

THE snowy blasts of winter now are o'er, And fierce tempestuous winds have ceas'd to roar...

THE MORALIST. THERE are not a few people who are disposed to value or condemn themselves by the opinion of others.

The world is known to form rash and hasty determinations; it celebrates actions the most mean and ignoble...

It is blind to themselves, for which the language of the heart sharply reproves us. Indeed what has the world to do with the rectitude of a character...

In this situation the world may operate, or undervalue a man's virtues, just as may happen to fit the human mind.

In short it is a man who will rest his character upon the judgment of the world, it will go very much with the mood it is in.

But in a fit of spleen, a man with every virtue will fall, and that wondrously. Be advised then not to trust the judgment of a flaring cooking world for a character.

When I am asked whether we may become absolutely unfeeling to the opinion of others respecting us, I answer, that it is unnecessary as well as impossible that we should be insensible here.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampshire...

FROM A LONDON MAGAZINE. THE SUNSEY CALF. However strange and improbable the following story may appear...

LAND. In the State of Vermont, for sale. ESQUIRE OF THE PATENT.

in a public house door—on which a butcher (remarkable for his drollery) observing, and knowing that the butcher had to pass through a wood, offered to the landlord or stall the calf...

The butcher saw the first show, but did not think it worth getting down for—however, when he discovered the second, he thought the pair would be an acquisition, and accordingly dismounted, tied his horse to the hedge...

ANECDOTE. Of the celebrated Mr. Cibber. THIS strange eccentric was, in company with three other gentlemen, made an excursion to France.

They travelled in a post coach, and while they were going the first stage, after each had made merry with his neighbours in the inn, they agreed that at every baiting place they would all affect the same singularity.

After some hesitation the man did as he was ordered. This was no sooner performed than a second came out here you, take out my eye!

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LAND. In the State of Vermont, for sale. ESQUIRE OF THE PATENT.

LAW OF MASSACHUSETTS. Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

An ACT for establishing Salaries of fixed and permanent value, for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

WHEREAS the Constitution of this Commonwealth, provides, that an establishment should be made for an honourable stated salary of a fixed and permanent value, for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court...

Therefore be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the sum of three hundred and seventy pounds, be established as the annual salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court...

And be it further enacted, That an act passed in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, entitled an act for establishing salaries of a fixed and permanent value for the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, be, and the same hereby is repealed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 27, 1790. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

DAVID COBB, Speaker. IN SENATE, February 27, 1790. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President. Approved. JOHN HANCOCK. True copy—Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

An ACT making compensation to the Attorney-General of this Commonwealth, for his services.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing this act, there shall be allowed and paid out of the Treasury of this Commonwealth, annually, the sum of three hundred pounds, lawful money, to the Attorney-General, in full compensation for his services...

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all bills of costs, in criminal prosecutions, before the Supreme Judicial Court in this Commonwealth, the sum of fifteen shillings, shall be taxed for the fees of the Attorney-General, without any allowance of travel—and all fees thus received by the said Attorney-General, shall be accounted for by him annually, with the Treasurer of this Commonwealth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 25, 1790. This Bill having three several readings passed to be enacted. DAVID COBB, Speaker. IN SENATE, Feb. 25, 1790. This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted. SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President. Approved. JOHN HANCOCK. True copy—Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FEB. 19. IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

MR. MADISON'S motion for a discrimination under consideration. MR. GERRY rose and observed, that it was with great concern he should express his sentiments on a subject so important in its consequences...

The amendment, he said, proposed by the gentleman from Virginia, differed from the proposition before the committee in other points, besides that of discrimination—and he proposed an amendment to the amendment, to strike out all that related to this condition, that the fees of the committee may be fairly certified...

MR. GERRY stated, that the foundation of the motion for a discrimination was the heavy losses sustained by our brave and veteran soldiers, in the sale of their public securities. Little or nothing, he said, had been urged in favor of meritorious officers, and of citizens who by the loan of their property, had contributed to the support of the war...

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ple from their having received them without an Equivalent. Let us attend to the nature of the contract of the soldiers with the assignees; for it differs widely from that with Congress. Some gentlemen consider it in the nature of a specialty bond, and have carried us to courts of law to prove that whatever has been paid them of the public securities, is made of real estate, and is inadmissible, because particular decisions of law cannot apply to great national questions...

He further observed, that the public securities of the United States are species of stock or property, similar to merchandise; they are sold in open market, and at the market price, which is always an equivalent, for the market price of stock, he said, was regulated by the public opinion, and depended in a great measure on the circumstances of the nation, and on events; it had always been subject to great variations and ever would be while communities are subject to calamities...

Let us suppose that this calamity had raised the premium to 80 per cent. and the stockholders had agreed to allow it, would the justice be fully entitled to be for asking the risk? But if the stockholder, instead of giving the premiums had made sale of his property at 80 per cent. discount, being one fifth of its former value, would not that fifth be an equivalent and the sale valid? Where is the difference, except merely the mode of negotiations, between insuring his property at either rate? But should the enemy be expelled, and stock again at par, can the original stockholder, in justice demand any part of the 80 per cent. premium, or of the 80 per cent. discount, on a pretence that he has not received an equivalent? If the whole had been sold, would he have received the 20 per cent. which he received of the insurer or purchaser?—Sovereign nor it should be evident that although the nominal was the real value of stock before the appearance and after the result of the enemy, yet that the value was reduced by the danger of conquest, and that the market price at that period was an equivalent.

Several cases have been cited as precedent for discriminating; that which relates to reduction of the Canada bills mentioned by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Madison) was by his own acknowledgment not applicable. The case referred to in the act of Queen Anne, cited by the gentleman, was not analogous; for independent of other considerations the debt contracted by the Queen for the support of her household was not liquidated, and by a vote of the House of Commons had been disallowed: Had the debt been liquidated, and certificates of it issued, as in the case of our soldiers, there would have been no interference of parliament in the subsequent transfer of such securities, as their whole conduct evinces.

Gentlemen, in favour of discrimination have also mentioned the South-Sea and Mississippi schemes: The gentleman from New-Jersey (Mr. Boudinot) had clearly shown that the conduct of parliament in the South-Sea scheme was directly against discrimination; for although they imposed the duties and others, &c. confiscated their property, although it was bought and sold from 20 to 30 per cent. discount. The history of the Mississippi scheme I propose not to state fully but to mention a few particulars. In the year 1717 the government of France were deeply indebted, and had issued state bills to the amount of several hundred millions of livres, they were sold at 60 or 70 per cent. discount; and the Regent of France de-

frons of appreciating them, established a commercial company with the exclusive privilege of trading to the Mississippi, to consist of such as would subscribe 60 millions payable in state bills at par: at first there were few disposed to be concerned, but at length the firm was subsidized, the stock by another art was increased to 100 millions: the firm of tobacco, amounting to 4 millions a year, was then granted to the company, as a fund to pay the interest, and under the direction of Mr. Law, they made greater profits from it. Stocks were then enhanced from 70 per cent. below to 20 per cent. above par. The India and African companies were afterwards incorporated with the Mississippi, whose capital was further extended, by which means stocks rose to 500, and in the progress of this matter, to 1000 per cent. at this period a subscription was opened for 30 million of livres, at 10 for 1, payable at 10 different payments; & inflated was the nation, that the subscription in a few days amounted to 75 millions, being half as much more as was wanted, and the day after the subscription was closed, those who had given 1000 sold for 200 per cent. When the bubble burst, as it is expressed, no attempt was made by government to interfere in the transfers made by individuals, but all such transfers were valid.

In their nature, a species of property subject to great variations from calamities and other events; that the market price will be regulated by public opinion, and that it is always considered as an equivalent. A transfer of property in the funds, at the market price, differs widely from the gambling of stockjobbers a pernicious species of trade, of the nature of wages or bets; and those concerned therein have no property in the funds, and generally are subject to punishment.

Should enquiry be made, what calamity have we been under to reduce to low the price of our stocks? I answer, the calamity of a defective national government; the effect of which, were severely felt. In 1780, Congress called on the States to furnish 200,000 livres, and part did not. The consequence was, that in 1781 the public debt, and almost ruined the public credit. Early in 1783, the army, from want of pay, were nearly mutinying, and part of them did mutiny, and drove Congress from Philadelphia. Again—Congress, by the confederation, were authorized to tax the States on a valuation of their respective property; but the States were unable to produce the documents required for forming that valuation, and refused to adopt a new rule proposed by Congress, who could therefore levy no tax.

To enforce an honest disposition and to support public credit as far as possible, Congress proposed the plan of impost and supplementary funds: this was accepted by some States, and violently opposed in others, which produced apprehension that a considerable part of the union would to apply the sponge to the public debt. These circumstances, and the consequent commotions, so weakened government, that we had no credit, public or private, at home or abroad. By these and other calamities, and the load of our debt, were the stocks reduced, the public opinion fixed their rates, and taking the risk, they were worth no more; but circumstances are now altered, and they are encrusted in value.

Gentlemen, to support discrimination, have charged assignees with fraud. Are the assignees chargeable for the defects of the confederation? Or for a non-compliance of some of the States, with the requisitions for sinking the old bills of credit? Or for the mutinying of part of the army? Or for the consequent commotions? Or did the assignees receive the original holders? Did they act the part of trustees and funders? If so, bring the culprits to justice; your country demands it. But if their only crime is good fortune in their negotiations, if they have purchased the securities in open market, can honestly paid for them, treat them as good citizens, acquit them of fraud, and do them justice. Being among those original holders who have transferred parts of their certificates, and not replaced them, I can feel myself as for our brave soldiers, but an assignee of them. So much for the justice of the measure: Let us now consider the policy of it.

It is admitted on all sides that the preference of public faith is indispensable to the welfare of the Union, and in what does it consist? Public faith, as I conceive, is a punctual fulfillment of engagements and contracts on the part of government. To preserve public faith, therefore, it is necessary that a nation should have adequate resources, the government adequate powers, and those who administer it, integrity and abilities.

But our resources are equal to the payment of our debts has not been denied, that Congress have no sufficient power, I presume none will assert. The preference, then, of public faith, will necessarily depend on their integrity and abilities. Their abilities may not be questioned—but their conduct is

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