

boats passed it, people crossed it on their whigs. Between 30 and 40 fall of vessels are now in the river, which were preparing for sea and expected to fall before the river was up.

HAYSTACK, Dec. 16.—The late Martinique steamer, contains the following paragraph:—"When the American Ambassadors obtained an Audience of the Day of Algiers, he addressed them in the following words: "You Americans are a new people: You are too poor to make the presents which I want, and too far off for me to be afraid of you."

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Dec. 16. A letter from Worcester, received by the mail on Wednesday evening, contains the following paragraph:—"On Saturday morning came another terrible snow-storm, which greatly increased in violence towards sunset. About noon on Saturday, all the insurgents who were in the town, paraded before a church tower and the altar, and then to their horns. One company belonging to Ward, another to Holden; both took the usual adjourn to this. The others to Spencer, Rutland, Barre, Hubbardston, Peterham, &c. Those who lived near, reached home, and some of them on Monday night, and at the barracks in Rutland. I am told their leaders, and about 300 men, are now at Rutland. Of this intelligence respecting the number of men at Rutland, I am not certain, as the roads between this and that place are so filled with snow, that few people can get through, and I have not received authentic information, but expect it from that quarter to-morrow. On Sunday I procured a true copy of their petition to the governor and council, which they intend sending to several towns in this county, and to the Hampshire and Berkshire counties, with a view, as it is said, that the people might know what they had determined on, and that towns might adopt that or a similar petition to the governor and council. I found ways, more than once, to introduce myself amongst the friends of the late petition, and to that effect, I need not now repeat. A true, printed copy of the petition above referred to, I here inclose you."

"On Sunday night the town was cleared of them. Mr. Day and his party from Hampshire, came no further than Rutland on Monday fast off on their return home."

The following is a copy of the proposed petition above referred to.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To his excellency JAMES BOWDWIN, Esq. governor and commander in chief of said Commonwealth, and the hon. COUNCIL, convened at Boston, in December, 1826.

THE PETITIONERS of a committee from several towns in the County of Worcester, together with a committee from a body of men from the counties of Worcester, Hampshire and Berkshire, all convened at Worcester, under the command of Capt. Shays and Capt. Wheeler, who, on the 14th inst., did obstruct the sailing of the Court of Common Pleas, at Uxbridge, N. S. W. 1826.

THAT the people first assembled, seeking a redress of public grievances, which they supposed in a great measure to be derived from the great expences and delays of said courts, together with the general state of the peace, and from other burthens, with which your petitioners conceive the yeomanry unproprietarily burthened: notwithstanding, your petitioners would dutifully submit, and waited for relief from the wisdom of the hour, as they have not yet gratefully acknowledged the attention of that body, in some instances, respecting their grievances, in the last session of the general court.

Your petitioners beg leave to mention their horror of the suspension of the privilege of writ of Habeas Corpus, from your excellency and your honors may be convinced your petitioners are not of the wicked, diffuse and abandoned, as it is not confined to a factious few, but extended to towns and counties, and almost every individual in the county, who are engaged in the labour of his hands or an income of a farm, that the suspension of said privilege, your petitioners view as dangerous, if not absolutely destructive to a republican government. That under the operation of the suspension of said privilege, your petitioners have been injured, that the eyes and breasts of women and children have been wounded, if not destroyed; that the houses of the innocent broken open, their limbs mangled, their friends consigned to gaol in another county, and now languishing (if alive) under their wounds.

In vindication of our liberties, your petitioners beg leave to point to your excellency and your honors the arguments used by our virtuous assertors of liberty

against the act of the British parliament, in conveying our countrymen from county to county, and even beyond the sea for trial.

Likewise the inhuman murder of Maverick and others, from mercenary principles, and the utterable right of government.

Your petitioners, induced from a supreme love to peace, liberty and good order,

Humly pray,
THAT your excellency and your honors would graciously please to grant, that our friends and our countrymen out of the counties to which they belong, may have the favour of the act of indemnity, with your petitioners, and that so long as they and your petitioners shall behave orderly, both they and we shall be safe in our persons and properties, and, if consistent with your wisdom, that there may be an adjournment of the courts of common-pleas and general-sessions of the peace, in the three counties of Berkshire, Hampshire, and Worcester, until after the next May session of the honorable general court of the said Commonwealth.

Your petitioners, for themselves and party, engage to return to their respective homes, and conduct themselves as good and faithful subjects.

With the greatest uprightness, your petitioners solicit your excellency and honors, that they are not induced to rise from a diffidence to the commonwealth, or infligated by British emulства, but from those sufferings which disabled them to provide for their wives and children, or to discharge their honest debts, thereby in possession of the hands of their country.

Your petitioners are not induced to petition in this way, from the mean fear of death, as they esteem one moment of liberty, to be worth an eternity of bondage; nor from the uncertainty of war, the injuries of change, cold, nakedness, or the infamous name of rebel; as under all these disadvantages they once before engaged, and through the blessing of God have come off victorious. To that God they now appeal, conscious of the innocence of their intentions, explicit direction from that Being to strengthen them in the councils of the weak, and to turn the wisdom of the wife into foolishness; but from a love to the people, and a horror of the thoughts of the cruelties and devastations of a civil war. For the prevention of so great an evil, your petitioners humbly pray for the love, candor and interposition of your excellency and honors, in redressing our unfortunate and suffering friends from gaol, your petitioners engaging for their good conduct as well as their own; waiting for a redress of grievances from your wisdom, both at the present time and in all future sessions. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Shattuck, the state prisoner now in this town, is amply provided with all the necessaries and conveniences proper for any person labouring under such a wound, as he is provided with food, and in redressing our unfortunate and suffering friends from gaol, your petitioners engaging for their good conduct as well as their own; waiting for a redress of grievances from your wisdom, both at the present time and in all future sessions. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH, Dec. 20. A writer in a late southern paper says, "The divine will tell you, that faith without works is dead—the seaman will tell you, that his ship would run on the leechore if he did not trim her sail to the wind, and put a good man at helm—the fencing-maffer will tell you, that unless you parry a lunge in tierce, his sword will pierce your bowels—the statesman will tell you, that if you declare war, you must find soldiers, and pay them.—Further; you need not be told, that if you eat a fillings' worth of meat, at an inn, you must pay two—you need not be told, that if you employ any person whatsoever, you must, at least, defray the expences of his badge and dignity of office; that, if one man runs another thro' the heart, he dies.—Need we be told, that if a man is scalped he is disgraced? that if he is burnt or quartered in the centre of a war dance, he dies? that hundreds of Americans have been thus scalped,

and quartered of late by the savages? that there is no faith in any of the savage tribes? that, as the man who kills his daughter to the highest bidder, for a wife, so the Indians, for a gallon of rum extraordinary, from Britain, or America, will conclude upon peace or war?—need you be told, that war is now inevitable with the Indians, the Britons having made greater sacrifices of warlike implements and rum than the Americans?—need you be told that your bowels are stuffed with enemies to our peace, and lovers of vengeance, who are lurking in every corner? and shall we not be on our guard day and night, search out their favorite haunts and watch their motions?—need we be told, that a well regulated militia is the guardian of a community? where are our field days, or our boasted military pride? Rouse, my countrymen! and we have a spirit of political discernment—that, to an Indian war will be entailed a more serious one; shew that you discover the heart's blood of our peace drained off by innumerable splitpits affixed there by the British, who have not yet forgot their late loss of Thirteen States, and who are professed avengers, who may avail themselves of some trivial breaches of the late treaty, which we cannot prove do not exist in our force respects, and take us off our guard!—Our correspondent further adds, that,—ALARMING CIRCUMSTANCES, corroborating from every quarter, call upon all ranks of COLUMBIANS to awake from their supineness,—and he most obsequiously hopes, that the above reflections may have that immediate tendency."

DIED face our last, Mr. John Rindge, of this town, in the 60th year of his age; Mrs. Olive Rindge, consort of Daniel Rindge, Esq. and a daughter of Major William Gardner, of this town.

NAVY OFFICE.

PORT OF FISCAWAGA, Dec. 20, 1826.
 OF THE
 Brig Viper, of Arron Mendum, Master
 Brig Dispatch, Wingate, St. B. tholomee
 C L E A R E D.
 Fox Sloop Mary, Gunnison, Tobacco Ship Elizabeth, Seaward, Brillol.
 High Water at PORTSMOUTH, From Wed. 12, to Wed. Dec. 27.
 FEBRUARY. 1827.
 Wednesday, 1st. after 11 30
 Thursday, 2d. after 12 3
 Friday, 28m. after 12 53 - 12
 Saturday, 17m. after 11 41 - 1
 Sunday, 4m. after 12 27 - 2
 Monday, 50m. after 12 12 - 3
 Tuesday, 30m. after 11 57 - 3
 New 2 o'clock, at noon.

FOR THE MERCURY.

MR. GERRISH,
 HAS THE BEST POLICY!
 THIS, Sir, is a maxim which when fully attended to, has always convinced every well-meaning and virtuous observer, not only of its truth, but of the importance of the lesson which it incidentally teaches. It is the equally good in the body politic, as among individuals; but, when the former pay no attention to it, the latter will certainly disregard it, and both conduct as though *longly were the world's policy*. Among the clearest and most judicious of the General Assembly is an act, entitled the *Lumber Act*, which reflects the highest honor on the state, and is distinguished for justice and sound policy; but the suspension of which, while it proves the indulgence of our political fathers, at the same time clearly shows the impolicy of it. The surveyors at Berwick, in Massachusetts, take their lumber agreeable to an act of that state, and when lumber not conformable thereto is offered they refuse it: when this happens to be the case it is not uncommon to hear the surveyor say, "If you will not receive it, the surveyor at Deer wall," and it is a fact, that large quantities of lumber have been transported into this state in consequence thereof. This may be compared to an enemy fighting

us with our own weapons; for, while this flagrant abundance lowers the price of our lumber, it prevents our neighbours with an opportunity to turn us off with their refuse for merchantable, and to supply us with the latter at an extra price; this preference we shall certainly give them, for being superior in quality and more in quantity. If the honor of the state, if the interest of those concerned in this trade, and if a regard for common benefits; are not sufficient reasons to forbid even a wish for a further suspension of this act, there is, more certainly, an indecency in a second and a third suspension, superior to every other consideration. For the act was not to be put in force until twelve months after the passing of it (*this time being allowed to dispose of the lumber then on hand*) at the expiration of which period, on the supposition that it was still unaided, a suspension of seven months was granted; therefore, another petition of this nature will argue an unpardonable rudeness, and must be considered as a trespass of the worst kind on the lenity of a mild government, and as insulting the feelings of an honest legislature, and of course (if it is not doubted) will meet with the contempt which a notion of this kind truly deserves." The vile impositions which have been long practised on the industrious merchant, are beyond the conception of an inexperienced and honest heart; and when we consider that he has other losses and embarrassments to struggle with than the deprivation of twenty per cent. of his property, by base and shameful customs, it is earnestly hoped, that the Legislature will pay that attention to him which the nature of the act, and importance of it in every other respect, seriously demand.

MERCATOR.

IMMODERATE STUDY.

From Percival's Moral Tales.
 SOPHON had passed the day in very intense application to his favorite study. The shades of the evening insensibly stole upon him. He called for his lamp, and supplied it with an extraordinary quantity of oil, that it might burn till midnight. The fire was languid and glimmering. He added more oil.—It yielded still a fainter light. Again he replenished the lamp.—The flame became dimmer. He closed his book; and was soon after in total darkness.

Ah! studious youth, use not with such profusion the sacred oil of learning! Thus lavishly applied, it will extinguish, not brighten the intellectual lamp that burns within thee.

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