

aimed, besides the influence of penalties on delinquents, at making it the general interest of the distillers, to comply with the laws, by interrupting the market for a very considerable surplus, and by, at the same time, confining the benefit of the large demand for public service to those who did their duty to the public, and furnishing, through the means of payments in cash, that medium for paying the duties, the want of which was alleged to be a great difficulty in the way of compliance.

But two circumstances conspired to counteract the success of the plan—one, the necessity, towards incurring the penalties of non-compliance, of there being an office of inspection in each county, which was prevented in some of the counties, by the means of intimidation practised for that purpose—another, the non-extension of the law to the territory north-west of the Ohio, into which a large proportion of the surplus before mentioned was sent.

A cure for these defects could only come from the legislature.—Accordingly in the session which began in November 1792, measures were taken for procuring a further revision of the laws. A bill containing amendments of those and other defects was brought in—but it so happened that this object, by reason of more urgent business, was deferred till towards the close of the session, and finally went off, through the usual hurry of that period.

The continuance of the embarrassment incident to this state of things, naturally tended to diminish much the efficacy of the plan which had been devised. Yet it was resolved, as far as legal provisions would bear out the officers, to pursue it with perseverance: there was ground to entertain hopes of its good effect, and it was certainly the most likely course which could have been adopted towards attaining the object of the laws, by means short of force—evincing, unequivocally, the sincere disposition to avoid this painful resort, and the steady moderation, which have characterized the measures of the government.

In pursuance of this plan, prosecutions were occasionally instituted in the milder forms, seizures were made as opportunities occurred—and purchases on public account were carried on.

It may be incidentally remarked, that these purchases were extended to other places: where, though the same disorders did not exist, it appeared, advisable to facilitate the payment of the duties by this species of accommodation.

Nor was this plan, notwithstanding the deficiency of legal provision, which impeded its full execution, without corresponding effects.

Symptoms from time to time appeared which authorized expectation, that with the aid, at another session, of the desired supplementary provisions, it was capable of accomplishing its end, if no extraordinary events occurred.

The opponents of the laws, not insensible of the tendency of that plan, nor of the defects in the laws which interfered with it, did not fail from time to time to pursue analogous modes of counteraction.—The effort to frustrate the establishment of offices of inspection, in particular, was persisted in and even increased: means of intimidating officers and others continued to be exerted.

In April 1793, a party of armed men, in disguise, made an attack in the night upon the house of a collector of revenue, who resided in Fayette county; but he happening to be from home, they contented themselves with breaking open his house, threatening, terrifying, and abusing his family.

Warrants were issued for apprehending some of the rioters upon this occasion, by Isaac Mason and James Findley, assistant judges of Fayette county, which were delivered to the sheriff of that county, who it seems refused to execute them:—for which he has since been indicted.

This is at once an example of a disposition to support the laws of the Union, and of an opposite one, in the local officers of Pennsylvania, within the non-complying sphere.—But it is a truth, too important not to be noticed, and too injurious not to be lamented, that the prevailing spirit of those officers has been either hostile or lukewarm to the execution of those laws—and that the weight of an unfriendly official influence has been one of the most serious obstacles, with which they have had to struggle.

In June following, the inspector of the revenue was burnt in effigy in Alleghany county, at a place and on a day of some public election, with much display, in the presence of and without interruption from magistrates, and other public officers.

On the night of the 22d of November, another party of men, some of them a mob, and all in disguise, went to the house of the same collector of Fayette, which had been visited in April, broke and entered it, and demanded a surrender of the officer's commission and official books. Upon his refusing to deliver them up they presented pistols at him, and swore, that if he did not comply, they would instantly put him to death. At length, a surrender of the commission and books was enforced. But not content with this, the rioters, before they departed, required of the officer, that he should, within two weeks, publish his resignation on pain of another visit, and the destruction of his house.

Notwithstanding these excesses, the laws appeared during the latter periods of this year, (1793), to be rather gaining ground. Several principal distillers, who had formerly held out, complied, and others discovered a disposition to comply, which was only restrained by the fear of violence.

But these favourable circumstances served to beget alarm among those who were determined, at all events, to prevent the quiet establishment of the laws. It soon appeared, that they meditated, by fresh and greater excesses, to aim a still more effectual blow at them;—to subdue the growing spirit of compliance, and to destroy entirely the organs of the laws, within that part of the country, by compelling all the officers to renounce their offices.

The last proceeding, in the case of the collector of Fayette, was in this spirit. In January of the present year, further violence appears to have been perpetrated. William Richmond, who had given information against some of the rioters, in the affair of WILSON, had his barn burnt with all the grain and hay which it contained; and the same thing happened to Robert Shawhan, a distiller, who had been among the first to comply with the law, and who had always spoken favourably of it. But, in neither of these instances, (which happened in the county of Alleghany) though the presumptions were violent, was any positive proof obtained.

The inspector of the revenue, in a letter of the 27th of February, writes, that he had received information, that persons living near the dividing line of Alleghany and Washington, had thrown out threats of tarring and feathering one William Cochran, a complying distiller, and of burning his distillery; and that it had also been given out, that in three weeks, there would not be a house standing in Alleghany county, of any person, who had complied with the laws. In consequence of which, he had been induced to pay a visit to several leading individuals in that quarter, as well to ascertain the truth of the information as to endeavour to avert the attempt to execute such threats.

It appeared afterwards, that on his return home, he had been pursued by a collection of disorderly persons, threatening, as they went along, vengeance against him. On their way, these men called at the house of James Kiddoe, who had recently complied with the laws, broke into his

bill-house, fired several balls under his sill, and scattered fire over and about the house.

Letters from the inspector in March, announce an increased activity in promoting opposition to the laws—frequent meetings to cement and extend the combinations against it; and among other means for this purpose, a plan of collecting a force to seize him, compel him to resign his commission, and detain him prisoner—probably as a hostage.

In May and June new violences were committed. James Kiddoe, the person above mentioned, and William Cochran, another complying distiller, met with repeated injury to their property. Kiddoe had parts of his grist-mill, at different times, carried away; and Cochran suffered more material injuries. His mill was destroyed, his saw-mill was rendered useless by the taking away of the saw, and his grist-mill so injured, as to require to be repaired at considerable expense.

At the last visit, a note in writing was left, requiring him to publish what he had suffered, in the Pittsburgh Gazette, on pain of another visit; in which he is threatened, in figurative, but intelligible terms, with the destruction of his property by fire: Thus adding to the profligacy of doing wanton injuries to a fellow-citizen, the tyranny of compelling him to be the publisher of his wrongs.

June being the month for receiving annual entries of fills, endeavours were used to open offices in Westmoreland and Washington, where it had been hitherto found impracticable. With much pains and difficulty, places were procured for the purpose. That in Westmoreland was repeatedly attacked in the night by armed men, who frequently fired upon it; but according to a report which has been made to this department, it was defended with so much courage and perseverance, by John Wells, an auxiliary officer, and Philip Ragan, the owner of the house, as to have been maintained during the remainder of the month.

That, in Washington, after repeated attempts, was suppressed. The first attempt was confined to pulling down the sign of the office, and threats of future destruction. The second effected the object in the following mode. About twelve persons, armed and painted black, in the night of the 6th of June, broke into the house of John Lynn where the office was kept; and after having treacherously seduced him to come down stairs, and put himself in their power by a promise of safety to himself and his house, they seized and tied him, threatened to hang him, took him to a retired spot in the neighbouring wood; and there, after cutting off his hair, tarring and feathering him, swore him never again to allow the use of his house for an office, never to disclose their names, and never again to have any sort of agency in aid of the excise: Having done which, they bound him naked to a tree, and left him in that situation till morning; when he succeeded in extricating himself. Not content with this, the malcontents, some days after, made him another visit; pulled down part of his house, and put him in a situation to be obliged to become an exile from his own home, and to find an asylum elsewhere.

During this time, several of the distillers, who had made entries and benefited by them, refused the payment of the duties; and acted, no doubt, by various motives.

Indications of a plan to proceed against the inspector of the revenue, in the manner which has been before mentioned, continued. In a letter from him of the 10th of July, he observed, that the threatened visit had not yet been made, though he had still reason to expect it.

In the session of Congress which began in December 1793, a bill for making the amendments in the laws, which had been for some time desired, was brought in, and on the 5th of June last became a law.

It is not to be doubted, that the different stages of this business were regularly notified to the malcontents, and that a conviction of the tendency of the amendments contemplated to effectuate the execution of the law, had matured the resolution to bring matters to a violent crisis.

The increasing energy of the opposition, rendered it indispensable to meet the evil with proportionable decision. The idea of giving time for the law to extend itself, in scenes where the dissatisfaction with it was the effect, not of an improper spirit, but of causes which were of a nature to yield to reason, reflection, and experience (which had constantly weighed in the estimate of the measures proper to be pursued) had had its effect, in an extensive degree. The experiment, too, had been long enough tried, to ascertain, that where resistance continued, the root of the evil lay deep, and required measures of greater efficacy than had been pursued. The laws had undergone repeated revisions of the legislative representatives of the union; and had virtually received their repeated sanction, without even an attempt, as far as is now recollected, or can be traced, to effect their repeal:—affording an evidence of the general sense of the community in their favour. Complaints began to be loud, from complying quarters, against the impropriety and injustice of suffering the laws to remain unexecuted in others.

Under the united influence of these considerations, there was no choice but to try the efficacy of the laws, in prosecuting, with vigour, delinquents and offenders.

Process issued against a number of non-complying distillers in the counties of Fayette and Alleghany; and indictments having been found at circuit court, holden at Philadelphia in July last, against Robert Smille and John McCulloch, two of the rioters in the attack, which, in November preceding, had been made upon the house of a collector of the revenue in Fayette county, process issued against them also, to bring them to trial; and if guilty, to punishment.

The marshal of the district went in person to serve these processes. He executed his trust without interruption, though under many discouraging circumstances, in Fayette county; but while he was in the execution of it in Alleghany county, being then accompanied by the inspector of the revenue (to wit) on the 15th of July last, he was beset on the road by a party of from thirty to forty armed men, who, after much previous irregularity of conduct, finally fired upon him; but as it happened, without injury either to him or to the inspector.

This attempt on the marshal was but the prelude of greater excesses.

About break-of-day, the 16th of July, in conformity with a plan, which seems to have been for some-time entertained, and which probably was only accelerated by the coming of the marshal into the survey, an attack, by about one hundred persons, armed with guns and other weapons, was made upon the house of the inspector in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. The inspector, tho' alone, vigorously defended himself against the assailants, and obliged them to retreat, without accomplishing their purpose.

Apprehending that the business would not terminate here, he made application by letter to the judges, generals of militia, and sheriff of the coun-

ty for protection. A reply to his application, from John Wilkins, jun. and John Gibson, magistrates and militia officers, informed him, that the laws could not be executed, so as to afford him the protection to which he was entitled, owing to the too-general combination of the people in that part of Pennsylvania, to oppose the revenue-law; adding, that they would take every step in their power to bring the rioters to justice, and would be glad to receive information of the individuals concerned in the attack upon his house, that prosecutions might be commenced against them; and expressing their sorrow, that should the posse COMITATUS of the county be ordered out in support of the civil authority, very few could be gotten that were not of the party of the rioters.

The day following, the insurgents re-assembled, with a considerable augmentation of numbers, amounting, as has been computed, to at least five hundred; and on the 17th of July, renewed their attack upon the house of the inspector; who, in the interval, had taken the precaution of calling to his aid a small detachment from the garrison of Fort-Pitt, which, at the time of the attack, consisted of eleven men, who had been joined by Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, a friend and connection of the inspector.

There being scarcely a prospect of effectual defence against so large a body as then appeared, and as the inspector had every thing to apprehend for his person, if taken, it was judged advisable, that he should withdraw from the house to a place of concealment; Major Kirkpatrick generously agreeing to remain with the eleven men, in the intention, if practicable, to make a capitulation in favour of the property, if not to defend it as long as possible.

A parley took place under cover of a flag, which was sent by the insurgents to the house to demand, that the inspector should come forth, renounce his office, and stipulate never again to accept an office under the same laws. To this it was replied, that the inspector had left the house, upon their first approach, and that the place to which he had retired was unknown. They then declared that they must have whatever related to his office. They were answered, that they might send persons, not exceeding six, to search the house, and take away whatever papers they could find appertaining to the office. But not satisfied with this, they insisted unconditionally, that the armed men, who were in the house for its defence, should march out and ground their arms, which Major Kirkpatrick peremptorily refused; considering it and representing it to them as a proof of a design to destroy the property. This refusal put an end to the parley.

A brisk firing then ensued between the insurgents and those in the house, which it is said lasted for near an hour, till the assailants having set fire to the neighbouring and adjacent buildings, eight in number, the intenseness of the heat, and the danger of an immediate communication of the fire to the house, obliged Major Kirkpatrick and his small party to come out and surrender themselves. In the course of the firing, one of the insurgents was killed and several wounded, and three of the persons in the house were also wounded. The person killed is understood to have been the leader of the party, of the name of James McFarlane, then a major in the militia, formerly a lieutenant in the Pennsylvania line. The dwelling-house, after the surrender, shared the fate of the other buildings; the whole of which were consumed to the ground. The loss of property to the inspector, upon this occasion, is estimated, and, as it is believed, with great moderation, at not less than three thousand pounds.

The marshal, Colonel Presley Neville, and several others, were taken by the insurgents going to the inspector's house. All, except the marshal and Colonel Neville, soon made their escape; but these were carried off some distance from the place where the affray had happened, and detained till one or two o'clock the next morning. In the course of their detention, the marshal in particular suffered very severe and humiliating treatment; and was frequently in imminent danger of his life. Several of the party repeatedly presented their pieces at him, with every appearance of a design to assassinate, from which they were, with difficulty, restrained by the efforts of a few more humane and more prudent.

Nor could he obtain safety or liberty, but upon the condition of a promise guaranteed by Colonel Neville, that he would serve no other process on the west side of the Alleghany mountain. The alternative being immediate death, extorted from the marshal a compliance with this condition; notwithstanding the just sense of official dignity, and the firmness of character, which were witnessed by his conduct throughout the trying scenes he had experienced.

The insurgents, on the 18th, sent a deputation of two of their number (one a justice of the peace) to Pittsburgh, to require of the marshal a surrender of the processes in his possession, intimating, that his compliance would satisfy the people and *ult to his safety*; and also to demand of general Neville, in peremptory terms, the resignation of his office, threatening, in case of refusal, to attack the place and take him by force: demands which both these officers did not hesitate to reject, as alike incompatible with their honour and their duty.

As it was well ascertained, that no protection was to be expected from the magistrates or inhabitants of Pittsburgh, it became necessary to the safety, both of the inspector and the marshal, to quit that place; and, as it was known that all the usual routes to Philadelphia were beset by the insurgents, they concluded to defend the Ohio, and proceed, by a circuitous route, to the seat of government; which they began to put in execution on the night of the 19th of July.


Information has also been received of a meeting of a considerable number of persons at a place called Mingo-Creek Meeting-House, in the county of Washington, to consult about the further measures which it might be advisable to pursue: that at this meeting a motion was made to approve and agree to support the proceedings which had taken place, until the excise law was repealed, and an act of oblivion passed. But that, instead of this, it had been agreed, that the four western counties of Pennsylvania, and the neighbouring counties of Virginia, should be invited to meet in a convention of delegates, on the 14th of the present month, at Parkin's, on Mingo-Creek, in the county of Washington, to take into consideration the situation of the western country, and concert such measures as should appear suited to the occasion.


It appears, moreover, that on the 25th of July last, the mail of the united states, on the road from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, was stopped by two armed men, who cut it open, and took out all the letters, except those contained in one packet: these armed men, from all the circumstances which occurred, were manifestly acting on the part of the insurgents.

The declared object of the foregoing proceedings, is to obstruct the execution and compel a repeal of the laws laying duties on spirits distil-


led within the united states, and upon fills. There is just cause to believe, that this is connected with an insurrection, too general in that quarter, to share in the common burthens of the community; and with a wish, among some persons of influence, to embarrass the government. It is attended, by well-informed persons, to be a fact of notoriety, that the revenue laws of the state itself, have always been either resisted or very defectively complied with in the same quarter.


With the most perfect respect,
I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, and
Humble servant,
Alexander Hamilton.
The President of the United States.

 For Hamburg,
The Ship
HARMONY,
CAPTAIN LOWELL, Having great
of her cargo on board, will sail in
few days. Freight will be taken if
applied for immediately, for which as
as for passage, apply to
Andrews & Meredith
At Willing's Wharf.
August 6.

 For Sale
The American Schooner
VENUS,
Captain M'Connell.
Now lying at Mr. ROSS'S Wharf, an excel-
lent vessel, about 250 tons by register; car-
rou near 2500 bls. Flour, is remarkable well
found, and may be sent to sea, at a very small
expense, having lately had upwards of nine
hundred pounds sterling, laid out on her.
If not sold in fortnight, she will then be
exposed at public auction. Any reasonable
credit may be given—Inventory may be sent
on board, by applying to Capt. M'CONNEL-
NELL, or to

Peter Blight,
WHO HAS FOR SALE,
PORT WINE,
In Pipes and half Pipes and Quarter Casks,
Madeira in do. do.
Havana White Sugar in Boxes. d2w,

 For Sale or Charter,
The SHIP
GEN. WASHINGTON
Isaac Sylvester, master.
NOW lying at Say's wharf, the 3d above
Market street, burthen about 2500 bar-
rels, is a good strong vessel, and will be ready
to receive a cargo in a few days.
For terms apply to the Captain on board
or
RUMFORD & ABIJAH DAWES,
Water street, No. 7, south.
7th mo 5

 For Sale or Charter,
The Ship
Washington,
NOW discharging at Malleys
wharf. She is a prime sailer,
well found, and burthen about three thou-
sand barrels. For terms apply to
JOSEPH ANTHONY & SON,
Aug. 19 d10r

A French Family,
WOULD wish to be entrusted with the
care of a FARM, about the city of Phila-
delphia or Trenton, under such compensa-
tions as may be agreed upon by applying at
Mr. OSMONT'S, No. 117, north Second
street.
Aug. 4 d

Next Monday
Will be landed from on board Ship Wash-
ington, Captain JOHN COLLINS from BOUR-
DEAUX, lying at Malleys Wharf near the
Crooked Billet,
A CARGO OF
White Wines
In Barrels; and
CLARET
in Hhds. and Cases—For Sale by
FRANCIS COPPINGER,
No. 165, South, Second-Street.
August 15, 1794. d

Choice St. Croix Sugar,
JUST IMPORTED,
And for Sale,
By JAMES YARD,
Also a quantity of RUSSIA MATTS
June 24th.

NO. 68.
District of Pennsylvania,
TO WIT.
BE it remembered that on the twenty-
third day of July in the nineteenth year of
the independence of the United States of
America, JOSEPH BOGGS, of the said
district hath deposited in this office, the
title of a book the right whereof he claims
as author in the words following, to wit:
"The Philadelphia Directory"
for the year 1795—by Joseph Boggs.
In conformity to the act of the Congress
of the United States intitled "An act for
the encouragement of Learning by securing
the copies of maps charts and books to the
authors and proprietors of such copies dur-
ing the times therein mentioned."
Sam. Caldwell
Clerk of District of Pennsylvania
July 31

NOTICE
The GAZETTE of the UNITED
STATES is now published at No. 118
CHESNUT STREET—to which place the
OFFICE of the Editor is removed, and
where PRINTING WORK in general is
performed.