

the enemy, made them quickly give way... out off. Sixteen were found dead in the battle ended; these our men scalped, took any further; being now near sunset, called off by beat of drum. We had two wounded, 3 of the latter died next day. man. So close was the engagement, that a countryman of mine who was an expert in gouging; after breaking striking them at each other, they laid hold, out cannally natuab, in English, "friend, Damn you (says my countryman) you never though while you are alive; he then threw set his foot on his neck, and scalped him took one of the broken guns and knocked at. I wish he had let the latter part alone, off without his night-cap, to tell his country he had been treated.

MARK (New-Jersey) October 19.

Today a number of the king's troops landed killed Phrog's-Point, about three miles from West-Chester, and eight from King's on after they landed, they attempted to pass opposite West-Chester town, but the bridge up, and the pals well defended by a part of the enemy thought proper to retreat, and encamped, since which, little more has on either side, in that quarter, than a small

Go-sail of vessels, with troops on board, to doubt, to effect a landing in some other from head-quarters as late as yesterday are, g material had happened there, or at Forry some days past, but that an attack was hourly

from head-quarters since Saturday last.

PHILADELPHIA.

IGENCE received in CONGRESS, Oct. from the middle and northern departments.

ight of the 15th instant general Mercer passed Staten-Island with part of the troops posted Embo, and advanced within a few miles of Town, having been informed that a com-ritish troops, one of Hessians, and one of militia lay there—colonel Griffin was detach-olonel Patterson's battalion, and major Clark of some rifle-men, to fall in upon the east town, while the remainder of the troops en the other quarters; both divisions reached by break of day, but not before the enemy ed; most of them fled, after exchanging a ith col. Griffin's detachment. Two foldiers were mortally wounded, and seventeen ners, with the loss only of two foldiers kind. Col. Griffin received a wound in the foot ket ball, and lieutenant Smith was slightly n the arm. Amongst the prisoners taken a are eight Hessians. Our troops brought n-Island 45 muskets, a number of bayonets, &c. and one standard of the British light-

en determined in a council of war at head remove the army from the heights of Har-Is East and West Chester, in order to ou-ence and disappoint their intentions.

ay the 18th instant, one of the enemy's 2-tries near East-Chester fell in with part of's brigade, when a smart and close engage-; in which our men behaved with great d intrepidity, and drove the enemy back to body.

the 18th instant, at 8 o'clock in the morn-emy's fleet on lake Champlain, consisting of mounting 16 guns, one snow mounting the er, one schooner of 14 guns, two of 12, two omb-ketch, and a large vessel (her force us- with fifteen or twenty flat bottomed boats of carrying one 12 or 18 pounder in their bows, off Cumberland-Head; gen. Arnold with his mediate prepared to receive them.—At 11 e attack began, at half past 12 the engage- me general and very warm; some of the e-; and all their gondolas, bear up and rowed ket shot of our fleet. They continued a very ith round and grape shot till 5 o'clock, when t proper to retire about six or seven hun- distance, and continued there until dark- old and his troops conducted themselves de- sion with great firmness and intrepidity, and etter resistance than could have been expect- force to greatly superior—the whole of our wounded amounted to about 60. The Ph- gondolas and a schooner were lost in the-; but all the men were saved. The enemy large number of Indians on Schuyler's Island each shore, who kept up an incessant fire, but damage.—The enemy had to appearance up- 1000 men in batteaus prepared for boarding- emy's force being so greatly superior, it was ed in council to remove to Crown-Point, in rest and collect our force. At 5 o'clock, p. m. our fleet weighed anchor with a fresh breeze outhward; the enemy's fleet at the same time r way; our gondolas made very little way- in the evening the wind moderated, and with progress that at six o'clock next morning about 18 miles from Crown-Point. The ene- t was very little above Schuyler's Island, the ed up to the southward, so that we gained e by beating or rowing; at the same time the ok a fresh breeze from the N. E. and, by the had reached Split-Rock, were along-side of it, (hington and the Congress were in the rear, of our fleet were a-head, except two gondolas Schuyler's Island.—The Washington galley in such a shattered condition, and had so many ed and wounded that the struck to the enemy after a few broadsides. The Congress was then at- a ship mounting twelve 12 pounders, a of 14 sixes, and one of 12 sixes; two under and one on her broadside; within reach of the enemy kept up an incessant fire about six with round and grape shot, which was returned

trickly. The sails, rigging and masts were shattered and torn in pieces; when, to prevent falling into the enemy's hands, gen. Arnold, who ran her ashore in a small creek ten miles from Crown-Point, where, after taking out her small guns, she was set on fire, with four other gondolas, which the general reached Crown-Point in whole, escaping the savages, who way- ed the road in two hours after he had passed it.—Of the whole fleet we have saved two galleys, two schooners, gondola and one sloop.

Gen. Arnold behaved with such intrepidity, that he rendered the retreat of the few vessels we saved at the expense of one third of his crew.—Our commanders men behaved most gallantly; some vessels, having all their officers, fought notwithstanding, and re- d to yield but with their lives. The enemy ac- knowledge our bravery; and confessed that the loss of men was to ours.

Our troops are now busily employed in completing the lines, redoubts, &c. at Crown-Point, expecting the enemy to attack them with their fleet and army. But the season is now far advanced, and our men are growing in health, they have the most flattering expectations of maintaining their post against any force the enemy can bring.

N. B. Two of the enemy's gondolas were sunk the 14 day by our fleet, and blown up with 60 men.

ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AMERICA.

"Decipimur specie rei." UNDER the direction of the honourable American angels, conducted by a chain of wonderful and unex- pected events, by a most gracious all-ruling Providence, a several colonies, before unconnected; in spite of their different principles, interests and prejudices, arose such a degree of union, strength, credit and impor- tance, as to excite the wonder and applause of all the nations in Europe.

When, from the echo of public affairs (with which I am only concerned as an individual) I saw that inde- pendence was unavoidable, safe and honourable to the colonies, I reasoned in my mind, and said to my friends, "There can be no difficulty about new forms of government;" the experience, wisdom and circumstances of these states, plainly point out the congress to be the primary motive and supreme directors of all momentous affairs in peace as well as war, and the last resort, unto which appeals must lie to all who think themselves injured by any courts or assemblies below; which assemblies, however, may remain as heretofore, with only some change of names and forms, unless the necessity or justice of things require some small alterations, as the wisdom of congress, that is, of all the states, by their annually chosen representatives, may judge necessary. Thus it then appeared to me and others; but when I saw differ- ent forms of government, without so much as taking notice of the congress, and others only naming it super- ficially, and some leaving any appeal in it, and some of them even assuming to themselves such a power as de- partment, as appointing all military officers, I con- cluded my first thoughts must be wrong, and the wis- dom of the colonies must be right, and it was needless to mention my opinion—but last night an occurrence determined me otherwise. A dream or vision (don't rashly pronounce me superstitious, for it was not a dream from any disorder of body or mind, as both were healthy and clear; and the same dream was presented to me twice in the same night, though I have not had a dream to be before regarded these twenty years) repre- sented to me a very great imaginary (call it the sun) in the west, under a great, but not total eclipse, there be- ing one straight line or stripe across the center perpen- dicularly, that was luminous, the upper end giving most light. At the same time, and of the same height (about 40 degrees above the horizon) I saw several moons, about south-east, of different magnitudes, perhaps thir- teen, though I did not count them) the having all derived their light from the great luminary before, were now also eclipsed, their disks, however, by means of the luminous diameter of the sun, were visible, and appear- ed like a polished white metal, but giving no light; and in each of them I beheld a very deformed black spot, though in some much larger than others; seeming to corrode and waste the body, &c. Every one must inter- pret this as I do, viz. The congress is that great lumi- nary that gave light, beauty, strength and usefulness to all the colonies, which were represented by the aforesaid moons or planets; for in my dream I called one Saturn, another Jupiter, &c. The black spots (in some large, and the least three times as large as Venus' transit over the sun) must represent the American Tories, or friends of the English tyranny, and enemies of the con- gress and liberty; traitors in each colony completing every little state into a separate policy. These have le- verely, and by base intrigues, eclipsed the sun, and, un- der a pretence of greater liberty in their particular states, prevented the influence of the congress, in order to produce general darkness and confusion, and to fly to the midnight of eastern slavery.

How far this may be the present situation of affairs, others may be better informed than I. But I have since seen a letter in the Journal, signed Brutus, that speaks the author rather willing to return to the tyranny of Britain than the new free constitution of Pennsylvania, though it breathes more political liberty than any of the states, and in which, whatever errors may have hap- pened, are proposed for amendment, and the whole to be revised after some trial; though perhaps three might have been better than seven years.

In all the forms I have yet seen there appears to me one dark and dangerous spot, they are too self sufficient, and disconnected from the great whole, while they are generally too complex, and have too many jarring wheels in them- selves. No machine composed of many wheels all de- pending on each other and totally interrupted if one is only warped a little, can be of long duration; thus watches that like the phases of the moon, the days of the month, &c. are not so durable as the plainer, which only point out hours and minutes.—And the smaller the works the weaker.—This is easily applied to some states, as that of Delaware, which contains only three coun-

ties; an assembly, legislative council, president, and his privy council.—All these opposite and incoherent powers (in that small and greatly divided handful) must pro- duce endless jars and confusions; till one of these pow- ers becomes an arbitrary, and swallows up the rest; or betrays the whole to some foreign power, which we know the present representatives of two of these coun- ties, who have been accounted all along enemies to the cause of America, would, if they durst, presently do. However they have the nomination of members of con- gress, and may thereby effect it, if such discoloured parts of other states prevail. They have also made their form of government, without any appeal to the people, or hearing any objections, or giving any appeal to con- gress, though one whole county was not represented in convention, except only the Tories in it.

But the other faulty part of most new constitutions appears to me yet more dangerous, viz. their too great self-sufficiency and want of connection with the great whole. These states must be one government, or we are undone. There can be but one supreme head. Members of many beads in the natural world can live but a very short time.—It would be very easy to tract this same truth in the civil policies of all nations. This was the true cause of the dissolution of all the ancient free re- publics.

Before our little states became independent of each other, and only looked to the congress as the animating soul of one great American republic, how great the union, how happy the whole!—But now how changed! The congress eclipsed, every little state almost separates from the rest, and every bird of the night utters its ill boding sound; Tories triumph, and those who were in arms against their country last June, are now again openly reading letters to the people, which they lay are from lord Howe, full of encouragement to the disaffected, and desiring them to fend only the king's friends to assembly, and he will make peace with them, &c. &c.

"Turpi fraude salus hosti quaesita [Torus] Et clandestinis surgentia fraudibus arma."

When, from the echo of public affairs (with which I am only concerned as an individual) I saw that inde- pendence was unavoidable, safe and honourable to the colonies, I reasoned in my mind, and said to my friends, "There can be no difficulty about new forms of government;" the experience, wisdom and circumstances of these states, plainly point out the congress to be the primary motive and supreme directors of all momentous affairs in peace as well as war, and the last resort, unto which appeals must lie to all who think themselves injured by any courts or assemblies below; which assemblies, however, may remain as heretofore, with only some change of names and forms, unless the necessity or justice of things require some small alterations, as the wisdom of congress, that is, of all the states, by their annually chosen representatives, may judge necessary. Thus it then appeared to me and others; but when I saw differ- ent forms of government, without so much as taking notice of the congress, and others only naming it super- ficially, and some leaving any appeal in it, and some of them even assuming to themselves such a power as de- partment, as appointing all military officers, I con- cluded my first thoughts must be wrong, and the wis- dom of the colonies must be right, and it was needless to mention my opinion—but last night an occurrence determined me otherwise. A dream or vision (don't rashly pronounce me superstitious, for it was not a dream from any disorder of body or mind, as both were healthy and clear; and the same dream was presented to me twice in the same night, though I have not had a dream to be before regarded these twenty years) repre- sented to me a very great imaginary (call it the sun) in the west, under a great, but not total eclipse, there be- ing one straight line or stripe across the center perpen- dicularly, that was luminous, the upper end giving most light. At the same time, and of the same height (about 40 degrees above the horizon) I saw several moons, about south-east, of different magnitudes, perhaps thir- teen, though I did not count them) the having all derived their light from the great luminary before, were now also eclipsed, their disks, however, by means of the luminous diameter of the sun, were visible, and appear- ed like a polished white metal, but giving no light; and in each of them I beheld a very deformed black spot, though in some much larger than others; seeming to corrode and waste the body, &c. Every one must inter- pret this as I do, viz. The congress is that great lumi- nary that gave light, beauty, strength and usefulness to all the colonies, which were represented by the aforesaid moons or planets; for in my dream I called one Saturn, another Jupiter, &c. The black spots (in some large, and the least three times as large as Venus' transit over the sun) must represent the American Tories, or friends of the English tyranny, and enemies of the con- gress and liberty; traitors in each colony completing every little state into a separate policy. These have le- verely, and by base intrigues, eclipsed the sun, and, un- der a pretence of greater liberty in their particular states, prevented the influence of the congress, in order to produce general darkness and confusion, and to fly to the midnight of eastern slavery.

How far this may be the present situation of affairs, others may be better informed than I. But I have since seen a letter in the Journal, signed Brutus, that speaks the author rather willing to return to the tyranny of Britain than the new free constitution of Pennsylvania, though it breathes more political liberty than any of the states, and in which, whatever errors may have hap- pened, are proposed for amendment, and the whole to be revised after some trial; though perhaps three might have been better than seven years.

In all the forms I have yet seen there appears to me one dark and dangerous spot, they are too self sufficient, and disconnected from the great whole, while they are generally too complex, and have too many jarring wheels in them- selves. No machine composed of many wheels all de- pending on each other and totally interrupted if one is only warped a little, can be of long duration; thus watches that like the phases of the moon, the days of the month, &c. are not so durable as the plainer, which only point out hours and minutes.—And the smaller the works the weaker.—This is easily applied to some states, as that of Delaware, which contains only three coun- ties; an assembly, legislative council, president, and his privy council.—All these opposite and incoherent powers (in that small and greatly divided handful) must pro- duce endless jars and confusions; till one of these pow- ers becomes an arbitrary, and swallows up the rest; or betrays the whole to some foreign power, which we know the present representatives of two of these coun- ties, who have been accounted all along enemies to the cause of America, would, if they durst, presently do. However they have the nomination of members of con- gress, and may thereby effect it, if such discoloured parts of other states prevail. They have also made their form of government, without any appeal to the people, or hearing any objections, or giving any appeal to con- gress, though one whole county was not represented in convention, except only the Tories in it.

But the other faulty part of most new constitutions appears to me yet more dangerous, viz. their too great self-sufficiency and want of connection with the great whole. These states must be one government, or we are undone. There can be but one supreme head. Members of many beads in the natural world can live but a very short time.—It would be very easy to tract this same truth in the civil policies of all nations. This was the true cause of the dissolution of all the ancient free re- publics.

Before our little states became independent of each other, and only looked to the congress as the animating soul of one great American republic, how great the union, how happy the whole!—But now how changed! The congress eclipsed, every little state almost separates from the rest, and every bird of the night utters its ill boding sound; Tories triumph, and those who were in arms against their country last June, are now again openly reading letters to the people, which they lay are from lord Howe, full of encouragement to the disaffected, and desiring them to fend only the king's friends to assembly, and he will make peace with them, &c. &c.

"Turpi fraude salus hosti quaesita [Torus] Et clandestinis surgentia fraudibus arma."

The people here accordingly will send only Tories, and I am satisfied, unless some great change of affairs (which can be effected only by congress) they will never elect any other members to any of the four or five Delaware branches of government, for many years to come, ex- cept men who wickedly pretend they are in danger, and who bribe their votes; but no man of sense, patriot- ism, or virtue, at least in this generation.—Perhaps something like this may happen in other counties of other governments.—By such constitutions what can be expected?—Must not one state, fall into contention with another state, and every degree of anarchy and con- fusion arise; and the states thus weakened become an easy prey to some foreign kingdom, or some fortunate ruffian at home?

Instead therefore of leaving ignorant men to contend about forms of government, endangering our ALL at stake, by disunion among ourselves, why do we not remove the eclipse, and restore the congress to the supreme power of all affairs at once? this is a simple government.—The most simple is the best.—We cannot be afraid of our liberty in such hands; they are representatives of all Amer- ica, (themselves being bound by every law they make is sufficient security) removed from every little local pre- judice, under no temptation to be partial,—let them be chosen every year, and changed every three years, but gradually and not all at once.—Then what need for all this costly parade of governors, councils, and privy councils? cannot every assembly do all the little common affairs within itself, and in all greater matters receive orders from the grand council or congress, which should also be the der- nier resort to settle all greater difficulties of an internal nature? But it will be said this would give endless trou- ble and make too much business for that venerable body.—I answer, they will be chose of men of ability and lei- sure; and let their support be decent and honourable; then what though they sit half the year or more? Their supreme power, which may be able to call forth the army in times of war, and the militia in times of peace, would easily settle all affairs, give general satisfac- tion, and unite all the most distant American States in one strong, honourable, and lasting chain.

It is true there are many United States and republics in the world, on the same plan which these states are adopt- ing; but is it not certain too these have not every liberty? Is there not much tyranny in such particular states, for want of a supreme and impartial tribunal? monarchies are often lasting because simple, and easy in business, and thereby have many advantages over the common republics; and might not such a republic as I plead for, having their grand council always sitting, with supreme power ready to determine on every emergency over a ruble con- tinent, have all the expedition of a monarchy, and the deli- berate counsel of a republic?

On the present plan of these states, there is no one su- preme power to connect the divided states, which by means of new plans will be internally unhappy as well as jealous of each other; their union, strength and happiness lost; they are only connected as, a rope of sand crum- bling to pieces.

It is true that an old assembly, or some Tory members of it, have met and passed acts in opposition to a new convention in one of these states already. Does the same opposition to American measures openly declare their expectations of gen. Howe's paying Philadelphia a visit before winter? do not all these things shew the imbecility of government?—Where is the supreme active power of America, when leading men boldly espouse the cause of our most inveterate enemies, who have deluged our (before peaceful) country in blood?

Our cruel enemies boasted an easy conquest of Amer- ica, because they alleged we were cowards; they are convinced to their cost of their mistake in this. But when they shall find the black spots in our constitutions, and the wretched numbers of American traitors, who sell their country for a mess of pottage, they may be more encouraged. These wretches are in almost every state, striving by the little arts of policy to delude, divide, weaken and subvert every rational and manly measure, to alarm and terrify us into a tame submission to tyranny. But I am confident there is still so much virtue in America; that these crying candidates for court favour, these sycophants, dissemblers, and false friends, will be detected, displaced and for ever depisted.

But it will be objected that I would have the congress absolute, which might be dangerous as well as a monarchy, unless restricted by a code of laws, &c. I answer, I can- not perceive any danger from rendering them absolute, or re- strained by few laws. I would have them be a great

How happy the Greeks with a few laws, and the Ro- mans when they had only the twelve tables. In the later ages, equity and justice have been nearly banished from the world, by laws, complicated to an unwieldy size. The whole world needs but a few laws, and these simple, clear, sensible, and easy in their application to the actions of men.

A grand congress, chosen annually by the people, (not by their representatives) would contain the united abili- ties and virtues of all these colonies, in one great republic, the deputies guardian of our rights, this would ex- cite the promptitude, the facility and public spirit of a willing people, no longer bent under the yoke of op- pression, by little tyrants in their own little and wrang- ling states. The American nation would then raise its head, and universal harmony and joy prevail among all classes and orders of men. This congress of men of the greatest and most eminent characters, would be a seminary of statesmen and heroes, a nursery of truth, knowledge, and virtue, to prepare men of abilities for great em- bassadors, and the highest offices of state.

This simple and plain system contains no seeds of distas- or decay, would connect all America in every liberty that freemen wish for, and would probably last as long as time itself. PHILALETHIAS. Delaware, October 10, 1776.

A magistrate of good principles needs no other law, and one of bad principles will violate or evade every law of God and man.

ANNAPOLIS, OCTOBER 28. A C A R D. COL. FITZHUGH presents his compli- ments to a writer under the signature of a FREE-MAN, who was pleased to honour him, on the 9th instant, with his thoughts on some interesting and important subjects. The colonel would be happy in an inter- view with the author (however humble may be his station) whose sentiments are so favourable, and so timely calculated, to preserve the rights and liber- ties, and promote the happiness of the people.

In COUNCIL of SAFETY. October 11, 1776. WANTED, 5000 pair of SHOES. Those who are desirous of contracting for the same, or any part of them, are requested to apply to the Council of Safety of this state. October 23, 1776. A QUANTITY of strong coarse STOCKINGS wanted for the use of this State. The Council will con- tract with any person therefor. By order, R. RIDGELY, clk.

In CONVENTION, May 22, 1776. RESOLVED, That a public salt-work be erected on or near the Bay, near the mouth of Patowmack, and another on the sea-board of this province; and that the said works be carried on on the public account, under the management and direction of such persons as shall be appointed by the Council of Safety for the time be- ing; and that any sum of public money, not exceeding the sum of five hundred pounds, may, by order of the said Council of Safety, be expended in erecting and carrying on each of the said works. Extract from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clk.

In COUNCIL of SAFETY, June 20, 1776. ALL persons who are willing to undertake the erect- ing and carrying on salt-works, agreeable to the above resolve of the late Convention, are requested to attend the Council, and give in their proposals, which will be duly attended to. By order, G. DUVALL, clk.

Just published, and to be sold at the Printing-office, PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION OF THE PROVINCE of MARYLAND, Held at the city of Annapolis, on Wednesday the 14th of August, 1776. RICHARD BURLAND, TAILOR in ANNAPOLIS. HAS for SALE, a large quantity of the best se- perfine clothes, second ditto, wiltons, white corded dimity, rattinets and shalloon of all kinds, spotted swanskin, black knit patterns for breeches, sagathies, cambrics, and linsens. (24)