

order of Janissaries. This consisted in the arbitrary choice of such christian children through their dominions, as were, by promises of the greatest growth of body, and vigour of constitution and courage, thought most fit for the Emperor's peculiar service. These, at a proper age, entered among the emperor's guards which lessened the number of christians, and in proportion, increased the Mussulmans, and the strength of their government. A seventh was, the greatest temperance introduced among them in abstinence from wine, and in provision of one sort of food, which was rice. The last that shall be mentioned is, the speediness and severity of their justice civil and military. When any officer of the crown comes to be charged, or even suspected of bad conduct, he, without any form of trial suffers immediate execution. Be he a Viceroy, who is absolute in a province; or the grand Vizir, who has the whole military government in the empire devolved upon him, a Capigi is instantly dispatched with the silken cord, with orders for the execution of the dreadful imperial decree.

At sight of the executioner, the unhappy man knows his fate. If he speaks as the absolute government bids him, he cries the will of God and the emperor; or words to that purpose.

The growth and progress of the Turkish Empire was sudden and violent for the two or three first centuries; but has been at a stand for more than two hundred years. There are second causes obvious enough to account for it; A neglect has obtained into several of those orders, which were essential to the constitution. Intemperance as to wines, and abandoned luxury with respect to women, now prevail. Their institution of the Janissaries has been likewise much altered, by the corruption of officers, who have long suffered the christians to buy off that tribute of their children; and the Turks to purchase the preference of theirs to that order. These distempers have produced another, namely, the mutinous humor of this body of Janissaries, who, finding their own strength long since began to make what alterations they pleased in the state. By the convulsion in the time of the *basia* of Aleppo, the Ottoman race had ended, had not that bold adventurer, been surprised and strangled by old Cuperly, then grand Vizir, and absolute in the government, Ibrahim, the father of the reigning Sultan had been deposed and strangled, some time before. The son who was seated on the throne, by the *basia* of Aleppo's enterprise failing, continued to reign emperor. The neglect of marine affairs has been another reason of the decay of the Turks. They long ago commonly said, that God had given the earth to the Mussulmans, and the sea to the Christians. The last that shall be observed, is the excessive use of opium. This they make use of to replace the want of wine, and divert their minds from their melancholy reflections on the ill conditions of their fortunes and lives, which depend on the caprice of their grand signiors and vizirs. This, for the present, allays all melancholy fumes and thoughts; but they soon recur again, which occasions the frequent use of it, than which nothing can more enervate the body and mind.

#### LONDON, April 5.

Europe is likely to present a scene of horror and devastation; fire, sword, famine and pestilence compose the dreadful catalogue of miseries which threaten that quarter. The Empress has been some months actually engaged, the Emperor, with his whole force is now involved; the Barbary States are arming to make a prey of the helpless on both sides; the plague rages

at Constantinople, and in the Turkish army on the frontiers, from which it may be expected to pass into the Imperial armies. In such a situation of continental politics, who can wonder if true policy inclines our administration to remain perfectly neutral; nothing can be got, while much may be lost, but the true reason of prohibiting our seamen from serving abroad lies deeper than this avowed neutrality; Our nearer neighbours are not by any means at rest; there are certain advices of the armada preparing at Cadix; and we have no doubt our ambassador at Madrid will make the proper inquiries into the cause of it.

When once the Turks introduce the plague into the Russian and Austrian armies, farewell then all contest! Death need "take no other shape than that," and destruction will make strides beyond the sword. Against this event, European Power ought to take the most guarded precaution; for should the plague reach Russia and Germany, where its ravages may stop, none can tell.

April 6. It is a very natural supposition that the Dey of Algiers will assist the Turks; for is not the Grand Seigneur his protector, and is he not a native of Turkey? The first Dey of Algiers was appointed by the Sultan; and the word "Dey," in the Turkish language, signifies "Uncle," by the mother's side, and the reason is, the Turkish soldiery look upon the Grand Sultan as their father, the Republic as their mother, and the Dey of Algiers as the brother of the Republic, consequently the uncle of all the inhabitants. So that the uncle is expected to assist his numerous nephews and nieces. He is of the race of Mahomet, and wears two plumes in his turban, with a rich white sash. He is not only a complete soldier, but a man of taste in some of the sciences. In an apartment of his palace, there is a distinguished piece of painting of the Syrens challenging the Muses to a trial of skill in singing. The Muses plucking the golden feathers from the Syrens wings for their presumption, and forming them into crowns for their own heads, is described to be most admirably executed.

The Spanish Marine is arming with much diligence in every department. Six ships of the line are ordered to be got ready for sailing in the beginning of May; and others to the amount of 10, are to be forwarded with all expedition.

Contrary to the representations of most of the Newspapers of late, the whole current of news by the foreign mails indicates no very sincere disposition to peace either in France or Spain; the movements of the army in the former, and the formidable marine preparations of the latter, without any satisfactory substantial reasons assigned for either, are not very favourable symptoms of permanent peace and friendship between Great Britain and the House of Bourbon. How far our ministers may depend upon French assurances in contradiction to their actions, is for them to consider: we think upon very slippery ties for plain Englishmen to depend upon. We do not find that the Spaniards are very profuse or explicit in their assurance to our Court or any other Court. They seem to have suffered ourselves to be padlocked by the late famous convention.

April 11. The intelligence conveyed in a morning Paper of Thursday, respecting a courier being arrived at Versailles with intimation of the Court of Spain, that it would not permit the entrance of the Russian fleet into the Mediterranean, is equally erroneous, as that the Empress of Rus-

sia has been dethroned. Neither of these accounts is the truth. On the contrary the Empress of Russia, some time since, obtained the full permission of the Court of Spain, for her ships to enter the Mediterranean.

The Court of Petersburg have received dispatches from the army of Prince Potemkin, posted at Elizabeth Gorad, dated 7th February.

They state, that on the 27th of October the Troops of Kabandie, consisting of 2000 men, armed in coats of mail, 3000 ordinary soldiers, with their commander, Misart, and 40 Princes of that country, marched against the people of the Cuban. They first reduced the inhabitants of Babchevsk, consisting of 2000 families, and obliged them to give hostages for their future friendship. After that they marched towards the river Urley, and reduced 800 habitations of the Monteregine Tartars, obliging them also to give hostages. Proceeding further, they reduced 3500 more Tartar habitations, obliged them not only to give hostages, and swear allegiance, but also to swear to defend the Russian empire against their enemies.

Tuesday's night, was tried at the Worcester sittings, by a special Jury, an action brought by a lady against a gentleman, to recover damages, on account of his non-performance of a promise of marriage, the lady laid her damage at 20,000. but the Jury after a long investigation of the circumstances attending the manner, gave their verdict of 600l.

A curious duel was fought a day or two since, in a field near the Drum-ordra road; between two journeymen tailors. Having quarrelled over night, they agreed to fight next morning not with sword, pistol, needle or bodkin, but with their shears. They accordingly met at the place appointed; took their ground and advanced, somewhat in the attitude of fencing. Several ships were made without effect; but at length a well directed *ship*, divided the nostril of one of the combatants; but the hero of the shears, not recovering his instrument so suddenly as he might have done, his antagonist took the advantage and snipped off a full half of the other's right ear. Blood being thus drawn on both sides, the seconds interfered, and declaring that each of the brethren of the shears had demonstrated more than the ninth part of manhood, they ought to be reconciled. This was immediately assented to by the *shipping dwellers*, who shook hands, and returned home in perfect amity.

#### HALIFAX, May 22.

Thursday last arrived the ship Neptune, Capt. Martin, from Gibraltar, from which place she made her passage in 29 days. In the Neptune, came passenger, Capt. Wilks of the Royal Artillery, &c.

This gentleman informs that the Emperor of Morocco, having taken umbrage at some indignity which he conceived to have been offered him by the English, had ordered all the British vessels from his ports, and would not even allow the smallest communication to be kept up between his subjects and the garrison of Gibraltar, nor an article of provision to be transported thither. That in consequence of these orders, the English merchants, factors, &c. had retired from the Barbary dominions with the utmost expedition. The British Consul at Tangier, being informed of these proceedings, was also preparing to depart; the Governor of that port, however, understanding his intentions, requested him to remain a short time further, insinuating that affairs might yet take an amicable turn.

It is known that the Emperor of Morocco, must for religion sake, assist the Turks; and it is also known, that the

English are assisting the empress of Russia against the Turks. This may be the cause of umbrage in the Emperor.

#### RICHMOND, (Virginia) June 4.

#### STATE CONVENTION.

Monday, June 2, 1788.

On which day, being the day appointed by the resolutions of the General Assembly for the meeting of the Convention, such of the members as appeared attended at the State House, and took their seats in Convention, and a majority of the whole number being present.

The Hon. Edmund Pendleton, was nominated, and unanimously elected President of the Convention.

Tuesday, June 3d.

The resolution of Congress of the 28th of September last, together with the report of the Federal Convention lately held in Philadelphia, the resolution of the General Assembly of the 25th of October last, and the act of the General Assembly, intitled "An act concerning the Convention to be held in June next," were read; whereupon,

Resolved, That no question, general or particular, shall be propounded in this Convention, upon the proposed constitution of government for the United States, or upon any clause or article thereof, until the constitution shall have been discussed, clause by clause, through all its parts.

On motion, Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole Convention, to take into consideration the proposed constitution of government for the United States.

And then the Convention adjourned until to-morrow, eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, after an absence of nine years, arrived in this metropolis, from England, his Excellency JOHN ADAMS, Esq. late Ambassador from the United States of America, to the Court of Great-Britain with his lady. His Excellency the Governour having previously ordered, that every mark of respect, be paid his Excellency on his arrival, the approach of the ship in which he arrived, was announced by a signal from the Light and a discharge of cannon from the Castle; when off the Castle he was saluted with a federal discharge of cannon from that fortress, and when the ship had arrived at her moorings, the Secretary of the State, by order of his Excellency the Governour, repaired in his Excellency's carriage to the end of the pier, from whence, as the state barge, the Secretary waited on the Ambassador on board, and in his Excellency the Governour's name congratulated him on his arrival, and invited him and family to his Excellency's seat. The wind being fresh and fair, the ship arrived at town too early to admit our fellow citizens receiving his Excellency in the manner they had previously intended; Notwithstanding, short as the time was, the pier was crowded; and his Excellency welcomed on shore by three huzzas from several thousand persons. The Secretary of the State, accompanied his Excellency in the barge on shore, where his Excellency the Governour's carriage waited for him; in which he, his lady, the Secretary of the state, and others, rode to the Governour's house, receiving as he passed the compliments and congratulations of his fellow citizens. The bells in the several churches rang during the remainder of the day; every countenance wore the expressions of joy; and every voice testified that approbation of the eminent services his Excellency had rendered his country in a manner becoming freeman and men alive to the sensations of gratitude.

Mr. Adams resides at the house of his Excellency the Governour, where he on Tuesday received the congratulations of his Honour the Lieutenant Governour, the hon.

Council, and the heads of the several departments of government on his safe arrival in his native country.

Besides his Excellency Mr. Adams, and Lady, the Rev. John Murray, John Stuart, Esq. Collector of customs for the island of Bermuda, and Mr. William Byrd, of Portsmouth, came passengers with Capt. Callahan.

Tuesday a committee of the hon. legislature presented the following address to the hon. Mr. Adams.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
In SENATE, June 19, 1788.

ORDERED, That Caleb Strong, Joseph B. Varnum, and Thomas Dawes, Esquires, with such as the hon. house may join, be a committee to present to the hon. JOHN ADAMS, Esquire, the following address. Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President.  
In the House of Representatives, June 18, 1788.

Read and concurred, And Mr. Hunt, Mr. Fenes, Mr. Russell, of Bolton, and Mr. Ames, are joined.  
THEODORE SEDGWICK, Speaker.

SIR,  
THE return of yourself and family, to the United States, and to this your native State in particular, is gratifying to all who recollect your many successful labors in the service of your country.

To the patriot citizens of a free Commonwealth, the affection of an enlightened people, will appear the most illustrious reward.

The Legislature of Massachusetts, just to the merit of all her citizens, and particularly mindful of yours participate in the public satisfaction which is manifest on your arrival: And in these congratulations, the legislature are confident that they express the sentiments of the people.

To the foregoing address, Mr. Adams returned the following answer.

To the Hon. the LEGISLATURE of the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.

THE kind and condescending congratulations, of so illustrious a Body as the Legislature of Massachusetts, on my arrival, with my family in this my native Country, does me great honor, and demands my most grateful acknowledgments.

If the dangers and fatigues which have fallen to my share in the course of a memorable revolution, have contributed in any degree to the acquisition or security of those inestimable blessings of Independence and Peace, of Commerce and Territory, of civil and religious Liberty, which this country now enjoys, the reflection of them will be a source of consolation to me in my last period; and the candour and indulgence with which they have been received by my fellow citizens, will ever be remembered with gratitude.

JOHN ADAMS.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in New York, to his friend in this town, dated 12th instant.

There are authentic accounts in town from Virginia, which announce the most flattering prospect of the determination of their Convention on the great question of the Constitution, Governour Randolph on Thursday last spoke much in favour of it; this is a great point gain'd, and there remains scarcely a shadow of doubt but it will be adopted by the Convention of the ancient dominion. I congratulate you sincerely on this momentous event.

NORTHAMPTON, JUNE 25.  
By a Gentleman who arrived in this town on Monday evening from Concord in the State of New-Hampshire, we have received the important and agreeable intelligence,

that the Convention of that State, which met at that place on the 17th instant, did on Saturday last, assent to, and ratify the federal constitution, by a majority of eleven votes; the whole number of votes was 103, of which 57 were in favour of the Constitution.

Abiel Converse who was to have been executed on the morrow for the murder of her bastard child, is reprieved for three weeks.

DIED, On Monday last, Capt. JOSEPH COOK, keeper of the Goal in this Town, in the 62d year of his Age.

#### A N E C D O T E.

A COUNTRY School Master asked a Sailor, What was the third and half a third of ten pence? The fellow who was illiterate, (and consequently unacquainted with arithmetic) evaded the answer, by intimating that his measurements were by, and he did not care to give that for nothing which he had paid for at so dear a rate, adding, that he could get the school-master, a much harder sum. What is it? cried the former, (with his chalk ready for casting) why, repaid the Sailor, If a pound of cheese cost four pence, what will a cart load of turnips amount to!

PURSUANT to the direction of the Comptroller-General, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to the said Comptroller, within the county of Hampshire, who have neglected to settle their accounts with the collector to the 1st of May last, that unless their accounts shall be paid, all such arrears will be issued agreeably to law as usual, all such arrears, he has been rendered, and (as it is ascertained) and all such as have not rendered their accounts to the collector may expect that their bonds of responsibility will be put in suit.

And all persons who are owners or possessors of duties arrears within the said county, who have neglected to pay the said duties agreeably to law, and also informed that executions will be issued for collecting the same unless prevented by a speedy payment.

And the collectors of the several towns within the county which have neglected to make returns of the same to the collector as the law directs, may expect to be sued for the same in that case provided, as the next August term a writ shall be issued by the collector, to the effect that the persons named in the said writ, shall be liable to pay the said duties as they are due, and also to pay the costs of the duty from such arrears as shall make such return unnecessary.

And the worshipful Justices of the said county, are likewise requested to settle their accounts, and pay up the duties from their respective offices, without further delay, as the act which heretofore required such duties is now repealed.

And although the collector is desirous that he might have notice of the officers who are indebted to him, he is not to call the said duties: Yet at the same time is fully determined to have all the outstanding accounts and bonds in the office and all debts due on or before the first day of May last, paid up and closed in the office of the present collector, however difficult a task it may be to effect.

And the several deputy collectors of the said county are hereby required to use their utmost endeavors in their respective districts, to collect the said duties as aforesaid, without any unnecessary expense or trouble on the persons who pay them. But if any neglect to settle and pay their accounts until the last day of July next, you will not fail to return their names, and their accounts to me, on the first day of August that they may be proceeded with as the law directs.

ELIJAH HUNT, Collector of Excise and Impost in the County of Hampshire.  
Northampton, June 13d, 1788.

STRAYED from the subscriber on the sixth day of June inst. a bay MARE, about fourteen hands high, trots and paces, no artificial mark, a white spot, or star in her forehead, with a long black mane and tail, shod before, when she went away, and a little white on one of her hind feet; very bad to catch, supposed to be about nine years old. Whoever will take up said mare and confine her so that she may be had, or give notice to me the subscriber, shall have a handfomeward and all charges paid by me.

HENRY HENDERSON.  
Halifax, (Windham County, State of Vermont) June 16th, 1788.

#### TAKE NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to WILLIAM KIRTRIDGE for more than six months, are desired to call upon him, and to settle their accounts by the first of August, as he is determined to settle his Books.  
Amherst, June 3d, 1788.

ALL persons who have Book Accounts open and unsettled with the subscriber, are hereby requested to call on him for a settlement; and all persons who are indebted to him on Book, or otherwise, are desired to settle and pay the same without further delay, or they will be lodged in the hands of an Attorney to be put in suit.  
SOLOMON ALLEN.  
June 11, 1788.