

THE ARGUS, AND New-Jersey Centinel.

PUBLISHED (WEEKLY) BY M. KENZIE AND WES COTT, BRIDGE-TOWN.

Two Dollars per annum.

THURSDAY, July 28, 1796

No. 43.

CRANFORD, JULY 28, 1796.

From the Farmer's Weekly Museum.

"And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, drink, and I will give thy camels drink also."

From my attachment to simplicity in writing, I read Sterne more attentively than Stackhouse, and prefer a story in Genesis to a volume in Gibbon. It appears to me that notwithstanding the fictions of Voltaire, and other infidels, that mode of writing, which finds a ready way to the heart, was never more successfully attained than by Orientals. The other evening, as I was turning over agreeably to my usual practice, the pages of scripture, I dwelt with undecipherable pleasure upon certain passages in the life of the patriarch Abraham. I had passed the afternoon, in what is called modish company, and yet could not avoid remarking that the extreme selfishness of men and women of the world, led them even at a moment when they assembled for ostentatious civility, to behave discourteously. If such rudeness, I said to myself, be in a refined age, let me view the behaviour of those of old time, before dancing-masters were discovered, and when message cards were not sent by one patriarch's lady to another. I found as I expected that even herdsmen and shepherds had as much genuine politeness as Lord Chesfield, and that a country maiden, the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah could behave with as much propriety, as though she had been educated at a boarding school. The story of this pastoral girl's conduct I wish to tell at large, and with that delicacy of fashionable readers would allow me, on this occasion, so much pedantry as to quote the original. But as a whole chapter in Genesis might appear long, and disproportionate for a short sermon, I will attempt to narrate in my own words.

Abraham a most affectionate parent, perceiving that his life declined, and zealous with the anxiety of old age for an establishment for Isaac, treats a confidential steward of the household, that he would not suffer the inexperienced heart of his son to be captivated by the Canaanitish beauties. At the earnest request of the patriarch, the servant binds himself to solicit for Isaac a wife of his own rank, religion, and country. After sanctioning his promise by one of the most tremendous oaths among the Jewish usages, he harnesses his camels, and departs for Mesopotamia. On his arrival at the suburbs of Nahor, a city of that country, fatigued with a tedious journey, and tender of his drudging camels, he makes them kneel by a well of water to take their necessary refreshment. In this weary moment Rebekah appears; and the first accents that fall from the parched tongue of the traveller were to solicit a little water from the pitcher, which she carried. "And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also."

Let us now gaze earnestly at these simple, yet beautiful features.

The female whose courtesy is thus recorded, was a woman of some distinction in those pastoral times. Her father was of a stock abundantly respectable, for he was allied to Abraham; and her brother was the opulent Laban, whose cattle grazed on a thousand hills. Engaged in domestic duty she meets a stranger, in the garb probably of a hireling as he is called, in the text: "servant," begrimed with dust and having no claim to her favor. She is asked for water, which she cheerfully gives, and the careless reader will not be aware of the extent of the obligation, if he have not surveyed a map of Palestine, and adverted to the scantiness and thirst of the soil. In that arid region, a brook was a more joyous sight to a panting shepherd than a bumper would be now to the votary of wine. The invaluable well spring, eagerly sought, and obstinately contended for, by different tribes, was, from the nature of the earth at such a distance below the surface, that to obtain water was a work both of toil and time. But forgetting her home, forgetting herself, and disdainful little delicacies, she thinks only of the sufferings of the way tiring stranger, and with that "kind charity" which the Apostle emphasizes, with that genuine, disinterested civility, beyond the court of Versailles, the tedious descent of the well she repeatedly tries; and the cooling pitcher imparts, not only to the man, but even to his unperishing beasts. "Drink," says the generous girl and trust me that I can feel likewise for your burdened companions, "for I will give thy camels drink also." This was benevolence such as is not generally found. It was eminently disinterested, prompt and diffusive. It was disinterested, for the tongue which she cooled was not that of a youth-gallant trotting the oily phrases of flattery. He

who drained the pitcher, which the assiduity of Rebekah filled, was an old man, a servant and a stranger; it was prompt; for she "hasted," and she "ran" to do good; and drew water for "all the camels," though the troop consisted of ten. It was diffusive; for they were minutely regarded, no less than their proprietor.

I warmly wish that the manners of many who deem themselves polished, were at the present day as excellent as those of this primitive well bred woman. Frequenting no assemblies, but those of the next green, or meadow, receiving no lessons of good breeding but those which her own warm heart dictated, we find her deportment graceful, though she never paid a dancing-master, we find her a maid of honor, though she never saw a court. True politeness unlike that of men of the mode consists in actually rendering little services to our neighbor, rather than in the ostentatious promise of great ones. Indifferent to his own case, it thinks much of another's, discharges the latent wish and supercedes the necessity of asking favors by seasonably bestowing them.

THE LAY PREACHER.

INTELLIGENCE.

Conspiracy at Paris.

Council of four hundred.

May 10.

Godard, in the name of a commission, proposed to the council to authorize the members of the Central Bureau of each of the cantons of Paris, Bourdeaux, Lyons, and Marseilles, to decree mandates of arrest, and to interrogate persons under accusation within twenty-four hours. This examination to be afterwards transmitted, together with the accusers, to the magistrates.

Favard considered this plan as unconstitutional; and accordingly demanded the order of the day.

Doulcet supported the plan. He spoke of the necessity of compressing the factions, and of giving to the police the means of apprehending them. He profited by this occasion to speak with warmth against the new plots set on foot by the anarchists, at the moment when an endeavour was made to lull the public opinion with respect to the perils with which France was menaced. He pointed out the partisans of Robespierre raising their heads with more audacity than ever, and proposing murder, pillage, and fire. He called on the council to pronounce forcibly against every description of conspirators, and not for them to suffer the constitution to be overturned, under the mask of patriotism.

Royer proceeded to lay before the council a detail of crimes with which the terrorists menaced Paris. He urged the necessity of adopting the speediest measures to prevent the renewal of the crimes of the month of Prairial. He proposed to the council to augment the armed force stationed without the walls, and to compose it of one battalion of grenadiers, one battalion of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, and a company of gunners. This force is to receive its orders from the President of the council. This proposition excited murmurs.

A message from the Directory informed the council of the discovery of

A new Conspiracy.

Citizen legislators, a horrible plot was intended to be executed to-morrow at day break. Its object was to overturn the French constitution, to murder the legislative body, all the members of the government, the officers composing the staff of the army of the interior, and the constituted authorities at Paris. That great Commune was to be delivered up to a general pillage, and the most horrid massacre.

The Executive Directory, informed of the place where the chiefs of this terrible conspiracy were assembled, and where they held the committee of Revolt, gave orders for their apprehension. Several of them have been taken up, and it is with pain we apprise you, that among them was found one of our colleagues, Drouot, taken in the very act of conspiracy.

The Executive Directory calls upon you, citizen legislators, to have the goodness to point out the plan of conduct it ought to follow upon this occasion. If you judge that the directory ought to put seals on Drouot's papers, it prays you to declare your intention on that point.

[Signed] CARNOT, president.

Treillard demanded that the Council should, by a resolution, authorize the putting of seals on Drouot's papers.

Defermont observed, that this mode of procedure would be too slow. Imperious circumstances command that this measure should be instantly executed. He demanded therefore that the Council should pass to the order of the day on this ground that the mandate of arrest justified in itself the placing of seals on the papers. Adopted.

One of the Secretaries then read another message from the Directory.

It cannot be dissembled that the commune of Paris is the resort of all the immoral beings of the republic. A swarm of dismissed functionaries, and of disbanded soldiers flock to it, and the laws are insufficient to reach them. The Directory demands of the legislative body a law, enacting that every ex-conventionalist, every dismissed functionary, every soldier not employed, every person cancelled of emigration, and every individual not born in France, unless he be attached to the diplomatic body shall be obliged to quit Paris in three days and to withdraw himself ten leagues from thence, on penalty of transportation. The accused to be tried according to the form prescribed by the law of 27th Germinal.

A commission composed of Treillard, Marbois, Camus, Cambaceres, and Madier, was charged to present as speedily as possible, a plan of a resolution on that head.

Resolutions to nearly the same effect were finally adopted.

Conditions of a suspension of arms, agreed upon between the French and Piedmontese armies, between Bonaparte, general in chief of the French army in Italy, and Baron de la Tour, lieutenant general of the horse in the service of the king of Sardinia, and the marquis Costa, colonel and chief of the staff, commissioned by king of Sardinia, to treat with the general in chief of the French army.

Head-Quarters at Cherasco, the 9th Floreal, 4th year.

Art. 1. All hostilities shall cease between the French army in Italy, and the army of the king of Sardinia, from the day that the undermentioned condition shall be fulfilled until the expiration of five days after the end of the negotiations, which are to be set on foot to attain the conclusion of a treaty of peace between the two powers, viz.

The fortresses of Coni shall be occupied by the French on the ninth Floreal, or the 28th of April, of this present year; the fortresses of Alessandria shall likewise be taken possession of by the French as soon as possible, and at least the 11th Floreal, or 30th of April, until the fortresses of Tortona can be surrendered to them.

2. The French army shall remain in possession its conquests, that is to say, of all the country situated between the right banks of the Stura and its confluence with the Tenaro, and from thence along the right bank of that river as far as the point where it joins the river Po, as long as the French shall remain in possession of Alessandria; but after this place shall have been restored to the king of Sardinia, in consequence of the fortresses of Tortona, being occupied by the French, the boundaries shall extend farther from the confines of the Stura and Tortona, to the heights of Ailly, on the right banks of the said river; from this point the high road which leads to Nizza de la Paille, and from that place to Calligny, is to serve as a line of demarcation: from thence crossing the Bormida (under Calligny, the French army shall remain in possession of the right bank of the Bormida, to its discharge into the Tortona; and from thence to the confluence of this river and the Po.

3. The town and citadel of Coni, as well as the town and citadel of Tortona shall be surrendered up to the French, together with the artillery, ammunition and provisions, existing in those places of which an inventory is to be drawn up: the same shall be done with regard to the town and citadel of Alessandria, which are provisionally to be occupied by the French, until they shall be put in possession of the town and citadel of Tortona.

4. The French army shall be at liberty to cross the Po under Valence.

5. All extraordinary couriers, aids-de-camp, or other officers whom the commander in chief may think fit to send to Paris, shall be allowed to pass and repass the shortest way.

6. All the troops and officers in the pay of the king of Sardinia, who were in the Austrian army in Italy, are to be comprised in the said suspension of hostilities.

7. The citadel of Ceva shall be surrendered together with all its artillery, ammunition, and provisions, and its garrison is to retreat into Piedmont.

8. In the fortresses of Coni and Tortona as well as in that of Alessandria, inventories shall be drawn up of all the artillery, ammunition, and provisions, delivered up to the French troops, for which the French republic shall remain answerable to the king of Sardinia, by restoring the artillery, and paying the value of such part of the ammunition and provisions as shall have been consumed.

The same shall be done respecting the citadel. The troops who occupy those places shall withdraw into Piedmont with their arms, baggage, & all the honours of war.

(Signed in the minutes)
Lieut. Gen. de la Tour.
Col. COSTA, and
BONAPARTE.

NEW-YORK, July 23.

The court of Vienna, alarmed at the successes (Gen. Buonaparte in Italy, were making every exertion to reinforce Gen. Beaulieu, and orders had been given to Compe Wurmser to effect his relief if possible. Brussels accounts of 23d May state preparations for continuing the war on the Rhine were redoubled, and that the Duke of Brunswick had at length had at length accepted the command of a body of Prussians.

July 10.

By a gentleman arrived in one of the last vessels from the West Indies, we have the following information

Disturbances in Part of Spain, TRINIDAD.

An affray took place about the 10th, May, between Capt. Vaughan, of the English frigate Alarm and some of his officers and seamen, and some French privateers men (who had been driven on shore by an English frigate) late in the evening, it is impossible to ascertain from which party the offence came, rumour says from the English seamen. On the day succeeding, Capt Vaughan landed on the king's pier with 115 men armed for offence, and advanced to the great square with drums beating and colors flying: on this the republicans called "to arms." The governor of the Island, Chocon went to Capt. Vaughan and requested him to retire on board his vessel, if he had any regard for his men, or the English inhabitants of the Island as by a contrary conduct he sacrificed the lives and property of all such. Capt. Vaughan told the governor pointing to the English colors in a rage, saying, "that has been insulted, and must be satisfied," but on the governors further requisition, he retired. In a few minutes the republicans paraded in the public square, and commenced a firing on some of the English inhabitants and others, who ran from them—Some made their escape.—The republicans at length were pacified, and drawn off by the humane and prudent Capt. Beaudou of the French privateer that had been ashore in that Island, which fortunately prevented further mischief, and prevented an insurrection of the negroes which was meditated. When our informant left Port of Spain, things were again tranquil. It was said that about 2000 republicans and blacks were under arms shortly after the landing of Capt Vaughan. Daily Adv.

OF St. LUCIE, May 26.

The British have got possession of all the forts &c. on that Island; with the loss of about 600 men, among whom were 45 English officers. The French loss was inferior. There are yet about 2000 men still in arms, who have not surrendered, and whom the British are hunting down, as beasts of the forest; it is probable they will prove a troublesome enemy to the English for some time.

OF St. VINCENT June 10.

The British are in possession of the forts, &c. of that Island, they assailed two forts and as many redoubts, defended by about 400 republicans, the assailants about 4000 men. The skirmishing and assault commenced at 4 o'clock, A. M. and at 3 o'clock P. M. the English carried one fort and two redoubts, and were called from further assault, on which the French paraded, and obtained honorable terms.

NEWBURYPORT, July 16.

St. LUCIA, RE-TAKEN.

Last evening it was reported that St. Lucia was re-taken by the French. It was received by an arrival at Portsmouth.

BOSTON, July 14.

Extract of a letter from Capt. Wyatt St. Barbe, of this town, commander of the ship Enterprise, of Wiscasset, to the marine society of this town.

Teneriffe, March 23.

"I chartered my ship to Mr. Soren, of the house of Holycke and Soren of Boston, for a voyage from Hamburg to Surinam, and back to Hamburg and left the river Elbe on the 5th of Feb. last, and on the 2d following saw a large ship appearing to be in distress—made immediately for her and spoke her, she proved to be a British transport, with troops on board from Cork, bound to the West-Indies in a leaky and distressed situation—

both pumps constantly going. She was called the Isabella of Liverpool, Charles Potter, commander Capt. Potter immediately came on board my ship and informed me of his situation, and requested that I should see him safe into Carona or Lisbon, I told him my ship was chartered at a very high freight, and that my voyage would be very much injured by going back to either of those places—but that I was willing to see him into the Western islands, Madeira, or the Canaries, and to render him every other service, in my power, that I was willing to accommodate as many of the gentlemen officers as I conveniently could, and land them in any of the aforesaid islands. With this Potter seemed satisfied, and said he believed that would do—that he would send to the commander of the troops for his approbation—but instead thereof he sent an information that my ship and cargo were French and Dutch property and of course a good and legal prize, and requested immediate assistance with which he was soon supplied by an armed party, who then drove Mr. Soren, my supercargo, and my chief mate, with 8 of my sailors into his boat at the point of the bayonet and sent them on board the Isabella prisoners, all this was done before Potter had seen any of my papers. My ship then being manned from the Isabella with an addition of fourteen soldiers, two officers and a doctor, on the next day Potter thought it proper to inform me, that the ship Enterprise was his, and that he should after arriving at Lisbon dispatch us for Barbadoes, for he was positively sure the ship had a double lot of papers, and that the cargo was Dutch and French property. After examining all my papers both public and private, taking from me my invoice, bills of lading, shipping paper, clearance from Hamburg, and several others, which he thought proper to keep. He then went into the hold, and broke open several cases and boxes, taking from each what he thought proper, and carried them off with him. All this was done in retaliation for my kindness and humanity to him. I shall write you from Barbadoes, as soon after my arrival as I shall know my fate. It is peculiarly aggravating to me, to know that most of my cargo will be intirely ruined before a decision takes place.

July 16.

No particulars of the late engagement heard off the bay have transpired.—There are three French frigates on the coast, the Concorde, the Insurgent, and another.

It was reported yesterday, but upon no accountable authority, that the Concorde French frigate had captured the Huisar British frigate. It is not impossible but that the report may be founded on truth.

PHILADELPHIA July 16.

Authentic News from St. Domingo.

CAP. FRANCOIS, June 24.

Dispatches from Roume, dated 23d announce the arrival of the fleet of admiral Richery, composed of nine sail of the line, ten frigates, four corvettes, four transports carrying troops, and five millions of money.

The fleet has taken on its passage 23 prizes among which are an English frigate, and a corvette.

The army marched under the army of Rochambeau, Pageot, and Touffaint is composed of three hundred troops of the line and 5000 Africans, was destined for the Mole.—It has already taken Bomparde, where it surrounded and took a body of 300 cavalry, English. It continued its rout and took an advanced post near the mole, defended by two pieces of cannon, after having cut in pieces the troops which were in it.

There is no doubt of their soon having the Mole; and all that part conquered by the English will soon fall into the hands of the republicans.

From the AURORA.

On the 4th of last July, the anniversary of American Independence was celebrated by a company of firm friends to the cause of republicanism. Pierce Butler and John Swanwick members of Congress presided at the festival, at which the minister and Consul general of the French republic were present. The following toasts were drank after dinner.

1. The 4th of July, 1776: May the vices of government never change our festival into a day of mourning.
2. The people of the united States: May influence, never mislead or artifice corrupt them.
3. The French republic: Victory to her arms and universality to her principles.
4. The Baracian republic: May the virtues of her citizens obliterate the fordid vices of the Slaves of the Stadholder.
5. The Geneva republic: May we estimate nations by their attachment to liberty and not by their extent of territory.
6. Injured Ireland: May all people remember that resistance to oppression is the first of duties.
7. Our republican representatives in the Federal Legislature, May congress never degenerate into a chamber for regresting executive edicts.
8. Public faith: May treaties of alliance between republics never be sacrificed to the views of a faction.
9. The sister republics of America and France: May their efforts ever be united in the cause of humanity.
10. Agriculture: the parent of public wealth and of private independence.

11. Arts and sciences: May they as in Athens be the inseparable companions of liberty.

12. Immortality to the freedom of the press and destruction to its enemies.

13. All who suffer in the cause of freedom and may they be protected by those who are free.

14. All heroes who have fallen in the cause of liberty: taught by their example may we rather die the last of freemen than live the first of slaves.

15. The memory of Benjamin Franklin.

15. The memory of David Kittenhouse

July 22.

Extract of a letter, dated New-York, July 20th 1796.

"Reports are spreading that we have the Yellow-Fever amongst us, and I believe we have had a few instances of it, but do not find it increases yet."

Several other letters from New-York contain the like disagreeable information.

TRENTON, July 19.

On the Fourth of July the Society of the Cincinnati of this State, held their anniversary meeting in this city, and made choice of the following members as officers for the ensuing year:

Major Gen. Elias Dayton, President.

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield, V. President.

Rev. James F. Armstrong, Secretary.

Major Richard Cox, Treasurer.

Standing Committee

Col. Aaron Ogden, Brig. Gen. John Doughty

Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield, Brig. Gen. John N. Cummings, Brig. Gen. Anthony W. White

Brig. Gen. James Giles, Brig. Gen. John Beatty, The Hon. Jonathan Dayton, Capt. Eli Elmer,

Orators.

Rev. James F. Armstrong, Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield.

Delegates to the General Society.

The Hon. Capt. Jonathan Dayton, Col. A. Ogden, Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield, Elias Boudinot, Esq. Brig. Gen. Beatty.

After the business of the Society was finished, they assembled at the Indian Queen Tavern, and partook of a dinner provided for the occasion where they were joined, by invitation, by a number of the gentlemen of this city. After dinner the following toasts were drank:

1. The Day.
2. The President.
3. The Congress.
4. The people of the united States—May they hand down to their latest posterity the principles which have made them the admiration of the world.
5. May the wings of the American Eagle be ever extended to foster and protect the oppressed of every Country.
6. The memory of all who have fallen in the defence of their country.
7. Gen. Wayne and the Western army.
8. The Triumph of liberty throughout the world.
9. A speedy release to our brethren in captivity.
10. The agriculture, manufactures and commerce of the united States.
11. The western wilderness May its natives learn to cultivate the arts of peace and civilization.
12. The general society of the Cincinnati.
13. The militia of our country.
14. The American Fair.
15. May the last trump, be the first summons of our political dissolution.

The society adjourned to meet at Elizabeth-Town on the 4th of July 1797.

The victories and rapid conquests of the French republicans have this three years filled the universe with astonishment; but of all those glorious exploits that inspired mankind with reverence for the republican name, and struck slaves and despots with terror, there is no circumstance duly weighed, not a single one that presented such numberless obstacles, and promises such lasting advantages as the late-unparalleled successes of the French army of Italy. Indeed what is the conquest of Belgium, of Holland, in comparison to the late captures in Piedmont? After the famous victory of Fleurus, Jourdan swept, without much difficulty, the whole coalesced army out of the plains of Belgium, to the other side of the Maese; another victory, that of Juliers, pushed the grand Austrian army on the other side of the Rhine; Holland was then in a manner open, it being deprived of its best bulwark; and what rendered its fall more certain conduced to the protection of the English wreck of an army which is now covered with disgrace, and accustomed to fly at the appearance of a republican! A sudden frost by transforming the warty element into a solid mass, removed all further obstacles; and whilst Moreau, Souham, Dacendeis, advanced at the head of three columns and in three different points, to take possession of Holland, the armies of Jourdan and Mifflaud, kept the Austrian and Prussian forces in a manner nailed to their positions on the other side of the

Rhine or at But- nent t Piedm very n one i ranges natura of hum mount everla and i —for rector valier deemed equally the det tified r than fr avenue merous vanishe republ Sardin taken, up the French dinia, appeal for his The Parma to foll thes t seem i but th the En before appeal republ likely

Brol
Suberi oxen: bell on broke occasio The charge to com

Ran named high— way a l he has have b suspect named him to an: as the pre one wi headed

Fair

M

An: of this furroga has been veral of printed pected, fore, it to infer so plain the prog recollig 1784, several Court o tte. of t An a Sed. assembly liberty of office of mon ple on. An allowed phans: gate.

3. An at the ex report, tive offic

Rhine; and these alone could have saved Holland or at least have rendered its conquest difficult.

But how difficult were the obstacles, and eminent the dangers that presented themselves towards Piedmont! here nature and art had exhausted every means to transform the whole country into one immense and impregnable fortress; several ranges of the Alps formed on the side of France a natural barrier, that seemed to defy every effort of human skill and bravery—the summits of these mountains rising above the clouds, covered with everlasting snow, inaccessible during the winter and insurmountable during the summer season—for every foot path leading in a meandering direction over rocks and along precipices to the valleys, was barred by a fort, although it could be deemed impracticable but for wild goats or men equally nimble and daring. The roads through the defiles were all rendered impervious by fortified towns, of which Piedmont contained no less than forty disposed in such a manner that they defended all the defiles and avenues to them; the avenues of the fortresses were protected by a numerous army, but all these formidable obstacles vanished before the invincible courage of the French republicans. In less than a fortnight the Austro-Sardinian army was annihilated, the fortresses taken, and the king of Sardinia obliged to deliver up the remaining strong holds which secure to the French the conquest of all Italy. The king of Sardinia, seizer of the crowned heads, has already appealed to the generosity of the French republicans for his existence.

The pope, the king of Naples, the princes of Parma and Modena, &c. will soon be compelled, to follow the example of Victor Amadeus. All these terrible blows happen at a distance from and seem in eyes of many, little to affect old England; but they are really concentrating over the heads of the English government, and how long will it be before England and its partizans will be reduced to appeal in a mass to the generosity of the French republic? A dreadful event indeed, but which most likely will soon happen. (Aurora.)

Broke into the plantation of the

subscriber, in Fairfield township, a pair of large oxen: One of them was red, and had a strap and bell on his neck—the other black, with one horn broke off close to his head, and a scar on his nose, occasioned, it is supposed, by his throwing off riders.

The owner is desired to prove his property, pay charges, take them home, and return another pair to compensate for the damage they have done.

DAVID PEIRSON SHAW.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Ran away from the subscriber a negro man named Armstrong, about 5 feet 8 or ten inches high—broad made. He had on when he went away a shirt and trousers only—But it is expected he has got more clothes now, as several houses have been broken open lately, for which he is suspected. Any person who will secure the above named fellow in the gaol at Bridge-town or deliver him to the subscriber shall have the above reward, and as he is continually making depredations upon the property of the inhabitants, it is hoped every one will feel himself interested in his being apprehended.

JAMES BRADFORD.

Fairfield, July 25th, 1796.

FOR THE ARGUS.

Mell's Printers.

An act passed in the legislature of this state, intitled, "An act concerning the surrogates in the several counties of this state," has been the subject of severe animadversion in several of your late papers. As the act was not then printed, it has been, as might reasonably be expected, grossly misrepresented; you ought therefore, it is supposed, by a number of your readers to insert the act itself in your next number. It is so plain and concise as to need no explanation; and the propriety of it will appear evident when it is recollected that by a previous law passed Dec. 15th, 1784, for constituting an Orphans Court in the several Counties of this state, the judges of the Court of common pleas are declared to be, by virtue of their office, judges of that Court also.

An act concerning the surrogates in the several counties of this state.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the council and general assembly of this state and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That no person shall hold the office of surrogate and judge of the court of common pleas at the same time.

2. And be it enacted, That no surrogate shall be allowed to appear as attorney or council in the orphan's court of the county of which he is surrogate.

3. And be it enacted, That the surrogates shall, at the expiration of every three months, make a report, in writing, to the register of the prerogative office for the time being, of the business done

in their offices, so far as relates to the receiving and proving of wills, bonds of administration, and guardianship; and also make out, in writing, a fair copy of all the fees which by law they are entitled to receive, and shall set up and continue the same in public view in their respective offices for the information of all concerned.

FOR THE ARGUS.

A Critical Review of the foregoing Act concerning Surrogates by

Peter Plowden.

Since they can see themselves no other way,

So well as by reflexion; be thou their Mirror,

With modesty do thou discover to them

Their Errors and their faults.

In analysing the act before us, we aim not at personal censure. Our object is the Law itself and not individuals concerned in passing it. For it is the matter of laws only which affects the public. A good law may originate from bad motives; and a law bad in principle, and badly framed, is not in the least mended by the good intentions of those who made it. Nor will ignorance of the subject afford a reasonable palliation. Who would be satisfied with a shoemaker's spoiling his shoes, because he did not understand the trade?

Although we entertain the highest veneration and respect for the constituted authorities of our government, yet we sincerely believe it to be not only our right but our duty to investigate public transactions.

Laws which every citizen is bound to obey ought to be generally understood; not only the Letter, but the spirit and tendency of them. There is perhaps no state in the union where the laws are so defective, so much neglected, and the principles of legislation so little attended to, as in New-Jersey. The reason is to be sought for principally in the constitution. Until that is amended a material alteration cannot be expected. But to unfold and hold up to view palpable defects may possibly retard that gradual deterioration which every discerning person must perceive and lament.

This Act for the singularity of it, may truly be said to be, *rara Avis* in terris; for the brevity of it to be *multum in parvo*; and for the matter of it to be neither the *finger of Midas* which turns every thing it touches into gold, nor the *agnus of Minerva* which shields her votaries from the violence and injustice of their persecutors.

It carries visible marks of partial imbecility in its countenance; and of Crudity and indigestion in its constitution, diagnostic symptoms of a cacochethes Legian-di. Its texture, flimsy as *Arachnes* web, though intended to chain *Dragons*, is too feeble to hold *Them*.

If a law which has neither strength rhyme nor reason in it, be obeyed, it must be, not for *wrath*, but for *conscience* sake.

In a free government every law which transgresses the land marks fixed as boundaries to the legislature by the constitution, or which infringes the equal rights of any citizen, must be a *felo de se* and, *Chrysalis* like, its birth must be its death.

Sec. 1. Enacts "that no person shall hold the office of Surrogate and Judge of the court of common pleas at the same time."

What! surrogate and judge of the court of common pleas, but *one office*? and shall no person hold *one office* at the same time? then clearly he may (or must) hold *two offices*. This section is a penal one and must be construed strictly. If stealing *horses* will not include stealing *one horse*, a fortiori the singular here cannot comprehend the plural. If the greater does not include the less, certainly the less cannot comprehend the greater.

Again; This section does not affect the governor's right of appointing Surrogates.

So important a power cannot be taken away by implication. He may still appoint a judge *in* *rogate* if he chooses. And if he may appoint, the officer may, of consequence act. For it is absurd and nugatory to suppose a man may be *legally* appointed to an office but shall *not hold* the office after he is so appointed? such a law would be totally void from its inconsistency.

Again; This law from the title of it is ostensibly designed to regulate the surrogates department. Admitting that judicial officers, ought not to hold ministerial offices; where lies the *evil* if any? is it in the judicial or ministerial department? Clearly the judicial: Because it is the nature of the judicial to controul the ministerial. Then why not introduce it as a *general rule* in the judiciary system, where it properly belongs? why make a *partial rule*, for *partial purposes*, in an improper place, as fixing a mans nose on his chin?

Again; if two appointments which may possibly influence the reciprocal exercise of their respective functions ought not to be held by one man; what must be done with Commissioners for laying out roads, collectors of taxes, justices of the peace, candidates for offices, and many others, who sit and vote for laws, not only to designate their own duties, but to fix their compensations. Permitting such officers to hold seats in the legislature is more than the British Parliament, *does*; than Congress *can do*; and what no legislature on earth *ought* to do. And we feel the pernicious effects of it every day. Why strain at a gnat and swallow a camel? When spreading the plaster why not make it as large as the *forel*. Why plaster a slight *pimple* and leave the main corrupted *ulcer* to gangrene and destroy the patient?

Again; do not the same persons who make the laws appoint the judges? then why enact this section? Is it not ridiculous to enact, that a man shall *not hold* an office which he cannot hold unless they *give*? Are they afraid to trust themselves; or, are their constituents afraid to trust them?

Again; this section does not prohibit the joint-meeting from *electing* a person judge, who holds the office of Surrogate. Its operation then must be retrograde like a crab; and like a crab in pinching, it must loose its own weapon. For if it did prohibit them it would not be binding on any future joint-meeting.—The right of election, in this case, is a constitutional one, and no legislative act can alter or abridge it. The present legislature cannot deprive their predecessors of this right. If they could in *one* case, they might in *all cases*, and alter the constitution at pleasure.—Let us then suppose a man who is Surrogate to be put on the list of nomination, at a future legislature for a judge of the common pleas, and at the joint-meeting it should be objected that the section under consideration prohibits them from electing the nominee a judge; would not every member reply that the words of the law will not admit of such a construction. But supposing they would, the law then must be null and void as to us. The constitution has given us the power, in the present case, and made us judges of the propriety of appointing or rejecting the candidate. Our predecessors had no authority to *compel* us to reject him, if in the impartial exercise of our discretion, we think him eligible, independent of this law. And if we reject him, we must do it, not because the law says he *shall not hold* the office; but because we judge it improper to *appoint him*. There is an essential difference, in this respect between a *statutory* and a *constitutional* office. What we have a constitutional right to *give*, the acceptor must have a constitutional right to *hold*, and therefore *quacunque via data*, the prohibition is a nullity.

(To be Continued.)

All persons indebted to the subscribers on newspaper accounts, but particularly those who are in arrears on the first payment, are requested to discharge their accounts.

M'KENZIE & WESTCOTT.

June 9.

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber for goods bought at his vendue last fall, or other small accounts are requested to pay the same immediately to John Hann, jun. to whom I have given a legal power of attorney to collect and receive the same for me. He has the obligations and books in his possession, ready to settle on application. Those who neglect payment after being called upon, will have their accounts put into the hands of John Mulford, Esq. to collect agreeably to law.

DAVID BOWEN.

Philadelphia, June 23, 1796.

FOR SALE,

A Lot of land situate in Greenwich, nearly opposite the market ground, containing 6 acres, on which is a good convenient one story frame house with a kitchen and outhouses, and an excellent well, and pump of water at the door. On the premises are fine orchards of apples, pears, peaches, cherries, &c.

Also, a lot of ground, opposite to the Friends school house in Greenwich, containing 18 acres of which are extraordinarily well-timbered woodland—the remainder arable.

Likewise, a small lot of 2 acres, near the burnt school-house, convenient for building.

For terms enquire of

JOHN LANNING, Fairfield.

Will you mind this and take a friend's advice.

ALL those who are indebted to the subscriber for Constable, Court execution, Tavern, and Vendue accounts, or otherwise, are, in a friendly way, requested to come forward and settle the same, and save cost to themselves, and trouble to their friend,

BENNONI DARE.

June 23d, 1796.

FOR SALE,

In lots to suit the purchaser, two hundred acres of woodland near Maurice river dam, Cumberland county. Enquire of

SAMUEL FURNISS.

June 9.

FOR SALE,

TWO Tracts of land, in Northumberland county, state of Pennsylvania, in or adjoining Bald-Eagle township, on the west branch of the river Susquehanna, containing four hundred and twenty acres each tract, with large allowance for roads, &c. These lands were taken up and patented by the particular direction of the honourable Thomas McKean chief justice of the state of Pennsylvania, whose peculiar opportunity, when riding the circuits, and possessing the first information respecting the quality of all these lands need not be questioned. The above tracts are the very pick of twelve tracts which the person employed to direct the survey chose for his services. It joins thick settlements and the river Susquehanna. For terms apply at the office of the Argus. wtf

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber, on vendue accounts, are requested to make payment immediately.

EBENEZER SEELEY.

May 11, 1796.

FOR SALE,

A plantation, situate in Fairfield township, about a quarter of a mile from New-England-town cross-roads, on the road leading to Greenwich, containing seventy-five acres, 25 of which are woodland, and 4 excellent meadow through which runs a never-failing stream of water.

On the premises are a young apple orchard, good dwelling-house, and a wheelwright's shop.

BENJ. S. CGDEN.

June 9.

Thirty-five Thousand
Indian River Shingles
Of the first quality for sale at Greenwich
Laying by

JOHN SHEPARD, jun.

Greenwich, 6mo. 29, 1796.

AFRICAN LITERATURE

Published by

T. STEPHENS,

Wholesale Bookseller and Importer, No. 68
South Second-Street, Philadelphia.

I. The Literary Miscellany, printed periodically, one Number every two weeks: Price one eighth of a Dollar; containing pieces of an Humorous, lively, pathetic and Argumentative tendency, for the ParLOUR, the Closet, the Carriage, or the Shade.

Fourteen Numbers are already published. Eight of them form the first Volume, embellished with an elegant Frontispiece and Vignett, and Superbly bound, for one Dollar and 25 cents.

II. The Blossoms of Morality:—Intended for the use and amusement of young Ladies and Gentlemen. By the Editor of the Looking-Glass for the Mind:—Price bound 75 cents.

III. The Looking-Glass for the Mind, or Intellectual Mirror; Being an elegant Collection of the most delightful little Stories and Interesting Tales, with thirty six Cuts, beautifully Engraved.

IV. The Centaur, not Fabulous.—By Dr. Young, Author of the Night Thoughts. The first American, from the fifth European Edition.—Price 80 cents.

V. Rural Walks, in Dialogues, for the use of Young Persons. By Charlotte Smith. 2 Volumes in one. Price 5s 7d r-2

In this little work the Authoress has confined herself rather to what are called *les petites Morales*, to repress discontent, and to inculcate the necessity of submitting cheerfully to such situations as fortune may throw them into, to check that Flippancy of remark so frequently disgusting in girls of Twelve, or Thirteen; and to correct the errors that Young People fall into in Conversation, as well as to give them a Taste for the pure pleasures of retirement, and the Sublime Beauties of nature.

VI. An Estimate of the religion of the Fashionable World. Price bound 3/9. There never was found in any age of the world, either Philosophy, or Sect of Religion or Law, or Discipline, which did so highly exalt the Public Good as the Christian Faith.

VII. One thousand valuable secrets in the elegant and useful arts; neatly bound. Price one dollar.—From the Preface.

At a period when the United States of America are advancing rapidly in the Career of improvement to all the arts, that meliorate and embellish life, every attempt to add to the general Stock in this way will doubtless meet with that share of attention which it deserves. It is on this presumption only that this work is offered to the public inspection, and the editor is happy in believing that a work like this, calculated to promote industry, and stimulate genius will be received as an acceptable contribution.

VIII. Louisa, the lovely orphan; or the cottage on the moor.—2 Volumes in one. Price 3/9.

If the basest plot, devised against virtuous love, and conjugal Felicity, a plot arising from the Malice of disappointment, conducted by the darkest intrigue, but so overruled by Providence as at once to disgrace the Malevolence of persecution, and show female innocence and virtue splendidly triumphant and happy—if such a picture drawn by a masterly hand, can interest the heart, or convey entertainment, and instruction to the mind, Louisa the lovely orphan, merits our attention, but the judicious reader will require no higher recommendation of this elegant work, than to informed that it has in a short time passed through no fewer than seven Editions.

IX. The Mystic cottager of Chamouny.—Price Bound 6s.

This interesting Novel, has been lately published in London, for the sole endeavour of raising a sum for the Benefit of a distressed orphan, deprived of the blessing of light.

X. The Royal Captives; a fragment of secret History; copied from an old manuscript. By Ann Yearly Milk woman, of Bristol; Author of Earl Godwin; an Historical play—also several celebrated Poems.

XI. The Proceedings of the Society of United Irishmen.

It is hoped that the publication will prove in the highest degree acceptable to all the virtuous and patriotic citizens of the United States. To them the cause of Freedom is ever sacred, and the struggles of an injured nation to regain their dear rights lost, will, we hope, keep alive on their minds a spirit of watchfulness over their public officers, and a disposition to resist with becoming firmness every Incroachment on their Liberties, that they may enjoy the ineffable blessings of the free and most happy government on earth.

XII. The American tablet of Memory, containing the most memorable events in History, &c. from the earliest period till the year 1795. The whole being intended to form a comprehensive Abridgement of History and Chronology, particularly of that period which relates to America. Neatly bound.—price one dollar.

XIII. Sentiments upon the Religion of Reason and Nature.—Price three eighths of a dollar.

XIV. Triumphs of temper; a Poem by Haley—with beautiful engravings. Price, bound, 7/6

XV. The Cavern of Death—a Novel.

XVI. The Holy Bible. Abridged for Children: adorned with 31 Cuts.—Price bound in gold, 18 cents.

XVII. Twelve cents worth of Wit for Children—bound. Price, 1rd.

XVIII. Curious Prophecies of Richard Erother's. Interesting to the whole world, in two parts. Price Five eighths of a dollar.

XIX. The Testimony of the Authenticity of Richard Erother's Prophecies. By Nathaniel Brasly Halhead, member of parliament. Price 25 cents.

XX. Pennsylvania almanack for 1796, by the quantity or single one.

In addition to the above, said STEPHENS sells every American publication and has received by the last arrivals a complete assortment of the best European books; also, a variety of stationary—all which he continues as usual to sell cheap; and offers to wholesale purchasers a liberal allowance, Gentlemen wishing to complete libraries, or embark in the book-selling business, can have a supply at the shortest notice, and every information necessary.

FOR SALE,

A frame building, at present occupied as a carpenter's shop 31 feet front, 19 deep, and one story high. It is nearly new, and may with little expense be converted into a dwelling house.

Also, a lot of ground situate in Front below Vine street, Bridgetown, adjoining ground of Philip Souder, Blacksmith. It contains in front 8 rods and three quarters—in depth 16 rods.

For terms apply to,

SIMON MILLER.

June 30th, 1796.

BROWNLOW FISHER

Respectfully informs the inhabitants of Bridgetown, and its vicinity, that he has commenced the

Baking business

At his house in High-street, near the Court-house, Bridgetown, and is ready to execute any commands in his line. He hopes by his attention to business, and assiduity to please his customers to be favoured with the public patronage.

June 30th, 1796.

FOR SALE,

A PART of the plantation whereon the subscriber now lives; situate in the county of Cumberland, New-Jersey, a short half mile above Cohanssey bridge, containing one hundred acres, sixty of which are cleared and in good cedar fence, the remainder woodland. There is a lively stream of water running through the premises, on which is a small quantity of swamp meadow. A considerable part of the upland is under clover, part of which affords a good burden. On the said plantation is a good barn and some fruit trees.

Also a lot of valuable bank meadow of six acres, distant three miles, and a lot of good cedar swamp of six acres distant eighteen miles.

The above plantation is well situated for a farm store, or any mechanical business, laying on the main Philadelphia road: lots for building may be disposed of to good advantage; the situation is high, pleasant and healthy, and in full view of the growing village of Bridgetown.

EBENEZER SEELEY.

Laurel-hill, April 9, 1796.

The Highest price

Given for

clean linen and cotton

RAGS

By the Printers hereof

NOTICE

Is Herely Given.

THAT on the nineteenth day of July next, between the hours of twelve and five o'clock; in the afternoon, at the house of John Holme esq. in the township of Upper Alloways Creek, in the county of Salem, attendance will be given by us the subscribers, and an allotment by ballot then and there will take place between John Holme esq. and the Heirs of William Dickson esq. deceased of a tract of land, plantation, and meadow ground, situate in the township of Upper Alloways Creek and county of Salem aforesaid, into two equal parts or shares, to the said John Holme, esq. and the heirs of the said William Dickson, esq. deceased, their heirs and assigns.

SAMUEL RAY,

HOLME FOG,

WILLIAM THOMPSON,

Salem county June 21st, 1796.

Commissi-
oners