ica there is no order or great number of people, who can be made subservient to such ungenerous purposes. The late war was a war of the people—general information convinced them of its justice, and their all was endangered; hence sprang their unanimity, exertion and patience; and a traitor could in no part of the country find either asylum or aid.

The formation of our present government, by the deliberation of three million citizens, is the highest evidence, and the greatest effect we have yet seen from general information.

The same causes which have given you victory, & a constitution combining the rights of man with the powers of government, will certainly be sufficient to preserve national liberty, and make your children as free as their fathers. A few enlightened citizens may be dangerous; let all be enlightened, and opposition must cease, by the influence of a ruling majority; for it can never be their interest to indulge a system incompatible with the rights of freemen. Those institutions are the most effectual guards to public liberty, which diffuse the rudiments of literature among a people.

Let the most perfect constitution finite wisdom can devise, be adopted; if succeeding generations become ignorant—if a large part of the people are destitute of letters, their precious patrimony will be cheated from their hands; not, perhaps, by violence, but by a course of artful measures, against which ignorant men have no defence.

A man declaiming for liberty, and suffering his children to grow up without education, acts most absurdly, and prepares them to be licentious, tho' not free.

The road to preferment is open to all, and the common citizen may see his children possess the first offices of state, if endowed with genius, honesty and science; having such incentives to fidelity, the remiss parent is unpardonable. As the best preservative of national liberty, the public ought to patronize institutions to instruct the children of poor people; for, give them knowledge and they will never be the instruments of injuring mankind. A few incautious expressions in our Constitution, or a few salaries of office, too great for the contracted feelings of those who do not know the worth of merit and integrity, can never injure the United States, while literature is generally diffused, and the plain citizen and planter reads and judges for himself.

The American legislature could not do an act more favourable to general humanity, liberty, and virtue, than to endow the Universities, rising in almost every state, with such funds in the unlocated territory, as would enable them to furnish the best means of instruction, and at an easy rate, to the sons of those who have moderate wealth. Disseminate science thro' all grades of people, and it will forever vindicate your rights which are now well understood and firmly fixed—Science will do more than this—it will break the chains and unbolt the prison doors of despotism. At the present moment, France is an instance of its influence—The wealthy subjects of that country are become enlightened, and thus determined to be free.—O France! I love thee and thy sons—when my nightly supplication forgets to ask a blessing on thy great exertions, and on thy councils, I shall lose my claim of being a christian. August empire! Many of thy sons are among the learned; how often have I drank improvement and instruction from their pens; but I fear, I greatly fear, that the vast mass of thy subjects are not sufficiently informed in the nature of freedom, to receive from Heaven and preserve so rich a gift.

M. ROBESPIERRE'S SPEECH
in the National Assembly *of* France,
ON THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

M. ROBESPIERRE declared, that on a subject of such importance as the liberty of the Press, he considered it his duty to solicit the attention of the Assembly for a few minutes. He entertained a very different opinion from some gentlemen who endeavoured to check the growth of French Freedom, by fettering the Liberty of the Press. He hoped, nay, he conjured all present, to weigh the dreadful consequences of such a measure. If, says he, you pant for Liberty, the glorious reward of your wonderful atchievements—if you wish to establish that inestimable blessing on the most permanent basis—if you are anxious for your own honor and glory—let this truth be deeply impressed upon your minds, that the Freedom of the Press will contribute more to the freedom and happiness of the people, than all the combined strength of your National Militia. The sword or the bayonet may accomplish sudden and extraordinary revolutions—but to the arts of civilization, to those manly and exquisite refinements, to the unlimited exercise of our mental faculties—must we owe the preservation of our liberty. To what are we to attribute the influence and grandeur of Great-Britain? The navy and army of England are deservedly subjects of wonder and applause throughout Europe. They now appear equal, perhaps I may say, by the leave of my brave countrymen, superior to any other nation. But to this invincible power alone the generous English owe not the preservation of liberty. They are indebted to their salutary laws—to freedom of speech and of the press; which qualities united, direct and command the exertions of the ministry towards their warlike arrangements.

M. Robespierre then proceeded by saying, that it was well known a military force was very dangerous to liberty; and, unless the civil power were paramount, a man of a good address might so far obtain an ascendency over the troops, that he might persuade them to espouse any political convulsion inimical to the spirit of independance and liberty. He had only to nod assent, and they would immediately stand forward in support of his ambitious measures, to the overthrow of every good system of government, and to the destruction of all the enjoyments and blessings of freedom. By the liberty of the press, by the free discussion of every man's sentiments among his fellow subjects, that salutary barrier would be placed between the civil power and the military, that happy equilibrium which would give permanency to our valuable privileges, and vigour to our operations both at home and abroad.

He considered the press free and unfettered, as one of the greatest blessings of Providence. But while he beheld it with enthusiasm, he would by no means encourage an irresponsible licentiousness, either in state affairs or religion. This was the rock on which sometimes the adventrous mariner regardless of the constitutional quicksands with which he was encompassed, foundered.

Let this then, be a beacon to warn him of his danger—to assure him, that when he reaches a certain latitude, the greatest dexterity and circumspection are necessary to avert the impending storm, & to preserve the fair bark containing a FREE PRESS the ESSENCE of LIBERTY, from perishing from among shoals of tyranny and corruption. Let every man, says M. Robespierre, have the freedom of publishing his own sentiments on all subjects; but let every man be responsible to God, and to the laws which ought to be established for the sake of peace and tranquility. He who may happen to publish observations of a treasonable nature against the King or National Assembly—to foment principles of sedition, and dangerous to constitutional liberty—ought certainly to be amenable for the consequences.

But with all the evil consequences likely to result from the FREEDOM of the PRESS, I would rather see it verge towards licentiousness—subject myself & fellow citizens to its inquietudes and perils—and feel the shafts of malice and the stings of calomny—than consent to a suppression of its glorious immunities.—He who is in the possession of a good conscience—he whose actions are regulated by rectitude, can never tremble at the exposition of his conduct. It is the *State Culprit*—the *Guilty Conscience*—the *Tyrant*, and *Oppressor*—who fear an investigation. To every Freedom of the Press he would totally consign such very abandoned wretches; and he ardently wished that satire might render them as black and odious as their unpardonable crimes merited. But above all, says M. Robespierre, the uncommon blessings which mankind have daily derived from the noble art of PRINTING, should inspire every person with a very favourable enthusiasm of the Press. To this we owe the civilization of man. To this we owe those efforts of genious which have rendered many immortal. We have heard of the exploits of Alexander—of Cæsar—of Anthony—and wonder at their atchievements. But those men, commonly called heroes, were a species of plunderers, sanctioned by the force of arms. They were military adventurers, born for the scourge and oppression of mankind: They were tyrants and enemies to liberty; therefore could not be compared with the noble invasion of letters, and of printing, who, by their wonderful genius alone, had brought society to that state of happiness and civilization, which at present are evident wherever this glorious art has been introduced. Hence, my countrymen, I would recommend you to cherish it as a most powerful engine for your liberty. To connive at its purgatory foibles, or harmless licentiousness—to applaud and reward its essential services to the church and to the state. It is this wonderful engine, which is the terror to bad kings, and the defender of good kings! It is this secondary aid on which we as the National Assembly, ought to rely. Encourage it, and it will become the herald of your glorious actions. Establish the Freedom of the Press, and it will serve as the bulwark, as the guardian of our liberty.

After some debate, it was decided by the Assembly, that the free communication of thoughts and of opinions is one of the most precious rights of man—that every citizen, therefore, is at liberty to speak, write, and publish with impunity, whatever is not specially prohibited by law.

PARIS, Oct. 25.
AFFECTING INCIDENT.

One of the principal objects of the attention of the National Assembly, on Friday, was the admission of an old man 120 years of age, an inhabitant of Mount Jura, who begged to congratulate the Nation on the establishment of their liberties. When the old man entered, every Member arose, and remained standing until he was seated. He had permission of staying there during their debates, and, in respect to his age, with his hat on. A contribution was immediately raised for him.

LONDON, November 2.

Old Donald Mac Leod, the Highlander, was yesterday at St. James's, to present a petition to his Majesty. This veteran is 101 years and two months old—the cause of his coming to London was on account of his pension being refused from Chelsea; he brought every thing necessary to prove his being the man: He walked from Inverness in Scotland, and with him his youngest son, whose age is eight years; his eldest son is eighty. His countenance and other appearances bespeak a hale character of not more than seventy:—He fought under King William, Queen Anne, and George the third. The old man says, when he has done his business, he shall walk back again.

By a letter from Paris, dated 24th October, eleven o'clock, we are informed, that a little after one morning, the life of Mons. de la Fayette was attempted, on his return from a visit to Mons. Neckar in person, who plunged a bayonet into his carriage.

SURPRISING INGENUITY.

Mr. Joseph Strong, of Carlisle, who has been from his infancy, follows the business of a diaper weaver, and is allowed by people of the same occupation, to be not only a good but an expeditious workman. He is at present somewhat advanced in years, but his mechanical abilities are not yet impaired in any considerable degree. In the exercise of these faculties making almost every article of household furniture he has constructed various pieces of machinary; one of which is the model of a loom, and the figure of a man working it. As an appendage, he added a box of puppets, representing two women bustling each other, or, as he interprets them to his visitors, "weaving for the web."

To shew his strong propensity to produce, by his own ingenuity and labour, whatever he thought worthy of pursuing, we shall add the following circumstance:

When he was about 15 years of age, he conceived himself one afternoon in the Cathedral during the time of service; after which, the congregation being gone, and the doors shut, he got into the organ loft, and examined every part of the instrument. This had engaged his attention until about midnight, when having satisfied himself respecting the general construction, he proceeded to try the tones of the different stops, and the proportion they bore to each other. This experiment was not to be conducted in so silent a manner as his former inquiries. In short, the noise alarmed the neighbourhood of the church, and the circumstance of the organist dying a short time before, and no successor having been appointed, caused great consternation in the ears of all who heard it.

After some deliberation, a party, less intimidated than the rest, summoned resolution enough to enter the church at that tremendous hour; and Joseph, not less confounded than his unexpected visitors, was obliged to abandon his studies for that time. The next day he was taken before the Dean, who, after reprimanding him for the steps he had taken to gratify his curiosity, permitted him to visit the organ at all reasonable times. In consequence of this he set about making a chamber organ, which he completed without the assistance of any person.

He sold this instrument to a merchant in the Isle of Man, who afterwards removed to Dublin, where it still is in being, and is considered as a great curiosity.

Soon after his dispersing of that, he made him another upon which he now plays both for his amusement and devotion; having a set of chants (his own composition) which he frequently uses as a religious exercise, and to which he joins long and irregular lines, expressive of various devotional subjects.

Some years ago he walked from Carlisle to London, to visit Mr. Stanley, the celebrated organist and composer, on which occasion he made, for first time, a pair of shoes.

GEORGETOWN, December 2.
Extract of a letter from a gentleman near Fort Wiseling, to his friend in this town, dated Nov. 12, 1789.

"The spirit of emigration to the Western regions rages more than ever; upwards of 3000 persons are encamped near this place, some of whom have been here ever since July last: They are detained on account of the high freshes in the river, want of boats, provision, &c. Their situation is truly deplorable, as this part of the country is but thinly settled. This large body of people, with their horses and cattle, have raised the price of provisions to an alarming height; this has induced many of them, who were able, to return, while others are spending their little all in expectation to see the waters fall.

"But should this not be the case soon, and an early winter set in, the distress of the people will be great indeed; for the principal part of them are very poor, and have disposed of their old homes—so that they have no retreat.

"The great distress to which thousands of our countrymen expose themselves, by undertaking the journey to Kentucky at too late a period in the year, should serve as a warning to those who intend removing to that country. Every head of a family, before he quits a comfortable home, for good and all, should reconnoitre the waters where he intends to embark, build his boats, and lay in a stock of provisions, before he fetches his family, negroes and stock."

"We have this moment received intelligence, that a few days ago the Indians took a boat in which a Mr. Thornton, from Augusta County, Virginia, with his family, embarked at Redstone, a few days ago.

"The boat, it is said, was forced on the indian shore by a large raft of trees and logs, floating down the river. The fate of this unfortunate family is as yet unknown. There are (by the best information) large parties of indians patrolling the western banks of the Ohio, in order to intercept the great number of boats now preparing to go down the river."

PITTSBURG, Nov. 28.

By Simon M'Grew lately from Detroit, we are informed, that while at that place, a vessel had arrived with cannon and stores for the garrison, which is now making very strong, and there is every appearance of an intention to hold it against force.

It is with regret we announce to the publick, the death of the Hon. *Samuel H. Paysant*, one of the judges of the western territory. He had accompanied captain Hart as far as the Salt Licks, on his way to Gialuga, and was on his return, down Big Beaver creek, in a canoe with one man, when coming over the falls the canoe was dashed to pieces, and they both were drowned.

NEW-YORK, December 20.

The President of the United States has been pleased to appoint the Hon. WILLIAM PACA, Judge of the Federal Court, for Maryland district, vice the Hon. THOMAS JOHNSON, resigned.

Members of Congress now in this city: SENATE, President of the Senate.—Mr. Dalton.—Mr. Johnston.—Mr. Schuyler.—Mr. King.—Mr. Izard.—Mr. Butler.

REPRESENTATIVES, Mr. Gilman.—Mr. Gerry.—Mr. Lawrence.—Mr. Benson.—Mr. Scott.—Mr. Coles.—Mr. Brown.—Mr. Griffin.—Mr. Huger.—Mr. Smith, of South-Carolina.—Mr. White.—

Mr. Otis, Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. Beckley, Clerk of the House.

Wednesday arrived the British Packet *Queen Charlotte*, Capt. RADCLIFF, in 30 days from Falmouth—From English papers we state the following particulars in brief.—

The National Assembly commenced their proceedings at Paris, the 10th of October.

The contributions of plate for public service, in France, amount to about 120,000 marks of silver. A list of pensions is published: there are no less than 40,000 persons on it! The names, with the motives on which the pensions are founded, make three large 4to volumes.—*Such an influence was as a mill stone hung to the neck of Liberty.*—The new standing army is established—140000 in peace—double that number in war.—A spirit of opposition to the National Assembly appears to be kindling in several of the provinces—as Normandy, Dauphiny, &c.—The resolutions of the Nobility and Clergy of Thoulouse declare that the Majesty of the Sovereign is violated by the attempts of audatious men, who wish to govern the State and substitute a real aristocracy for one which is only ideal, which they would fain create; that Religion and the Laws are prophaned: the rights and franchises of provinces violated; and that the lawful authority of the Monarch and his liberty, were lost in the cabals of the National Assembly."

Martial Law has been proclaimed, but has not been put in execution but in one instance—the case of the murderers of a baker.—Three districts of Paris are petitioning for the repeal of this law.—Count Mirabeau carried the following resolve in the National Assembly, on the 27th October, viz.—No bankrupt, or insolvent debtor, shall be an Elector, or eligible, or become a Member of any Council, or Municipal Committee, or of any Provincial, or National Assembly."—October 28th he carried the following, viz.—That in all the Assemblies, there should be, previous to an Election, a table on which should be written the names of all those young men, of the age of 21 in each Canton, who, by their conduct and morals were worthy of being elevated to the ranks of citizens.—That no citizen shall have power to exercise his right as citizen in more places than one; and no person shall be represented by proxy in any Assembly.

M. Camus the President of the National Assembly being unpopular with the democratic party, they found means to harrass him in such manner as to induce him to resign—and M. Fretean was elected to the chair.—October 29, the National Assembly decreed, That to be eligible for the National Assembly, it is necessary, besides the usual qualifications to be an Elector, to pay a direct contribution of one mark of silver, and to be a proprietor of land.

The King still resides in Thuilleris, guarded by the national militia. The Ministry has, in a body, addressed the National Assembly, on the incompetency of the Executive power.

The American funds on the London Exchange, are at 50 pr. and many buyers.—Alderman PICKET is elected Lord Mayor of London. The total amount of the several branches of the British revenue, under the heads of customs, excises, stamps, and incidents, for the week ending Oct. 23, 1789, as delivered in to the Exchequer, is £. 294, 580 12 2d. The English paragraphists, in speaking of the President of the United States, stile him GENERAL. Belgrade surrendered to Gen LAUDON, commander of the Emperor's forces, on the 8th of Oct. Say's Weekly Journal, Oct. 31, informs, that the American States have obtained the bulls from Rome, for the consecration of Dr. John Carroll, the first Roman Catholic Priest, by the title of Bishop of Baltimore, in Maryland. The first article in the capitulation of Belgrade, as stated by the Turks, says, that God from all eternity, decreed that the place should be taken: [An artful way of depreciating the merit of the besiegers!]—Semendria, another Turkish fortress surrendered to the Imperialists soon after Belgrade—and the Prince Hohenloe gained a complete victory over Cara Mustapha, who commanded a body of 10000 men. A deputation from the people of Coloor, in the West-India islands, was admitted to the bar of the National Assembly on the 22d Oct.—and their address received with great applause—the president assured them that their representation should be certainly attended to: The deputies were enjoined to make a deposit of six millions on the alter of their country, and to give a fiftieth of their property towards the redemption of the national debt.

PITTSFIELD, Dec. 7.

On Friday the 2d inst. the dwelling house of Mr. J. Brown, of Adams, was struck with lightning. The lightning descended into the chimney. But took different courses. One flash, with an uncommon velocity, entered Mrs. Brown's bed room, while she, in company with her husband, sat with her children close to the fire. It made its way out at a window, shattered the frame, and broke every pane of glass in it. Another took its direction down the kitchen fire place, made its passage to the foundation, tore it from its base, and stunned several persons both in and about the house.

On the 3d inst. Capt. Daniel Brown, of Lanesborough, killed a steer, which was only three years old last spring, which weighed eleven hundred and forty-nine pounds.

NORTHAMPTON, January 6.

On the evening of the 24th ult. Mr. *Solomon Wright*, and *Jedediah Payne*, of Ludlow, were accidentally drowned in a mill pond, as they were returning home from South-Hadley. Their bodies were found next morning, fast in each other's arms.

SAD ACCIDENT.

"On the 8th of December instant, while breakfast was preparing in the family of Mr. *Aaron Cole*, jun. of Granville, (in this State) a little son of his, 20 months old, being on the floor, moved himself to a tea kettle, full of boiling water, which was standing on the hearth, and pulling it over on himself, by which he was so scalded, that he survived but a short time."

NEGROES.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Demerara, to his friend in Middletown. (Con.) *dated October 20, 1789.*

"On the 30th of this month there is to be upwards of 30 Negroes put to death, all of whom were concerned in the insurrection, on the last of September, in which they were to put every white person in the colony to death; but it was prevented with the loss of very few white people's lives. The different kinds of torture are beyond description! Every white person in the Colony is ordered to appear under arms on the occasion."

PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION.

The Hon JAMES WILSON, WILLIAM FINDLEY, EDWARD HAND, HENRY MILLER, WILLIAM IRVINE, WILLIAM LEWIS, JAMES ROSS, CHARLES SMITH, and A. ADDISON, Esquires, are appointed by the Convention of Pennsylvania, a Committee, to prepare a draught of a new Constitution for that State.

The principles of this Constitution will be those of the Federal Constitution—three branches, and the Executive vested in a single person, duly checked.

OF FRANCE.

The number of Freeholders, who, during the late troubles in France, have quitted the kingdom, is computed in the National Assembly, to be 80,000. Their subsistence will annually drain the kingdom of 18,000,000 livres.

It has been proposed in the French Assembly to reduce the actual expenses of the nation 61,000,000 livres, by reductions from the several departments—of which the King's Houshold will take 8,000,000.

Perspicuus. It may astonish our readers to be told, that 40,000,000 of livres, have been annually paid in France, in *pensions*, to between 20 and 30,000 individuals—*pimps, illegitimates, and instigators.*

FROM THE WESTERN STAR.
Printed at Stockbridge.

SOME time since, Col. —, of this town, received a commission for his Lieutenant Colonel, newly elected, a gentleman who resides in a neighbouring town. This commission he wished to forward to his brother officer as soon as possible, and for that purpose entrusted the conveyance of it to a man who lived in the same town, not doubting but he would take care immediately to deliver it. The man, however, having occasion to go to New-Canaan, a neighbouring town in the State of New-York, took the Commission with him, went to a merchant's store, and asked him if he made a practice of crediting goods: the gentleman told him that he sometimes practised it, but did not like to trust strangers, and begged leave to ask his name. The man gave him the name that was inserted in the commission, and declared it to be his own, and added, that if he doubted his responsibility, he believed he had something in his pocket that would satisfy him on that head; he then shewed him the commission. The owner of the store having heard of the known reputation and property of Col. B. although he never had seen him, hesitated no longer to give him credit for a number of articles, for which he took the Colonel's note *(as he supposed)*. The time of payment being expired, the REAL Colonel was called upon in a very serious manner to answer to the debt; but which of the Colonels will finally be obliged to pay the debt, or whether either of them will do it, we know not.

THE following affair lately happened at Belchertown:—One James Gordon, a lad about 14 years of age, who was taken out of the Alms House, at Boston, by the Rev. Mr. Forward, ran away the beginning of last August. Mr. Forward lately heard that one Jeremiah Thornton, who then lived with him, sent off the boy to a brother of his at East-Haddam—while he was enquiring for this, he found evidence that the said Thornton had stolen from him—He convicted him of theft before Esquire Clark, and brought him to a court-reference about sending off the boy.—At the reference, among other witnesses, one Robert Olds, who the year before lived with Mr. Forward, testified that he carried the boy over the river, and that he was told him that Thornton had advised him to go off and go to Asa Mitchel, at East-Haddam—Mr. Forward desired the referees to take particular notice of what that witness said for he had an affair to settle with him when he had done with Thornton; and upon that read a paragraph of law respecting such an affair.—This so terrified Olds, that he whispered to Thornton and told him it was not safe for them to stay there any longer—they were in such haste to get off, that Olds forgot his horse, and took to his heels; and both he and the culprit fled as fast as their legs could carry them. Said Forward forbids all persons harbouring or concealing said boy, as they will answer it at peril of law.

☞ The Subscribers for MILLOT'S ELEMENTS OF GENERAL HISTORY, are requested to call for their books immediately.

Just Imported from London,
And opening for sale, by
Levi Shephard,
A universal assortment of
Drugs & Medicines,
Together with a large assortment of DYE STUFFS for Clothiers—Also PAINTERS COLOURS. And has for sale a general assortment of European and India
GOODS,
Which are useful and necessary, and principally of such a kind as cannot at present be manufactured in this country, which he will sell at a very small profit for Cash. He also receives in payment most kinds of COUNTRY PRODUCE, especially FLAX, that is well dressed, for the DUCK MANUFACTURE,—which the said SHEPHARD designs to carry on more extensively than he did the last year, and has erected large buildings for the purpose, and would wish to engage four young women there, for a year or longer time, in his Manufactory.
CASH
GIVEN FOR
Shipping Furr, *and* Bees-Wax;
AND PART CASH FOR
Pork *and* English Grain.
Northampton, Dec. 14, 1789. [72]

Just received, and now ready for sale,
By Daniel Butler,
At the Store under the PRINTING-OFFICE, *Northampton*, a good assortment of
CROCKERY WARE,
Consisting of Oval Platters, Plates of all sizes, Blue and White pencil'd and cream coloured Cups and Saucers, Mugs, Bowls, Tea Pots, &c.
ALSO An assortment of
STONE WARE.
LIKEWISE,
Best ROCK SALT,
WINE,
MOLASSES,
SUGAR,
TEA,
RAISINS,
INDIGO,
SNUFF, by the Bladder or less quantity,
CAKE SOAP, per Box or single Cake,
POWDER,
WEBSTER'S INSTITUTE,
WRITING PAPER, &c. &c.
WANTED,
WHEAT—RYE—INDIAN CORN, PORK, TALLOW, *and* FLAX, in exchange for the above articles.—BUTTER—CHEESE—TOW CLOTH—good BAGGS, &c. will be received in exchange for many of the above.
Northampton, Dec. 9, 1789. [71]

Joiner's Tools.
HOUSE and Cabinet workmen may supply themselves with Moulding Tools of all kinds, warranted good, on short notice, and on reasonable terms, by applying to
BENJAMIN A. EDWARDS.
Northampton, Dec. 30, 1789. [4]

FLAX.
SIX-PENCE a POUND
WILL be given for good FLAX, for which pay will be made in SHOES, BOOTS, INDIGO, TOBACCO, &c.
THOMAS SPAFFORD.
Williamsburg, Dec. 16, 1789. [73]

☞ All Persons indebted to the Printer hereof are requested to make immediate payment.