

A court of oyer and terminer held at York-Town, for the county of York, commencing the 11th of October 1779, before the honourable Thomas M'Keau and William Augustus Allee, Esquires; Nathaniel Patton and Henry Trout were convicted and condemned to be hanged for passing counterfeit 30 dollar bills of continental money, of the emissions of 22d July 1776, knowing it to be counterfeit: George Fletzer was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Christian Baughman; James Boyd was convicted and sentenced to death for robbing Thomas Stevenon on the highway; and Thomas Pedley was convicted and sentenced to death for a burglary in the house of John Folan, in York-Town.

Philip Schwartz was ordered to be sent to the goal of Philadelphia county, to be tried for giving intelligence to the enemy at the Crooked Billet, &c.

George Werle, Christian Bixer, Michael Werle and Christian Hooper, were tried and convicted of passing counterfeit 40 dollar bills of the emission made by congress on the 11th of April 1772, and praying the benefit of clergy, were burnt in the brawn of the left thumb with the letter T, and ordered to be committed to gaol without bail or mainprize, till the general election of representatives for this state in the year 1780.

WILIAMSBURG, Nov. 20.

Charles Knight and Nathaniel Abney of Annapolis, were lately taken together with a number of implements for making printing types, in order to counterfeit our treasury notes, and were yesterday committed to the public gaol in this city.

On Saturday last, Andrew Wilson, alias John Williams, alias John Gordon (who enlisted three times and deserted as often) was shot at the barracks, near this city, agreeable to his sentence.

ANNAPOLIS, December 3.

By his Excellency THOMAS SIM LEE, Esq; GOVERNOR of MARYLAND, A PROCLAMATION.

WITH the advice of the Council I do hereby appoint Thursday the ninth of this instant December, to be observed throughout this State, as a day of public THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, agreeable to the recommendation of Congress of the fourteenth of October last.

Given at Annapolis this third day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine.

PHO. SIM LEE.

By his Excellency's command,
THOMAS JOHNSON, jun. secr.

GOD SAVE THE STATE.

In CONGRESS, November 19, 1779.

WHEREAS the fluctuating state of prices not only causes inequality and injustice in private dealings, and in furnishing the public supplies from the several states, but renders it impracticable to make the proper estimates for future expenses, and to fix equitable salaries for those employed in the service of the United States; and whereas the estimates according to which the requisitions for the taxes of the succeeding year have been made by the resolution of the 6th of October, have been formed on the principle that the prices of commodities necessary for the public use would not exceed twenty fold of the former prices, and should they rise above that rate, the taxes must be accordingly increased, but should they fall below it, the surplus of the sum raised may be applied to the sinking fund, therefore,

RESOLVED, That it be earnestly recommended to the several states forthwith to enact laws for establishing and carrying into execution a general limitation of prices throughout their respective jurisdictions, on the following principles, and to commence in their operation from the first day of February next.

Articles of domestic produce, farming and common labour, the wages of tradesmen and mechanics, water and land carriage, not to exceed twenty fold of the price current through the various seasons of the year 1774.

Articles imported from foreign parts to be in due proportion with labour and the articles as above stated, making a proper allowance for freight, insurance, and other charges—salt and military stores, whether of home manufacture or imported from abroad, to be excepted from the limitation of price.

RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the several states, to enact strict laws against engrossing and withholding; and to take the necessary measures for having the same carried into full execution.

RESOLVED, That all officers and agents em-

ployed in making purchases for the United States, be directed to conform strictly to all regulations that are or may be established in the several states.

That accounts be kept and returns made by all persons employed to make purchases in behalf of the United States, or to hire vessels, carriages, or men, for the services of the same, of the prices by them respectively given in such states, as shall not, before the first day of February, 1780, pass laws for the limitation of prices agreeable to the recommendation contained in the foregoing resolutions, to the intent that such state as shall have neglected to pass laws for the purposes aforesaid, may, respectively be charged in the public accounts with the aggregate accounts of the difference of prices paid from and after the said first day of February, 1780, in such states, and those in which such laws may have been enacted.

Extracted from the minutes,
(Copy) CHARLES THOMSON, secr.

Persons subscribing for the Maryland Gazette after this day, to pay Ten pounds per annum.

F O R S A L E,
December 2, 1779.

FOUR hundred and twenty acres of LAND, it being one undivided tenth part of that valuable tract of land called Salisbury-Plains, containing 4200 acres, lying in Washington county, near Hagar's-Town, well known for its fertility of soil, abounds with timber and limestone; a good title will be given, having purchased of the contending parties. Any person inclinable to purchase may know the terms, by applying to the subscriber, now at Annapolis.

WILLIAM BAYLY, jun.

N. B. I have a healthy young negro wench for sale. 10⁰ 20⁰ Dollars W. B.

ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY DOLLARS REWARD. Annapolis, October 16, 1779.

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, on Wednesday the 6th of October instant, a dark bay MARE, four years old last spring, branded with an F and a B, one hind foot white, a small blaze down the face in the form of a half moon at the top, one of her fore hoofs split, fifteen hands high, shod all round, paces and trots. Whoever will bring the said mare home to the subscriber in Annapolis, or Thomas Jones, blacksmith in Baltimore, shall receive 100 dollars reward, if once strayed away, but if stolen 160 dollars for the mare and thief.

JOHN TOWNSLEY, Coppersmith.

From the PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE.
NUMBER XI.

WHEN we talk that treaty equal into which we have entered with the court of France, we mean to say that no advantage has been taken of our situation as an invaded and distressed people; but that every article is just such as it would have been had we placed ourselves at a distance of an hundred years since, when, to use the language of the sieur Gerard to our commissioners at Paris, we should be "fully established." In this treaty it might have been reasonably demanded of us that we should concede some advantages, as our necessity was pressing, and our very existence was at stake. Unsupported during one more campaign we might have been reduced to make the western mountains the barrier of our war.

The subject is delicate, and I have been careful in the course of these papers to keep out of view the low state of our affairs both at home and abroad at the time when the happy news of the alliance was announced to us. But certainly it was low enough, and in the designs of providence sufficient to make that great event joyful to the whole continent. I had hinted in a former paper, where I found it in my way to touch upon this subject, that it "might be possible I had too much depressed the situation of America, and advanced the interposition of the court of France." But from a review of the circumstances, and from the opinion of others on the subject, I am now content, that so far have I been from heightening our distress, that I have by no means drawn it to the life in my description. I remember well that such was the situation of the army, while they lay at the Valley-Forge in the winter of the year 1778, destitute of cloathing, many times in want of provisions, and greatly discouraged, that a member of congress who had been on a committee to the camp to new model the troops with the advice of general Washington, declared to me, that "such had been the state of things that nothing but the great virtues of that man had kept the army together." The announcement of the alliance

kindled up every hope, and restored our affairs both at home and abroad to new vigour. Having thus far digressed, I return to the line of thought I had taken up in the beginning of this paper, and shall go on to shew, that, in the treaty which we now have before us there is "the most perfect equality and reciprocity" for the "broad basis" of it.

We have seen that it was not possible for France to receive from Britain any stipulation to secure her neutrality, because she would thereby draw upon herself the jealousy of other powers who would disturb that peace which it is her great object to maintain. For the same reason it was not possible for France to accept, from America, any exclusive privilege of commerce; for this also would draw upon her the jealousy of other powers, who, though they had not contributed in the least degree to establish our independence, yet, such is the nature of the human heart, would see no reason why they ought not to share fully in the great advantages to be drawn from it.

But, it was not the will of France to confine any part of the trade of America to her shores, nor to impose upon that trade any inequality of duties or of customs to be paid at her ports; for she well knew that however readily the people of America, if greatly oppressed, might concede articles of that kind, and however kindly they might submit to it while a sense of the benefits they had received lay upon their minds, and kept them soft and pliant; yet the heart of man is prone to forget favours, and they would, after some time, desire to throw off all restraint, and be free in every path upon the water, as they were already free in every law upon the land. We see, therefore, from the present treaty, that we are not under obligation to send to France a single article of the commerce of this country; and the vessel which, led by the prospect of advantage, shall sail to her ports, is not under obligation to pay a single duty, impost, or custom which the most "favoured nations do not pay." But the "most favoured nations" sailing to the ports of France, are exempted from duties, and therefore the states of America, in the ports of France, are exempted from duties which other nations are obliged to pay. Indeed, as a great part of the revenue of the crown is drawn from the duties upon commerce, it is impossible to dispense with the payment of a duty wholly, and in all cases whatsoever; but such has been the concession of the nation in the treaty with America, that one port is given where no duty shall be paid; and what is an evidence that it does not repent her of that circumstance in our favour, she has added more than we could claim by the treaty, and has given us one or two free ports besides Marseilles; and has it even in contemplation to grant two others for our conveniency of commerce in the western seas. But, every article relative to commerce between France and these states, is secured from all possible charge of inequality, by the circumstance that there is no duty which the "most favoured nations" are obliged to pay, and which America shall pay, but "it is understood that the United States, or any of them, are at liberty, when they shall judge it proper, to establish a duty equivalent in the same case."

What were it to the purpose if we were under the necessity of paying some duty in every port of France? We have not bound ourselves by the treaty to carry to that kingdom, or to take from it any article but what we please to carry to it or to take from it. So far from this, that without exacting the least engagement of this nature, she has undertaken to guarantee the freedom of our trade to all nations. Indeed, if in the original compact, there is no restriction of our trade in any of its branches to her shores, as was the case in the whole of our commerce in our connection with Great-Britain, there is no danger but that for her own sake, France will give every freedom, and every encouragement to America in trade, that she can possibly afford to any people whatsoever.

We see then that with regard to commerce, no advantage has been taken, as a recompence for any service rendered in the establishment of these states. As to imports and duties, there are none to pay; or we are equal in our right to impose them, and if an armed vessel of the states is obliged to take under its protection the vessels and effects of his Most Christian Majesty, so "the armed vessels of his Most Christian Majesty shall, on all occasions, take under their protection all vessels belonging to the subjects, people, or inhabitants of the United States, or any of them, and holding the same course, and going the same way; and shall defend such vessels as long as they hold the same course, or go the same way, against all attacks, force or violence, in the

Article V.