

And our first Members to Congress, to exert their utmost endeavours to have such checks, and guards provided as appears to be necessary in some of his paragraphs of the Constitution, and communicate what we may judge proper, to our filter states, and request their concurrence, is there not the highest probability that every thing which we wish may be effectually secured, — I think there is — and I cannot but flatter myself that in this way, the gentlemen of the Convention will have the difficulties under which they now labour, removed from their minds; — we shall be united: The people of this Commonwealth and our filter States may be united. Permit me, therefore, most earnestly to recommend to the serious consideration of every gentleman in the Honourable Convention.

After Gen. Heath sat down, his Excellency the President rose and observed, that he was conscious of the impropriety, situated as he was, of his entering into the deliberations of the Convention; — that unfortunately, through painful indisposition of body, he had been prevented from giving his attendance in his place; but from the information he had received, and from the papers, there appeared to him to be a great dissimilarity of sentiments in the Convention. To remove the objections of some gentlemen, he felt himself induced, he said, to hazard a proposition for their consideration — which, with the permission of the Convention, he would offer in the afternoon.

**P. M.**  
When the Convention met in the afternoon, his Excellency the President observed, that motion had been made and seconded, that this Convention do assent to and ratify the Constitution which had been under consideration; and that he had in the former part of the day intimated his intention of submitting a proposition to the consideration of the Convention. My motive, says he, arises from my earnest desire to this Convention, my fellow-citizens and the public at large, that this Convention may adopt such a form of government, as may extend its good influences to every part of the United States, and advance the prosperity of the whole world. His intention, his Excellency said, had not permitted him to enter into the debates of this Convention. It however appeared to him necessary, from what had been advanced in them, to adopt the form of government proposed; but, observing a diversity of sentiment in the gentlemen of the Convention, he had frequently had conversation with them on the subject; and from this conversation, he was induced to propose to them, whether the introduction of some general amendments would not be attended with the happiest consequences: For that purpose he should, with the leave of the hon. Convention, submit to their consideration a proposition, in order to remove the doubts and quiet the apprehensions of gentlemen; and if in any degree the object should be acquired, he thought the subject might be finally settled. He should therefore, submit them — for he was, he said, unable to go more largely into the subject, if his abilities would permit him, relying on the candour of the Convention to bear him witness, that his wishes for a good government were sincere. *His Excellency then read his proposition — for which see Hampshire Gazette, Feb. 13.* This gentleman, concluded his Excellency, is the proposition which I had to make; and I submit it to your consideration, with the sincere wish, that it may have a tendency to promote a spirit of union.

Hon. Mr. Adams. Mr. President — I feel myself happy in contemplating the idea, that many benefits will result from your Excellency's conciliatory proposition, to this Commonwealth and to the United States; and I think it ought to precede the motion made by the gentleman from Newbury Port, and to be now considered by this Convention. I have, Sir, said that I have had my doubts of this constitution. — I could not, Sir, digest every part of it as readily as some gentlemen; but this, Sir, is my misfortune, not my crime: Other gentlemen have had their doubts; but, in my opinion, the proposition submitted will have a tendency to remove such doubts, and to conciliate the minds of the Convention, and people without doors. This subject, Sir, is of the greatest magnitude, and has employed the attention of every rational man in the United States. But, Sir, in the minds of the people are not to be allured on, at all of us. — A proposal, Sir, of this sort, coming from Massachusetts, from its importance, will have its weight. Four or five states have considered and ratified the constitution as it stands; but we know, Sir, there is a diversity of opinion even in these states, and some of them greatly agitated. If this Convention should particularize the amendments necessary to be proposed, it appears to me it must have weight in other states, where conventions have not yet met. I have observed the sentiments of gentlemen on the subject, as far as Virginia; and I have observed that the objections were similar, in the news-papers, and in some of the conventions: Therefore, considering these circumstances, it appears to me that such a measure will have the most salutary effect, throughout the union; for it is of the greatest importance, that America should be united in sentiment. I think I have not been hereto-

fore unmindful of the advantage of such an union. It is, Sir, essential that the people should be united in the federal government, to withstand the common enemy, and to preserve their valuable rights and liberties. We find in the great State of Pennsylvania, one third of the Convention are opposed to it: Should there then, be large minorities in the several states, I should fear the consequences of such division. Sir, there are many parts of it I esteem as highly valuable — particularly the article which empowers Congress to regulate commerce, to form treaties, &c. For want of this power in our national body, our friends are grieved, and our enemies insult us. Our Ambassador at the Court of London, is considered as a mere cypher, instead of the Representative of the United States. — Therefore, Sir, it appears to me, that a power to remedy this evil should be given to Congress, and the remedy applied as soon as possible. The only difficulty on gentlemen's minds is, whether it is best to accept this Constitution on conditional amendments, or to rely on amendments in future, as the Constitution provides. When I look over this article which thus provides for it, I have my doubts. — Suppose, Sir, nine States accept the Constitution without any conditions at all; and the four States should wish to have amendments, where will you find nine States to propose, and the legislatures of nine States to agree to the introduction of amendments? — Therefore it seems to me, that the expectation of amendments taking place at some future time, will be frustrated. This method, if we take it, will the most likely to bring about the amendments, as the Conventions of New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island, New-York, Maryland, Virginia, and South-Carolina, have not yet met. I apprehend, Sir, that these States will be influenced by the proposition which your Excellency has submitted, as the resolutions of Massachusetts have ever had their influence. If, Sir, this should be the case, the necessary amendments would be introduced more early, and more safely. From these considerations, and considering that your Excellency did not make a motion, with submission, I therefore move, that the paper read by your Excellency, be now taken under consideration, by this Convention.

The motion being seconded, the proposal was read by the Secretary, at the table.  
Dr. Taylor liked the idea of amendments; but, he said, he did not see any constitutional door open for the introduction of them by the Convention. He read the several authorities which provided for the meeting of Conventions, but did not see in any of them, any power given to propose amendments — we are, he said, therefore treading on unsafe ground to propose them — we must take it the whole — or reject it wholly. The hon. gentleman was in favour of the adjournment, and in a speech of some length, deprecating the consequences, which he said, must ensue, if the Constitution was adopted or rejected by a small majority; and that the expense which would accrue from the adjournment, would not exceed 4d. per poll throughout the commonwealth.

Hon. Mr. Cabot rose and observed on what fell from the hon. gentleman last speaking — that the reason why no provision for the introduction of amendments was made in the authorities quoted by the hon. gentleman, was, that they were provided for in the 5th art. of the Confederation. *(To be continued.)*

**LONDON, December 30.**  
*Extracts of a letter from Paris Dec. 13.*  
France is about to see — what France never saw before, nor Holland ever expected to witness — a colony of heretic, patriotic Dutchmen established in a Roman Catholic country. The measure, however, has justice, as well as policy for its basis. The industry of the Dutch is famous even to a proverb; and — setting every other object aside — ample employment will they find for that industry in the promotion of our fisheries, and in the advancement of our marine. At present, the only point in agitation, is, where shall they be established? — The environs of Cherbourg have been repeatedly proposed; as have also those of St. Valery, and of Crotoy, on the banks of the river Somme. To all appearance, however, Crotoy will be the spot; the whole district of which being the property of the Count d'Artois, which he has generously offered as an asylum to the distressed Hollanders.

Mr. de Bourgainville is every hour expected to set off for London; and the avowed object of his mission from our court is, to examine the British ports and report, after such examination, whether the disarmaments have been effected conformably to the Convention.

**PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28.**  
A certain Isaiah Whitcraft, who lived near the Lake Tavern, in Gloucester county, New-Jersey, having been confined in Burlington goal for a variety of robberies, broke goal and escaped to his own neighbourhood. The goaler having offered a reward of 40 dollars for apprehending him, William Fowler and Jonathan Smith went to his house to apprehend him. Finding

the doors shut, they went each to a door, and Fowler attempted to force in; and having got the door partly open, Whitcraft presented a loaded musket to his breast, declaring he would shoot him, if he came any farther. Fowler replied, he might shoot if he dared, for that his party would take him, and called out to break open the other doors, on which Whitcraft delivered up his musket, which was loaded with buckshot, but by address afterwards made his escape. On the Sunday following, the third of February, this resolute and brave character, William Fowler and his companion Smith, having armed themselves, again attempted to take the thief; when having got near to Whitcraft's house, he discovered them, and ran off with a musket and tomahawk in his hands. Fowler and Smith pursued, and after running near half a mile, Fowler was likely to overtake him; but having got within 20 yards of him, Whitcraft turned and presented his gun at Fowler, who then called to him not to fire, for that he was determined to take him, but would not hurt him; on which Whitcraft swore he would fire, and immediately did, and wounded Fowler in the cheek, the ball having glanced the jaw-bone. Smith instantly fired on Whitcraft, and put a charge of buckshot through him, who, notwithstanding, got up and attempted to tomahawk Smith. Whitcraft immediately after fell, and died in about an hour. Future villains may now see, however safe they may think themselves by being armed in the pines, that there are men who will have the greatest danger to take them. Fowler and Smith surrendered themselves to Col. Joseph Hoge, and were jailed.

**NEW-YORK, March 8.**  
*Extract of a letter from Amsterdam, Dec. 7.*  
I believe the inhabitants of no country in Europe can with equal propriety be branded with the appellation of rioters as the natives of this unhappy Republic. Yesterday and to-day the Exchange which ought to be ever held sacred, and where no party distinctions should be permitted, has been a scene of noise and confusion, occasioned by one of the headstrong patriots, who has been lately dismissed from his office of City-Councillor (Lodewyk Hovy, jun.). Neither he nor his clerks will submit to the *Vox Populi*, to wear ornaments of the colour of orange, by which means he incurred their resentment to such a degree that he narrowly escaped with his life: in the affray this day several people were much bruised, and one it is said will not recover.

In the riots last summer one of their gunners of the Orange party that was killed, was a few days after, by order of the magistrates, hung by one of his legs on a gallows the other side of the river. This day he was taken down by the Mayor Shertens, assisted by the Bailiffs, and conveyed to the house of his friends. To-morrow he will be interred in one of the churches with great pomp. One of the patriots killed at the same action, who was interred with great splendor, and every mark of military respect shewn to his remains, it is now said is to be taken up and placed in the lead of the other. What sentiment must be entertained of such transactions by civilized people!

It appears, by the proceedings of the South-Carolina Legislature, that every man in both Houses (the Senate and the Assembly) were in favour of the new constitution. As their Legislature is much the most numerous in the Union, in proportion to their number of free white inhabitants, this extraordinary unanimity affords an indubitable proof that we shall very soon see South-Carolina among the members of the new confederacy. Their Legislature must consist of above 200 persons, for Charleston has 30 members. It may be justly said, South-Carolina is an opulent, enlightened, & yet a very rising state. Their Convention were to meet the 3d. inst.

**PORTSMOUTH, Feb. 29.**  
The following melancholy accident happened at New-Durham, on Saturday night last, upon the family of that unhappy man, Eliza Thomas, who (unparalleled in history) regarded his beloved friend with a cruel death; but justice will not always slumber. Mrs. Thomas, with one of her children, was at Doyer, the place of her husband's confinement, administering that comfort to him, which in happier times, he never deigned to bestow upon her. She had left the care of her house with her remaining five children; these, with the one she had with her, made up her number. Night coming on, they retired to rest, and slept secure until the rustling of the flames awoke them from their slumbers. The fire took place by means of the chimney, which is 2500 feet in the country, was built of stone and slabs; the slabs taking fire at the top, communicated it to the house, which was all in flames before the children were alarmed. The eldest, a son, immediately jumped through a window of brick, escaped destruction; another leaped out of bed, and attempted to follow his brother, but the flames intercepted him, he therefore perished. Three others, perished in the flames. Their cries were heard to scream for help, but none could be afforded. The house being at some distance from any other, was consumed before any help could be collected to extinguish the flames. The effect which a taze of tragical mud had

upon the human mind, can better be imagined than expressed — but, who can paint the mother of the dead! — he impression which their woful tidings made upon her, beggars all description — her heart already torn with affliction, and her frame tottering under a load of woes, was poor-ly able to support a shock so alarming, or to take of a cup, whose contents must distress imagination itself! Her husband, it is said, could not support the stroke, but seemed as though his life was going to pay the forfeit before justice demanded it. Here we must let the curtain fall. What scenes are yet to be represented, as connected with this tragical history, must for the present remain in the dark. Should the curtain be drawn again, the probability is, that the conclusion will be equally tragical.

**BOSTON, March 13.**  
*The following Petition of DANIEL SHAYS and ELI PARSONS, was, on Monday last, read and committed in the House of Representatives.*  
To the Hon. Senate, and House of Representatives, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled —

*May it please your Honours,*  
YOUR Petitioners, grieved by the melancholy fate of their late errors, and anxious once more to return to the bosom of their country, and enjoy again the blessings of peace, under the mild operation of the laws — humbly beg leave to supplicate the mercy of the Legislature in their favour.

If the most unfeigned penitence, confirmed by an experience of the misfortunes, to which they have been personally exposed, in the course of their unhappy opposition to government, may be allowed to operate, they certainly have this to plead in expiation of their past conduct. Your petitioners do not mean to multiply assurances, but they beg leave boldly to refer to their future behaviour, as the best evidence of their sincerity; and they firmly trust, that no person will hereafter exceed them in the practice of such virtues, as are characteristic of the best citizens.

They have indeed been deluded, but they beg the Hon. Court to believe, that their hearts are still warmed with every sentiment of respect, reverence and attachment to the rights and liberties of the people, and to the laws and institutions of the government.

Your petitioners, may it please your Honours, do not presume to offer any thing in their justification, fully sensible, as they now are, (though they may wish to extenuate) that no arguments can be adduced to excuse their conduct — they feel, and they freely acknowledge they have long felt, the guilt of their own iniquity: They have unfortunately adopted a mode of procedure, which they are fully sensible cannot be justified; they will never cease to remember with regret, their not having trusted for relief to the wisdom and integrity of the ruling power.

But when they thus freely acknowledge their errors, they pray the Hon. Legislature to believe that these have proceeded from a misapprehension of facts — from a failure of judgment, and from a too precipitate resentment; — but by no means from an abandoned principle. — They have been obliged to seek an asylum far from their friends and connections, in a state of exile from their country. — Yet whatever may have been suggested to the contrary, they have never combined with the concealed enemies of America, to do mischief to her liberty and to destroy her independence. — No! May it please your Honours, however criminal they may have been in other respects, they cannot be justly reproached with this enormity.

If it be thought necessary that an example of their sufferings should be continued, to prevent similar disorders to those they have so rashly committed in this Commonwealth; — your petitioners would hope, that this end is already attained, as they conceive, in the estimate of their difficulties, there is scarcely an inconvenience or misfortune to which they have not already been exposed: But if these circumstances do not plead in their favour, they pray the Hon. Court would remember, that they have friends, wives and children, who are innocent, and who, with your petitioners, will be ever bound by the ties of gratitude and affection to the government, by their pardon.

Your petitioners, may it please your Honours, in thus asking to be restored to the rights and liberties they have lost, and to the peace and protection of the Commonwealth, are not influenced by the fear of further punishment; but in their resolute sentiment in the possession of such valuable blessings, they wish to have an opportunity of proving to the world the sincerity of their reformation, and of adding another happy instance to those which have been already so conspicuous from the clemency of this COURT.

**DANIEL SHAYS, ELI PARSONS.**  
Friday last, the Hon. House of Representatives passed a resolve for pardoning and restoring to the privileges of a freeman, Capt. Luke Deane, who for some time past has been confined in the goal in this town.

Saturday the House passed a bill, continuing the Tender Law, so called, until the third Wednesday of June next; which was on Tuesday negatived by the Senate — 13 voting for, and 10 against it.

The law passed at the last session of the legislature, for continuing the Tender Act, expired yesterday.

The bill for the relief of bankrupt debtors, is referred to the next session of the General Court.  
On Monday last, the hon. House of Representatives granted a tax of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS, to be levied 1/2 upon every poll from 10 years old and upwards, 10 2/3, including 2 and 3/4, upon each and every poll from 21 to 70 years old, inclusive; the residue to be affixed on the estates of the inhabitants, who are by law liable to pay taxes, agreeable to the principles of the old valuation. After the above grant, Dr. Cony moved, that the unincorporated plantations be struck out of the tax bill — which being seconded, and sustained by a short debate — in which it appearing to be impracticable from the embarrassment of the plantation in the assessment, unless a new valuation would be made, to compute with the liberal ideas of the Doctor, the motion was therefore negatived.

The House of Representatives, on Tuesday last, made choice of the Rev. DAVID PARSONS, of Amherst, to deliver the Election Sermon, in May next.

**WORCESTER, March 13.**  
*The General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island, the 1st inst. passed an act, for submitting the consideration of the proposed Federal Constitution, to the freemen of that State — which are to meet in their respective towns, in town Meetings on the fourth Monday of March; (the 24th instant) when after discussing it, they are to give their assent, or disapprobation of it by yeas and nays; which are to be sealed up by the Town Clerks, and forwarded to the General Assembly, at their meeting on the 1st Monday in March. Provision was sometime since made for the distribution of the Constitution.*

*Extract of a letter from Providence, March 2.*  
The General Assembly last night ordered the Hon. Felix Dowse, Jonathan Y. Hazard, Eliphalet Felt, and Delegates to Congress, to proceed immediately to New-York, to take their seats in that Hon. Body.

**NORTHAMPTON, March 10.**  
On Wednesday last the remains of the Honourable JOSEPH HAWLEY, Esquire, whose death was mentioned in our last, were respectfully interred, after having been conveyed to the Meeting house, where a solemn service on the occasion, was delivered to a large assembly by the Rev. Mr. Lyman, of Hatfield, from these words, in the three first verses of the third chapter of Isaiah: "For behold the Lord, the Lord of Hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem the tower, and the bulwark, the high wall, and the tower of the shield, and the ancient and the honourable man; and the counsellor and the eloquent orator." The propriety of selecting these words on the occasion, will be perceived by every one, who was acquainted with Major Hawley. He was born in this town, in October 1737, and defended from a reputable ancestor; having received an education at Yale College, he was for some time a preacher of the gospel; he afterwards applied himself to the study of law, in which profession he was eminent, his abilities were distinguished, and his integrity was incorruptible; — no man had greater contempt for the low arts of chicanery, or more constantly endeavoured to investigate truth and promote justice. Although he was an example to others in economy, industry and simplicity of life, and was many years one of the foremost in the bar, he made but a small addition to his paternal estate; but this secured him a comfortable subsistence, and he had no children, and never wished for riches to leave the necessities of his wife, his wife was left at full liberty to consult the interests and advance the happiness of his fellow men. His native town reaped every one of his private and public benefits. He was many years a member of the General Court, and held the office of a representative in the General Court, and held the office of a member of the Council. In his political conduct, he showed great zeal for liberty, and attachment to the rights of the people; but often regretted the disposition of many persons to abuse their liberty for a cloak of insolence. In public assemblies he acquired commanding influence. — He addressed them with decorum and dignity, and seldom failed to produce conviction by his manly eloquence and strength of argument. He was temperate, just, benevolent, and public spirited; the friend of the poor and the patron of the oppressed; a disinterested statesman, an able and honest lawyer, an obliging neighbour, and a good husband. He was an early and exemplary possessor of the Christian religion, and many years a deacon in the church, and held the office of a deacon well. During the three last years of his life, he was afflicted by hypochondriacal disorders, which had before affected him at different periods, and had rendered him in some instances very irascible and impatient. He bore the loss of his wife with much complaint, and he left a disconsolate widow, and many friends to lament his death.

On the 23d of January last, a motion, which was made in the House of Representatives of South-Carolina, for leave to bring in a bill to authorize the importation of Negroes into that state, was negatived by more than two to one.

Accounts from Maryland acquaint us, that there is not the least doubt of that State's adopting the proposed Constitution, by their Convention, which is in some measure certain.

A writer under the signature of a citizen of the United States, says, — "It is curious to observe the difference and the contrariety of the objections made against the new constitution. — His Excellency Governor Randolph views the equality of suffrage in the Senate as his principal objection. — Mr. Martin of Maryland inveighs with great bitterness against the inequality of suffrage in the house of representatives. — Mr. Mason ap-

pears much mortified that his constitutional Convention was not incorporated in the plan. Mr. Conroy complains that the rights of election are not properly secured, nor an adequate provision for the representation of the people. Mr. Lansing and Mr. Yates remonstrate against any system that has the most feeble trait of a consolidated government. — Mr. B. H. Lee and other gentlemen of the southern states object that commercial regulations will be under the undue control of the eastern states — the inhabitants of the latter complain of the unequal burden of an impost, of which the southern states must pay but very little from the nature of their population. In the middle states the clamour of opposition has been for the want of a bill of rights. Besides these, the commercial states object to parting with their commercial revenues; while the non-importing states complain of being tributary to the others. — Notwithstanding these various objections, all who urge them acknowledge the merit of the new system in other points, and frequently in those parts opposed by others. Does not all this tend to produce the most decided conviction of the difficulties that were encountered by the late federal convention, and the spirit of conciliation manifested in the plan they have proposed? Does it not equally demonstrate the utter impossibility of another general convention, chosen by a people so agitated, and so divided, agreeing upon a general system? And is it not doubtful, that a general experience, characters of eminence and ability, could be found to undertake the task? As such would be the conclusion of every thinking man, he must deprecate the wretch with extortions of tenfold horror; who should dare to suggest means of violence to reconcile such jarring opinions, and to endeavour to involve this peccetual country in the horrors of intestine war.

Philadelphia was founded in 1683, by the great Mr. Penn. It contains now almost 5000 houses, and 50,000 inhabitants, composed of English, Irish, Scotch and German descendants. There are in the city, three French meetings, three Episcopal churches, besides the Swedish Lutheran, which is now annexed to that order; three Presbyterian, one Baptist, one Roman Catholic, one Methodist, three or four German churches, and several other religious assemblies. The whole State of Pennsylvania contains about three hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

**NOTICE** is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the district of Eastampton, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in a manner and to the value of the year 1786, and town tax for the year 1787, as follows, to wit:

Name	Acres	Value	Town tax
Samuel Mather, Esq.	6 4 0	0 7 0	2 2 0
John Smith, Esq.	7 4 3	0 8 0	2 7 0
Lieut. Giddings, Esq.	14 3 3	2 4 0	4 1 0
The proprietors of the farm of Judd	22 7 0	0 8 0	4 5 0

Notice is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Hatfield, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in a manner and to the value of the year 1787, as follows, to wit:

Name	Acres	Value	Town tax
Timothy Henderson, Esq.	1 1 4	0 4 0	1 1 0
Lieut. John Field	0 7 3	0 0 0	1 0 0
W. William Acres	0 16 2	0 0 0	1 0 0
Joseph Craft	0 7 2	0 0 0	1 0 0

Notice is hereby given to the following non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Hatfield, in the county of Hampshire, that their lands are affected in a manner and to the value of the year 1787, as follows, to wit:

Name	Acres	Value	Town tax
Joseph Craft	0 7 2	0 0 0	1 0 0

**W**here the subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Hampshire to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of MOSES CLARY, late of Southam, deceased, reported in favour, and fit months being allowed to the creditors to file their claims, the said meeting of the subscribers will be held at public vendue, at the house of Mrs. Submie Clapp, innholder in said Eastampton, at one o'clock P. M. on the 1st day of April next, at which time all will be sufficient to discharge the same, with interest charges.

**JOSEPH SMITH, Ad. Colleague.**  
Hatfield, March 3, 1788.

**GILES FRARY, PETER GATES.**  
Conway, March 15, 1788.

**To be SOLD, at PUBLIC VENDUE.**  
On Monday the 18th day of April next, at one o'clock P. M. at the house of Captn. E. Dickinson, in Conway, 60 acres of the real estate of the late Mrs. Sarah Clary, deceased, as will produce the sum of 2000 l.