

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

T U E S D A Y, DECEMBER 9, 1783.

3071
N55 no. 1

T R E N T O N: Printed by I S A A C C O L L I N S, Printer to the State.

*last Official Address of his Excellency
General Washington.*

CIRCULAR.)

Head-Quarters, Newburgh, June 1783.

S I R,

THE great object, for which I had the honour to hold an appointment in the service of my country, being accomplished, I am now preparing to resign it into the hands of Congress, and to retire to that domestic retirement, which, it is well known, I left with the greatest reluctance;—a retirement for which I have never ceased to sigh, though a long and painful absence,—and in which, free from the noise and trouble of the world, I intend to pass the remainder of life in a state of undisturbed repose.

But before I carry this resolution into effect, I think it a duty incumbent upon me to make this my official communication,—to congratulate you on the glorious events, which Heaven has been pleased to produce in our favour,—to offer my sentiments respecting some important subjects which appear to be intimately connected with the tranquility of the United States,—to take my leave of your Excellency as a publick character, and to give my final adieu to that country in whose service I have spent the prime of my life—for whose sake I have passed so many anxious days and watchful nights, whose happiness, being extremely dear to me, will constitute no inconsiderable part of my own.—Impressed with the liveliest sensibility on the present occasion, I will claim the indulgence of dilating more copiously on the subjects of our mutual affection:—When we consider the magnitude of the struggle contended for, the doubtful nature of the contest, and the favourable manner in which it has terminated, we shall find the greatest possible reason for gratitude and rejoicing; this is a theme that will afford infinite delight to every benevolent and liberal mind, whether the event in contemplation be considered as the source of present enjoyment, or the path to future happiness; and we shall have equal occasion to felicitate ourselves on the lot which Providence has assigned us, whether we view it in a natural, a political, or moral point of light.

The citizens of America, placed in the most enviable condition, as the sole Lords and Proprietors of a vast tract of continent, comprehending all the various soils and climates of the world, and abounding with all the necessaries and conveniences of life, are now, by the late satisfactory pacification, acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and independency: They are, from this period, to be considered as the actors on a most conspicuous theatre, which seems to be peculiarly designated by Providence for the display of human greatness and felicity. Here they are not only surrounded with every thing which can contribute to the completion of private and domestick enjoyment, but Heaven has crowned all its other blessings, by giving a fairer opportunity for political happiness, than any other nation has ever been favoured with. Nothing can illustrate these observations more forcibly, than a recollection of the happy conjuncture of times and circumstances, under which our republick assumed its rank among the nations. The foundation of our empire was not laid in the gloomy age of ignorance and superstition, but at an epocha when the rights of mankind were better understood and more clearly defined, than at any former period. The researches of the human mind, after social happiness, have been carried to a great extent; the treasures of knowledge, acquired by the labours of philosophers, sages and legislators, through long succession of years, are laid open for our use; and their collected wisdom may be happily applied in the establishment of our forms of government. The free cultivation of letters, the unbounded extension of commerce, the progressive refinement of manners, the growing liberality of sentiment; and, above all, the pure and benign light of revelation, have had a

meliorating influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society. At this auspicious period, the United States came into existence as a nation; and if their citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be entirely their own.

Such is our situation, and such are our prospects; but, notwithstanding the cup of blessing is thus reached out to us; notwithstanding happiness is ours, if we have a disposition to seize the occasion and make it our own; yet, it appears to me, there is an option still left to the United States of America, that it is in their choice, and depends upon their conduct, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable, as a nation: This is the time of their political probation; this is the moment when the eyes of the whole world are turned upon them; this is the moment to establish or ruin their national character forever; this is the favourable moment to give such a tone to our federal government, as will enable it to answer the ends of its institution; or this may be the ill-fated moment for relaxing the powers of the union, annihilating the cement of the confederation, and exposing us to become the sport of European politics, which may play one state against another, to prevent their growing importance, and to serve their own interested purposes: For, according to the system of policy the states shall adopt at this moment, they will stand or fall; and by their confirmation or lapse, it is yet to be decided, whether the revolution must ultimately be considered as a blessing or a curse; a blessing or a curse, not to the present age alone, for with our fate will the destiny of unborn millions be involved.

With this conviction in my mind, of the importance of the present crisis, silence in me would be a crime; I will therefore speak to your Excellency the language of freedom and of sincerity, without disguise. I am aware, however, that those who differ from me in political sentiments, may perhaps remark, I am stepping out of the proper line of my duty, and they may possibly ascribe to arrogance or ostentation, what I know is alone the result of the purest intention; but the rectitude of my own heart, which disdains such unworthy motives; the part I have hitherto acted in life; the determination I have formed, of not taking any share in publick business hereafter; the ardent desire I feel, and shall continue to manifest, of quietly enjoying in private life, after all the toils of war, the benefits of a wise and liberal government, will, I flatter myself, sooner or later, convince my countrymen, that I could have no sinister views in delivering, with so little reserve, the opinions contained in this address.

There are four things, which I humbly conceive are essential to the well-being, I may even venture to say, to the existence of the United States as an Independent Power.

- 1st. An indissoluble union of the States under one federal head.
- 2dly. A sacred regard to publick justice.
- 3dly. The adoption of a proper peace establishment. And,

4thly. The prevalence of that pacifick and friendly disposition among the people of the United States, which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and, in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community.

These are the pillars on which the glorious fabric of our independency and national character must be supported. Liberty is the basis, and whoever would dare to sap the foundation, or overturn the structure, under whatever specious pretext he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execration, and the severest punishment which can be inflicted by his injured country.

On the three first articles I will make a few observations, leaving the last to the good sense and serious consideration of those immediately concerned.

Under the first head, although it may not be necessary or proper for me in this place to enter into a particular disquisition of the principles of the union, and to take up the great question, which has been frequently agitated, whether it be expedient and re-

quisite for the states to delegate a larger proportion of power to Congress, or not? yet it will be a part of my duty, and that of every true patriot, to assert, without reserve, and to insist upon the following propositions: That unless the states will suffer Congress to exercise those prerogatives they are undoubtedly invested with by the constitution, every thing must very rapidly tend to anarchy and confusion: That it is indispensable to the happiness of the individual states, that there should be lodged somewhere a supreme power, to regulate and govern the general concerns of the Confederated Republick, without which the union cannot be of long duration: That there must be a faithful and pointed compliance, on the part of every state, with the late proposals and demands of Congress, or the most fatal consequences will ensue: That whatever measures have a tendency to dissolve the union, or contribute to violate or lessen the sovereign authority, ought to be considered as hostile to the liberty and independency of America, and the authors of them treated accordingly: And lastly, that unless we can be enabled, by the concurrence of the states, to participate of the fruits of the revolution, and enjoy the essential benefits of civil society under a form of government so free and uncorrupted, so happily guarded against the danger of oppression, as has been devised and adopted by the articles of confederation, that it will be a subject of regret, that so much blood and treasure have been lavished for no purpose, that so many sufferings have been encountered, without a compensation, and that so many sacrifices have been made in vain. Many other considerations might here be adduced to prove, that without an entire conformity to the spirit of the union, we cannot exist as an Independent Power.—It will be sufficient for my present purpose to mention but one or two, which seem to me of the greatest importance: It is only in our united character as an empire, that our independence is acknowledged, that our power can be regarded, or our credit supported among foreign nations. The treaties of the European powers with the United States of America, will have no validity on a dissolution of the union. We shall be left nearly in a state of nature, or we may find, by our own unhappy experience, that there is a natural and necessary progression from the extreme of anarchy to the extreme of tyranny; and that arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.

As to the second article, which respects the performance of publick justice, Congress have, in their late address to the United States, almost exhausted the subject; they have explained their ideas so fully, and have enforced the obligations the states are under to render complete justice to all the publick creditors, with so much dignity and energy, that in my opinion, no real friend to the honour and independency of America, can hesitate a single moment respecting the propriety of complying with the just and honourable measures proposed; if their arguments do not produce conviction, I know of nothing that will have greater influence; especially when we recollect, that the system referred to being the result of the collected wisdom of the continent, must be esteemed, if not perfect, certainly the least objectionable of any that could be devised; and that if it shall not be carried into immediate execution, a national bankruptcy, with all its deplorable consequences, will take place before any different plan can possibly be proposed and adopted. So pressing are the present circumstances! And such is the alternative now offered to the states!

The ability of the country to discharge the debts which have been incurred in its defence is not to be doubted. An inclination, I flatter myself, will not be wanting. The path of our duty is plain before us. Honesty will be found in every experiment, to be the best and only true policy. Let us then, as a nation, be just. Let us fulfil the publick contracts, which Congress had undoubtedly a right to make for the purpose of carrying on the war, with the same good faith we suppose ourselves bound to perform our private engagements. In the mean time, let an attention to the cheerful performance of their proper business as individuals, and as members of society, be earnestly inculcated on the citizens of America.

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strengthen the hands of government, and be happy under its protection; every one will reap the fruit of his labours; every one will enjoy his own acquisitions, without molestation and without danger.

In this state of absolute freedom, and perfect security, who will grudge to yield a very little of his property to support the common interests of society, and ensure the protection of government? Who does not remember the frequent declarations at the commencement of the war, that we should be completely satisfied, if at the expence of one half we could defend the remainder of our possessions? Where is the man to be found, who wishes to remain indebted, for the defence of his own person and property, to the exertions, the bravery, and the blood of others, without making one generous effort to repay the debt of honour and of gratitude? In what part of the continent shall we find any man or body of men, who would not blush to stand up and propose measures, purposely calculated to rob the soldier of his stipend, and publick creditor of his due? And were it possible that such a flagrant instance of injustice could ever happen, would it not excite the general indignation, and tend to bring down, upon the authors of such measures, the aggravated vengeance of Heaven?

If after all, a spirit of disunion or a temper of obstinacy and perverseness, should manifest itself in any of the states, if such an ungracious disposition should attempt to frustrate all the happy effects that might be expected to flow from the union,—if there should be a refusal to comply with the requisitions for funds to discharge the annual interest of the publick debts, and if that refusal should revive again all those jealousies, and produce all those evils which are now happily removed, Congress, who have in all their transactions shewn a great degree of magnanimity and justice, will stand justified in the sight of God, and man, and the state alone which puts itself in opposition, to the aggregate wisdom of the continent, and follows such mistaken and pernicious councils, will be responsible for all the consequences.

For my own part, conscious of having acted while a servant of the publick, in the manner I conceived best suited to promote the real interest of my country; having in consequence of my fixed belief, in some measure pledged myself to the army, that their country would finally do them complete and ample justice; and not wishing to conceal any instance of my official conduct from the eyes of the world, I have thought proper to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed collection of papers, relative to the half-pay and commutation granted by Congress to the officers of the army. From these communications my decided sentiment will be clearly comprehended, together with the conclusive reasons which induced me, at an early period, to recommend the adoption of this measure in the most earnest and serious manner.

As the proceedings of Congress, the army and myself, are open to all, and contain, in my opinion, sufficient information to remove the prejudices and errors which may have been entertained by any, I think it unnecessary to say any thing more than just to observe, that the resolutions of Congress now alluded to, are undoubtedly as absolutely binding upon the United States, as the most solemn acts of confederation or legislation.

As to the idea, which I am informed has in some instances prevailed, that the half-pay and commutation are to be regarded merely in the odious light of a pension, it ought to be exploded forever; that provision should be viewed as it really was, a reasonable compensation offered by Congress, at a time when they had nothing else to give to the officers of the army for services then to be performed; it was the only means to prevent a total dereliction of the service; it was a part of their hire; I may be allowed to say, it was the price of their blood and of your independency: It is therefore more than a common debt—it is a debt of honour—it can never be considered as a pension of gratuity, nor be cancelled until it is fairly discharged.

With regard to a distinction between officers and soldiers, it is sufficient that the uniform experience of every nation of the world, combined with our own, proves the utility and propriety of the discrimination. Rewards, in proportion to the aids the publick derives from them, are unquestionably due to all its servants; in some lines the soldiers have perhaps generally had an ample compensation for their services, by their large bounties which have been paid them, as their officers will receive in the proposed commutation; in others, if besides the donation of lands, the payment of arrearages, of clothing and wages (in which articles all the component parts of the army must be put upon the same footing) we take into the estimate, the bounties many of the soldiers have received, and the gratuity of one year's full pay, which is promised to all, possibly their situation (every circumstance being duly considered) will not be deemed less eligible than that of their officers; should a further reward, however, be judged equitable, I will venture to assert, no one will enjoy greater satisfaction than myself, on seeing an exemption from taxes

for a limited time (which has been petitioned for in some instances) or any other adequate immunity or compensation, granted to the brave defenders of their country's cause; but neither the adoption or rejection of this proposition will in any manner effect, much less militate against, the act of Congress, by which they have offered five years full pay in lieu of the half-pay for life, which had been before promised to the officers of the army.

Before I conclude the subject of publick justice, I cannot omit to mention the obligations this country is under to that meritorious class of veteran non-commissioned officers and privates, who have been discharged for inability in consequence of the resolution of Congress of the 23d of April, 1782, on an annual pension for life; their peculiar sufferings, their singular merits and claims to that provision, need only be known, to interest all the feelings of humanity in their behalf:—Nothing but a punctual payment of their annual allowance can rescue them from the most complicated misery; and nothing could be a more melancholy and distressing sight, than to behold those who have shed their blood, or lost their limbs in the service of their country, without a shelter, without a friend, and without the means of obtaining any of the necessaries or comforts of life, compelled to beg their daily bread from door to door. Suffer me to recommend those of this description, belonging to your state, to the warmest patronage of your Excellency and your legislature.

It is necessary to say but a few words on the third topic which was proposed, and which regards particularly the defence of the republick. As there can be little doubt but Congress will recommend a proper peace establishment for the United States, in which a due attention will be paid to the importance of placing the militia of the union upon a regular and respectable footing; if this should be the case, I would beg leave to urge the great advantage of it in the strongest terms. The militia of this country must be considered as the palladium of our security, and the first effectual resort in case of hostility: It is essential, therefore, that the same system should pervade the whole; that the formation and discipline of the militia of the continent should be absolutely uniform; and that the same species of arms, accoutrements and military apparatus, should be introduced in every part of the United States. No one, who has not learned it from experience, can conceive the difficulty, expence and confusion, which result from a contrary system, or the vague arrangements which have hitherto prevailed.

If in treating of political points, a greater latitude than usual has been taken in the course of this address, the importance of the crisis, and the magnitude of the objects in discussion, must be my apology. It is, however, neither my wish or expectation, that the preceding observations should claim any regard, except so far as they shall appear to be dictated by a good intention, consonant to the immutable rules of justice, calculated to produce a liberal system of policy, and founded on whatever experience may have been acquired, by a long and close attention to publick business. Here I might speak with the more confidence from my actual observations; and, if it would not swell this letter (already too prolix) beyond the bounds I had prescribed myself, I could demonstrate, to every mind open to conviction, that in less time, and with much less expence than has been incurred, the war might have been brought to the same happy conclusion, if the resources of the continent could have been properly brought forth; that the distresses and disappointments which have very often occurred, have, in too many instances, resulted more from a want of energy in the continental government, than a deficiency of means in the particular states; that the inefficacy of measures, arising from the want of an adequate authority in the supreme power, from a partial compliance with the requisitions of Congress in some of the states, and from a failure of punctuality in others, while it tended to damp the zeal of those who were more willing to exert themselves, served also to accumulate the expences of the war, and to frustrate the best concerted plans; and that the discouragement occasioned by the complicated difficulties and embarrassments, in which our affairs were by this means involved, would have long ago produced the dissolution of any army, less patient, less virtuous, and less persevering, than that which I have had the honour to command; but while I mention these things, which are notorious facts, as the defects of our federal constitution, particularly in the prosecution of a war, I beg it may be understood, that as I have ever taken a pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the assistance and support I have derived, from every class of citizens, so shall I always be happy to do justice to the unparalleled exertions of the individual states, on many interesting occasions.

I have thus freely disclosed what I wished to make known, before I surrendered up my publick trust to those who committed it to me. The task is now accomplished.—I now bid adieu to your Excellency as the chief magistrate of your state; at the same time I bid a last farewell to the cares of office, and all the employments of publick life.

It remains then, to be my final and only request, that your Excellency will communicate these sentiments to your legislature at their next meeting, and that they may be considered as the legacy of one, who has ardently wished, on all occasions, to be useful to his country; and who, even in the shade of retirement, will not fail to implore the divine benediction upon it.

I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the state over which you preside, in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow-citi-

zens of the United States, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field; and, finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacifick temper of mind, which were the characteristic of the divine author of our blessed religion; and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

I have the honour to be,
with great respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient,
and very humble servant,
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

His Excellency Governor Trumbull.

DEFINITIVE TREATY.

By the Lord Hyde Packet, arrived at New-York, on Sunday the 23d ult. in 47 days from England, the Definitive Treaty between Great-Britain and the United States of America, was received, signed at Paris the 3d of September, 1783, of which the following is a copy:

In the Name of the most holy and undivided Trinity.

IT having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent prince George the third, by the grace of God, King of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, Duke of Brunsvick and Lunenburgh, Arch-Treasurer and Prince-Elector of the holy Roman empire, &c. and of the United States of America, to forget all past misunderstandings and differences that have unhappily interrupted the good correspondence and friendship which they mutually wish to restore, and to establish such a beneficial and satisfactory intercourse between the two countries, upon the ground of reciprocal advantages and mutual convenience, as may promote and secure to both perpetual peace and harmony; and having for this desirable end already laid the foundation of peace and reconciliation, by the provisional articles signed at Paris on the 30th of November, 1782, by the Commissioners empowered on each part, which articles were agreed to be inserted in, and to constitute the treaty of peace proposed to be concluded between the Crown of Great-Britain and the said United States, but which treaty was not to be concluded until terms of peace should be agreed upon between Great-Britain and France, and His Britannick Majesty should be ready to conclude such treaty accordingly; and the treaty between Great-Britain and France having been concluded, His Britannick Majesty and the United States of America, in order to carry into full effect the provisional articles above-mentioned, according to the tenor thereof, have constituted and appointed, that is to say, His Britannick Majesty on his part, David Hartley, Esq. Member of the Parliament of Great-Britain, and the said United States on their part, John Adams, Esq. late a Commissioner of the United States of America at the Court of Versailles, late Delegate in Congress from the state of Massachusetts, and Chief Justice of the said state, and Minister Plenipotentiary of the said United States to their High Mightinesses the States Genera of the United Netherlands; Benjamin Franklin, Esq. late Delegate in Congress from the state of Pennsylvania, President of the convention of the said state, and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America at the Court of Versailles; and John Jay, Esq. late President of Congress, and Chief Justice of the state of New-York, and Minister Plenipotentiary from the said United States at the Court of Madrid, to be the Plenipotentiaries for the concluding and signing the present definitive treaty; who, after having reciprocally communicated their respective full powers, have agreed upon and confirmed the following articles:

Art. 1. His Britannick Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina and Georgia, to be free, sovereign and independent states; that he treats with them as such, and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, property and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

Art. 2. And that all disputes which might arise in future, on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and shall be their boundaries, viz. from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the said Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the atlantic ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut river; thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; from thence by a line due west on said latitude, until it strikes the river Irriquois or Catarqui; thence along the middle of the said river into Lake Ontario; through the middle of the said lake until it strikes the communi-

cation by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of said lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron, thence through the middle of said lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior, northward of the Isles Royal and Phelipeaux to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods, thence through the said lake to the most north-western point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the river Mississippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. South, by a line to be drawn due east from the determination of the line last mentioned in the latitude of 31 degrees north of the equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouche; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint River; thence straight to the head of St. Mary's River; and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantick Ocean; east, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the River St. Croix from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its source, and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantick Ocean from those which fall into the River St. Lawrence, comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantick Ocean, excepting such islands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

Art. 3. It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland, also in the gulph of St. Lawrence, and all other places in the sea, where the inhabitants of both countries used at
(For the remainder see the fourth page.)

TRENTON, December 9.

Agreeably to a proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, Thursday next is to be observed as a day of publick thanksgiving throughout this state.

JAMES MOTT, junior, Esquire, is appointed Treasurer of the state for the year ensuing.

On Tuesday night last, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the house of Francis Witt, tavernkeeper in this town, caught fire by means of an open stove, the hearth of which had been laid too close to the floor; but before the fire had made much progress, it was providentially discovered, and, from the activity of the citizens, who generally collected on the occasion, was soon extinguished, without any material damage being done.

Last Saturday arrived in this town His Excellency General Washington, on his way to his seat in Virginia. Immediately after his arrival he was waited upon by His Excellency the Governor, and a Committee of the Council and Assembly, by whom he was presented with the following ADDRESS:

The Address of the GOVERNOR, COUNCIL and GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the State of NEW-JERSEY, to His Excellency GENERAL WASHINGTON.

SIR,
WE should think ourselves highly inexcusable, did we neglect this opportunity, of congratulating your Excellency on your arrival in this town, the present residence of the Legislature of this state; and a town which you, Sir, have rendered famous to the latest posterity, by the most unexampled effort of military genius; and your signal victory over an enemy till then, through the great superiority of their numbers, the triumphant possessors of this part of the country.

With the profoundest gratitude we adore that all-wise and most gracious Providence, which, originally intending our ultimate triumph over a very powerful enemy, and the complete establishment of our national independence, supernaturally influenced the united hearts of America to the unanimous choice of your Excellency, as the Generalissimo of her armies. To the heaven-directed wisdom of that election, succeeding ages will bear testimony, when they revolve those faithful pages of history, which will immortalize the innumerable hardships you have endured; the almost insuperable obstacles you have surmounted; the numerous disappointments to which you have risen superior, and the infinite resources of your genius in the most unexpected and trying emergencies. Nor has the direction of Heaven been less conspicuous in preserving in the citizens of America, such an unanimity of sentiment respecting your abilities and conduct, as they would probably not have concurred in with respect to any other person on the continent. This, Sir, is no flattery,—or fact is fiction, and sacred truth is empty compliment!

May Heaven reward your vigorous and unremitting exertions in the glorious cause of liberty, and your most important instrumentality in preserving your country from the subjugation and bondage lately meditated against it. May you long live beloved by a grateful nation; and may the brave and meritorious

army, which under your command and the smiles of Heaven, has so essentially contributed to the establishment of our independence, and the national glory of these states, be never forgotten—be honestly, be generously rewarded.

While heroes and warriors are dazzled with the lustre of your martial achievements, the citizen and the patriot will remember your particular attention to the rights of the subject, too often wantonly violated by military men.

May your Excellency long enjoy, amidst that domestic happiness, which for a course of years you have so generously sacrificed to the publick weal, the heart-felt felicity naturally resulting from the recollection of the illustrious part you have acted on the theatre of our arduous conflict; and of your important agency in raising a nation from the verge of slavery, to the summit of glory: May you be finally translated from this state militant, to that blissful region, which will eternally exclude all contention and war.

WIL. LIVINGSTON, President of the Council,
EPHRAIM HARRIS, Speaker of the Assembly.

Trenton, Dec. 6, 1783.

To which His Excellency was pleased to return the following ANSWER:

To His Excellency the GOVERNOR, the Honourable the COUNCIL, and GENERAL ASSEMBLY, of the State of NEW-JERSEY.

GENTLEMEN,
I WANT words to express the heart-felt pleasure I experience on receiving the congratulation and plaudit of so respectable a body, as the Legislature of the state of New-Jersey: I cannot, however, suppress the effusions of my gratitude, for their flattering allusion to an event which hath signalized the name of Trenton; for the delicate manner of their recalling to mind none but grateful ideas, as well as for all their former assistance at the period of our deepest distress.

I am heartily disposed to join with you, gentlemen, in adoration to that all-wise and most gracious Providence, which hath so conspicuously interposed in the direction of our publick affairs, and the establishment of our national independence.

The faithful page of history will, I doubt not, record all the patriotic sufferings and meritorious services of the gallant little army I have had the honour to command; nor (if my testimony and the voice of truth can avail any thing) shall the efficacious exertions of the state of New-Jersey, or the almost unrivalled bravery of its militia, ever be forgotten.—Let the fact be made known to the whole world—Let it be remembered for ever as an example to succeeding ages, that after a large extent of country had been overrun by a formidable enemy, and thousands of citizens driven from their possessions; the virtuous freemen of New-Jersey, recovering from the temporary shock, stung by the remembrance of what their wives, their children and friends had already suffered, by the thought of losing all they yet held dear and sacred, animated by an enthusiastic hope of success, and buoyed by a reliance on the aid of Heaven, above the fear of danger and death, then began to stem the tide of adversity; and, in concert with our other force, recoiling like an impetuous torrent on our lately victorious foes, confined them within narrow limits, till compelled to take their final departure from the state.

For me, it is enough to have seen the Divine Arm visibly out-stretched for our deliverance, and to have received the approbation of my country and my conscience, on account of my humble instrumentality in carrying the designs of Providence into effect: But for my gallant associates in the field, who have so essentially contributed to the establishment of our independence and national glory, no rewards can be too great.

I am now to bid you a long farewell, and to recommend you, gentlemen, and the state over whose welfare you are appointed to superintend, to the indulgent care of Heaven.

May unanimity and wisdom ever prevail in your publick Councils!—May justice and liberality distinguish the administration of your government!—And may the citizens of New-Jersey be completely happy in the practice of industry, oeconomy and every private virtue.

Trenton, Dec. 6, 1783.

G. WASHINGTON.

THE NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE is revived on the following terms:

- I. The paper to be continued the same size as this sheet, being equal in this respect to most of those published in Philadelphia.
- II. The price to be TEN SHILLINGS by the year.
- III. The money to be advanced quarterly, or for a longer time, as the subscribers may think fit; and, if the paper should be discontinued, to be returned on demand, after deducting the price of the papers which have been furnished since the respective advances were made.
- IV. The papers to go out in packets, as heretofore, and one to be given gratis with every dozen the packet may contain.
- V. The packets to stop whenever the term elapses for which the last advance has been made, unless a further advance be then made.
- VI. The SUBSCRIBERS to pay their posts, as heretofore.

The publisher flatters himself that the above conditions will appear so reasonable in point of price, and so necessary in point of precaution, that they will meet with universal approbation—and that he will have the fullest encouragement from his fellow-citizens in carrying on this useful undertaking. He is of opinion,

that this method of publication will fix the NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE on a basis that will be permanent; and is convinced that this only will enable him to devote to it a portion of his time and attention adequate to the importance of the object.

Gentlemen, to whom it may be convenient, will much oblige the publisher, by forming packets in the several counties as expeditiously as may be.

ISAAC COLLINS.

Trenton, December 9, 1783.

The printer thinks the utility of a general circulation of news-papers is set in so plain and handsome a light in the following short essay, published in a late New-England paper, that he takes the liberty of offering it to the consideration of his fellow-citizens.

AN ADDRESS to the CITIZENS of AMERICA, shewing the necessity of encouraging a general circulation of NEWS-PAPERS, among all classes and denominations of people.

WITHOUT knowledge among the people, liberty and publick happiness cannot exist long in any country; and this necessary knowledge cannot be obtained in any other way than by a general circulation of publick papers.

These are the channels for all publick information, by which we learn what laws are made, what our rulers are doing, what events are taking place in our country, or among other nations; also, what is to be bought or sold; matters of curiosity, speculation, amusement and instruction; in short, publick papers are the political eyes and the civil light of the people; without which they will grope in darkness, and be a prey to tyrants. Ignorance is the dark door at which tyranny enters. Another vast advantage which arises from the general circulation of papers, is, the novelties they contain excite youth to read them, whereby they are perfected in the art of reading, and at the same time gain useful knowledge. But this source of instruction is so fertile with publick advantages and private benefits, that they cannot be numbered. And all these vast and durable benefits may be had very easily and cheap indeed; as one paper may answer for two families, the expence may thereby be reduced so very small, that poverty itself will not be excluded the privilege. Therefore, if any remain ignorant and neglect this cheap information, they ought to consider that they are preparing themselves, and training up their children, in that path of ignorance which leads to slavery! Let no one conceive because the war is over, they shall have no interesting concern in publick affairs; and in order to save a trifling expence, neglect to read the publick papers: The people of all classes are in this matter "penny wise, and pound foolish."

It ought forever to be remembered, that ignorance pays more for folly, than knowledge gives for wisdom; and that tyranny taxes more for chains, than liberty demands for all the blessings of freedom. How astonishing then must the conduct of a people be, who have spent their dearest blood and treasure to purchase the inestimable jewel of liberty, if they should neglect the preservation of it, or their heirs should sacrifice to ignorance the sacred inheritance.

Let us then arouse to enquiry and perseverance in the pursuit of knowledge; attend to the conduct of all the servants of the publick, and be inquisitive to know of them the state of our nation, and the reasons for all publick measures; comparing their information with the state of matters exhibited in the publick papers: Thus we may be wise, free and happy. But if to save a few pence, or a little time in reading publick papers, we should neglect them, ignorance may gradually overspread this new enlightened country, and tyranny advance as knowledge decays, until darkness and slavery wrap this glorious land in all the horrors of despotick sway.

CONSIDERATION.

To be sold,

A Valuable plantation, containing near two hundred acres, with a grist-mill and saw-mill lying on the river Lambertson, a never failing stream, distant from meeting one mile, two miles from New-Germantown, and eighteen from Raritan landing:—On the premises are a good dwelling-house and kitchen, and a store-house, with a cellar under the whole; very convenient for trade.—Also a good barn and cow-house; and on the premises are two good orchards, and a well of good water by the door; the above land being well watered and well timbered, and in good repair. An indisputable title will be given by
NICHOLAS ANGLE.

December 8, 1783.

3w7

State of New-Jersey, }
Middlesex county, sh. } BY virtue of two writs of Fieri Facias to me directed, issued out of the supreme court of judicature of said state, at the suits of Aaron Smith and John Johnston; also by virtue of an act, &c. and supplement to an act of the legislature, I shall sell, at publick vendue, on Wednesday the twenty-first day of January next, at the house of John Degraw, in New-Brunswick, between the hours of twelve and five in the afternoon, some rights and shares of propriety to the unlocated lands in the eastern division of the state, late the property of Elias Bland, deceased. Gentlemen who choose to be purchasers, may know the value of the rights by applying to the proprietors' books at John Stevens's, jun. in Trenton.

JOHN CONWAY, late Sheriff.

December 5, 1783.

5w

any time heretofore to fish. And also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen shall use, (but not to dry or cure the same on that island) and also on the coasts, bays and creeks of all others of His Britannick Majesty's dominions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the same or either of them shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors or possessors of the ground.

Art. 4. It is agreed that the creditors on either side shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value, in sterling money, of all bona fide debts heretofore contracted.

Art. 5. It is agreed that Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the Legislatures of the respective states, to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects; and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of His Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States; and that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights and properties, as may have been confiscated; and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which, on the return of the blessings of peace, should universally prevail; and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights and properties of such last mentioned persons shall be restored to them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession the bona fide price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights or properties since the confiscation.

And it is agreed, that all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debts, marriage settlements, or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

Art. 6. That there shall be no future confiscations made, nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for, or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war; and that no person shall, on that account, suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person, liberty or property; and that those who may be in confinement on such charges, at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

Art. 7. There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between His Britannick Majesty and the said states, and between the subjects of the one, and the citizens of the other; wherefore all hostilities, both by sea and land, shall from henceforth cease: All prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and His Britannick Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons and fleets from the said United States, and from every post, place and harbour, within the same, leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein; and shall also order and cause all archives, records, deeds and papers belonging to any of the said states, or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored, and delivered to the proper state and persons to whom they belong.

Art. 8. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great-Britain, and the citizens of the United States.

Art. 9. In case it should so happen that any place or territory belonging to Great-Britain, or to the United States, should have been conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of the said provisional articles in America, it is agreed, that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

Art. 10. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, expedited in good and due form, shall be exchanged between the contracting parties in the space of six months, or sooner, if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty. In witness whereof, we the undersigned, their Ministers Plenipotentiary, have in their name, and in virtue of our full powers, signed with our hands the present definitive treaty, and caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at Paris, this 3d day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

(L. S.) JOHN ADAMS,
(L. S.) DAVID HARTLEY,
(L. S.) B. FRANKLIN,
(L. S.) JOHN JAY.

C O N N E C T I C U T.

At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut, holden at New-Haven on the 2d Thursday of October, Anno Domini, 1783.

UPON the petition of Benjamin Hanks, of Litchfield, shewing to this Assembly that he has, with great study for a number of years, applied himself in search of mechanical knowledge, and, in pursuance thereof, has invented and executed a clock which winds itself up by the effect of air, and which will continue so to do without any other assistance till the component parts are destroyed by friction, and that said clock will keep time in the most regular manner, as it is wound up without any variation or stop put to its mechanical operation, and that consequently said invention is a great improvement in mechanical knowledge, praying for the privilege of an exclusive right to make and vend clocks so constructed for the term of fourteen years—as by memorial on file.

Resolved, by this Assembly, That the prayer of the said petitioner be granted; and that he the said Benjamin Hanks be, and he hereby is legally vested with the sole and exclusive right of making, executing and vending clocks, of the before-mentioned description and construction, for the term of fourteen years, and that any person or persons who shall make any clock constructed conformable to the aforesaid description or similar thereto, or shall import or bring into or vend, any such clock within this state, so as to defeat the exclusive right, which it is the intention of this act to vest the said Benjamin Hanks with the privilege to make and vend, as a reward for his study and invention, as aforesaid, during the term aforesaid, every such person or persons, for every such clock constructed or brought into this state, contrary to the design and intention of this act, and without the consent of the said Benjamin Hanks, shall forfeit to him or to his heirs or executors, the value of every such clock so constructed or brought into this state, which value shall not be estimated at less than twenty pounds lawful money, to be recovered by the said Benjamin Hanks, his heirs, executors or administrators, before any court, having cognizance of such offence.

Provided nevertheless, That nothing shall be considered or deemed an offence against this act, by which any forfeiture shall accrue to him the said Benjamin Hanks, or to his heirs or executors, but what shall be committed in the life of the said Benjamin Hanks.

Resolved further, That this act shall be adjudged a publick act, after it shall have been published in three successive papers in each of the publick newspapers in this state.

A true copy of record examined by
GEORGE WYLLYS, Secry.

PHILADELPHIA, November 29.
By the UNITED STATES in Congress assembled,
September 30, 1783.

Resolved, That the secretary at war issue to all officers of the army under the rank of Major-General, who hold the same rank now they held in the year 1777, a brevet commission one grade higher than their present rank, having respect to their seniority, and that commissions for full Colonels be granted to Lieutenant-Colonels of 1777, the resolution of the 27th May, 1778, notwithstanding.

(Copy) CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

NOVEMBER II, 1783.

Commanding officers of state lines, and of particular corps, will please to make return to the war office, of the names and rank of all officers therein, who were in service on the thirtieth day of September last, and who then held the same rank they enjoyed in the year 1777, and officers who are not in the line of any particular corps, will please to return their names and rank, that they may receive brevets agreeably to the above order of Congress.

B. LINCOLN.

[The printers in the United States are requested to insert the above in their several news-papers.]

Extract from the Minutes of the Honourable the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.—Saturday, November 15, 1783.

The committee to whom the letter from Mark Bird and James Wilson was referred, report, that having considered the many advantages that would arise to the publick, if a bridge was erected over the Delaware, at Trenton falls, offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That leave be given to the said Messrs. Bird and Wilson to bring in a bill (to take effect when a law of a similar nature is passed by New-Jersey) for building a bridge over the river Delaware, and agreeable to the proposals made by them, viz.—1st. That at their own expence they build and

keep in repair a good and substantial bridge.—2d. That no injury be done to the navigation and fisheries of the river.—3d. That they shall be entitled to receive a toll equal to the ferriages which are now paid at the neighbouring ferries.

On motion, ordered, That Messieurs Shields, Rees, Rue, Willing, Coleman, M'Clellan, Carothers, Lincoln, Stroud, Wallace and Ritchie, be a committee to devise a general plan for the opening of the land-office.

About a fortnight ago the brig Philadelphia Packet, Captain Torrants, from Belfast for this port, ran ashore on Sinepuxent bar, when the passengers, being in a hurry to get on shore, hired a Providence schooner, that came to their assistance, and after throwing her cargo over board, she took about 70 of them on board, when, having got a small distance from the ship, the schooner overfet, being top-heavy, and every person perished; about 50 of the passengers and servants saved themselves in the brig's boat, and on a raft which they had made.

The brig America, late Captain Forrest, from Newry, for this port, after a long passage, being short of provisions, is put into Sinepuxent. The Captain having some dispute with one of the passengers, he was run through the body and killed.

On Saturday last John Taxter, Esquire, private Secretary to the honourable Mr. Adams, arrived here from P'orient, via New-York, where he was landed from on board the French packet, the Courier de l'Europe, which left France on the 26th of September. This gentleman comes with official dispatches to Congress from their Ministers in Europe; and brings the definitive treaty of peace between Great-Britain and America, which will not be published until it has been formally laid before the United States in Congress assembled.—However we can assure our readers that the articles which compose this treaty are precisely the same as those composing the provisional articles, but with a small difference in the preamble and conclusion.—It was signed at Paris the 3d of September last.

The treaty of commerce was not concluded when the packet left France.

A Charlestown paper of the 18th ult. says, that the port of the Havannah is again open.

Yesterday se'nnight His Excellency General Washington, and Governor Clinton, attended by a number of gentlemen of the army, members of Senate and Assembly, and several other officers of distinction, arrived at Haerlem, 9 miles from the city of New-York—The American troops advanced as far as Mr. Gowan's pass, and their Pickets as far as the Dove tavern, 5 miles from the city; but they did not take possession till Tuesday last, owing to the late rains which had retarded the embarkation of the British.

Thursday His Excellency M. de la Luzerne, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of His Most Christian Majesty, with his suite, set out from this city for New-York.

Since our last Rutgers's brewery in Maiden lane, New-York, and all the out-buildings, stables, &c. were burnt to the ground—It is thought they were set on fire by some incendiary as several boxes of combustible matter were found in the adjacent wooden buildings.

The commonwealth of Massachusetts Bay, we hear, have adopted the 5 per cent. impost, to be appropriated towards discharging their quota of the continental debt—but refuse to admit into the account the act of commutation.

DECEMBER 3.

Extract of a letter from Baltimore, November 29.

"The master of a brig from St. Kitts mentions a severe gale of wind having happened there last month, in which ten out of thirteen vessels were put ashore at that place, one said to be a Philadelphia ship."

Extract of a letter from New-York, dated Nov. 26.

"Yesterday gave us our city. To the honour of Britain, let it be published in every news-paper, that to add to their name (which has already been branded with every kind of infamy) they cut away the halliards from the flag-staff in the fort (formerly Fort George) and likewise greased the post, so that we were obliged to have a ladder to fix a new rope. Invention prevented any delay; for the glorious stripes were fixed in the sod, and a discharge of thirteen fired. The city has been remarkably quiet. A few days will, I hope, produce a little scrutiny, when Tories take care."

His Excellency William Paca, Esq. is re-elected Governor of the state of Maryland; and the Honourable James M'Henry, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chase and Edward Lloyd, Esquires, are chosen to represent the said state in the Congress of the United States for the year ensuing.