

the periods of redemption very near? And yet are not these bills inferior to specie? And do they in the slightest degree serve as a circulating medium?

To reason from the success of the paper emissions before the war is as ridiculous as it is common. Circumstances are totally changed. There is as great a revolution in the minds of men respecting paper money, as there is in government. I will make one plain observation which is equal to a thousand volumes. Paper was good before the war because the people thought it so. And it will be bad now because the people think it bad. To make good paper money, therefore, you have no less to do than to give them precisely the same ideas on the subject which they had before the war.

It is contended by some, that an emission is necessary for the benefit of certificate holders. I have had the honour of suggesting a far better method of satisfying our creditors. For this I appeal to the creditors themselves; but it seems politicians know better than the creditors themselves. That method has been condemned in the *grois*; but no attempt has been made to answer the argument. I still confidently expect that the good sense of my countrymen will at last adopt it in substance. There must surely be magic in the management of paper, or I must want common apprehension. I cannot conceive, that if a creditor should call upon me, it would be any satisfaction to him for me to take back my bond and give him another; unless indeed the old bond were nearly out of date.

There is another argument for an emission, which to me is more hateful than all the rest. By exchanging these bills for certificates, we prevent the further accumulation of interest, whilst we may still receive interest from our debtors. Or by lending these bills we may receive a sum that will considerably diminish the weight of taxes. In plain English the argument is this. It is high time for the state to speculate, and, like other speculators, it must avail itself of the wants and follies of mankind. It is easy to perceive that the state, in truth, can neither gain nor save. The state is composed of its citizens. The state is a republic, and all its citizens have equal rights and are entitled to the same consideration and guardian care. The revenue of the state, collect it by what method you please, must be furnished by its citizens. There is indeed a distinction between the various methods of obtaining it; but that, which is the most equal and productive of least evil, is on every account to be preferred.

The limits of a news paper will not permit me to descend on the various subjects, which might be involved in the discussion of this question. Enough, however, I trust, has been said for the purpose of exposing the plan. I cannot conclude better than with the words of the aforementioned essay.

"Is it fair and honest, by not paying creditors their interest, and denying them the right of discounting the principal, to compel them to relinquish both for this trashy paper? Would you court rash enterprising men to embark in the most extravagant ruinous plans? Would you give speculators—the men you have abused so long—would you give them another fair field to display their talents? Will you commit the most flagrant injustice? Will you thrust daggers into the hearts of your creditors? Will you, if it be possible, reduce public credit to a more deplorable state? And will you do all this on the principle of benefit to the public? No project, which is big with so many complicated evils, can be salutary to the state; and if instead of 90,000 pounds, it could gain a million, the scheme deserves to be damned."

A REVIEWER.

Annapolis, November 30, 1784.

BOHEMIA, July 30.

THE Carthusian convent at Prague, one of the richest in this kingdom, has been lately suppressed by order of the emperor; and 30 other institutions of a like kind will be immediately abolished in Bohemia and Moravia, not excepting even the celebrated abbey of Hraditch: it is estimated that the produce of these suppressions will amount to 30,000 florins.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 3. The Montenegrims beat last month, near Schuili, the pacha Scutari, who had cut off their communication. The loss of the Turks is 400 killed, and the like number made prisoners. Besides an immense booty; they have carried off five Regterbegs. Those mountaineers being in want of provision and ammunition, they had no other cause to take but either to conquer or die.

LONDON, September 16.

Our last night's dispatches from Paris, assure us, that a continental war is now inevitable; the prince of Orange, at the immediate instigation of his royal uncle of Prussia, having, through the court of Versailles, peevishly refused to accede to the demands of the emperor; and his Imperial majesty having given orders for an immediate movement of 40,000 of his troops to the Dutch frontiers.

The prince of Orange is using all his endeavours to induce the states of the different provinces, to withstand the emperor's demands; and in doing this he is pursuing his own interest. In case of a war, his commissions of admiral and captain-general of the Union will throw such a weight of influence and power into his hands, that he will be able to crush the party that has given him so much trouble and vexation, on the score of the duke of Brunswick. The prince's object however is by no means to injure the state; for in so doing he must injure himself; but the many lucrative places he will have to fill up, and the number of commissions he will have to bestow, will give him a decisive influence in the election of burgomasters, and other magistrates of the different cities; he will then be able to settle his own authority on a sure foundation; and he can soon get rid of the war, by consenting that the navigation of the Scheld shall be free; if the emperor should rise in his demands, the prince may make him tractable by the means of French and Prussian armies.

A daily paper says, that the States General have come to a strong resolution on the last declaration of the emperor. They have unanimously agreed to give a direct refusal to his requisitions, as repugnant with the treaties, and, in case of violence, to repel force by force. Vice admiral Reynst is already arrived from Middleburgh, and has taken the command of the Squadron. He has hoisted his flag on board the Liberty of seventy-

four guns. The respective commanders, nevertheless, are charged industriously to avoid any aggressive acts of hostility.

Extra of a letter from Gibraltar, August 22, 1784.

"We are now as comfortable as we can wish, every thing in profound tranquillity, and, if I judge right, I think the Dons will never again attempt to reduce this ineluctable fortress; the works are completed in so matterly a manner. We have a number of genteel families arrived from Minorca, they not wishing to be under Spanish rulers; at first they were obliged to put up with indifferent houses, but now are accommodated to their wishes, and I assure you are no small acquisition. The new town is almost completely built, and houses cheap enough. An excellent house, of six rooms, renting for 15l. per ann. and to each a pleasant little garden; the situation is most delightful, and we abound in every kind of provisions at a moderate rate, as also in wines of the best kind; from Barbary we have been chiefly supplied, but now have, in addition, all the luxuries of Andalusia; and within these few days, a communication with Spain has been prevented; but now the Dons begin to forget their disgrace, and freely supply us, as before the war. Our brave general does not wish us to go far; he, however, allows us every possible indulgence, and is as careful as in the midst of the siege; every man here must do his duty, he has but to do that, if he wishes the veteran's favour.

"Your merchants seem slow in mixing with us, and our greatest inconvenience is sending to England for what we want. A considerable fleet is with us from the different parts of the Mediterranean, and silks which we do not want, plenty and moderately cheap. The ships under commodore Lindley, winter with us, and doubtless we shall be gay enough. As to the garrison, they are to a man, in perfect health. I set out to-morrow with a party on an excursion into Spain, and in my next, shall give you a full account. &c."

Extra of a letter from a person who was saved when the Antelope India packet, captain Wilson, was cast away upon a rock in the South Seas, August, 1783.

"I have unfortunately been one of the nity who have suffered an unparalleled shipwreck on a savage coast in the south seas, on the 10th of August, 1783. At midnight, the ship Antelope, under a pressing sail, struck on a reef of rocks, five leagues distant from the land called Paline. Her dangerous situation instantly put us under the necessity of hazarding our lives on a raft on shore to the mercy of the savages. It pleased God we landed safe the following evening, with the loss of only one man, on a small uninhabited island, some little distance from the main. Three days after we had secreted ourselves in a small cave, the natives discovered us, and at first intended to make us their slaves, as we saw they had done some Malays, from a pirate sloop, wrecked on the same rocks ten months previous to our disaster; but seeing the muskets we had brought, and knowing them to be our protection, from the report the Malays had given of their use and execution when in English hands, they were fearful of attacking us. On the 5th day their king brought near 2000 men in arms, he secreted the major part of them at the back of the island and entered the cove with about 700 unarmed. After a few hours stay in great admiration (having never before seen white men) he returned to the back of the island for the night, leaving many of his subjects with us, who alarmed us the whole night with their war songs.

"Next morning he again entered the cove with some of his people to make the attack; in about an hour he took his canoe in haste at the same time we saw many coming through the woods. We now expected the war hoop to be given; every Englishman was ready with his musket, and Chinese with cutlasses and pikes in military order; this struck them with terror how to proceed. The king harangued a long time to his people, then paddled out of the cove, and sent for captain Wilson, demanded to know if we were friends or enemies; he answered "Friends;"—"Then you must go to war against our enemies, who are more numerous than I am, or take the chance of war with me." It was well known that we were entirely in the king's power, and could not water without his permission; that he might besiege the island, and make us glad to surrender, therefore the issue of consultation was to acquit him we would take up arms against his enemies, and we engaged in four horrid actions, in which a vast number of poor souls were killed. Our king fortunately gained every battle, and before we left the island, the whole country was subject to his government. Their wars are truly bloody: they fight with darts and spears, thrown by a sling, and do great execution, engage a tide, and give no quarters; several of the enemy were taken prisoners, and put to death immediately in a most cruel manner. I will give instances of two; the first had his arm chopped off at his elbow with a hatchet, and beat about the head with it till he died, and was then paddled along shore to show others their fate; the other, a man of family, called a Ronpack, wore a white polished bone on his wrist (a mark of rank) this bone they attempted to take off, which he resisted, by expanding his fingers; they then chopped off his hand at the wrist, and the bone was worn by the person who committed the act, and he was promoted to the rank which the prisoner was entitled to; after his body was pierced through in several places with a sword of iron wood, they cut off his head, tied it to a bamboo, and placed it in the king's palace. After the first victory the king granted us leave to build a vessel with the tools we had saved for that purpose to carry us to China, our desired port, but always to be ready to go to war when he demanded it. In thirteen weeks after our misfortune, we completely built a schooner, which by great providence, carried us safe to Macao, a Portuguese settlement near China, in eighteen days, a very quick passage; there she sold for 700 dollars at public outcry, which was divided amongst the crew. The Walpole Indiaman arrived soon afterwards and conveyed us to China. We suffered greatly during our fatigue for want of provisions, existing on a short allowance of boiled rice and water, dreadful in a climate so near the equator. Had any accident attended the launch of our schooner, we must have remained on the island with the king; for what tools we had kept from the Indians were now rendered useless, and our provisions expended. The great contrivance hit on to complete such a vessel, and management of the crew, do much honour to our commander, who is an ingenious, enterprising, and wor-

thy man. Our conferences with the king, till we acquired the language, was by our linguist in Malay to the king's Malay slaves. The king much wishes to establish the English customs among his people, and has sent one of his family to England with us, who is now arrived by the Morle Indiaman, and lives at the captain's house, at Rotherhithe. One Englishman remains till this young chief returns."

Sept. 17. From the situation of the French finances all ideas of their infringing the late peace, for some years at least, are improbable; and both the French king and the cabinet are so pacifically inclined, that, from the appearance of politics, there is more reason to expect a closer alliance with that country, from the alteration of affairs in Portugal, than has subsisted between Great-Britain and France for many years.

Letters from Scotland, by the last post, advise, that the inhabitants of Kirkcudbright, Dumfries, and several other burghs, have joined the general association at Edinburgh, for the purpose of bringing about a parliamentary reform, and signified their intentions of enforcing it by every legal and constitutional measure. The Scotch look now on a more equal representation, not only as a privilege to which they have a legal and indisputable claim; but as the touchstone of the present ministerial system of government, and as one of the first conditions on which the minister will be entitled to their confidence and support.

Sept. 18. The rich convent of Prague, which has been suppressed by the emperor, was magnificently situated in the old town, but on seven mountains, commanding a most beautiful prospect. Near it the Jesuits have a very grand college; and not far from it are nine synagogues, in which were 98,000 Jews, before the king of Prussia drove them away, when he besieged the city; in the lower part of which grows the famous poplar tree, said to be 1000 years old!

PHILADELPHIA, November 19.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at Fort Stanwix to his friend in this city, dated October 24, 1784.

"Yesterday peace was concluded to the very great advantage of the United States and also to the satisfaction of all the Indians, between the commissioners and the six nations. Our business being fully settled here, we shall set out from hence, on a weekday next for Cayahoga, our rout will be down the Suiquehanna, as far as Harris's ferry, where we shall take horses and cross the country to Fort Pitt."

Extra of a letter from London, August 30.

"Since the adjournment of parliament, our young premier and several of the leading members of administration have had frequent meetings, digesting such plans and regulations for the full establishment of our commerce, as appear most eligible. These meetings, it is said, are to be continued occasionally during the recess, which, it is generally believed, will not be of long duration.

"The first business that will come on, after the meeting, is reported to be the critical situation of Ireland. How far Mr. Pitt, and the rest of the cabinet, will agree to the numerous and momentous requests, made by the different bodies of the people of that kingdom, is yet unknown; but it is a certain fact, that the affairs of Ireland will engross the early attention of parliament, when it is hoped, for the honour and prosperity of both kingdoms, all reasonable matters of dispute will be finally adjusted, by which the common enemy in both countries, the French, will be disappointed in their hopes of sowing a dissention between the two kingdoms."

Nov. 20. Notwithstanding the 31st day of October last, was appointed, for the honourable the congress of the United States to meet at Trenton, no more than four states are yet represented, to wit, Georgia, South-Carolina, Virginia and New-Jersey.

ALEXANDRIA, November 25.

On Monday the 15th instant, at a very numerous and respectable meeting of the gentlemen of this state and Maryland, convened by public advertisement at Mr. Lomax's tavern, to deliberate and consult on the vast, great, political and commercial object, the rendering navigable the river Patowmack from tide-water—it was unanimously resolved, That every possible effort ought to be exerted to render these waters navigable to their utmost sources. In consequence petitions to the respective honourable assemblies were prepared, praying to form a company, with such immunities as might seem meet to them to grant. The patriotism and zeal of the meeting, make it a matter of little doubt, but that the respective honourable assemblies will most cheerfully grant the prayer of the petitions, and render every possible assistance to complete so great a national concern.

The opening of the navigation of Patowmack is, perhaps, a work of more political than commercial consequence, as it will be one of the grandest chains for preserving the federal Union, the western world will have free access to us, and we shall be one and the same people, whatever system of European politics may be adopted.—In short, it is a work so big, that the intellectual faculties cannot take it at a view.

The company in their plan, have engaged to accomplish the navigation from the source to the upper falls in three years, about two hundred miles from us, and to make it complete to tide-water in ten years.—The commerce and riches, that must of necessity pour down upon us, are too obvious to mention.

ANNAPOLIS, December 2.

On Monday last our late illustrious commander in chief arrived in this city, accompanied by the marquis de la Fayette. And on the day following the general assembly, to exhibit a small token of their gratitude and attachment to those extraordinary personages, directed an elegant ball to be provided for their entertainment. The evening was crowned with the utmost joy and festivity, the whole company being made happy by the presence of two most amiable and accomplished men, to whom America is so deeply indebted for her preservation from tyranny and oppression.

The honourable Henry Laurens, Esq; formerly president of congress, and late one of the commissioners of the United States for negotiating the peace,