

Julum et tenacior propoliti virum, Non civium ardor prava jubentium, Non vultus infantis tyranni, Mente quatit folda.

COMMUNICATION.

Another motive for governor M'Kean's proclamation was to facilitate the removal of officers, whose removal was previously determined; to make their removal seem a light thing and as of course, and look rather like a declining to appoint than a removal.

That the removal of many was previously determined is beyond a doubt; for to many (it is said twenty-two) of the prothonotaries and registers, together with the proclamations, were sent notices from the secretary, that it was not consistent with the governor's arrangements, longer to continue their appointments. Among these were men, whose official and moral conduct ranked them among the best officers and most respectable citizens in the State, and who had uniformly and actively supported the revolution which established the liberty and independence of this country, and had largely shared in its labors and dangers.

Of these officers, some have already been removed, and more, it is said, will be as soon as it can be settled who shall be their successors.

There is in this a cruel hardship to the officers removed. They had, when they received their appointments, abandoned other means of subsistence and depended on the emoluments of their office for the support of their families. In a decent rank in life, and with a prospect of permanent competence, they had educated their children in the habits and hopes of their station, and now they are suddenly stripped of their means and their hopes, perhaps in their old age when they find themselves incapable of changing their exertions, or even of preserving themselves from want.

I will not enter into the discussion of the tenure on which such officers are held; nor state that, at common law, they were considered as freeholds, to be forfeited only by misbehavior. Nor will I remind Mr. M'Kean that, in the Convention, when, to preserve such officers from being slaves of every governor, and tools of every candidate, a motion was made expressly, to give them commissions during good behavior. He seconded the motion. Nothing is said either in our constitution or laws as to the tenure by which such officers hold their commissions; and I know not how they have been considered in practice.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the abolition of slavery, &c. held at the Friends' Meeting House, 15 Fourth-street, on the 16th inst. the following persons were elected officers for the present year:

- President, James Pemberton, Vice Presidents, Robert Paterlson, John Letchworth, Treasurer, John Evans, Secretaries, Timothy Paxson, James Minor, Counsellors, William Lewis, William Rawle, Miers Fisher, John Hallowell, Walter Franklin, James Milnor, Joseph Reed, John Reynell Coates, Thomas Hartley, George Fisher, Joseph Hemphill, Daniel Smith, Electing Committee, Abraham Lidden, Thomas Harrison, Joseph Moore, Joseph Budd, Isaac Pearson, Joseph Price, Benjamin Kite, John Letchworth, Isaac Parish, Thomas Rogers, Samuel Bettle, Solomon White.

Such arbitrary removals tend to destroy the principles of republican government, and restrain the freedom of election. It would be an act of mercy to such officers if the legislature would pass a law to disqualify them for voting at elections and not leave them in the cruel dilemma of violating their own conscience, by voting as to please the governor, or losing their office by voting so as to offend him. I declare I wish not to think or speak uncharitably of Mr. M'Kean, nor can we see the thoughts in his breast; but a train of actions may appear which lead to a judgment of thoughts, demonstrated that it is impossible to doubt them. Whatever motives M'Kean may profess or have, after what has happened, it will be impossible to persuade any officer in this State, removable at the pleasure of the governor, or limited within the period of his government, that, if at the next election, he vote not for governor M'Kean, and at every election vote not so as to please him, he runs not the risk of losing his office. Is this Democracy? Is this Republicanism? Is this freedom of election? Alas! I fear this cry of republicanism is but empty profession; and they who are loudest in it are the greatest tyrants.

I have heard it said that these removals are justified by the conduct of the government of the United States. But nothing can be shown in the government of the United States like these removals. I have heard these removals justified by the conduct of the British administration on a change of ministry. I did not think that republicans would have looked to Britain for justification or example. But if they did they would find none there. These county officers have no concern with the secrets or affairs of state. They have no concern or agency in any of the duties of the governor. They are agents of the judiciary or of the concerns of private life: and cannot but as citizens affect any matter of state policy.

[OFFICIAL.]

LIST of Vessels captured and recaptured by the United States Ships of War on the Guadalupe station, from the 25th of October to the 22d December.

- By the frigate Adams—an American brig re-captured. English brig re-captured. French privateer schooner. By the Pickering brig—an American brig re-captured. A small French privateer. By the brig Eagle—an American brig with lumber, recaptured. English do. recaptured, worth £10,000. By the ship Delaware—a French privateer brig. By the ship Connecticut—an American brig re-captured. By the ship Baltimore—a French brig with 120 khds. Sugar. By the Ganges during her late cruise, an account of which has not been printed. Off St. Bartholomews, the French letter of marque schooner Rebataufe, from Guadalupe with sugar and cotton. Off St. Croix, do. do. schooner Eugene from Guadalupe for St. Thomas, with do. N. E. of Antigua the French letter of marque schooner L'Esperance, from Point Petre for Bourdeaux, with a very valuable cargo of sugar, coffee and cotton. At the taking of this last the Eagle was in company. T. TINGEY.

Extract of a letter from Charleston, dated December 21, 1799.

"Tens of thousands of barrels of Rice, and thousands of bags of cotton, besides Tobacco and Lumber, and cannot sell for want of shipping to carry it away. A number of good ships from our Eastern states, commanded by men of established skill and integrity would meet with immediate employment in freights and consignments.—There is not money in the country to purchase the crop, and many Planters are disposed to ship their produce when they can find ships and men whom they may trust."

- President, James Pemberton, Vice Presidents, Robert Paterlson, John Letchworth, Treasurer, John Evans, Secretaries, Timothy Paxson, James Minor, Counsellors, William Lewis, William Rawle, Miers Fisher, John Hallowell, Walter Franklin, James Milnor, Joseph Reed, John Reynell Coates, Thomas Hartley, George Fisher, Joseph Hemphill, Daniel Smith, Electing Committee, Abraham Lidden, Thomas Harrison, Joseph Moore, Joseph Budd, Isaac Pearson, Joseph Price, Benjamin Kite, John Letchworth, Isaac Parish, Thomas Rogers, Samuel Bettle, Solomon White.

From the Lancaster Journal. Legislature of Pennsylvania. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, January 14, 1800. A long letter was received from Samuel Bryan, Register General, read and thrown under the table. The following is an extract from the said letter: "IT was with no small astonishment I heard that an assertion was made yesterday afternoon, in the House of Representatives, that I had declared before the Commissioners appointed on the application of the States' Treasurer, 'that the statements in my pamphlet respecting him were untrue'—an assertion at once unfounded and ungenerous, and even of the slightest probability that the gentlemen who made it could themselves have believed it from misapprehension or misrepresentation of what I said before the committee.

"The candour and liberality manifested by me on the present occasion, ought to have assuaged the rancour of party spirit, at least far as to have prevented gentlemen from asserting MALICIOUS FALSHOODS on the floor of your honorable House, calculated to injure my character, and to wreak their vengeance on me for doing my duty against a party friend.

"Previously to my giving a statement of what I did declare before the above committee, for the accuracy of which I boldly appeal to the gentlemen who composed it, I will make two general remarks in order to shew the extreme improbability (I was going to say impossibility) of my having made the declaration so audaciously attributed to me.

"Sir, I see no consideration will protect a Public Officer, however meritorious, from the malignant rage of Party Spirit, even among a body who ought to be distinguished for their wisdom, public spirit, veracity and dignity of conduct!!"

Wednesday, Jan. 15. Mr. Weaver the Speaker, presented to the House a second letter from Samuel Bryan, Register General, which he said was intended as an apology for the expressions made use of in his letter of yesterday.

Mr. Fisher hoped that it would not be read. That it would be improper to receive at that time any communication from a man who had so grossly insulted the representatives of the people of Pennsylvania. The infamous contents of the letter of yesterday had induced him to prepare a resolution, which he was about to bring before the House.

Messrs. Boileau and Frailey were for the letter being read. That though they felt the insult offered to the House, yet they thought it the duty of the House to have it read. It was proper, and "decent," that it should be read, and the apology might be satisfactory!!!

After considerable debate, the question "shall the letter be read?" was taken, and the reading agreed to, 39 to 33.

The letter being read—the question "shall it lie on the table," was negatived.

Mr. Fisher then moved the following resolution: "Whereas Samuel Bryan, Register General of this Commonwealth, in a letter directed to the hon. Speaker of this House, has directly charged some of its members with being actuated by party spirit—and asserting malicious falsehoods on the floor of this House, calculated to injure his character, and to wreak their vengeance on him for doing his duty against a party friend; And, whereas, the above language is in a high degree slanderous, insolent and derogatory to the general power, authority and rights of this House—manifesting contempt for the Speaker and members thereof—and is moreover a daring breach of the privileges of the said Speaker and members—Resolved, That the Speaker do issue his warrant, directed to the Sergeants at Arms, attending this House, commanding him to take into custody, wherever he be found, the body of the said Samuel Bryan, and him brought forthwith to the Bar, there to be subject to the further order and direction of the House."

Mr. Frailey hoped that the business would not be acted upon so precipitately. For his own part he had not sufficiently considered the subject.—He moved that the motion be postponed till the day after tomorrow.

[After some debate which for want of room we shall consider as "EXTRANEOUS," Mr. Frailey withdrew his motion, and another was introduced by Mr. Boileau, to adjourn the subject till to-morrow—Thursday.]

Mr. Boileau said he had doubts as to the power of the House to bring a person to the Bar for an insult offered to the members—that the constitution had made no provision to that purpose, and that the legislature had never made any law empowering such a measure. The subject he said would probably produce much warmth in the House. That he did not know what the gentleman meant to do with Mr. Bryan when he had him at the bar. The subject certainly required time for consideration.

Mr. Frazer was surprised that members would want time on a subject of this nature. It required no consideration. The book has acknowledged the insult to be great. If the gentlemen allowed that any respect ought to be paid to themselves or to the people of Pennsylvania, they were bound to require satisfaction in the present case. There was but one way of proceeding. It was founded on precedents established by legislative bodies of every country. He quoted the conduct of the Federal Legislature of the United States in the case of Randal, and the case of William Orr, before the assembly of the province of Pennsylvania, in the year 1558. In the latter instance the insult was not offered to the legislature which referred it. The libel was directed against a former

house. Yet not only the author of the libel, but the person concerned in its publication, was punished. The precedent therefore ought to have the greater force. No doubt could remain on the minds of any man but that the letter of Bryan was a false, infamous libel. Had the insult been personal to any of the members the case would be different. The member would know in what manner to proceed; but it was an insult to the people of Pennsylvania. If the house were to be insulted in this manner how was it possible they could go through the business of legislation?

On the present occasion, Mr. Frazer said, no member ought to hesitate. A warmth was necessary, but it was not the warmth of combat in the house. He trusted it was a warmth which ought to be expressed by every member who felt any respect for himself or for his constituents. He saw no occasion for postponing the resolution. It contemplated no punishment. It only went to bring Mr. Bryan before the bar of that house—and if Mr. Bryan should then want time to make his defence, he had no objection to give it him.

Mr. Hemphill hoped that no gentleman would refuse in this case to do justice to his constituents. The consideration of the oath taken by every member left him no alternative how to act on the occasion. He quoted the 17th section of the first article of the constitution, and appealed to the rules of the house. In a court of justice, would such conduct be permitted to pass unpunished? How then could it be expected that the legislature of Pennsylvania would crouch under the insult? The charge was of so serious a nature, that any man who would permit it to pass unnoticed, was unworthy of a seat in any public body or in common society. If the house did not do itself justice on this occasion, it might be expected that people would enter the house with clubs, to insult and to endeavor to intimidate. In a court of justice if an insult was offered, the culprit could be immediately remanded to prison, and numerous instances could be adduced where this power was exercised in England and America; and should the representatives of the people of Pennsylvania be less regardless of their privileges and rights.

Mr. Hemphill appealed to the case of Mr. Oswald, where although Mr. Oswald, repeatedly declared he meant no insult, he was sentenced to an imprisonment of 30 days for a supposed libel on the court. If Mr. Bryan's last letter was to be considered in the light of extenuation, any man might insult the legislature in what manner he pleased, and an acknowledgement must be satisfactory.

Mr. Boileau said, that he acknowledged the house had been insulted, and under that consideration had voted that Mr. Bryan's letter should not lie on the table. Notwithstanding, as nothing in the constitution had given power to proceed in the manner proposed by the resolution, he thought it was improperly introduced. The first session of the legislature after the adoption of the constitution might have made a law adapted to such cases. But the constitution says, that no ex post facto shall be made. Would it not be a violation of the constitution to bring Mr. Bryan before the house? The constitution had given no authority. It was a pity that the legislature had not made a law to punish such insults. Admitting that the resolution could take effect, it became a duty to investigate what punishment gentlemen would think proper to inflict. Gentlemen had brought forward precedents in England. Were we free, or to be governed by such a government as England—one of the most corrupt governments in the world! He hoped the legislature would be capable of going alone, and not appeal to such authorities. Besides, precedents were nothing in the present case. It would be an arbitrary proceeding!

Mr. Frailey was for postponing the resolution. The gentlemen should take time to consider. If the bounds of human nature were exceeded, the House would reflect discredit on itself. He was as much as any man for preserving the dignity of the House, but thought time ought to be given to consider whether the procedure was constitutional and proper!

Mr. Fisher hoped that the resolution would not be postponed. Gentlemen were deceived when they believed he meant to proceed to any extraordinary resentment, though he felt in the strongest manner, the unprecedented insult that had been offered to the House. The resolution embraced not punishment. If it went into operation it would remain in the breast of the House to determine what measures ought to be taken. If gentlemen should then wish to extenuate, time for extenuation would be given. If they had a mind to advocate they could have time to supply themselves with materials. The second letter of Bryan was adding insult to insult. Such attacks upon the representatives of a free people never before disgraced the annals of any country; and he should think himself unworthy of the confidence of his constituents, if he permitted them to pass without the most marked disapprobation. He trusted that every man who felt the least respect for himself or the people of Pennsylvania would unite in bringing to justice a fellow who had been guilty of such scandalous aggression.

Mr. Dunlop observed that some gentlemen seemed to shew a disposition that Bryan should not be brought to justice. If the gentleman would withdraw his motion for postponement he would move that the Speaker be directed to issue his warrant to bring Samuel Bryan before the House the day after to-morrow.

Mr. Frailey did not wish him taken into custody before gentlemen had made up their minds. The question "shall the consideration of the resolution be postponed till to-morrow" was called for and carried in the affirmative for postponing, 38 against 36.

[The editor acknowledges the foregoing to be but a very imperfect sketch of the debate. It is taken chiefly from memory, and is almost the first attempt of the reporter. If any particular inaccuracies or misrepresentations are discovered, they shall be cheerfully corrected.] Thursday, January 16. This day the House resumed the consideration of Mr. Fisher's resolution for bringing Samuel Bryan to the bar of the House. A long and interesting debate took place.—Messrs. Fisher, Hemphill, Frazer, Kepple, and Dunlop supported the resolution. It was opposed by Messrs. Frailey, Boileau and Mitchell. On the question, "will the House agree to the resolution?" the yeas and nays stood as follow: YEAS. Messrs. Barclay, Blair, Brown, Buckley, Bull, C. Dean, Campbell, Dunlop, Erwin, Fisher, Fox, Franklin, Frazer, Hall, Hannum, Hemphill, Herbach, Hunter, Hopkins, Keys, Kepple, Tirk, M'Nair, Royer, M'Pherson, Miller, Palmer, Preston, Sample, A. Scott, J. Scott, Stewart, Strickler, Stover, Taylor, Turner, Wynkoop. —37 NAYS. Messrs. Weaver, Alter, Parnet, Beale, Boileau, Conrad, Coolbaugh, Cunningham, Davis, Eyre, Follmer, Frailey, Harris, Hartzell, Hoffeter, Ingels, Ley, Linnard, Logan, Lyle, M'Dowell, Mitchell, Painter, Potts, Roberts, Rose, Rugh, Shoemaker, Smith, Snyder, Udree, Urie, Vanhorn, Whitehill, Wilson of Dauphin, Wilson of Northampton, and Witman. —37 A majority being required to carry a resolution it was consequently lost. [So now, my pretty little Sammy Bryan, (saye the editor of the Lancaster Journal) the last named 37 members have agreed that if you go into the House of Representatives, call the speaker and members liars, spit in the face of the serjeant at arms, and lash the long switch-tail of your coat into the chops of the door keeper—you will be constitutionally safe and need not care a fig for the privileges or dignity of the "honorable the House of Representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania."]

NEW THEATRE.

This Evening, January 22, Will be presented a favourite Tragedy, called VENICE PRESERV'D; Or, a Plot Discover'd.

Duke of Venice, Mr. L'Estrange—Priuli, Mr. Warren—Bedmar, Mr. Cato—Fierro, (by a young Gentleman, being his first appearance)—Julio, Mr. Wignell—Rennault, Mr. Morris—Spioula, Mr. Wood—Elior, Mr. Warren—Theodore, Mr. Blisset—Durand, Mr. Hook—Officer, Mr. Warren, jun. Belvidera, Mrs. Merry. To which will be added, A favourite Farce, not acted these four years, called THE PRISONER AT LARGE; Or, the humours of Killarney. [Written by O'Keefe, author of the Poor Soldier.] Lord Edmund, Mr. Cain—Old Dowdle, Mr. Warren—Count Fripon, Mr. Blisset—Jack Connor, Mr. Wood—Friel, Mr. Warrick, jun.—Father Frank, Mr. Lewis—Fiermer Tough, Mr. Morris—Lanlord, Mr. Hook—Irish Mr. Warrick—Phe-lim, Master E'Estrange—Miss, Mr. Bernard. Adelaide, Miss L'Estrange—Rachel, Mrs. Bernard—Rachel, Mrs. Bernard—Mary, Mrs. Francis—Laddaisy, Mrs. Dozier.

RECONCILIATION; or, THE BIRTH DAY (from the German of Kotzebue) was received on Monday evening, with the most distinguished marks of approbation; it will be repeated on Friday, with Entertainments, as will be expressed in future bills.

Gentlemen and Ladies are requested to send their servants to keep places, in the Boxes at 5 o'clock.

PORCUPINE'S GAZETTE.

THE Subscribers to this Gazette are informed, that the Farewell Number is this day received at the Philadelphia Post Office.

N. B. A Supplement of two or three numbers will be published, and duly sent on to the subscribers. January 22.

WANTS A PLACE. As Housekeeper or Seamstress, A WOMAN who perfectly understands either, and can be well recommended. Enquire at No. 163, North Third Street. January 22. 1P

ANY Person or Persons, wishing to avail themselves of any opportunity of having a person well calculated to perform the necessary avocation of a DUN, will hear of one, by leaving a line at the Office of this Gazette, directed to A. B. Any recommendations necessary can be given: January 22. dtf

IN CUSTODY. In Middlesex Gaol, the following Negro men, to wit: ADAM HILL, says he belongs to William Me. Matrea, of Philadelphia, 21 years old. Henry Hall, about 6 feet high, (supposed to be about 20 years old, and some gentleman's coachman or waiter, and from his dialect, judged to be from Maryland or Virginia.—Irae Harmon, 5 feet, 6 or 7 inches high, very black, about 20 years old, says he lived at the Head of Elk, state of Delaware. The owners of the above Negroes are requested to pay charges and take them away, before the 27th of January ensuing, or they shall on that day be sold to defray expenses and gaol fees at the city of New-Brutwick, and State of New-Jersey. PETER KEENON. dtes. December 21—9J.