[*The French are full recovering from their delirium. Witness the following.*]

NATIONAL CONVENTION

24 Prairial-June 12.

Sevelier, in the name of the Committee of General Safety, proposed to substitute for the name of Revolutionary Committee, every where becomes odious, the name of Committee of Inspection. He urged the necessity of this change, on the recollection of the enormous excesses committed by the said revolutionary authorities. "But it is not words alone, but things which must undergo a change, if we wish to replace the foul instruments of demagogy, by a magistracy friendly to liberty. Nevertheless the Convention is satisfied, for the present, with substituting the name of Committee of Vigilance, for that of Revolutionary Committee."

Bonnfault complained of the word death, engraved upon the public edifices, as tending to produce melancholy ideas. He proposed to substitute the words humanity and justice.

Le Hardi proposed, that for the bonnet-rouge on which he thought he still observed the mark of blood would be substituted the bonnet-tricolore.

Guoymare objected to these changes. He feared they indicated a plan tending to royalise the public opinion. He strongly opposed the destruction of these emblems, from which Robespierre and his friends drew so many advantages, and also the Constitution of 1793, though it was their production.

These observations were received with little approbation, nevertheless they were referred for examination to the Committees, with all the propositions which preceded them.

RENNES, 19 PRAIRIAL, June 7.

The Citizens of the Twenty-two Sections of the Commune of Rouen to the National Convention.

"Citizens Representatives,

"Europe and America agreed on two points, the division of the year and of the day.

"But the monsters who wished in France to destroy the cities, to shackle industry, and annihilate commerce, fabricated a new division of days, and hours, which by a distinguishing singularity, gives, in public acts but ten hours to each day.

"It is for you, Legislators, to save the wrecks of Commerce, to vivify it, to unshackle it, to restore it at length to its ancient splendor, which will ensure the felicity of the Republic.

"It is for you, Representatives of a commercial and enlightened nation, that it belongs to destroy that abjured and insignificant Calender, which not only changes our foreign relations but our interior operations, inasmuch as the markets and fairs have either been changed, or are on the point of being changed by it. It is a Calender which has not been made in consequence of any new discovery with respect to the star; its complementary days demonstrate the imperfection of it, and the fluctuity of the author; and, it is in short a Calender, which without producing any real good is attended with a great expence, inasmuch as it necessarily renders all the old clocks useless.

"It is in the name of a commune remarkable for its mechanical works, and for its commercial relations with all parts of the world, that we request the repeal of the Law of the 5th October, 1793, which established the new Calender."

PHILADELPHIA, August 28.

A correspondent says, he is sorry to find that the indignation of some citizens is so greatly excited by the newspaper pellets fired from the antifederal magazines of lies at an illustrious character—a little reflection will convince them that he who encountered so many laden dangers in defence of the liberties of his country and mankind, has a shield that the envenomed malice of earth and hell united, cannot penetrate.

Faction is at its last grasp—the phrenzy that urges them to attack the political character of the father of his country, shews this. How much safer would it be to commence Knights errant and encounter windmills at once!

AUGUST 31.

By the brig Eliza, Capt. Norris, in 25 days from Jamaica.

ST. JAGO DE LA VEGA, July 24.

"The long expected fleet arrived at Port Royal last Friday evening, under the escort of his Majesty's ship Sampson, Capt. Lewis, of 64 guns, and the brig Drake, Capt. Brooking. They were accompanied as far as Lisbon by the fleet destined for the Mediterranean.

The ships Dial, Hanover, Penelope, Jupiter, Jean, Hampshire, and Duke of Clarence, with troops on board, arrived with the fleet.

We are sorry to learn by them, that there is great reason to fear the Zealous, of 74 guns, one of the Mediterranean fleet, was lost in a gale of wind, which separated the convoy; when she was last seen, she was a complete wreck, having lost all her masts. The Andromache frigate parted a formal with the same Zealous carved upon it, and when the Sampson again fell in with the admiral after the gale, they were informed that there was little hopes of again seeing her.

Six sail of the convoy bound for this island, have been captured, two of these transports with troops on board. The following are said to be the names of three of them; Blenheim, Wilson, carried into Guadaloupe; Betsey of Hull, with 200 dragoons, (troops taken out and vessel sunk) and the George Chaulwell.

The Mount Pleasant, with two troops of the 17th dragoons on board, is supposed to have been also lost in the above-mentioned gale of wind, as when last seen, she was in a very bad state. The Blenheim and another ship, having on board two troops of the dragoons, are the only transports taken, which in the whole, makes a loss of 200 men, the best appointed and most handsome troops in the service. The whole number of the ships missing of the convoy is eleven.

KINGSTON, *(Jam.)* August 25.

By the Lucretia, Simpton, arrived at this port in 24 days from Grenada, we have the following intelligence; The day before she sailed a vessel arrived, with an account of one of our 74 gun ships having fallen in with, and compelled to strike, after a few shots from the superior, a large French frigate, off the island of St. Thomas. On running up along side and preparing to take possession, the infamous commander of the frigate again hoisted his colours, and fired into the 74, by which several men were killed—justly incensed at such atrocious conduct, the lower ports were instantly opened, and a broad side poured in, which blew the Republican to atoms, and in a few moments not a vestige of her was to be seen.

WASHINGTON, *(Penn.)* August 17.

INDIAN NEWS.

We are informed by a gentleman, direct from Grenville, that the Treaty with the Indians is likely soon to be concluded.—The chiefs of the hostile tribes had generally come in, particularly Blue Jacket with his Shawanese, who were lately said to be unfriendly to negociation.——Our informant was present when the pipe of peace was lighted, and the utmost unanimity prevailed.

It has been rumoured that no treaty would take place, as many of the Indians after arriving had gone off precipitately. This rumour may be accounted for by the following ludicrous circumstance which happened on the evening prior to the 4th July.—Splendid preparations were making for the approaching festival, among the rest some grand fire works were to be exhibited. Unfortunately the laboratory took fire, the explosion of rockets, crackers, &c. occasioned a great alarm among the troops, as it was not immediately known from whence it proceeded; the alarm guns were fired, and the drums beat to arms. This of course occasioned equal consternation among the Indians, who expected an immediate attack; the consequence was their instantaneous flight in all directions—some took to the waters, others to the woods, and it was not without some difficulty that they could be made sensible of the truth, and brought back to their encampments.

NEW-YORK, Sept. 1.

On Sunday afternoon, arrived here the brig Hawkins, Capt. Davis, from Kellibegs, in the north of Ireland, bound for Philadelphia. She had been out ten weeks, was victualled only for five—and brought men, women, and children passengers to the number of 260. Towards the latter end of the voyage they were reduced to an allowance of half a pint of water per day; several children died of thirst; and so extreme was their distress, as to excite the compassion even of a Bermudian privateer, whom they providentially fell in with, and who supplied them with a few casks of water.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Norfolk, to his friend in Philadelphia, dated August 21.

"A fever rages here so violently, that there has not been fewer than five to eight buried daily for ten days past; some of our most respectable merchants are dead, and numbers now lying in a dangerous situation; there is a general gloom over the countenance of every person you meet—some say it is the yellow fever; two or three days illness carries them off."

In the "American Gazette," printed at Norfolk the 21st instant, we find the following note by the Editor of that paper:

"* Owing to sickness in the office, a paper was not published on Tuesday last.

Extract of a letter from Cadiz to a Merchant in this city, dated July 9, 1795.

"A peace between the Portuguese and Algerines, has been just concluded through the mediations of Great-Britain and Spain, so that if the Americans should not do the same, it will be very dangerous for them to venture this way."

Drugs & Medicines.

Ebenezer Hunt,

HAS just received from London, a large and general assortment of *Drugs and Medicines*, which he offers for sale on the most reasonable terms:——Among which are the following patented Medicines, viz—Hooper's, Anderson's and Lockyer's Pills, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, British Oil, Balsom of Honey, Effence of Peppermint, Steers' famous Opodeldoc.—Likewise Surgeons pocket Instruments, Lancets, Crooked Needles, &c. Ladies beautiful smelling Bottles with pungent Salts.

GROCERIES, DYE STUFFS, and PAINTERS COLOURS, as usual.

Northampton, Aug. 24, 1795.

Eraftus Lyman,

HAS for sale No. 1, *Union Street*—W. I. and N. E. Rum, by Hhd. bl. or less quantity, French Brandy, Cherry Rum, Clove Water, Gin, Wines, Molasses, Loaf and Brown Sugars by Cwt. or lb. Hyson, Hyson Skin, Souchong and Bohea Teas of an excellent quality, Pepper, Allspice, Ginger, Cinnamon, Raisins and Currants, 10 by 12, 7 by 9 and 5 by 7 window Glass, 10d. and 4d. Nails, Iron, Salt, Crown Soap, Sheet Lead, Shot by Cwt. or lb. Salmon, &c. &c. which will be sold very cheap for cash or most kinds of produce.

All persons whose accounts are of more than twelve months standing, are again reminded, that their accounts unless settled immediately, will be put in suit; and those whose time of payment has expired are requested to settle them immediately.

Northampton, Sept. 9, 1795.

New Goods,

FOR SALE.

SUCH as an assortment of Crockery Ware, excellent O. and N. Rum, Brandy, Loaf Sugar, Wool Cards 3 sizes, 600 wt. of excellent Sole Leather, Coppers, Bar Iron, Share Molds, Tea, Salt, &c. which with many more articles make a good assortment. SELAH NORTON.

N. B. Those who pay me by the 1st. October, in Beef, Cattle or otherwise, will much oblige their humble servant, S. N.

Ashfield, Sept. 9, 1795.

Isaac Gere,

HAS for sale, warranted English and French WATCHES, warranted CLOCKS of a superior quality—Ladies Pendants, Lockets and Pins, Watch Chains, Seals, Keys, &c. &c.

Wanted, as an apprentice to the above business, a BOY 13 or 14 years of age.

Northampton, Aug. 24, 1795.

Otis and Fobes,

HAVE for Sale, at their Store in Cummington, 20d. 10d. and 8d. Nails, cut Shingle and Tack, do.—Grindstones, W. I. and N. E. Rum, Salt, Tea, Raisins, Red-wood, Brimstone,—Also, English and Hardware GOODS, Crockery Ware, 6 by 8 Window Glass, which they will sell very low for ready pay or their usual credit.—They would likewise inform those who are indebted to them, whose accounts are become payable, that they expect a settlement by the first of October next—those who do not comply must expect to receive something in the name of the Commonwealth, greeting.

N. B. Wanted, Flaxseed, Beef, Butter, Cheese, Pork, Tallow, Towcloth, Cotton and Linnen RAGS, &c. for which they will give a generous price and pay part Cash if required.

Cummington, Aug. 28, 1795.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of *Eleazer Carpenter* of Amherst deceased, are desired to make immediate payment to the subscribers, executors on said estate,—and those who have claims on said estate, are desired to exhibit them for settlement.

HANNAH COWLES,
OLIVER DICKINSON.

Amherst, Aug. 13, 1795.

The Subscriber hereby

notifies all those who have not settled their Notes, given to the late co-partnership of *Williams & James*, that their notes will be put into the hands of an attorney to collect, unless paid previous to the first of October next.

JOHN JAMES.

Goshen, Aug. 30, 1795.

*** TICKETS in the Harvard College Lottery, third class, may be had of Dr. *Ebenezer Hunt*.

Lyman & Clap,

HAVE discontinued their Co-partnership in the Blacksmith business. An immediate settlement is respected of those who are indebted to said company.—Every account that remains unsettled in November next, will be put in suit without further notice.

N. B. The above business will be carried on at the same shop as usual, by

MEDAD LYMAN.

Easthampton, Sept. 1, 1795.

We the subscribers being

appointed, and having accepted the trust of Administrators on the estate of Mr. SETH BARDWELL, late of Hatfield, in the county of Hampshire deceased. All persons indebted to said estate, are hereby called upon to make immediate payment; and those to whom said estate is indebted, are requested to exhibit their demands for settlement.

HANNAH BARDWELL,
NOAH BARDWELL,
BENJAMIN SMITH, } Admin'rs.

Hatfield, August 25, 1795.

Attention!

IF MARY CLARK, alias HUTCHENS, or her Heirs, or legal Representative, will apply to Mr. Jacob CLARK, of Medfield, in the County of Suffolk, (now Norfolk, State of Massachusetts,) they may receive a handsome Legacy, left her by her father, EDWARD CLARK, late of Medfield aforesaid, deceased.

☞ *As it is unknown where the said* MARY *is now resident, the several Printers in this and the neighbouring States, are earnestly requested to publish the above in their papers three weeks successively.* Aug. 26.

TO BE SOLD, BY

Seth Wright,

200 new full-bound BARRELS.

Northampton Sept. 9, 1795.

Take Notice.

ALL persons, who have county taxes committed to them to collect, and have not completed their settlements with the county Treasurer, are hereby informed that, unless they compleat the same with him, previous to the next sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court, warrants of distress will then issue against them.

WILLIAM PYNCHEON,
County Treasurer.

Springfield Sept. 1, 1795.

The Public

ARE hereby informed, that the new TOLL BRIDGE over Westfield River is compleated, and open for use: It is near the late dwelling house of Mr. *Stephen Noble* deceased.

This Bridge will greatly accommodate all persons of business or pleasure who travel up and down Connecticut river—it shortens the distance from Northampton to Suffield about four miles, and gives the traveller a very fine road.

Sept. 9, 1795.

To the Public.

WHEREAS a Bill was found spiked on me for fencing the county road, north of my house, narrower than what it was formerly layed out—I with your indulgence so far as to secure the crop that is now on the land, and promise to remove the fence the north and south side of my house to the original width.——I will suitable notice may be taken of the road from Capt. Samuel Fairfield's house to the meeting house, as in many places it is very narrow, and in others is removed.

ANDREW GATES.

William-burgh, Aug. 28, 1795.

Clothier's business carried

on in all its various branches.—All those who are desirous of having their cloths dressed, may depend on having them done with neatness and dispatch; and the kind favor gratefully acknowledged, by their humble servant,

ROGER WING.

ALSO, the subscriber has lately set up the BLUE DIE—he flatters himself that he shall carry on that branch to the advantage of all his employers.

Williamsburgh, 18 Sept. 1795.

The Subscriber being

appointed administrator on the estate of *John Eaton*, late of Greenwich, deceased, hereby calls on all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment.—All persons having demands on said estate, are requested to exhibit them for settlement, to ELIPHAS EATON, Adm.

Pelham, Aug. 29, 1795.

☞ Subscribers to Dr. LATHROP's Thanksgiving Sermon, are desired to call at the Printing-Office and receive their books.

Hampshire Gazette.

NORTHAMPTON, *(Massachusetts)* PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM BUTLER.

[Vol. X.] WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1795. [NUMB. 473.]

VICTOR HUGHES.

Character of VICTOR HUGHES, *Commandant at Guadaloupe, written by a gentleman, who was some time in that Island, but is now in Charleston, and published at his request.*

THIS extraordinary man, of whom many have spoken, but who all appear to be blessed by prejudices, was born in Marseilles, in the year 1763; his father keeps a dry goods store there. His having resided 20 years in the West-Indies, indicates that he must have left his native country very young. He followed the fea during the American war, as a merchant—for he is not a seamen; he afterwards carried on the baking business at Port-au-Prince, with some success; for by his own account he left, when that town was burnt, 400,000 livres currency. In the beginning of the troubles in the West Indies, when the brigands appeared in arms, some regiments arrived from France; as they appeared to be inactive in the town, Victor Hughes, with his accustomed asperity, mentioned it in an assembly of the inhabitants; some of the soldiers retorted, and asked why those who spoke did not go against the Brigands. That night Victor Hughes took about twenty men who were attached to him, went out and brought before day-light fifty heads of the Brigands, which he laid in the Market place. No one knew who had done it, until in the assembly, the following evening, he made known that he had done it. After that the soldiers dishonored. It is not known how he acted in France; for he was sent there, with many others, the victims of those infamous monsters, Polverel, and Santhonax: but he was public accuser at Brest. From whence the committee of Public Safety, sent him Commissary for the nation to the Windward Islands. His instructions were composed of eighty articles, seventy-five of which he altered the committee were inutile. They resolved to give him a *carte, blanche*; but upon his responsibility he was to give an account of his conduct and transactions, monthly, to the committee.

On his arrival at Guadaloupe he found it in possession of the British. On the third day after he caused them to be attacked, and took Fort Fleur d'Epee, which is on a very high hill, by assault. The British had a strong camp formed on St. John's, which is opposite to Point-a-Peitre, and distant about half a cannon shot; the French ships that were between the Point and their camp; they have shells and fired on the town day and night. The English sent a flag of truce to demand the cause of an officer which, in their flight, they left behind them; a colonel of engineers was the bearer of the flag. Victor Hughes was not the dupe of it; he shewed him all the troops he had, the fort, batteries, &c. and told him to assure the British general that he would soon cross over and attack him. The British officer laughed, and said, you jeke, you do not mean it. Yes, said Hughes, swearing an oath, hold yourselves advised that I shall do it in less than forty-eight hours, in canoes and small crafts. He was as good as his word; but he met a severe check in the attempt; it is said he lost 500 men, but while the British and French prisoners were exulting in their success, he made a new attack and compelled them to surrender to a quarter part of their numbers. The British abandoned with facility the French traitors who had taken arms for them: they capitulated for only 24 of them being sent away in covered boats. All the French found in the camp, as least 400 in number, were shot the next day, and buried in a ditch they had dug the very day before round the camp.

It is by this rigorous conduct that he has brought the island of Guadaloupe to be by far the safest and most tranquil of all the islands in the West Indies, without exception. The troops are sober, polite, orderly and better dressed than any others; they are regularly paid every decade, well fed, and constantly employed in military manœuvres. No man can boast of influence with Victor Hughes, but even his school fellows. Abilities, merit, rank, birth or fortune, are all alike to him; he judges men by their actions; if he does not discover the good citizen, the true Republican, sought else will avail with him. No one dare to speak in behalf of another, unless he is requested; every one must plead his own cause, and the merit of it can alone influence him. All fear him, many esteem him, few love him. Nothing escapes his penetration; his memory is tenacious and retentive; the utmost ambition of those whom he has placed in office is, not to be ill-mined.

I will relate an anecdote I had from several persons who were present when it happened:—A woman, whose husband was killed in attacking Fort Fleur d'Epee, was accused of admitting to her bed an English officer, a prisoner; Victor Hughes heard of it; he sent for her to the popular club, and addressed her thus—Behold a woman, who, forgetting what she owes to the memory of her husband, destitute of the sentiments which should animate the breast of a French woman, laying aside the pride of her sex, admits into her bed an enemy, perhaps the very murderer of her husband. Woman, does not the bloody ghost of thy husband haunt thee in thy guilty embrace? It is only in the colonies such crimes are perpetrated. Woman, the laws have not fixed any punishment to thy guilt; if they had, I would cause it to be inflicted. I have therefore brought you before the tribunal of the public opinion, that you should not go altogether unpunished. Be gone from my sight.

Victor Hughes is of the common size, has grey eyes, yellow complexion, carries his head on his left shoulder; his fingers are always in motion.

Although Victor Hughes has not received any reinforcement, yet he is bold enough to go and attack the British in their own islands, and that, while they pretend to block up the island of Guadaloupe. In fact, the English had a 74 gun ship and three frigates among round the island, when Hughes sent troops to St. Lucia, with one of his colleagues, citizen Goyrand a man aged about fifty, and generally beloved, who effected the reduction of that island on the third of June last. The British, according to their laudable custom, took care to leave a list of the names of all the French, who had sworn fidelity to them, in the fort.

St. Vincent is attacked, as well as Grenada and Dominica, by troops sent from Guadaloupe by Victor Hughes. St. Martin's and St. Eustatius, have been in possession of the French a considerable time.

In Guadaloupe, 280 plantations (confiscated property) are now in the highest state of cultivation, making sugar, coffee, cotton, &c. for the benefit of the republic. The public stores on every part of the island are full of produce; the stores in town full of provisions, ammunition, &c. to which the enemies of France contribute largely, prizes being sent in daily. The treasury is equally full of money, to the certain knowledge of the writer. Thus while the British are exhausting themselves at home, by sending continual supplies of troops, provisions, ammunition, &c. to their islands; Victor Hughes is refitting and arming every vessel at Point Petre, and means to load them with produce and send them to France. A number of British prisoners, seamen, having applied for permission to caulk, repair and load the vessels of the republic, they are employed and paid for their labour.

I have heard many Americans complain of Victor Hughes, but I think without cause. They know the trade is not free; I do not therefore think it right for a stranger to blame the measures which a foreign government may see proper to adopt for its own safety. As to individual Americans, I have often heard him give the most positive orders to use them well; not to deal meanly with them, for the republic was not poor, nor a merchant; but to dispatch them, and give as little cause as possible for complaint. But he neither courts nor caresses any, nor has he ever invited one to the national table.

When his enterprizes meet with success, he is gay and cheerful. Hearing of an embargo in England, he said, jokingly, "What tricks they play me! Here are all my vessels, expected from London, Bristol, Dublin, Liverpool, Cork, &c. are stopped."

One morning, at breakfast, an officer asked him for bais for his soldiers—We have none, said he, but I expect hourly a prize that will bring some. The same evening, at supper, a prize master came and announced a liverpool brig, with hats, porter, cheese and potatoes.

It is a fact that his enemies dread him, and that his name is a terror to them.

(The following is an excerpt from a paper published at Alexandria in Virginia, by a citizen of that state. It is all well written, candid and argumentative. But the last part of it, relative to the execution of the treaty in Virginia, exposes some facts, which, if well founded, will go to a full justification of the British nation in holding possession of the Western Posts. It is a more full answer to the Jacobinical stories about British injuries, than we have before seen.]

From the MIRROR.

The EXAMINATION.

—No. III.—

It is also the subject of universal complaint, "that the treaty stipulates no compensation for the injury sustained by the detention of the western posts."

If we are seriously determined to reject all accomodation, if we are resolved on war, and mean only to search for pretexts which may justify it to ourselves it will be in vain, by reason, to meet this or any other objection. But if, on the contrary, we prefer reasonable and attainable reparation for the deep injuries we have sustained, to a war, of which the calamities alone are certain, we cannot cherish this novel claim.

The people of the United States have, it is believed in no instance expressed an expectation that such a demand would be made, or that it could be acceded to.

The government of the United States has never, so far as I can discover, accompanied a demand of the posts, with a demand of compensation for their detention. Although it is by no means unusual for nations to make claims from which they intend to recede, yet this is a claim which Americans never made. The claim itself would evidence an indisposition to accomodate differences.

It is necessary to recollect that Britain did not profess to retain the posts in wilful and carteless violation of the treaty of 1783, she professed to retain them as a security for the performance of that treaty on the part of the United States. Her language was, *let there be no legal impediment to the payment of British debts, and the posts will be delivered.* It is ardently and sincerely to be wished that her assertions had been totally unpounded by the fact. Unfortunately they are not. Unacquainted with what handled in other states, I speak only of Virgin. The facts I relate will not require the support of certificates, they are evidenced by the recollection of every man among us.

The act of the legislature so late as 1787, shew the sense to have been that British debts were irrecoverable. Had our courts been in a habit of rendering judgments on them, this could not have been the general opinion.

During the war, the suits then depending in our great court, in which British subjects were plaintiffs, were in pursuance of an act for that purpose, placed on a separate docket, dilled not to be called for trial. These suits were not again brought into view, till on the establishment of the courts of the United States. It is notorious that British debts could not be recovered before a period in Virginia. Let us then enquire into the state of things subsequent to that end.—

So soon as office of the Federal court was opened, suits were commenced by British creditors. The right to recover debts contracted before the war was so seriously contested, that ere an argument of about ten days, those were continued. Again was the quest taken up and argued at great length, it was decided till June 1793.

Who has forten that the judgment of Mr. Jay, even, was ascribed by the malevolent, to his influence? The same men who ins sidered British influence as producing the judgment, now aver that there was no impediment to its vendition. While this doubt appeared to exist in the Federal court, it might well have been expected that the state courts would at least suspend their decisions. The expectation was not contradicted by the fact. In the county courts I have not been able to discover a single case where the plea of its being a British debt was relied upon that the question was decided in favour of the plaintiff. In some instances where suits have been instituted by a company, many of whose members, and especially those named in the writ were citizens, judgments have been rendered without a contest, and without alledging it to be a British debt, but if there be one solitary case in which it has been decided, before the period forbon of, by a county court, that British debts were recoverable, the case is unknown to me and has eluded my enquiries.

There are instances, in which a verdict has been found for the defendant on the mere evidence of a plaintiff's name when it really was not, nor was alledged to be a British debt. The superior courts not being so numerous, the general tenor of their conduct can with more ease be ascertained. I do aver that in no single instance did the superior courts of law of this country, determine old British debts to be recoverable, until that judgment had been rendered in the Federal court. The case of Mitchel in Fredericksburgh, is quoted. I have enquired into the history of that case, and it proves directly the reverse of that for which it is cited. To that action the defendant pleaded in bar that it was a British debt, and therefore by the laws of this country not recoverable. The plaintiff did not demur to the plea and thereby admit the fact, but deny the validity of the bar. The record will show that he took issue on the plea and thereby denied the fact which the plea alledged. The question to be tried was, not whether a British debt was recoverable, but whether that was a British debt. The verdict of the jury was, not a British creditor could recover, but that the plaintiff was not a British creditor. It is worthy of remark, that altho' the question was a question of fact only, the judge at first refused to permit it to be tried, nor would he, until it became obvious that the plea would be used as a sham plea in every case, allow a jury to be sworn in the cause.

The reason he gave, as I am told, was, that the verdict might possibly, by being for the defendant, render it necessary for him to decide the question of law concerning the materiality of the issue, which was a question not to be decided upon until there should be a consolation of all the judges at a meeting of the general court. The case of Mitchel then proves, that in our state courts, a British creditor, at that time, could not have recovered his debt. But it is supposed that by the decision of the Federal Court in 1793, all impediments were removed.

The fact is not so.

When it was determined that British debts were recoverable it was also determined, and I think rightly; that, in cases of payment into the treasury, the original debtors were entirely discharged. Yet it never was conceived that the right of the original creditor was extinguished. It is a truth not to be denied, that while the acts of our legislatures on this subject discharge the debtor, the treaty of 1783 stipulates for his recovery of that right. When the court determined that the original debtor was discharged, that the principles of their decision seemed to be, that the commonwealth of Virginia, having power to do so, had substituted itself responsible for the debt. But the state had, in 1787 passed an act declaring that it would only pay a certain small portion of this debt. The temper of Virginia on this subject, is known to be such, that, whatever decision may be made by the courts, they will not pay the debt, and an attempt to coerce the payment would shake our government to its foundation.

So far then as the amount of the payments into the treasury, lawful impediments which are perhaps immovable, do yet remain to the recovery of the full value, in sterling money, of *bona fide* debts heretofore contracted.