.

Mr. Randall begged leave to answer a remark of the Hon. Mr. Dana, which he thought reflected on the barrenness of the southern states. He spoke from his own personal knowledge, he said, and he could say, that the land in general in those states was preferable to any he ever saw. Judge Dana rose to set the gentleman right, he said it was not the quality of the land, but the manner of tilling it, that he alluded to.