

NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1778.

From the PENNSYLVANIA PACKET, Dec. 15.

To SILAS DEANE, Esq.

AFTER reading a few lines of your address to the public in the Pennsylvania Packet of December 6th, I can truly say, that concern got the better of curiosity, and I felt an unwillingness to go through it. Mr. Deane must very well know that as I have no interest in, so likewise am I no stranger to his negotiations and contracts in France, his difference with his colleagues, the reason of his return to America, and the matters which have occurred since. All these are to me familiar things; and while I can but be surprized at the conduct of Mr. Deane, I lament the unnecessary torture he has imprudently occasioned. That disagreements will arise between individuals, even to the perplexity of a State, is nothing new, but that they should be outrageously brought forward, by one, whose station abroad should have taught him a delicacy of manners and even an excess of prudence, is something strange. The mind of a living public is quickly alarmed and easily tormented. It not only suffers by the stroke, but is frequently fretted by the cure, and ought therefore to be tenderly dealt with, and never to be trifled with. It feels first, and reasons afterwards. Its jealousy keeps vibrating between the accused and the accuser, and on a failure of proof always fixes on the latter. Had Mr. Deane's address produced no uneasiness in the body he appeals to, it would have been a sign, not of tranquillity, but death; and though it is painful to see it unnecessarily tortured, it is pleasant to contemplate the living cause.

Mr. Deane is particularly circumstanced. He has advantages which seldom happen, and when they do happen, ought to be used with the nicest care and the strictest honor. He has the opportunity of telling his own tale and there is none to reply to him. Two of the gentlemen he so freely censures are three thousand miles off, and the other two he so freely affronts are Members of Congress, one of them likewise, Col. R. H. Lee is absent in Virginia, and however painful may be their feelings, they must attend the progressive conduct of the house. No Member in Congress can individually take up the matter without being inconsistent, and none of the public understands it sufficiently. With these advantages Mr. Deane ought to be nicely and strictly the gentleman, in his language, his assertions, his intimations and his facts. He prefers himself, as his own evidence, upon his honor, and any misrepresentation or disingenuous trifling in him will be fatal.

Mr. Deane begins his address with a general display of his services in France, and strong insinuations against the Hon. Arthur and William Lee, he brings his complaints down to the time of signing the treaty, and from thence to the fourth of March, when he received the following order of Congress which he inserts at large.

In CONGRESS, December 8, 1777.

"WHEREAS it is of the greatest importance that Congress should at this critical juncture be well informed of the state of affairs in Europe. And whereas Congress have resolved that the Hon. Silas Deane, Esq. be recalled from the Court of France, and have appointed another Commissioner to supply his place there. Ordered, that the Committee for foreign correspondence, write to the Hon. Silas Deane, and direct him to embrace the first opportunity of returning to America, and upon his arrival to repair with all possible dispatch to Congress."

Mr. Deane then says, "and having placed my papers and yours in safety, I left Paris the 30th to embark for my native country, on board that fleet which your great and generous ally sent out for your assistance, in full confidence that I should not be detained on the business I was sent for."

I am obliged to tell Mr. Deane that this arrangement is somewhat uncandid, for on the reading it, it creates an opinion and likewise carries an appearance that Mr. Deane was only sent for, as the necessary and proper person from whom Congress might obtain a history of their affairs, and learn the characters of their foreign Agents, Commissioners and Ambassadors, after which Mr. Deane was to return. Is Mr. Deane so little master of address as not to know that censure may be politely conveyed by an apology? For however Mr. Deane may chuse to represent or misrepresent the matter, the truth is, that his contracts and engagements in France, had so involved and embarrassed Congress, that they found it necessary and resolved to recall him, that is ordered him home, to give an account of his own conduct, and likewise to save him from a train of disagreeable

consequences, which must have arisen to him had he continued in France. I would not be supposed to insinuate, that he might be thought unsafe but unfit. There is a certain and necessary association of dignity between the person and the employment which perhaps did not appear when Mr. Deane was considered the Ambassador. His address to the public confirms the justness of this remark. The spirit and language of it differs exceedingly from that cool penetrating judgment and refinement of manners and expression which fits, and is absolutely necessary in the Plenipotentiary. His censures are coarse and vehement, and when he speaks of himself, he begs, nay almost weeps to be believed.—It was the intricacy of Mr. Deane's own official affairs, his multiplied contracts in France before the arrival of Dr. Franklin or any of the other Commissioners: His assuming authorities, and entering into engagements, in the time of his Commercial Agency, for which he had neither commission nor instruction, and the general unsettled state of his accounts that were among the reasons that produced the motion for recalling and superseding him.—Why then does Mr. Deane endeavour to lead the attention of the public to a wrong object, and to bury the real reasons, under a tumult of new and perhaps unnecessary suspicions?

Mr. Deane in the beginning of his address to the public says, "What I write to you I would have said to your Representatives, their ears have been shut against me, by an attention to matters, which my respect for them induces me to believe were of more importance."

In this paragraph Mr. Deane's excuse becomes his accuser, and his justification is his offence, for if the greater importance of other matters is supposed and given by himself as a reason, why he was not heard, it is likewise a sufficient reason why he ought not to have complained that "their ears were shut," and a good reason why he ought to have waited a more convenient time. But besides the inconsistency of this charge, there is something in it that will suffer by an enquiry, and I am sorry that Mr. Deane's imprudence has obliged me to mention a circumstance which affects his honour as a gentleman, his reputation as a man. In order to be clearly understood on this head, I am obliged to go back with Mr. Deane to the time of his quitting France on account of his being recalled. "I left Paris, says Mr. Deane, on the 30th of March, 1777, to embark for my native country, having placed my papers and yours in safety," would any body have supposed that a gentleman in the character of a public Commercial Agent, and afterwards in that of a public Minister, would return home after seeing himself both recalled and superseded, and not bring with him his papers and vouchers, and why he has done so must appear to every one exceedingly unaccountable? After Mr. Deane's arrival he had two audiences with Congress in August last, in neither of which did he offer the least charge against the gentlemen he has so loudly upbraided in his address to the public, neither has he yet accounted for his expenditure of public money, which as it might have been done by a written state of accounts, might for that reason have been done at any time, and was a part of the business which required no audience.

There is something curiously intricate and evasive in Mr. Deane's saying in his address, that he left France "in full confidence that he should not be detained on the business he was sent for." And the only end it can answer to him is to furnish out a present excuse for not producing his papers. Mr. Deane had no right, either from the literal or implied sense of the resolution itself to suppose that he should return to France in his former public character, or that he was "sent for," as he files it, on any other personal business than that which related to himself. Mr. Deane must be sensible, if he will but candidly reflect, that as an Agent only, he greatly exceeded his line, and embarrassed the Congress, the continent, the army and himself.

Mr. Deane's address to the public is dated Nov.—, but without any day of the month, and here a new scene of ungentle evasion opens. On the last day of that month, viz. the 30th, he addressed a letter to Congress signifying his intentions of returning to France and pressing to have his affairs brought to some conclusion, which, I presume, on account of the absence of his papers could not well be done, therefore Mr. Deane's address to the public must be written before the 30th, and consequently before his letter to Congress, which carries an appearance of its being only a feint in order to make a confused diversion in his favor at the time his affairs should come under consideration.

What favours this opinion is, that on the next day,

that is, December 1st, and partly in consequence of Mr. Deane's letter to them on the 30th, the Congress entered the following resolution.

In CONGRESS, December 1, 1778.

"Resolved, That after to-morrow Congress will meet two hours at least each evening, beginning at six o'clock, Saturday evenings excepted, until the present state of their foreign affairs be fully considered."

As an enquiry into the state of foreign affairs naturally and effectually included all and every part of Mr. Deane's, he was thereupon regularly notified by letter to attend; and on the fourth he wrote again to Congress, acquainting them with his having received that notification and expressed his thanks; yet on the day following, viz. the fifth, he published his extraordinary address in the news-papers, which on account of its unsupported matter, the fury of its language and temper, and its inconsistency with other parts of his conduct, is incompatible with that character (which on account of the station he had been honoured with, and the sense that should have impressed him in consequence thereof,) he ought to have maintained.

On the appearance of Mr. Deane's address of the fifth, the public became jealously uneasy, and well they might. They were unacquainted with the train of circumstances that preceded and attended it, and were naturally led to suppose, that Mr. Deane, on account of the station he had filled, must be too much a gentleman to deceive them. It was Mr. Deane's particular fortune to grow into consequence from accident. Sent to France as a Commercial Agent under the appointment of a Committee, he rose as a matter of convenience to the station of a Commissioner of Congress; and with what dignity he might fill out that character, the public will judge from his conduct since; and perhaps be led to substitute convenience as an excuse for the appointment.

A delicacy of difficulties likewise arose in Congress on the appearance of the said address; for setting aside the matter, the irregular manner of it, as a proceeding, was a breach of decency; and as Mr. Deane, after being notified to attend an enquiry into foreign affairs, had circumstantially withdrawn from that mode, by appealing to the public, and at the same time said "their ears were shut against him," it was therefore given as a reason by some, that to take any notice of Mr. Deane in the interim would look like suppressing his public information, if he had any to give, and consequently would imply dishonour on the House; and that as he had transferred his case to the public, before it had been rejected by the Congress, he ought therefore to be left with the public, till he had done with them and they with him; and that whether his information was true or not, it was an insult on the people, because it was making them the ladder, on which he insulted their Representatives, by an unjust complaint of neglect. Others who might anticipate the anxiety of the public, and apprehend discontents would arise from a supposed inattention, were for adopting measures to prevent them, and of consequence inclined to a different line of conduct, and this division of sentiment on what might be supposed, the honour of the House, occasioned the then President, Henry Laurens, Esq. who adhered to the former opinion, to resign the chair; the majority on the sentiments was a single vote. In this place I take the liberty of remarking, for the benefit of succeeding generations, that the Honorable President before-mentioned having filled that station for one year in October last, made his resignation of the Presidency at the expiration of the year, left any example taken from his continuance might hereafter become inconvenient. I have an additional satisfaction in mentioning this useful historical anecdote, because it is done wholly unknown to the gentleman to whom it relates, or to any other gentleman in or out of Congress. He was replaced by a unanimous vote. But to return to my narration.

In the Pennsylvania Packet of Dec. 8th, Francis Lightfoot Lee, Esq. brother to the gentlemen so rudely treated in Mr. Deane's publication, and the only one now present, put in a short address to the public, requesting a suspension of their judgment till the matter could be fully investigated by those whose immediate business it became; meaning Congress. And Mr. Deane in the paper of the 10th, published another note, in which he informs, "that the Honorable Congress did, on Saturday morning the 5th instant, assign Monday evening to hear him." But why does Mr. Deane conceal the resolution of Congress of December 1st, in consequence of which he was notified to attend regularly an enquiry into the state of foreign affairs? By so doing, he endeavours to lead the public into a belief that his being

heard on Monday was extorted purely in consequence of his address of the 5th, and that otherwise he should not have been heard at all. I presume Congress are anxious to hear him, and to have his accounts arranged and settled; and if this should be the case, why did Mr. Deane leave his papers in France, and now complain that his affairs are not concluded? In the same note Mr. Deane likewise says, "that Congress did on that evening, Monday, resolve, That Mr. Deane do report in writing, as soon as may be, his agency of their affairs in Europe, together with any intelligence respecting their foreign affairs which he may judge proper." But why does Mr. Deane omit giving the remaining part of the resolution, which says, "That Mr. Deane be informed, that if he has any thing to communicate to Congress in the interim of immediate importance, that he should be heard to-morrow evening." I can see no propriety in omitting this part, unless Mr. Deane concluded that by publishing it he might put a quick expiration to his credit, by his not being able to give the wondrous information he had threatened in his address. In the conclusion of this note, Mr. Deane likewise says, "I therefore conceive that I cannot, with propriety, continue my narrative at present. In the mean time, I submit it to the good sense of the public, whether I ought to take any notice of a publication signed Francis Lightfoot Lee, opposed to *stubborn and undeniable facts*."

Thus far I have compared Mr. Deane with himself, and whether he has been candid or uncandid, consistent or inconsistent, I leave to the judgment of those who read it. Mr. Deane cannot have the least right to think that I am moved by any party difference or personal antipathy. He is a gentleman with whom I never had a syllable of dispute, nor with any other person upon his account. Who are his friends, his connections, or his foes, is wholly indifferent to me, and what I have written will be a secret to every body till it comes from the press. The convulsion which the public were thrown into by his address, will, I hope, justify my taking up a matter in which I should otherwise have been perfectly silent; and whatever may be its fate, my intention is a good one; besides which there was no other person who knew the affair inefficiently, or knowing it, could consistently do it, and yet it was necessary to be done.

I shall now take a short review of what Mr. Deane calls "*stubborn and undeniable facts*." Mr. Deane must be exceedingly unconvincant both with terms and ideas, not to distinguish between even a wandering probability and a fact; and between a forced implication and a proof; for admitting every circumstance of information in Mr. Deane's address to be true, they are still but circumstances, and his deductions from them are hypothetical and inconclusive.

Mr. Deane has involved a gentleman in his unlimited censure, whose fidelity and personal qualities I have been well acquainted with for three years past, and in respect to an absent injured friend, Col. Richard Henry Lee, I will venture to tell Mr. Deane, that in any stile of character in which a gentleman may be spoken of, Mr. Deane would suffer by a comparison. He has one defect which perhaps Mr. Deane is acquainted with, the misfortune of having but one hand.

The charges likewise which he advances against the Honorable Arthur and William Lee, are, to me, circumstantial evidences of Mr. Deane's unfitness for a public character; for it is the business of a foreign minister to learn other men's secrets and keep their own. Mr. Deane has given a short history of Mr. Arthur Lee and Dr. Berkenhout in France, and he has brought the last mentioned person again on the stage in America. There is something in this so exceedingly weak, that I am surprised that any one who would be thought a man of sense, should risk his reputation upon such frivolous a tale; for the event of the story, if any can be produced from it, is greatly against himself.

He says that a correspondence took place in France, between Dr. Berkenhout and Mr. Lee; that Mr. Lee shew part of the correspondence to Dr. Franklin and himself, and that in order to give the greater weight to Dr. Berkenhout's remarks he gave them to understand, that Dr. Berkenhout was in the secrets of the British Ministry. What Mr. Deane has related this for, or what he means to infer from it, I cannot understand; for the political inference ought to be, that if Mr. Lee really thought that Dr. Berkenhout was in the secrets of the British Ministry, he was therefore the very person with whom Mr. Lee ought, as an Ambassador, to cultivate a correspondence, and introduce to his colleagues, in order to discover what those secrets were, that they might be transmitted to America, and if Mr. Deane acted otherwise, he unwisely mistook his own character. However, this I can assure Mr. Deane, upon my own knowledge, that more and better information has come from Mr. Lee than ever came from himself; and how, or where he got it, is not a subject fit for public enquiry, unless Mr. Deane means to put a stop to all future informations. I can likewise tell Mr. Deane, that Mr. Lee was particularly commissioned by a certain body, and that under every sacred promise of inviolable secrecy, to make discoveries in England, and transmit them. Surely Mr. Deane must have left his discretion with his papers, or he would see the imprudence of his present conduct.

In the course of Mr. Deane's narrative he mentions Dr. Berkenhout again. "In September last, (says

he) I was informed that the Dr. Berkenhout who I have before mentioned was in gaol in this city. "I confess I was surprised, considering what I have already related, that this man should have audacity to appear in the capital of America." But why did not Mr. Deane confront Dr. Berkenhout while he was here? Why did he not give information to Congress or to the Council before whom he was examined, and by whom he was discharged and sent back for want of evidence against him? Mr. Deane was the only person that knew any thing of him, and it looks very unfavourable in him that he was silent when he should have spoke, if he had any thing to say, and now he is gone has a great deal to tell, and that about a nothing. "I immediately (says Mr. Deane) *take myself about the measures which I conceived necessary to investigate his plans and designs*." This is indeed a trifling excuse, for it wanted no great deal of *setting about*, the whole secret as well as the means being with himself, and half an hour's information might have been sufficient. What Mr. Deane means by "*investigating his plans and designs*," I cannot understand, unless he intended to have had the Doctor's nativity cast by a conjurer. Yet this trifling round-about story is one of Mr. Deane's "*stubborn and undeniable facts*." However, it is thus far a fact, that Mr. Deane kept it a secret till the man was gone.

He likewise entertains us with a history of what passed at New-York between Dr. Berkenhout and Governor Johnstone, but as he must naturally think that his readers must wonder how he came by such knowledge, he prudently supplies the defect by saying "that Providence, in whom we put our trust, *unfolded it to me*," revealed it, I suppose. As to what Dr. Berkenhout was, or what he came for, is a matter of very little consequence to us. He appeared to be a man of a good moral character, of a studious turn of mind, and genteel behaviour, and whether he had whimsically employed himself, or was employed on a foolish errand by others, is a business not worth our enquiring after; he got nothing here, and to send him back was both necessary and civil. He introduced himself to General Maxwell at Elizabeth-Town, as knowing of Mr. Arthur Lee; the General wrote a letter of information to Col. R. H. Lee, who presented the same to Congress. But it does not appear that Mr. Deane moved in the matter till a considerable time after the Doctor was sent off, and then Mr. Deane put a series of queries in the news-paper to know why he was let go. I little thought at that time that the queries were Mr. Deane's, as they really appeared to me to be the produce of some little mind.

Mr. Deane likewise tells us that Mr. A. Lee was suspected by some of our best friends because of his acquaintance with Lord Shelburne; and perhaps some Mr. Deane in England will find out that Lord Shelburne ought to be suspected because of his acquaintance with Mr. Lee. Mr. Deane appears to me neither to understand characters nor business, or he would not mention Lord Shelburne on such an occasion, whose uniform and determined opposition to the Ministry appears to be known to every body but Mr. Deane. Mr. Deane has given us a quotation from a letter which he never saw, and had it likewise from a gentleman in France who had never seen it, but who had heard it from a correspondent in England to whom it was not sent, which correspondent had seen the person to whom it was sent; and this tradititious story is another of Mr. Deane's "*stubborn and undeniable facts*." But even supposing the quotation to be true, the only inference from it is naturally this, "That the sooner England makes peace with America the better it will be for her." Had the intimation been given before the treaty with France was signed, it might have been justly censured, but being given after, it can have but one meaning, and that a clear one. He likewise says, that Charles Fox "declared pointedly in the House of Commons," that the treaty between France and America was signed, and as Charles Fox knows Lord Shelburne, and Lord Shelburne Mr. Lee, therefore Mr. Deane infers, "as a stubborn and undeniable fact," that Mr. Lee must tell it. Does Mr. Deane know that nothing can be long a secret in a court, especially where the countries are but twenty miles apart, and that Charles Fox, from his ingratiating manners, is almost universally known in France?

Mr. Deane likewise supposes that William Lee, Esq. continues an Alderman of London, and either himself or some other gentleman since, under the signature of OBSERVATOR, says that "he has consulted, on this point, the Royal Kalendar or Annual Register," and finds it true.—To consult a Kalendar to find out a name must be a learned consultation indeed! An Alderman of London is neither a place at Court nor a place of profit, and if the city chuses not to expel him, it is a proof they are very good whigs; and this is the only proved fact in Mr. Deane's Address. But there is, through the whole of it, a barbarous, unmanly and unsupported attack on absent characters, which are, perhaps, far superior to his own; an eagerness to create suspicions wherever he can catch an opportunity; an over strained desire to be believed; and an affected air of giving importance to trifles. He accuses Mr. Lee of incivility to the French nation. Mr. Lee, if I can judge by his writing, is too much both of a scholar and a gentleman to deserve such a censure. He might with great justice complain against Mr. Deane's contracts with individuals; for we are fully sensible, that the gen-

tleman which have come from France since the arrival of Dr. Franklin and Mr. Lee in that country, are of a different rank to the generality of those with whom Mr. Deane contracted when alone: And this observation will, I believe, explain that charge no ways to Mr. Deane's honour.

Upon the whole, I cannot help considering this publication as one of the most irrational performances I ever met with. He seems in it to pay no regard to individual safety, nor cares who he may involve in the consequences of his quarrel. He mentions names without restraint, and stops at no discovery of persons. A public man, in Mr. Deane's former character, ought to be as silent as the grave; for who would trust a person with a secret who shewed such a talent for revealing? Under the pretence of doing good he is doing mischief, and in a tumult of his own creating, will expose and distress himself.

Mr. Deane's Address was calculated to catch several sorts of people: The rash, because they are fond of fiery things; the curious, because they are fond of curiosities; the weak, because they easily believe; the good, because they are unsuspecting; the Tory, because it comforts his discontent; the high whig, because he is jealous of his rights; and the man of national refinement, because it obscurely hints at national dishonor. The clamour, it is true, has been a popular one, and so far as it is the sign of a living principle, it is pleasant to see it; but when once understood it will amount to nothing, and with the rapidity that it rose it will descend.

COMMON SENSE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14, 1778.

P. S. The writer of this has been waited on by a gentleman, whom he supposes, by his conversation, to be a friend of Mr. Deane's, and whom Mr. Deane, but not any other person, is welcome to know whenever he pleases. The gentleman informed the writer, that some persons, whom he did not mention, had threatened most extraordinary vengeance against him (the writer of this piece) for taking the matter up; the writer asked, what, whether right or wrong? and likewise informed the gentleman, that he had done it solely with a view of putting the public right in a matter which they did not understand—that the threaten served to encrease the necessity, and was therefore an excitement to his doing it. The gentleman, after expressing his good opinion of, and personal respect for the writer, withdrew.

For the NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

To the VIRTUOUS CITIZENS in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

LONG has your reason been enlightened, and passion genuinely inflamed against the oppressive frides of Britain: but it is natural for the mind to loose sight of other objects, when an interesting one engrosses its attention. The enemy took possession of Syracuse, and, as some say, even dragged Archimedes from his table, while he was solving a mathematical problem—The Roman government was endangered while her general was intriguing with the Egyptian Cleopatra. Now it is with society, in this respect, as with individuals. I grant, that the public attention may be involved with weighty matters: it often judges rightly about them; and may pursue proper means to attain a laudable end—but the popular passion is like a large torrent, not so readily turned as that of individuals; and while it is projecting means to avoid one danger it is sometimes not impressed with others. I remember to have read of the Athenians; that they were zealous and active against their open enemy, while the bowels of their constitution were rotten with internal feuds and dissensions: they would all unite to resist a Persian Monarchy; while Æschines could accuse Demosthenes, and each had his party.

Such appears to be our case at present: and though we have not yet experienced those horrid factions, the natural offspring of inveterate parties; yet we have begun early, and hitherto ripened apace for such an event.—Altercations and personal differences among some of our first leaders, the disputes between Messrs. Deane and Lees, that has laid the foundation for violent parties, are the matters I refer to. For Heaven's sake, what have we at present to do with these:—Are we organized as a legislative body to take cognizance of the personal allegations of individuals? If so what purpose do our Congress and respective Legislatures answer? We ought always to have a careful jealousy over our rulers.—As public bodies, their conduct should be watched: but never let us substitute what evidently seems to be matter of personal animosity, instead of that of a more public and general nature.—

If these States are threatened, it is by internal division. Those that are avowedly and publicly inimical, openly triumph at it; while others that are secretly so, will be unwearied to support that side which gives the most fatal shock. I have seen the pertinent remark, That when individuals, under a pretence of great zeal and friendship for their country, exclaim against particular transactions of those that have been esteemed the most patriotic and disinterested, and throw out blind innuendoes and invectives to render them odious, and distrustful by their fellow-citizens; such persons may be marked as dangerous and disaffected to government.—I am sorry to find in the Pennsylvania Packet of December 19th, 1778, evident signatures of this sort.—The author of the piece signed Plain Sense evidently means to throw a gross reflection on Congress, by comparing Mr. Lee's

appointment, as Ambassador, with the 6th article of the Confederation:—In answer, it is enough to say, that the Confederation is not yet consummated, and, until it is, is of no validity.

What shall we think of the author of the following Queries in the same Packet.—Speaking of the supernumerary officers—“Have many of those supernumeraries been omitted to make way for favourites? &c.” “Can Congress be guilty of (committing) a breach of faith in the name of the United States? &c. &c.” “Rouse Americans, do justice, be grateful to your faithful servants.” Does it not appear that the author of those queries is rather inspired with a bad principle? and has he not the foregoing mark of disaffection?

Two objects are worthy of your deep attention: the Congress and the army; if the former is not revered, but brought into contempt, you have reason to be alarmed with the apprehensions of military government.—Whatever power, whether civil or military, is most respected, that will sway.—God forbid that we should ever fall a sacrifice to the latter; I mean not to reflect on any individual or set of men, but would warn you to be on your guard; and particularly to support the dignity of our Congress, for in that we politically live, and have a free existence.

AN IMPARTIAL AMERICAN.

Trenton, December 21, 1778.

TRENTON, DECEMBER 23.

In GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the State of New-Jersey, December 12, 1778.

WHEREAS there are in sundry of the counties of this state unimproved and untenanted tracts or parcels of lands, the owners or proprietors of which are inhabitants of some of the other United States;

Resolved, That Notice be given in the New-Jersey Gazette to the owners or proprietors of such lands, that the same are by law made subject to a tax in like manner as other lands of equal quality the owners or proprietors of which are inhabitants of this state, in order that they may take proper measures for having the tax assessed on them discharged; and that the several Printers of News-Papers throughout the United States be desired to publish this for the information of all concerned.

Extract from the Journals,

JOS. BLOOMFIELD, Clerk of Assembly.

Departed this life, on Saturday the 14th of Nov. last, the worthy and much to be lamented Mr. HENRY GREEN, of Shrewsbury, in the 49th year of his age; and the second day following his remains were decently interred in his own burying ground, mournfully attended by a large number of his acquaintances.

It is with pleasure we can inform the publick, that of about a thousand sick and wounded, admitted into the General Hospital at this place, since the departure of our army from the valley forge, only forty-three have died, and not above fifty (convalescents and inoculated patients) remain in charge of the surgeons.

MARRIED, on Tuesday se'nnight, in this place, CHARLES SIMMS, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel of the second Virginia regiment, to the truly amiable Miss NANCY DOUGLASS, daughter of Mr. WILLIAM DOUGLASS, late of the City of New-York.

Also married last Thursday evening, at Fair View near Bristol, Pennsylvania, JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, Esq. Major of the third New-Jersey regiment, to Miss POLLY MILVAINE, a young lady of merit and fortune.

On Saturday last the gallant Major LEE, with his corps of Light Dragoons, passed through this place from camp, on his way to Burlington, to go into winter quarters.

The Eastern Post was not arrived when this paper went to press.

*† The Thanksgiving day being fixed on Wednesday next, the publication of this Paper will be postponed till Thursday.

** Wanted by the Printer hereof, TWO Journeymen. They will be exempted from actual service in the militia, and receive handsome wages.

THE inconveniencies attending the usual mode of taking in or collecting subscriptions for a Newspaper, especially in times of publick commotion like the present, have induced the Publisher of the New-JERSEY GAZETTE, upon consideration, to alter the plan upon which he proposed to proceed the ensuing year when the advertisement in number 51 and 52 was given to the publick. To avoid the necessity of opening accounts against the individual subscribers, and the difficulties attending the settlement of numerous arrearages of small sums, he means to pursue the following plain and easy expedient, which will be more certain and cheap to his kind Customers and less embarrassing to himself.

Every Gentleman who will become a subscriber for twelve papers shall receive two more for his trouble, and so in proportion for a greater number.

The subscription-money to be paid to the Publisher by the persons engaging for the papers at or before the expiration of each quarter; and, to enable those to be punctual in making their remittances, the individuals who compose each packet are expected to pay by quarterly advances.

The several persons who become Subscribers to the Publisher, will find a proper mode of keeping

accounts with those whom they engage for, exemplified in the accounts for the preceding year, which will shortly be sent with the several packets.

The Publisher will be obliged to the several Gentlemen who collected subscriptions for him the preceding year to continue their kind offices for the ensuing on the plan now proposed.

If this mode can be carried into practice, the Publisher agrees to lower the price of the Gazette to a Dollar and an Half by the quarter.

It is hoped the above will meet the approbation of the Publick as being more advantageous in every respect than the other plan of publication. By this means the Paper may be carried on without loss, and the State served by a repository of Intelligence and useful Knowledge highly interesting to all.

As it is of importance to know what preparation ought to be made, and the number of papers which will probably be wanted, it is earnestly requested that all practicable dispatch may be used in sending in the subscriptions agreeably to the above Plan by the first of January next.

The Publisher returns his acknowledgments to the Publick for their great encouragement hitherto given, in this arduous undertaking; and he flatters himself that, with their further assistance, the Plan which he now wishes to prosecute can be readily carried into execution, which, as it will take less time, will enable him to bestow more pains in collecting the most interesting and entertaining Matter for the benefit and amusement of his Readers.

ISAAC COLLINS.

On SATURDAY next, the 26th inst. December, will be sold at the house of the subscriber, opposite the Church in Trenton,

An Assortment of MERCHANDIZE, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, amongst which are feather beds, a desk and dining table, also wearing apparel.

N. B. He proposes to hold the vendue every Saturday at his dwelling-house abovementioned.

On THURSDAY,

The 31st day of this instant, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, will be sold at publick Vendue, at the house of Col. Richard Wescott, at the Forks of Little Egg-Harbour,

THE Privateer Schooner Friends (lately captured by Capt. David Stevens) per inventory to be seen at the day of sale.

By order of the Court of Admiralty, JOSEPH POTTS, Marshall. N. B. At the same time and place will be sold, the Privateer Sloop Chance (which lately took the ship Venus) per inventory to be then seen, being completely fitted and now ready for a cruize. 2†

JOSEPH MILNOR,

Has for SALE at his STORE in TRENTON; Wholesale or Retail, the following Articles; MADEIRA wine, French brandy, old spirit, West-India rum, tea, coffee, sugar, allspice, sweet oil in flasks, snuff, tobacco, rosin, allum, 20d. rod, and 6d nails, shingles, pine and cedar boards, bar iron; a large quantity of linsens, handkerchiefs of different kinds, earthen ware, imported salt, and sundry other articles. 2†

TO BE SOLD, by FRANCIS WITT,

Opposite Captain CLUNN's, in Trenton, LINENS, checks, cambricks, muslin, tea, coffee, pepper, allspice, hard soap, indigo, snuff, shoes, shoe and knee buckles, ribbands, coat and vest buttons, decanters, pint tumblers, China dishes: Also a bark to make excellent bitters or cordials. 4w*

Ogden and Curtis,

Have for SALE at their STORE near the Court-House in Morristown,

RUM and whisky, Cap wire, Sugar, † Fine ivory and horn Hyson and bohea tea, combs, † Indigo, † Spectacles, † Brimstone, † Scissars and razors, † Snuff, † Ink powder, † Plug & pigtail tobacco, † Writing paper, † Castile soap, † Bra's ink stands, † Blacking ball, Sealing wax, † Ginger, † Paste boards, † Pepper, allspice, & rosin, † Pocket books, † Imported & shore salt, Bed cords, Gun powder, Leading lines, † Chalk, † Family and pocket al-manacks, Buckram, † Testaments, Linen and cambrick, † Spelling books, Piston lawn, † Primers, † Bombazene, † Baxter's faints rest, Black taffety, † Blank books of all sizes, Black ell Persian, Carpenter's hammers, Velvet, Gimbiets, Shalloon, Tap borers, Threads and ribbands, Bra's cocks, † Sewing silk, † Corks, Pins, Philadel. earthen ware, † Needles, † Iron potts & kettles, &c.

N. B. The articles thus marked † they have by the quantity.

TO THE PUBLICK.

THE PAPER-MILL at Trenton being now nearly compleated, the subscribers think it necessary to inform the Inhabitants of New-Jersey thereof, that they may save their RAGS for the purpose of making PAPER.—The very great scarcity of that useful article must point out to every considerate person the necessity of saving every shred of linen and cotton.—They would particularly address themselves to the GOOD WOMEN of this and the neighbouring State, but they are sensible that their prudence will dictate to them to good a measure.

The highest price will be given for any quantity delivered at their respective dwelling-houses, or at the paper-mill; and also by any of the following persons, viz. William Calvert, in Mount-Holly; Edward Brooks, jun. or Thomas Watson, jun. in Bordentown; John Denton, in Princeton; and Richard Leedom, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania.

STACY POTTS,
JOHN REYNOLDS.

100 and Fifty Dollars Reward.

STOLEN from the subscriber near New-Brunswick, the 17th instant, a brown MARE, three years old past, trots and canters; she has a small star on her forehead, branded with the letters IVL, shod before, and is about 14 hands and a half high. The above reward will be given for the Mare and Thief, so that the thief may be brought to justice, and Fifty Dollars for the mare only, and all reasonable charges, paid by me Johannes Van Lewc of Somerset county, near New-Brunswick. 2w†

THE subscriber being under the necessity at this time to request all those indebted to him, to make immediate payment, (or at least before the 1st Feb. next) at which time the subscriber would willingly discharge the debts due from him, and hopes his customers will so far comply as to enable him to do so.

ABRAHAM SKIRM. N. B. A Journeyman Fuller is wanted, to whom good encouragement will be given by the subscriber. Nottingham, Nov. 30, 1778. 2||

For SALE,

A Commodious FARM about 60 acres, agreeably situated on a publick road between Chatham and Morristown, with plenty of orchard and meadow land. Apply to the subscriber near Bottle-hill.

JOHN RAMSAY. The purchaser by paying one half or a third of the value, may have what time that best suits to pay the balance.

A DAY or two after the excursion of the enemy to Westfield, in July 1777, a new Pleasure-Sleigh was left in Woodbridge by some of their plundering party, and is supposed to have been taken from some inhabitant in or near Westfield.—The owner of said sleigh is desired to apply to the subscriber, prove his property, and take it away, otherwise it will be delivered to sell for the benefit of this State. MOOTRY KINSEY. Woodbridge, Dec. 16, 1778. 1†

WAS found on the 21st or 22d of June last, near the Baptist Meeting-house in Bordentown, a Portmanteau: The owner, by proving his property and paying charges, may have it again by applying to SARAH CHADWICK in Bordentown. 1||

WANTED immediately TWO JOURNEYMEN FULLERS, who will have good encouragement, and be exempted from military duty, by applying to WILLIAM DENNISTON, near Morristown, East-Jersey. Dec. 12, 1778. 3w*

To all whom it may concern:

State of New-Jersey, ff. NOTICE is hereby given that a Court of Admiralty will be held at the house of Gilbert Barton, Innholder, in Allentown, in the county of Monmouth, on Tuesday the 12th day of January next, at 10 of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bills of Yelverton Taylor, (who as well, &c.) against the schooner or vessel called the Good Intent, lately commanded by John Rosely;—against the schooner or vessel called the Fame, lately commanded by Francis Coffin—Of John Leake, (who as well, &c.) against the schooner or vessel called Fortune, lately commanded by Garret Beekman—Of Moses Griffin, (who as well, &c.) against the schooner or vessel called the Rambler, lately commanded by Bayne Smallwood—Of Seth Johnson, (who as well, &c.) against the sloop or vessel called the Charming Polly, lately commanded by Ebenezer Ward—Of David Stevens, (who as well, &c.) against the schooner or vessel called the Friends, lately commanded by James Conn—Of Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, (who as well, &c.) against the sloop or vessel lately commanded by Richard Reading—Of John Neilson, (who as well, &c.) against the sloop or vessel lately commanded by Thomas Crowell, jun. with their respective tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes: To the end and intent that the owner or owners of the said vessels respectively, or any person or persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessels and their respective tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes should not be condemned according to the prayer of the said bills.

By order of the Judge,
JOSEPH BLOOMFIELD, Register.

Twelve Dollars Reward,

STRAYED from the subscriber, four heifers, three of which are three years old, the others two years old; one of them is red with a white face, two are black or red pied, and the fourth is brindle, all marked with a half crop under the near ear and a slit in the off ear. Any person that informs the subscriber, or John Denton, at Princeton, Somerset county, New-Jersey, where he may get said heifers again, shall have the above reward, or three dollars for any one or more of them, paid by

NEHEMIAH SMITH.

Princeton, Dec. 7, 1778. 2w†

PUBLIC notice is hereby given to all persons who have in their custody or power, any goods or chattels, bonds, bills, mortgages, notes, books of accounts, or other instruments of writing, or who are indebted to the following fugitives and offenders, now with the enemy, viz. David Ogden, sen. David Ogden, jun. Uzal Ward, William Stiles, Nathaniel Williams, Thomas Bruen, Griffen Jenkins, Stephen Skinner, Benjamin Booth, Joseph Kingland, Robert Drummond, Lewis Greenfield, Stephen Farrand, John Wheeler, Ebenezer Ward, jun. Isaac Longworth, jun. Isaac Ogden, Nicholas Ogden, Nathaniel Richards, Jonathan Sayres, Isaac Longworth, Thomas Longworth, John Vanwagener, Garrabrant Garrabrants, Jacob Brower, Garret Wouters, Caleb Sayres, Josiah Banks, Joseph Hallett, Peter Woods, Peter Brown, Benjamin Peirson, Richard Stanton, Richard Yates, Peter Mowrison, George Wells, Thomas Galbreath, Pepper Clopper, Abraham Van Gefon, jun. the Rev. Isaac Browne, Derick Schuyler, William Maxwell, Francis Batey, Nicholas Garrabrant, John White, William Brooks, James Colvin, Cornelius Brooks, Thomas Aston, Garret Jacobus, Isaac Kingland, Henry Stager, Samuel Harrison, Peter Dubois, Aaron Peirson, Hugh Gaine, Isaac Stiles, Samuel Hudinot, Nicholas Hoffman, Dr. Uzal Johnson, John Courter, jun. and James Gray; and shall neglect to make immediate discovery thereof to one or more of us the subscribers, Commissioners for the County of Essex, may expect to be dealt with as the law in that case hath provided.

JOSEPH HEDDEN, jun. }
SAMUEL HAYES, } Commissioners.
THOMAS CANFIELD, }

State of New-Jersey, Essex County, Dec. 9, 1778. 3w†

ALL persons who have just demands against the estate of Thomas Folkes, late of the Township of Nottingham, Burlington County, deceased, are requested to bring them in that they may be discharged; and those that are indebted to said estate, are desired to discharge the same.

Chesterfield, Dec. 5, 1778. THO. THORN, execut. 2*

RICHARD NORRIS,

STAY-MAKER, from LONDON,

BEGS leave to inform the Public, that he makes all sorts of stays and jumps, turned and plain, French and Mecklenburgh, after the newest and neatest fashion. He prevents by a new and approved method, the appearance of any cast or rise in the hips or shoulders, or other defect in the shape of the body, which method has been established by the society of stay-makers of the city of London. Ladies that reside at any distance, by sending their measure, may be supplied on the shortest notice and at as reasonable prices as the times will afford.—He returns his sincere thanks to those Ladies who have already favoured him with their custom, and intreats a continuance of it, and their kind recommendation, which he will make it his study to merit.

N. B. He now resides opposite Mr. Stacy Potts's, in Trenton. 3w†

PETER HULICK,

STAY-MAKER, in TRENTON, from NEW-YORK,

BEGS leave to acquaint the Ladies of this town and the country in general, that he makes on the shortest notice, stays of all kinds, turned, plain, pack thread, and straw cut, after the newest, neatest and most fashionable manner, either French or English; likewise growing Misses to give and preserve a shape truly perfect. Those Ladies who please to favour him with their employment shall find him ever ready to serve them to the utmost of his ability, with integrity, gratitude and dispatch. He returns his grateful acknowledgments to those Ladies who have already favoured him with their custom, and assures them that it shall be his chief study to merit theirs and the public's esteem.

P. S. Ladies may be served at the greatest distance, by sending the length before and the width of the top and bottom of their waist. 4w*

STOLEN on Friday night last, from the subscriber, at the Crooked-Billet, in the Manor of Moreland, Philadelphia County, a forrel STALLION COLT, three years old, about 15 hands high, natural trotter, has a large neck, and his mane and tail are of the same colour as his body. Whoever takes up said horse and the thief, that the owner may have the horse again, and the thief be convicted, shall have One Hundred Dollars reward, or Fifty Dollars for the horse only, and reasonable charges, paid by

Dec. 8, 1778. 3w† ALEXANDER MEANS.

Almanacks for 1779.

DUTCH and English almanacks to be sold by JOHN DUNLAP, in Market-street, Philadelphia.

Pocket almanacks may be had by applying as above.

TO BE SOLD,

BY THE SUBSCRIBER,

TWO very good brick dwelling-houses and lots of ground, situate in the town of Salem, between the church and court-house. The lots contain 75 feet front and about 300 feet depth. The dwelling-houses were both put in very good repair lately. On the premises is an excellent garden well planted with fruit and fenced in with cedar, and other conveniences. The situation is as good as any in the town, and will either suit a gentleman of fortune or may be divided into two convenient lots so as to suit a couple of families. Also about eight acres of excellent meadow within a quarter of a mile of the town, very capable of improvement, will be sold together with the above premises. The reason of sale is that the subscriber is going soon to remove his family to Burlington. For particulars enquire of

JOHN CAREY.
Piles-Grove, Salem County, Dec. 2d, 1778.

AT an Inferior court of Common-
Essex county, } Pleas held for the county of Essex, on the 15th day of September last, were returned inquisitions for joining the army of the King of Great-Britain, and other treasonable practices found against Cavilear Jewit, Ichobod Best Barnet, William Luce, John Smith Hetfield, Job Hetfield, Abel Hetfield, Broughton Rhynolds, Richard Miller, John Willis, Jacob Tooker, James Hetfield, James Frazee, Samuel Oliver, jun. James Moore, Jonathan Oliver, Samuel Smith, John Stites, jun. Daniel Moore, John Morfe, Isaac Stanbury, Thomas Burrows and John Folker; of which proclamation was made at said Court, that if they, or any on their behalf, or any persons interested, would appear and traverse, a trial should be awarded; but no traverses were offered: Therefore **NOTICE** is hereby given, That if neither they, nor any in their behalf, nor any interested, shall appear and traverse at the next Court to be held for the said county, the inquisitions will then be taken to be true, and final judgment entered thereon in favour of the state.

JOHN CLAWSON, Commissioner.
Elizabeth-town, Nov. 14, 1778. 2

160 DOLLARS Reward.

BROKE out of gaol on the third day of this inst. Richard Haden, committed for being concerned with counterfeit money, and carrying on correspondence with the enemy; and Joseph Ward, committed for stealing; and one John Willis, also committed for stealing. They all broke out together. Whoever will take up and deliver to me, or at the gaol of this county, said Haden, shall receive One Hundred Dollars, and for either of the others Thirty Dollars each, from me

ALEX. CARMICHAEL, Sheriff.
Morris county, Dec. 7, 1778. 2w†

To be sold by the subscriber,

In the Lane opposite the College in PRINCETON, **SNUFF** in bladders or smaller quantity, needles by the thousand, imported salt at seven pounds a bushel, almanacks for the year 1779, by the gross or dozen, as low as may be purchased at the printers, and the high Dutch almanacks by the dozen or single, writing paper, sewing silks of various colours, and sundry other articles.

JOHN DENTON.
Princeton, Dec. 17, 1778. 8w§

Stephenson and Canfield,

At their STORE opposite Capt. Peter Dickenfon's, in Morris-Town, have for sale a suitable assortment for the season, such as

COARSE broad cloths, coatings, scarlet cloth for cloaks, shoes, stockings, beaver, castor and wool hats, calicoes, Irish linen, check, muslins, lawns, cambrick, pelong, buckram, camblots, ever-lastings, sagathy, sewing silk of all colours, fine thread, pack and pound pins, needles, playing cards, pipes, pen knives, knives and forks of the best kind, ink powder, gun powder, snuff, tobacco, basket buttons, regimental buttons, silk twist, coloured thread, ribbands, ferreting, tape, ivory and horn combs, crooked and coarse ditto, coffee, allspice, indigo, scissars, silver shoe and knee buckles, and stock ditto, brass shoe ditto, thimbles, hatters bow strings of the best kind, some mathematical and navigation books, one large brass kettle, salt of a good quality, which they will sell as reasonable as the times will admit, for cash or country produce. 6*

A VERY handsome CHARIOT to be sold.—Enquire of JOHN LANE, at the North-Branch of Rariton, New-Jersey. The price Four Hundred Pounds. 2w†

THE subscriber will give the highest price for all the merchantable CYDER that is delivered at his stone-ware potting manufactory at Trenton, for two weeks from this date.

Dec. 16th, 1778. BERNARD HANLEN. 2†

Just published and to be sold Wholesale and Retail, by the Printer hereof,

T H E

New-Jersey ALMANACK, For the Year of our Lord 1779.

CONTAINING,

Besides the usual Astronomical Observations, A Variety of useful, instructive, and entertaining MATTER, in Prose and Verse.

Where also may be had,

POCKET ALMANACKS for the ensuing Year.

STRAYED or stolen off the commons at Trenton, some time in October or November, a forrel mare, with a blaze in her face, between three and four years old, scant fourteen hands high, trots and paces, long mane and tail. Whoever takes said mare and secures her, so that the owner may have her again, shall have Ten Dollars reward, and reasonable charges paid by the subscriber in Trenton. JOS. CLUNN.

TO BE SOLD,

At the forks of Little-Egg-Harbour River, in Gloucester county, State of New-Jersey,

THE premises whereon the subscriber now lives, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, to wit, a saw-mill and grist-mill, both remarkable for going fast, and supplied with a never failing stream of water. The mills are within a mile and a quarter of a landing to which vessels of seventy or eighty tons burthen can come: Scows that carry seven or eight thousand feet of boards can go loaded from the mill tail. There is a sufficient quantity of pine and cedar timber to supply the saw-mill for a great number of years, and also a great quantity of cedar fit for rails, near the water side, which may be easily exported to those parts of the country where they will sell to great advantage. There is also on the premises a dwelling-house that will accommodate a large family, also a barn, stables and out-houses, a number of houses for workmen and tradesmen, also wet and dry good stores, and indeed every building necessary to render a place convenient for carrying on business and trade extensively. Any person inclining to purchase may be further informed by applying to the subscriber, at the place aforesaid.

Dec. 14th, 1778. 3w† ELIJAH CLARK.

BORDEN-TOWN STAGE.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the Public, That his Stage-Boat will sail from the Crooked Billet Wharf, at Philadelphia, every Saturday evening or Sunday morning (as the tide may serve) for Borden-Town; and that a Waggon will proceed from thence to Brunswick on Monday morning, and return to Borden-Town the day following, from whence the Stage-Boat will proceed on Wednesday to the Crooked Billet Wharf.

Goods and passengers will be conveyed with care and convenience as heretofore. J. BORDEN.

One Hundred Dollars Reward.

STOLEN from Paramus-Church, the 30th day of October last, two HORSES, one a large black horse, with a large star and snip, and all four of his feet white almost to his knees, five years old, and 15 hands high, paces and trots. The other is a bay, with a small white snip down his face, natural trotter, four years old, and about fourteen hands and a half high. It is thought they were stolen and carried to Powles-Hook, by some of the Tories in that part.—Whoever takes up said horses and brings them to John Okerman, at said church, or to the subscriber at Trenton, or secures them so that they can be got, shall receive the above reward, paid by either of the men, and all reasonable charges, paid by

3w§ JAMES PATTON.

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, on the night of the 2d December, 1778, living near Pafick Falls, at Acquackanonk, in Essex county, two Horses, one a bay, about fourteen hands high, a natural trotter, rising five years old, branded FP on the right thigh; the other a dark brown, eight or nine years old, rather inclines to pace, has a middling large star in his forehead, branded FP on the right thigh, and about 14 hands high. Whoever will take up and secure said horses, shall have a reward of Twenty Dollars for each horse, and all reasonable charges paid by me

JOHN POST.
N. B. The brands are supposed not to be very plain. 4†

To be SOLD by the Subscriber,

A Small FARM, containing between 40 and 50 acres, situated half way between Morristown and Chatham, on a very public road, nearly opposite Mr. Stephen Rose's cyder mill; it has on it a good house with three rooms cield, and an entry on the lower floor, a small building adjoining with a cellar under it, and one under the house; a barn and new bark house, a pond that is never dry, in the same lot; a spring of good water near the house, an orchard that affords 70 or 80 barrels of cyder, a garden paved in, English and red cherries, peaches and plumbs; some wood-land and meadow. The purchaser by paying one half the money, and good security for the rest, shall have an indisputable title from

4† JAMES TOMPSON.