

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 1.

By the house of delegates, Nov. 27, 1780.

RESOLVED, That no certificate be allowed to any collector in his account, unless the same has been bona fide received by him in payment of taxes due, or to become due, from the person paying such certificate in his county; and on the settlement of the account of any collector, he shall make oath before the treasurer, that the certificates for which he claims an allowance were actually and bona fide paid to him for taxes due, or to become due, from the person paying such certificate in his county.

By order, F. GREEN, clk.

To the PRINTER of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

YOU published a piece in your last paper, which has given vast satisfaction to all that I have heard speak of it, and those I assure you, Mr. Printer, are not very few. I am no great judge of writing myself, but think I can understand, plain, common sense, as well as any man in town or country, be he who he may. The reading of books hath not been much in my way, however I give you my word for it, I am not so ignorant of public matters, as to be entirely without any information concerning them. I have been able to collect a tolerable good stock of knowledge of such affairs from the news papers, and the votes and proceedings of the two branches of our general assembly. A man who will read these may qualify himself, in my humble opinion, to speak his mind very wisely on public affairs. I am acquainted with many a good politician, who I am very sure never studied any thing else on that subject in their lives, and who now make a great figure in their way.

I was a ways a staunch friend to the liberty of the tongue, as the writer in your last paper calls it, and have made no small exercise of that member myself, and I feel myself very happy to find, that so much respect hath been shewn to its rights, and importance in our constitution, and that high-bred gentlemen so strenuously assert its privileges by their practice. I confess the freedom with which I have used it sometimes has brought me into disagreeable circumstances, of which my other members have read the consequence; notwithstanding this, I always thought I had my revenge, for that weapon, although it broke no bones, I observed ever left a plaguy smart behind it. Now, Mr. Printer, in order to make the best use of it I may be able for the remainder of my days, and to encourage it in others, that nothing, which may conduce to the service and credit of my country in that way, may be left unaided, I deemed it advisable to propose to some of my comrades, men of my own kidney, who have also suffered in the same cause, but who nevertheless stick to their principles, to form ourselves into a club, to meet every Saturday night during the session of the general assembly, for the purpose of speaking our minds freely of the proceedings of that body, and the particular conduct of its members. I have reason to think such a club will prove highly serviceable to the state, for many reasons, which, as they are disclosed in the rules I herewith transmit to you, it will be unnecessary to insert here. However, I cannot help offering one of them in this place, that the public may instantly see, what and how great are the advantages they are likely to derive from so useful an institution. It is proposed, and it must inevitably be the case, that this meeting shall consist of the most upright, the most sagacious, the most unprejudiced, in fine the most uncommon men, that ever associated themselves together, for that, or any other purpose under the sun; it will then necessarily follow, that their services to the public will be the most useful, the most extensive, and the most extraordinary, that a public ever derived from the exertions of human beings, such as nothing less than supernatural agents, except themselves, could accomplish. Now, Sir, as I have given you some faint idea of the members of which our club is at present, and it is probable, will for ever afterwards be composed, I shall take the liberty to trouble you with the most material rules agreed upon at our first and last meeting.

1st. As it hath been lately proved, with great ingenuity, and by unanswerable arguments, in a great assembly in this state, and in the public news-papers of the same, that the purposes for which this club is assembled, are perfectly constitutional, and eminently conducive to the good of the common weal; and there being a necessity that it should be distinguished from other associated bodies; therefore be it resolved, that, in consideration of its dignity and importance, it

assume, and be known by the title and title of the Constitutional Club.

2dly. Resolved, that this club consist of thirteen members. It is limited to that number for two reasons; 1st, in honour of the thirteen United States; 2d, because each member may have an opportunity of rising, and speaking at some time in the evening, which possibly might not be the case were that number exceeded, to the no small disappointment and chagrin of some of its members.

3dly. Resolved, that a president and secretary be appointed each night; these offices to go by rotation, that every member may have an equal turn of delivering his sentiments, without being restrained by office. As no member is to be under any restraint whatever in point of language, sentiment, or what is commonly called decorum, a master of ceremonies is deemed useless in such a society.

4thly. In order to qualify each member for the business of the night, and to give his thoughts and tongue free scope, Resolved, that the door-keeper be ordered by the president of the night to procure, and administer to each member, beginning with the president, one glass of French brandy, gin, or proof rum, immediately after the calling of the roll; this to be repeated at three different times, at the precise period of five minutes from each other, and the club not to proceed to business till after the administering of the third glass. Should the above quantity be found insufficient to answer the purposes for which it is administered, on account of the coldness of the weather, or from any other cause that may prevent a forcible operation, the president with the consent of the secretary shall have authority to enlarge the rule, and administer one or two glasses more, as circumstances may require, within the above space. After which period, each member shall be at liberty to drink, as much or as little as he pleases. N. B. The club is constrained to make use of the above mentioned liquors, from the scarcity, and high price of *Madeira wine*, which they are convinced, from some very recent instances, hath a most wonderful power to produce the desired effects.

5thly. That the essential purposes for which this club was instituted may be carried into effectual execution, Resolved, that it is the indubitable right, and the indispensable duty of every member of the same, to express his thoughts, and to suggest his suspicions, in the most positive and pointed terms, concerning all kinds of public measures, and men, and that no exception shall be taken to any member for exercising this right in its greatest latitude; for instance, if he should assert in the most positive language, things ever so injurious to the reputation of others, without any other proof than what his own uncontroverted heart suggests, and if he should make use of a stile characteristic of such thoughts only, such member shall not be liable to any censure for his conduct, but on the contrary shall receive the thanks of the president, and the applause of the whole club, for having contributed in a high degree to the purposes for which it was instituted. Provided always it be understood, that this exception extend not to any member of the club who may wantonly traduce any other member of the same, or any other person notoriously famous for practising *juvenile* conduct, and for entertaining the same principles.

6thly. In order to keep the number of members complete, Resolved, that upon a vacancy, the candidate shall be chosen viva voce and not by ballot; this method being inconsistent with the character, and quality of the club; and before any candidate be voted for, he shall give in a memorial, setting forth his merits and qualifications, and if required shall produce his vouchers, that the society may not be burdened with unqualified, useless members. N. B. No exception will be taken to the *junior*, or *status* of a candidate.

7thly. Resolved, that if after a solemn determination of the club upon the merits of any public measure, or upon the character of any person whatever, any member shall not acquiesce in the same, but shall discover by word, or act a sentiment contrary to such solemn determination; further, if he doth not endeavour to put in execution the intents of the club, by exerting all his powers of thought, speech, and *contrivance*, to that end, such member shall be deemed guilty of a high breach of the trust and confidence reposed in him, and shall be expelled the club.

These, Mr. Printer, are the great outlines, and the principal rules of our society. Every friend to his country, and good order, must agree with me that this laudable institution will be vastly useful to the community. There needs no

other proof of this than recent experience; for those matters which are to be the subject of deliberations, and the practices we mean to perfect and enforce, are so advantageous to the public, in the present fortuitous, unconnected situation, what may be expected from the exertions of a set of men, who for the honour and service of their country, unite themselves together to collect the scattered materials, and to form them into a regular system, for the advancement of true politics, and for the laudable purpose of improving the morals of their countrymen: I think perhaps, Sir, soon give you a specimen of our proceedings, from which you will be enabled to judge what we are likely to produce, if the gentleman who did me the honour to look over this piece, will be so kind in future, as to prepare for your inspection the labours of

A CRAFTSMAN.

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Annapolis, Nov. 30, 1780.  
GOOD ALLUM SALT to be disposed of in barrel for PORK by  
of Paul JAMES WILLIAMS.

Northumberland county, Virginia, Oct. 24.  
RAN away from the subscriber, a white and fawny by trade, he also practices a good deal of the tinkers business, and to be very skillful in horses and diseases incident thereto; he on when he went away, a pair of white cotton breeches, and white woolen jacket striped with black yarn, what cloaths he carried with him uncertain; he is a likely fellow, about thirty nine years old, broad square shoulders, and big eyes, about five feet six or seven inches high; very talkative when intoxicated, which is frequent when he can get liquor; he is supposed to have gone on board a vessel belonging to Mr. John Turberville, of Westmoreland county which set out for Baltimore the day he eloped, and I suppose intends to pass as a freeman. I will give fifty pounds reward to any person that will secure him in gaol and give me the earliest information, provided he is out of the state, in the state, I will reward any person generally.  
L. C. H. H. H.  
ELIZABETH KENNER.

THERE is at the plantation of Elizabeth Hall, in Anne-Arundel county, taken as a stray, a small bright bay horse, about 14 hands high, branded on the near thigh with a straight mark, has several freckles, and is about 10 years old. The owner has him again on proving property and paying charges.

THERE is at the plantation of Obadiah Carr, near Clifford's ferry, in Prince-George's county, a small sorrel horse, three years old, thirteen hands high, with a hanging mane and switch tail, branded upon the near buttock with a fork. The owner may have him again on proving property and paying charges.

STOLEN out of the house of the subscriber on Monday the 20th instant, a pair of elegant SHOEBUCKLES, inlaid with gold, of a large size, and of the newest fashion. A reward of one thousand dollars will be given to any person who will detect the thief, so that he may be brought to justice.  
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GEORGE MANN.

TO BE SOLD, A LIKELY NEGRO WOMAN, about thirty years of age, with two children, one nine years old, the other about two months. She is an exceeding good cook, and a palte maker. Apply to G. Watkins at Mr. Ogley's plantation, near Annapolis. 2

Charles-county, William and Mary parish, October 8, 1780.  
NOTICE is hereby given, that after the publication of this advertisement, a petition will be preferred to the general assembly of this state, praying that a law may be passed, to tax the parishioners of the parish above said, the purpose of repairing the glebe housing.  
6  
signed by order of the vestry,  
T. HARRIS, regent.

November 13, 1780.  
NOTICE is hereby given, that the vestrymen, churchwardens, and other inhabitants of St. Paul's parish, in Prince-George's county, intend in due time to prefer a petition to the legislature, for the support of the christian religion in that parish, for repairing the church and other parochial charges. 2