

## NEW-JERSEY GAZETTE.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1784.

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From the FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

MR. PRINTER,

**M**EN of confined education and narrow views, tho' of the best dispositions, often lead our Legislatures into great mischiefs by patronising the cases of individuals, which, if relievable by law, belong to the judicial department; but which, if they be not remediable by the courts of justice, ought rather to be passed by, than aided by laws for the particular purpose, made after the hardship, seeming or real, has happened, left a practice of interposition of this nature corrupt the principles of justice, and gradually unhinge all property. For the rich and powerful, whose influence is commonly most operative over large bodies of men, building upon precedents of this nature, which motives of compassion have produced, will abuse them to the oppression and ruin of the weaker members of the community, till at length the rules of law be more noted "for the breach, than the observance of them," and the government of the state, by this improper and dangerous exercise of power, become the capricious and unsteady domination of man, and not be, as it ought, the prevalence of settled and equal justice.—As this abuse of the legislative authority is perhaps most apparent in cases of succession, and last wills, the evils of it shall be illustrated, by instances of that nature, taken from the neighbouring states. But before these be given, it may be of use to state the nature of inheritance from the most respectable authority.

Judge Blackstone, in his commentaries upon the laws of England, vol. ii. page 11. having said that all succession and rights of inheritance, are mere creatures of the municipal laws, and accordingly regulated by them in different countries, with a variety that approaches nearly to caprice, and as if it were thereby intended to point out the absolute right of the legislative power every where to direct the successions of the dying; at sovereign will and pleasure, proceeds as followeth:

"This may help to remove the scruples of many well meaning persons, who set up mistaken conscience against the rules of law. If a man disinherits his son by a will duly executed, and leave the estate to a stranger, there are many who consider this proceeding as contrary to natural justice, whilst others adhere so scrupulously to the supposed intention of the dead, that if a will for lands be attested by two witnesses only, instead of three, which the laws of England require, they are apt to imagine that the heir at law is bound in conscience to relinquish his title to the devisee. But both of them proceed upon erroneous principles; as if on the one hand, the son had a right by nature to his father's lands; or, as if on the other hand, the owner was by nature entitled to direct the succession of his property after his decease. Whereas the law of nature suggests, that on the death of the possessor, his possessions should again become common, and open to the first occupant (as is the practice of the savages of America) unless otherwise ordered for the sake of civil peace, by the positive law of society. The municipal law of England directs them to vest in such person as the owner shall by will, attested by certain requisites, appoint; and in defect of such appointment, to go to some particular person, who, from the result of certain local constitutions, appears to be his heir at law. Hence, when the appointment shall be regularly made, there cannot be the shadow of right in any one but the person appointed; and where the necessary requisites be omitted, the right of the heir at law is equally strong, and stands on as good a footing as the right of the devisee would have done, had these requisites been observed."—Thus in England, generally, the eldest son takes the inheritance of real estate; in Kent and some other places, each son is entitled to an equal share; but in divers ancient boroughs, the youngest son succeeds to the land. The child born out of marriage is excluded from personal, as well as real, without any fault on his part; and the son of the same father, by a second wife, cannot inherit his half brother's land, tho' it belonged to their common progenitor. (See

Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, Chapter vi. on this subject.)

Three cases of succession altered by *ex post facto* laws, since the American revolution, have occurred to the writer's observation. Some years since, the Legislature of New-Jersey, from the alleged hardship of the case, passed an act to aid and establish a writing, purporting to be the testament of one Abraham Vanest, of Somerset county. This testament was not signed by the deceased, and of course was not a valid will for lands, as our neighbour state had adopted the regulations on this subject, required in England by the statute of frauds and perjuries. 29 Car. 2. ch. 3.

Another instance, in order of time, has taken place in the state of Maryland, where a person, dying intestate, without issue, about November, 1781, seized of a large plantation of the value of 3000 or 4000l. his land descended to his brother, who, as heir at law, became seized of this freehold, subject to the widow's rights of dower, as absolutely as if he had purchased and paid for it with his own money. But the lawful business of the heir, four months after, calling him abroad, the widow took advantage of his absence to set up pretensions against the inheritance, and actually obtained an act of the Legislature, consisting of two houses, enabling her to sell the land in order to satisfy her claims upon it, and afterwards to pocket one half of the residue. The injured brother did not return before the end of thirteen months. He was surprized to find that his fair inheritance was defeated, and his sister-in-law purchaser of the land sold by herself. Fortunately for Maryland, the heir at law was too high spirited to submit tamely to such an outrage; for otherwise the precedent would have been most mischievous. His complaints re-founded through the state; and the Legislative body, upon understanding the truth of the facts, seemed disposed to redress him. But in such cases, the difficulty is how to support the dignity of the Assembly thus imposed on, \* which will not allow the confession of error. He was, however, remedied indirectly. The widow was induced to sign a bond to abide the award of referees, on the footing of the estate, before the intervention of the Assembly; and this arbitration have restored the inheritance, except as to some small abatements in favour of the widow, part of which, perhaps, the Chancellor of Maryland might have hesitated to make. For the third instance, † let us return to New-Jersey. This respects the will of James Hamilton, Esq. formerly Governor of Pennsylvania, who, tho' no stranger to the requisites to a devise of lands beyond the Delaware, yet in publishing this instrument, forgot to call upon more than two witnesses to subscribe it. The Legislature of our sister state, composed in like manner of two branches, however, without much difficulty, declared this imperfect will sufficient to pass the real estate, thus divesting the heir or heirs at law.

Our sister state has by these two acts virtually repealed her rules of descent. Better she had actually rescinded the statute of frauds, and considered all wills in writing, supported by legal testimony, as conveyances of land, according to our practice in Pennsylvania; for now what is to hinder that noncupative testaments, that is to say, verbal wills, shall not be aided in like manner. No instance of legislative interposition in England, can be produced, as I am told, in favour of the most pitiable case, out of the multitude of honest wills, set aside by the rigid adherence of the courts of law and equity there, to the statute of frauds and perjuries, passed near a century since. If in Great-Britain they establish the severest rules in any case, these are strictly adhered to. Thus under the famous marriage act (26 Geo. 2. cap. 33.) the children of paupers have been treated as bastards, and denied the settlements of their parents, because the forms of marriage, required by law, had not been complied with.

\* Upon showing at Westminster Hall, that the King was deceived, the judges repeal the royal grant, thus obtained.

† It is said, that another instance has lately occurred in Monmouth county.

Pennsylvania, since emancipation from her subordination to Britain, happily affords no instance of legislative intermeddling in the private rights of succession. Last year, indeed, an attempt of this kind was made by some well meaning members of the late house, in behalf of Mary Dunn, whose husband, slaughtered by the savages, died intestate, and who was likely to become chargeable to the township wherein she inhabited. The deceased had acquired a tract of uncultivated back land, and a bill was published, purposing to sell it for the poor woman's support. But some bye-standers urging upon the more prudent Assemblymen, the consideration of the torrent of inconvenience, which would rush in through such an opening as this would be, the bill was dropped, and the heir at law was rescued from the injury with which he was threatened.

It is remarkable that in Scotland no testament is allowed; but instead thereof, a disposition may be made to equal effect, if the person making the same appears at church and at market afterwards. That is, the instrument must not be executed in the last sickness, or extremity of the donor, left in the hours of weakness, impositions be practised; a precaution probably first instituted to prevent the artifices of the popish clergy.

The examples, which have been given above, relate to the subject of inheritances. There are, however, many others, upon which the legislative branch may be led into equal inconvenience. In Pennsylvania, particularly, from the defect of a court of equity, the applications to the General Assembly for their special interference are multiplied. Upon this ground, the lapse resulting from the loss of title deeds for lands, or the want of deeds in cases where the purchaser has paid his money, but cannot obtain the conveyance he is entitled to, are very improperly considered as proper subjects of legislative assistance; for the power given by the constitution to the supreme court and the county courts of common-pleas, to perpetuate evidence, furnishes to such persons every relief that ought to be afforded. In this way, the testimony recorded would have the proper effect it ought to have, and no more, when it should become necessary to resort to it. As to lost or defaced deeds, there is less cause to interpose, because the applicant might have recorded his title. Relieving prisoners for debt, and married persons, injured by the infidelity of their partners, belong to the judicial branch.\* Such personal discussions are seldom heard by large assemblies, without the taint of partiality, prejudice, or undue favour, unavoidable in such bodies. The restraint laid in 1781, and continued last year upon the ultimate process for debts, contradicting as it doth the late definitive treaty between the United States of America and Great-Britain, which secures to the subjects of both the fullest remedy for their legal demands on each other, is very destructive to the credit of this country in foreign parts, and may provoke reprisals. And shall foreigners; shall the subjects of George the III. enjoy an unfettered right to recover their dues, and our own citizens be restrained? *Ex post facto* laws to lessen the rights of the creditor, whatever be said for them, are incompatible with the station we have taken among the nations, and inconsistent with foreign commerce.

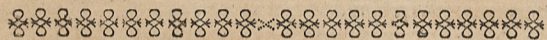
It must be conceded, that we derived one benefit to this country, from our late dependence on Great-Britain, among many and great inconveniences, which, with time, would have risen to an insupportable size. Our laws going to England for the royal approbation, the attorney general of that kingdom, or other officer to whom they were referred, led by the habits of attention to private rights, which prevail in England, seldom failed to report against every *ex post facto* interposition of this nature by the colony Legislatures. Hence we were prevented from mischiefs of this kind. Time and experience, in a commercial country, and under governments like ours, will infallibly bring our lawmakers to equal tenderness in this respect, with what is observable in the countries of Europe, where property is best secured. The Americans may for a

\* In Scotland and in New-England these causes are fully relieved in this way.

while try experiments of legislating for individuals, and passing laws after the fact; they may call persons charged with offences before their Legislatures, and sometimes crush the innocent by hasty and party coloured determinations, whilst others, deeply plunged in guilt, may be acquitted through favour; but these irregularities will produce their own remedies. After wandering through the mazes and perplexities of this false jurisprudence, the dishonour presently resulting therefrom, to the Assemblies, who thus step without their sphere, will oblige them to renounce it. Thus shall we be forced back to the constitutional mode of governing by laws made beforehand, expounded by able judges, and trials by impartial juries; the only measures of justice which will be endured in these free states.

Representatives in Assembly would do well to consider, that their leases of authority are very short.—Made for one year only, the renewals cannot, in Pennsylvania, go beyond the fourth year; after which there must be an intermission of three. When these public trustees are inclined to indulge their inclinations to promote justice, and to secure those who look up to them for favour, if these must be accomplished by the exercise of any improper and dangerous modes or measures of power, they would do well to reflect, that they thereby furnish precedents to their successors; persons they cannot foresee, who may exert like stretches and commit equal breaches of the constitution, to distress or destroy the very men who first set the baleful example. This consideration alone, were it laid to heart, would be enough to keep all who may be called to sit in the legislative body within proper bounds; and especially to restrain them from infringing private rights, one instance of which strikes more alarm, and fixes more odium on the authors of it, than a score of bad regulations of a general nature.

L Y C U R G U S.



### Foreign Intelligence.

L O N D O N, July 21.

*Extract of a letter from Coventry, dated July 16.*

AS soon as the news arrived here of the proposed tax on ribands, the journeymen weavers assembled in the market-place, and having first made a tall aukward figure, which they called Mr. Pitt, they hung it on a gallows erected for that purpose with a silken halter, and afterwards consumed the whole in a large fire, amidst the applause of some thousands of people assembled on the occasion. But I would not wish you to suppose that the dislike to this tax is confined to the lower class of people, which I assure you is by no means the case, as it is held in universal detestation, on account of the very great injury it will do to trade by encouraging the smuggling of this article from France, which practice, even at present, too much prevails, to the prodigious detriment of the honest manufacturer. Indeed the whole budget of taxes is such a monstrous collection of absurdities and oppressions, as has never before been attempted in the annals of this country; but let the minister beware, his popularity may as suddenly be lost as it was suddenly acquired."

August 2. There is a report current, that the king of Prussia is not satisfied with the claims made by the Emperor on Holland. Letters from Maestricht say, that Prince Henry of Prussia is gone to Paris, on an important business, supposed to be to prevent the dismemberment of the Dutch provinces, which is threatened by the Emperor.

August 3. Last Saturday's Gazette contains his Majesty's order in Council, declaring a further continuation of the trade with America, accompanied with the certificates or other documents heretofore required by law.

The Czarina has solicited of our court, that the British criminals sentenced to transportation, may, as long as may be thought expedient, be conveyed at her expence, to the most desert parts of the Russian territories; a circumstance, we understand, which having met with the approbation of his Majesty's Ministers, occasioned the Attorney General's moving a new act, to enable the King to transport such convicts to any parts, either in or out of his dominions. The most desperate and incorrigible offenders, it is said, are to be landed in some desert islands in the South seas, having been first supplied with proper instruments for shooting, fishing, &c.

Aug. 8. Frederick, the royal scourge of the North, is more affected by the publication of Voltaire's posthumous memoirs in Paris, than all the other united misfortunes that ever beset him; he denies, as may be supposed, the most capital charges exhibited against him, and is said to be writing a full refutation thereof, now at Berlin; the fashionable circles at Paris are divided in their opinion on the subject, tho' the majority is by no means with the King.

August 10. Lord George Gordon, it is said, does not approve of the new system of restoring the rebel

chans in Scotland their forfeited estates. His Lordship thinks it will hurt the Protestant interest in the North.

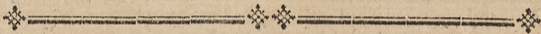
August 12. His Majesty has granted a charter, confirmed by act of Parliament, constituting a Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

August 14. According to letters just received from Bourdeaux, they are under great apprehensions, there and at Nantes, on account of some capital failures in one of the principal cities of North-America, which cannot fail also to involve the people of Paris. The French have been for a long time accustomed to hear ill news from America, but the present is said to be the heaviest burthen upon the mercantile world, which has happened since France and America became allies; and it is the more alarming, as a necessity of speedy bankruptcy seems to pervade the principal cities in the United States, from the poverty of the people, which is indefinable.

AUGUST 16.

*Extract of a letter from a young gentleman in India, dated February 12, 1784.*

"Every man here is for himself, and a cursed civil government it is. A young man can get nothing: I have not a friend in India to put any thing into my pocket, except Captain S. Smith, whom I live with, and am to go to his house in Bombay. When the Company pay me, I shall have about 360 or 400l. clear. As I am very ill of the liver (a complaint general to Europeans in India) I shall be obliged to keep this by me, for fear my disorder should increase; if it should, I shall be obliged to leave India. You mention Captain Curtis; there are no laurels like his to be gained in India; the wars here are only to satisfy a few mercenary wretches; the service is shocking—wilt I was out of it, and in England again. I cannot nor will I murder the innocent for their riches, if I continue poor as long as I live. In this campaign there cannot be less than 80 or 90,000 souls murdered, of both sexes, old and young, and their habitations reduced to ashes."



### American Intelligence.

A L B A N Y, October 21.

BY a gentleman lately from Quebec we learn, that Lieutenant-General Haldimand was to sail for England on the twelfth inst. and that the command of the British forces in that province had devolved on Brigadier-General St. Ledger.

On the 27th of September last, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, as Mr. Jacobus Taller, Isaac Arnold, James Stewart, Daniel Barclay, and Isaac Van Alstyne, were on their way to Detroit, at a place called the River Burdell, on Lake-Erie, they were suddenly attacked by four Mahagon or Delaware Indians, (armed with muskets and tomahawks) who fired on them, and killed Mr. Taller and Mr. Barclay dead on the spot, and wounded Mr. Arnold in both hands, and then rushed on them with their tomahawks. One of them attacked Mr. Arnold, who after a smart struggle, wherein he received several wounds in his head, disengaging himself, and having a musket handed him by Mr. Stewart, snapped it (for it was not loaded) at the Indian, who with the three others ran into the woods. As soon as they were gone off, Mr. Arnold and Mr. Stewart made all the haste in their power to get their batteau into the lake, and when they were about sixty yards from the shore, Mr. Alstyne, who had hid himself in the woods during the contest, came to the water side, and called to them to come and take him in; they desired him to run down the lake, and they would take him in at a point of land which was not far distant; but Mr. Van Alstyne misunderstanding them (as is supposed) ran up the lake to the place where the Indians were, who immediately fell on him with their tomahawks, and massacred him on the spot. After which the Indians followed Mr. Arnold and Mr. Stewart about a mile and an half down the lake, but not being able to come at them (they having no canoe) went off, and were seen no more; and Mr. Arnold and Mr. Stewart made the best of their way for Fort-Erie, and from thence, by way of Niagara, to this city, where they arrived on Monday evening.

Mr. Arnold, who favoured us with the above account, says, that these same Indians were in company with, and helped them to get their boats ashore in the forenoon, and appeared in the most friendly manner, and could have no other reason for their unprovoked attack, than to murder them for their property.—Their conduct, he adds, was very much condemned and resented by the Indian inhabitants of the country (for these murderers were strangers, and on their way to Detroit) and that Mr. Brandt had sent ten of his best warriors in pursuit of them; and promises, if they are taken, he will send them to this city, that they may suffer whatever punishment the laws of the state may inflict on them.

N E W - Y O R K, October 21.

A sufficient number of the Senate and Assembly be-

ing convened on Monday last, at the City-Hall, previous to their entering upon business, his Excellency the GOVERNOR was pleased to make the following speech:

*Gentlemen of the Senate and Assembly,*

SINCE the close of the last session, the Legislature of the state of Massachusetts have thought fit to set up a claim to land, which it is to be inferred, from their petition to the Honourable the United States in Congress, lie somewhere within the ancient jurisdiction of this state, but in what part, or to what extent, is left in obscurity. They have, notwithstanding, requested that a Federal Court may be appointed for enquiring into, and determining such claim; and Congress have accordingly assigned the first Monday in December next, for the appearance of both states, and such other proceedings as are directed by the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. From the act of Congress of the 3d day of June last, on this subject, and the papers accompanying it, you will perceive the necessity of appointing agents to manage the controversy on the part of this state; and of calling for an explicit description of the land claimed by the Massachusetts, without which we must be exposed, in our defence, to unnecessary difficulties and expence. The importance of these measures, and the election of Delegates and Members to compose a Council of Appointment, for the ensuing year, were the principal inducements to your being assembled at a season which I am sensible must be inconvenient.

The act of Congress of the 27th, 28th, and 29th of April, respecting the arrears of interest of the national debt, and the expence for the year 1784, and a requisition of money to discharge the same, and another act of the 3d of June, recommending it to this and some other of the states to raise a proportion of their militia for taking possession of their western posts, guarding the publick stores, and protecting the treaties with the Indians (all which are now laid before you) came to my hands some time after the last adjournment. It appeared to me impracticable, after near six months had been spent by the Legislature in the publick business without any intermission, to have convened you at an earlier period; and it was the less necessary, as before the recommendation for raising these troops was communicated to me, it had been discovered that there was not the least probability they could this season be employed in the principal service for which they were intended. These different subjects are now submitted to your deliberate consideration, and I am persuaded the result will be dictated with a regard to the sacred rules of justice, to the honour of the state, and to the principles of the federal contract.

GENTLEMEN,

The injury which the state sustains in its growth and settlement by the claims of absentees and aliens, to large tracts of uncultivated lands, call for your attention. These claimants contribute nothing to the exigencies of government; they retard the progress of improvement, while their estates continue to increase in value by the labour and industry of the citizens who settle and cultivate the adjacent lands. Your wisdom will undoubtedly suggest some remedy consistent with the treaty, and the principles of equity, for the mischief which becomes daily more obviously detrimental.

I need not mention that the Legislature have long since seen the necessity of an estimate of the value of taxable property throughout the state: But the measures which they adopted for that purpose, have hitherto proved ineffectual; without it, government cannot be administered on wise and fixed principles; for it neither can be known to what amount the whole state may be taxed without oppression, nor what is the comparative value of the wealth of the respective counties and districts, however essential to equal taxation, and for preventing those discords and animosities which too frequently take place in fixing the quotas.

The management of the publick revenue also wants system: There is no mode established for drawing the income, expenditures, or debts, to a point; nor is it in the power of the best informed, at present, to produce a tolerable estimate of them, though it must be admitted that this is a branch of information so useful, that it cannot, without manifest inconyeniency, be dispensed with.

A revision of our laws is also necessary to digest them in one code, which shall include such of the acts of the late colony, and of the British statutes, as are adopted by the constitution; and to form a general regulation for highways, and internal economy of districts and precincts, now continually calling for partial provision, is a work I would recommend as highly worthy the consideration of the Legislature.

It is found by experience, that some of the laws of the last session, particularly the act establishing a university in this state, and the impost act, require amendment, as well to render them more easy in their execution, as more effectual in their operation. The officers acting immediately under them are directed to state for your information the defects which have been discovered.

Several other matters, which I had the honour to lay before the Legislature at the opening of the last session, were not (for want of time) brought to maturity, and particularly a law for regulating the militia, and providing for magazines and arsenals, agreeably to the constitution of the confederation. These are of such importance to the honour and safety of the state, that I cannot omit repeating them.

I shall leave with you such papers as I have received during the recess, and may be necessary for your information; among these are the proceedings of the Commissioners of Indian affairs, containing a particular detail of their transactions, and the result of the business committed to them.

GENTLEMEN,

Although I have thought it my duty at the opening of a session, to point out the various matters which appeared to me to claim the attention of the Legislature, yet, should it be found inconvenient to the members to continue long together at this time, such of them only may be taken into immediate consideration, as cannot, with safety, be delayed until the next meeting.  
GEORGE CLINTON.

October 25. About five o'clock yesterday morning this city was alarmed by a most dangerous fire, that broke out at a bakehouse in Beekman-street, belonging to Mr. Van Varck, which was entirely consumed. The flames extended to an adjoining storehouse, and raged with impetuosity for a considerable space; the adjacent houses were much endangered, but by the guidance of Providence, and the superior exertions of a large number of citizens, the fire was happily extinguished without doing any farther damage.

CHARLESTON (South-Carolina) Sept. 28.

By a gentleman lately arrived from New-Providence we learn, that the people called Loyalists, who have lately quitted East-Florida and taken refuge at New-Providence, have given proofs of their loyalty in the following manner:—On Sunday the 22d day of August last, being in a house opposite the church, the leaders of them had a drum beating and fife playing during the afternoon service, to the great disturbance of the congregation; and in the evening they got possession of the church, and kept ringing the bells at intervals till near midnight; on the Friday following they went up, in number about twelve or thirteen, on horseback, to the eastward, where they paraded through the high roads, and in the afternoon came down in an Indian file with drums beating, and preceded by two Negroes carrying hatchets on their shoulders, two boats belonging to the Porcupine sloop of war keeping way with them, fully manned. In this manner they proceeded along the strand, headed by the Captain of the said man of war, with his cutlafs drawn and a pistol by his side. When the court met at the end of the month, two of them went into the court, abused the bench, denied the authority of the Governor and of the court, and at last so far gained their ends as to have the court adjourned to the next term; they have formed themselves into a committee, appointed a chairman and secretary, and are endeavouring to overturn the constitution of the government, and to erect on the ruins thereof their favourite banner of anarchy and confusion.

It is rumoured that the refugees intend to make a descent from the Bahama islands upon some part of the Spanish Main, and by force to settle themselves where they please.

RICHMOND, October 16.

A letter from Jamaica mentions, that the British Commissioners appointed to settle the boundaries at Honduras with the Spaniards, arrived from thence in the Iphigene frigate, at Kingston.

Extract of a letter from L'Orient, August 1.

"Monsieur le Comte de Grasse is gone home to the place of his exile. The Captains of de Suffrein's fleet have not yet received their sentence for their conduct in the East-Indies; they are yet on board the L'Amphion, of 50 guns, where they have been already imprisoned twelve months."

Letters from Paris mention, that Mons. Mallard had constructed a balloon of 100 feet high, and 90 feet diameter, with which he made an experiment near Chantilly. Three persons went up with the machinist, but after the globe had gone a considerable height, it suddenly burst, and descended with great rapidity, in consequence of which one of the passengers broke his thigh, and the rest were greatly hurt.

Among the different clubs of associations lately established in the new buildings of the Palace Royal, there is one intended to advance the progress of the arts, sciences and literature, which promises the greatest advantages to the natives, as well as foreigners. A correspondence will be kept up by this society with all the learned of Europe; and the Lyceum (for so it is called) will be a kind of central point from whence information will be conveyed to all quarters of the world, on every object worthy of attention, and thus give the learned and others an opportunity of cultivating an acquaintance, which will be attended with mutual advantages; all persons, who shall subscribe to this useful and singular establishment, will, at the expence only of five guineas annually, have the advantage of attending the courses of experimental philosophy, chymistry, mathematicks, foreign and French languages, and Belles Lettres, which will be delivered every day by the most celebrated professors.

The ship George, Capt. Scott, is arrived in James river, from London, which she left the middle of August.

OCTOBER 26.

Extract of a letter from Belfast, dated August 7, 1784.

"The political affairs of this kingdom are now coming to a point; there is to be a Congress held the 25th of October next, consisting of deputies from every county and great town in Ireland, to fix, IRREVOCABLY, on a plan of REFORM; and it is thought when they have adopted a plan to which the people of Ireland give their consent, the present parliament laws will not be attended to."

BALTIMORE, October 22.

They write from Barcelona (in Spain) that five American vessels arrived in that harbour in the course of a week, all loaded with wheat and flour, which proved a great relief to the inhabitants there, as those articles were much wanted in that province; and it likewise proved of service to the Americans, as they immediately disposed of their cargoes, and had a very great price for them, and all paid in cash, to encourage them to trade there again.

PHILADELPHIA, October 20.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in North-Carolina, to his friend in the western country, dated July 25, 1784.

"You ask what I understand by a liberal cession of western territory: I answer, the complete surrender of jurisdiction and soil. I agree with you that our cession of back lands is clogged with unreasonable conditions; that may be ascribed to the last efforts of an interested party, not the sense of the people, nor even the majority of the Legislature, who was worried into the measure. But as far as the army and the settlers are really interested, I think the conditions right. As to the speculations of land-jobbers, I trust our more enlightened American rulers will model that otherwise. If they do not, I confess the union will be benefited but little indeed. Your vindication of Virginia politics do not satisfy me. We copy too much from them, and both disgrace our professions of being republicans."

"I confess the reservation respecting slaves, is an indelible stain on both our humanity and politics. My consolation is, that although the Supreme Council of the nation is famed for moderation, yet on proper occasions they will be steady, and act as faithful guardians for posterity, as well as of the selfish mortals that exist at this era. The manoeuvres Georgia have made to evade a cession of western claims will be futile:—Theirs with good reason ought to be liberal, and extensive with ours."

October 27. Thursday last, at a Court of Oyer and Terminer held at Chester, for the county of Chester, Joseph Chalk, John M'Daniel and John Benson, alias Varnum, were tried for burglary, committed in Chester borough, on the 17th of May last, by breaking into the house of Ann Davies, and stealing thereout a large quantity of shop goods. They were all found guilty, and received sentence of death.

October 30. Last week, in Newtown township, Bucks county, a widow woman being sick, desired her daughter to give her some flour of brimstone, which being imprudently laid in a drawer with arsenic, the daughter mistook the articles, and was so unfortunate as to administer poison to her mother, who expired in a short time; and her own life was despaired of, she also having taken some of that corrosive poison.

Monday last the ship Montgomery, Captain Caleb Trowbridge, arrived here in 9 weeks from Liverpool. On the 3d instant, he spoke the ship Blond, Captain Bostwick, from Antigua for Liverpool, out 27 days, all well. And on the 10th inst. in lat. 38. 4. long. 60. spoke the brig Endeavour, from this port for Fyall, out 11 days, all well.

Captain Ross, in the brig Jennet, from Jamaica, on the 15th instant, lat. 31. 5. long. 75. 12. spoke with the brig Hope, Captain M'ivers, from Port-au-Prince, 6 days to this port; and on the 21st, lat. 37. 48. long. 74. 28. the ship —, Capt. Banks, from Antigua, bound to Boston.

TRENTON, November 1.

Remainder of the returns, received since our last.

Bergen. Council, Peter Haring, Esq. Assembly, David Board, Jacob Terhune and Edow Merseilles, Esqrs. Sheriff, Richard Dey, Esq.

Essex. Council, Josiah Hornblower, Esq. Assembly, Abraham Clark, Henry Garritte and John Peck, Esqrs. Sheriff, Joseph Crane, Esq.

Suffex. Council, Robert Hoops, Esq. Assembly, Isaac Van-Campen, Aaron Hankinson and Charles Beardlee, Esqrs. Sheriff, Mark Thomson, Esq.

Tuesday last being the day appointed in the constitution of this state for the annual meeting of the LEGISLATURE, a quorum of both houses met here, agreeably to law, and proceeded to business. PHILEMON DICKINSON, Esq. was re-elected Vice-President of the Legislative-Council, and DANIEL HENDRICKSON, Esq. was chosen Speaker of the House of Assembly, for the ensuing year.

The following concluding paragraph of the report of the Committee of Council of Great-Britain, extracted from their Report of the 31st May, 1784, "On his Majesty's (meaning the King of Great-Britain) order of reference of the 8th March last," may be deemed the harbinger of a declaration of commercial war by Great-Britain, against the United States of America.

The Committee having remarked upon duties imposed by several of the states upon British ships and merchandize, in consequence of the King's Proclamation or order in Council, restricting the trade of the United

States with Great-Britain and her remaining colonies and islands in America, conclude:

"Whether the Congress or the several Legislatures of the American States will persist in this policy is impossible to be known: But the Committee have examined many respectable persons, perfectly informed of the state of America, and of the nature of its commerce, who all agree in opinion, that by prohibiting or obstructing the intercourse between the Continent of America and the West-India islands, the people of the United States will suffer much more than any of his Majesty's subjects; and that for want of a sufficient vent, their lumber and provisions must perish on their hands."

At a Joint-Meeting of the Honourable the Legislative-Council and General Assembly of this state, on Friday last, his Excellency WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esquire, was re-elected Governor:

The Honourable JOHN BEATTY and SAMUEL DICK, Esqrs. and WILLIAM-CHURCHILL HOUSTON, LAMBERT CADWALADER and CHARLES STEWART, Esqrs. were chosen Delegates to represent this state in Congress, for the ensuing year.

JAMES MOTT, Esq. was unanimously re-appointed Treasurer.

The Piece signed *A good Whig of Burlington County* we have received, but it is too incorrect for publication.

THE Members of the TRENTON-ACADEMY will please to take notice, that their anniversary meeting, for the choice of Trustees and Visitors for the ensuing year, will be held this day at the Academy, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at which time and place they are requested to give punctual attendance.

MOORE FURMAN, Clerk.

TO BE SOLD,

AT PUBLICK VENDUE, On Monday the 1st of November next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the farm house,

THE farm called Bowhill, two short miles from Trenton, situated on the river Delaware, containing in the whole about 467 acres, of which 150 acres are low lands, joining the river, great part of it excellent meadow, and the remainder rich strong land for any kind of grain or pasture; the upland is a kind good land for corn, wheat or rye; there are about 70 or 80 acres of woodland on the place, and about a mile and an half from it 90 acres of good woodland; the upland is in good fence, the buildings thereon are large, convenient, and in good repair, having a good dwellinghouse, barn, stables, and large convenient shed for cattle, waggonhouses, milkhous and cheesehouse; there are a good new and old orchard, containing a variety of fruit; the situation is exceeding pleasant and beautiful, having a fine view of the river, Bordentown, and all the meadows:—Its vicinity to Trenton makes it very convenient and profitable; and its situation on the river very convenient for fishing and fowling. The terms of payment will be made as convenient to the purchaser as possible, which will be made known on the day of sale; and the publick may depend it will be sold to the highest bidder, by

RANDLE MITCHELL.

October 1, 1784.

5w

This is to give Publick Notice,

TO all persons that are indebted to the estate of Daniel Griggs, deceased, to come and discharge the same to the subscriber, living at Kimming's mill; or, on the 25th day of November, at Samuel Forman's, tavernkeeper in Germantown, as I shall attend on that day for the above purpose; and those that do not comply with this advertisement, may depend on being dealt with as the law directs; and those that have any demands against the estate of Daniel Griggs, deceased, to attend on the same day, at Samuel Forman's, with their accounts properly attested to.

JOSEPH GRIGGS, Adm.

Upper-Freehold, October 25, 1784.

3w

JUST PUBLISHED,

And to be sold by ISAAC COLLINS, at his Printing-Office in Trenton, the NEW-JERSEY

A L M A N A C K,

For the year of our LORD 1785.

CONTAINING,

Beside the usual astronomical observations, a variety of useful and entertaining matter in prose and verse.

W A N T E D,

A Smart active LAD, about fourteen years of age, as an apprentice to a saddler. Enquire of the Printer.

2w

THE first Volume of BELKNAP'S History of New-Hampshire is come to hand—and will be delivered to the subscribers on the payment of *Five Shillings* each, agreeably to the proposals.

**TO BE SOLD,**

A Valuable tract of land, containing 76 acres, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Delaware, in the township of Mansfield, and county of Burlington, adjoining lands of Thomas Biddle, Joseph English, Samuel Bullas, and the river Delaware—on which is a good shad fishery. A reasonable credit will be given for the payment of all the purchase money. If not sold by the 1st day of November next, the fishery will then be let for the next season. For further particulars enquire of the subscriber near Trenton.

JACOB PHILLIPS.

September 27, 1784.

5w

**A F A R M**

TO be sold cheap, and the payments made easy to the purchaser—situate in Middlesex county, at Mapletown, within three miles of Princeton, containing about 400 acres, one hundred of which is woodland well timbered, the remainder meadow and arable; the whole conveniently laid out into fields, and most of them watered:—There are on the premises two very comfortable dwellinghouses, a well and spring of water at the door, a large garden, asparagus bed, peach, plumb, cherry and quince trees; between six and seven hundred apple-trees, great part of them of the best grafted fruit; two as large barns as any in the county, one 54 by 38, the other 36 by 31 feet, the whole covered with cedar; a chairhouse, cowhouse, and many other necessary houses; a large pond, which is replenished by a brook, from which may be drawn a thousand loads of manure yearly, and is far preferable to horse or cow-dung. The farm was formerly the property of Mr. Thomas Vandyke, and is so well known for its fertility that makes it needless to say any thing of the many advantages it is capable of: The farm is in good fence, and to be sold at the low rate of five pounds ten shillings the acre. For further information enquire of Levinus Clarkson, at Flat-Bush, Long-Island, or at the premises of

DAVID CLARKSON.

*Another cheap Farm to be sold,*

AND payments as above, situate in Somerset county, near the North-Branch of Raritan, now in the tenure of Fulkert Douw, containing two hundred acres, 50 of which are the very best of timber, 20 acres of good meadow, and the remainder arable land; the whole conveniently divided into fields, and in very good fence:—There are on the premises a dwellinghouse, a barn, a weaver's shop, and a large framed barrack; 70 peach and 250 apple-trees, some of them of the best grafted fruit, which will be sold for four pounds ten shillings per acre.—For particulars enquire as above of Levinus or David Clarkson.

N. B. If the above farms are not sold by the 1st of March next, they are to be rented from the 1st of April following. The farm of 400 acres will be divided if it should best suit the purchaser.

New-Jersey, July 20, 1784. t. f.

*Sixteen Dollars Reward.*

RAN away from the subscribers in Trenton in the night of the 12th inst. two indented Irish servants, one named William Graham, a labourer, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, much marked with the small-pox on the nose: Had on when he went away an old short drab-coloured coat much patched, one pair old cloth breeches, and cloth jacket; also took with him a blue coat, corduroy jacket, and a red and white striped Holland jacket. The other named James M'Coy, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, short light brown hair, marked with the small-pox a little in the face, clumsy built: Had on and took with him when he went away, one old brown coat and jacket, one pair of green ribbed Bergen breeches, one old black pair of plush do. one ruffled shirt, two plain shirts, and one felt hat. It is likely they have changed their clothes and forged passes—and it is thought they are gone to the Nine Partners in New-York state, or New-England. Whoever takes up said servants and secures them in any gaol, so as their masters may have them again, shall have the above reward, and all reasonable charges paid by

BERNARD HANLON,  
ROBERT SINGER.

Trenton, April 13, 1784. c. t. f.

*To the PUBLICK.*

AS I have undertaken to make a general map of the state of New-Jersey, to present to the Governor, Council and General Assembly, and for the benefit of the state in general, I shall esteem it as a particular favour, if any gentleman travelling through Princeton will call on Mr. Hills, at the post-office, to point out any error that he may be liable to make in his map.

**J. Hills, Surveyor, Architector & Draftsman.**

Landed estates surveyed, planned, or estimated, with the specific valuation of parks, seats, farms, or any parcel of land, &c. either for letting, sale, or purchase, at any distance from Princeton, in the state of New-Jersey, or New-York. Also, plans of estates and houses neatly drawn or copied, by personal application, or by letter, postage paid, directed to John Hills, at the Post-Office, Princeton; or at No. 201, Water-street, New-York.

October 8, 1784.

4w

**W A N T E D,**

**A YOUNG WOMAN,**

WITH a good fresh breast of milk, not exceeding five or six months old, that can be well recommended; such a one may hear of a place by applying at the Printing-Office in Trenton. t f

**JUST PUBLISHED,**

[Price *Thirty-five Shillings*]

And to be sold by ISAAC COLLINS, at his Printing-Office in Trenton,

**A C T S**

OF THE

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OF THE STATE OF

**NEW-JERSEY,**

FROM THE

Establishment of the present Government, and Declaration of Independence, to the End of the first Sitting of the eighth Session, on the 24th day of December, 1783;

WITH THE CONSTITUTION PREFIXED.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

AN APPENDIX,

Containing the ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION of the UNITED STATES, &c.

With two alphabetical TABLES and an INDEX.

Compiled under the Appointment of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, by

PETER WILSON, M. A.

**W A N T E D, A**

**CANNON STOVE.**

Enquire of the Printer.

**Just come to Hand,**

And now selling at the PRINTING-OFFICE in TRENTON—The

**CHORISTER'S COMPANION;**

OR,

**CHURCH MUSICK revised.**

CONTAINING,

Besides the necessary Rules of Psalmody, A Variety of plain and fuging Psalm Tunes; Together with

A Collection of approved HYMNS and ANTHEMS, Many of which were never before published.

By SIMEON JOCELIN.

These SINGING-BOOKS are allowed, by the best Judges, to be equal to any extant.

**TO BE SOLD,**

By wholesale and retail, at the Printing-Office in Trenton,

**DUTCH ALMANACKS**

For 1785.

**W A N T E D,**

**A MILLER.**

Enquire of the Printer.

Mount-Holly, October 18, 1784.

**THE Subscriber intending**

shortly to remove to Philadelphia, requests those who are indebted to him to make immediate payment; and those who have any just demands on him, are desired to exhibit their accounts, and they shall be paid.

3w†

NATHANIEL LEWIS:

**TO BE SOLD,**

AT PUBLICK VENDUE,

At the place of George Bergen, late of Windfor township, in the county of Middlesex, and state of New-Jersey, deceased, on Wednesday the 3d of November next,

ALL the real and personal estate of the deceased, consisting of a large number of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c. and all kinds of household and kitchen furniture, viz. feather beds and bedding, a complete eight-day clock, looking-glasses, &c. a large quantity of hay, two large fields of green grain in the ground, iron-nut cyder-mill and press, with many articles, such as ploughs, harrows, waggons, &c. belonging to a farm, too tedious to mention. Also the plantation of the deceased, containing about 353 acres of very good land for all kinds of grain; about 20 acres of meadow, plenty of good timber, a large farm house, barn, and other outhouses; a large and very good apple-orchard, &c. The place lies very pleasantly situated on Millstone creek, in sight of Princeton. Any person who may want to view the premises, may apply to John Bergen, near the premises. The vendue will begin at 10 o'clock of said day, and continue from day to day till all are sold. The conditions will be made known the day above-mentioned, by

JOHN BERGEN, } Execut.  
JACOB G. BERGEN, }

Windfor, October 19, 1784.

2w†

**TO BE SOLD,**

BY PRIVATE SALE,

A Plantation, situate in Amwell township, Hunterdon county, within two miles of Ringo's tavern, and half a mile of the old York road, containing 200 acres, 8 whereof are good meadow, and between 40 and 50 woodland, the remainder good for wheat, or any other kind of grain: The whole under good fence.—Pretty good orchard; a dwellinghouse, with 3 rooms and a kitchen; and a frame barn. Title indisputable. For terms apply to the subscriber on the premises.

JACOB SKILLMAN.

October 22, 1784.

3w†

**JUST PUBLISHED**

In Philadelphia, and to be sold by the Printer hereof, comprised in one neat pocket volume, stitched in blue paper,

(Price only *Two Shillings and Six-pence*)

And dedicated to the great Men of PENNSYLVANIA,

T H E

**PHILADELPHIAD;**

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**NEW PICTURES OF THE CITY.**

Interpersed with a candid review and display of some modern first-rate

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OF BOTH SEXES,

Delineated in a friendly and satirical manner, and containing sketches of the materials that distinguish the following places, viz.

COURT-HOUSE,	HOSPITAL for LUNATICKS,
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BAGNIO,	COFFEE-HOUSE;

With other entertaining Anecdotes, *humorous, moral,* and *sentimental*.—Vol. I.

"*Ut pictura Poesis erit.*" HORACE.

"*Hominem Pagina nostra sapit.*" MARTIAL.

With the above work is given a small collection of miscellaneous *new Poems*, by different hands, never before published.

**W A N T E D,**

**A Journeyman Fuller,**

WHO understands his business well.—Such a person, bringing good recommendations, will meet with constant employ, and get good wages, by applying to the subscriber, near New-Germantown, Hunterdon county.

ABRAHAM VANDYKE.

October 14, 1784.

4w†

TRENTON: Printed by ISAAC COLLINS. Subscriptions for this Gazette are taken in by the Printer hereof, at TEN SHILLINGS per Annum: Advertisements of a moderate Length inserted at 3/9 each the first Week, and 1/3 for every Continuance, and long Ones in Proportion; and by whom Essays and Articles of Intelligence are thankfully received.—And all Manner of printing Work performed with Care, Fidelity and Expedition.