

count never occurred to you. You paid yourself in cash, and your bond passed for property sold by you, was afterwards paid off in certificates. You were paid more by the public for your services for *three few months*, than either of the commissioners received in *four years*.

You seem to have dropped the charge against Mr. Hollyday and myself, "of having laboured hard to turn the intendant out of office;" but you cannot admit that colonel Ramsey was actuated by a sense of duty in opposing the continuance of the office, and assert, that he became a delegate to raise a clamour against you. Do you really believe that the clamour against the intendant was raised by colonel Ramsey? The clamour, Sir, was raised by those who had been witnesses to your improper and unjustifiable conduct, and not by any particular class of men. You say that he never gave a reason which had *even the appearance of being serious* for discontinuing the office. Are you vain and weak enough to believe that none of the members of the house of delegates who opposed the continuance of the office, gave any reasons, which had the appearance of being serious, for their conduct? Do you believe that the senate gave no good reasons for rejecting the bill for the continuance of the office? The truth is, that many worthy characters in both branches of the legislature were against both the office and the officer, and for the best of reasons. They saw clearly the great injury which had been done to the state by your arbitrary and imprudent exercise of the overgrown powers which had been vested in you. Mr. Hollyday denies having buffed himself against you, and as his veracity has never been called in question, we may justly conclude that your information was not true. That he may have spoken of your conduct in terms of disapprobation, is probable enough, but that he should have employed his time in discharging his shot at the intendant at boarding houses, cannot be credited, but by those equally suspicious and depraved with yourself. In my conduct, you say, I am more *slow and guarded*. The man who, through a long life of duplicity and insincerity, has acted in a *slow* artful, designing and insidious manner, is apt to suspect and believe that others are governed by the same unworthy motives, and guilty of the like disingenuous artifices with himself. I disclaim the character. I shall ever remain indifferent as to your good or bad opinion of me. I have as much reason now to doubt the sincerity of your opinion of my *frailty*, as I formerly had to question it when it was *friendly* or favourable. It would be criminally complaisant in me to say I ever entertained an opinion of your sincerity or integrity. A man must be blind indeed who cannot see through the thin veil of your artifice and duplicity, on the slightest acquaintance; and though you have formerly *affected* to be a friend, I have had too many strong and convincing proofs of your attempts to injure my character and reputation to have any reliance on your candour or sincerity. A treacherous friend is worse than an open enemy. The man who with *daggers in his smiles* will squeeze by the hand, whilst he wishes secretly to stab to the heart, ought to be considered as the pest of society, and shunned as the plague. You have charged me with treating you with "unmerited indecency" before the governor and council. If this is your opinion, I believe there is not a man who was a witness of my conduct, who will coincide with you. When you had charged the commissioners with having charged commissions on sales made in April and September 1781, when they were entitled only to a *per diem* allowance on those sales; when you departed from the subject in controversy before the board, and endeavoured to prove that they had retained public bonds in their possession for the vile purpose of bartering and exchanging them, although you knew they had been retained for the reasons given in the preceding part of this address; when you made other charges equally groundless and without foundation; when you had thus given the most irrefragable proofs to me of the depravity of your heart, and malignity of your disposition; it was then, and not till then, that I treated you, not with *unmerited indecency*, but with the contempt you deserved. This conduct, I presume, according to the logic which prevails in your school of politeness, is *seeming like a gentleman*, but with every man of honour and integrity it must ever be considered as the extreme of consummate villainy. I readily subscribe to the truth of the maxim, that *men are never known until they are tried*. You have been tried, and you have been proved. During the late glorious revolution it was observed at an early period, that your patriotism, when tried by the true political touchstone, like *base metal*, could not abide the *agua fortis* of truth. Your conduct as intendant of the revenue, in exchanging state certificates, unauthorized by law, to the disadvantage of the public, to say nothing of other parts of your conduct equally exceptionable, will ever remain as conclusive evidence of the *frailty of your nature*.

You still presume to think that the resolve of November session 1784, is so far in force, although the intendant's office has expired, that no power, except the house of delegates or their committee, or some person authorized by the general assembly subsequent to this resolve, has a right to settle the commissioners accounts, and draw for the money due. According to this reasoning, the governor and council cannot pass any account which arises from transactions, different from the common transactions, existing at the time the resolve passed

in 1777, empowering them to settle accounts. It will be admitted by every man of common sense, that under that resolve they cannot make a distinction as to persons. The expressions of it are general, and it must have a general operation. This is perfectly consistent with your construction of the consolidating act, that the commissioners ought to pay and be paid by the state, differently from all other members of the community. The resolve appears to me to have been passed for the purpose of directing the commissioners as to the manner of stating the public accounts, and at that time no account could be paid until it was passed by the auditor and intendant.

It is irksome to be obliged so often to set you right as to facts. You have misrepresented the proceedings of the council and the conduct of the commissioners respecting the determination of the account. You would willingly inculcate an opinion, that the council refused to postpone the determination, because the commissioners were not inclined to risk the opinion of a full board. The fact is, that the commissioners were not present at the determination, and when the subject was about to be taken into consideration, no objection was started that I can recollect. If his Excellency, or any member of the council, had expressed a wish, that the investigation of the account should be postponed until the gentleman who was absent could attend, the commissioners would have acquiesced without hesitation. It was their desire, that there should have been a full council, and for that reason requested, that every member should have notice to attend; and so far from there having been any precipitation in the business, an apology was made for the delay that had taken place.

To destroy the weight of the report of the committee appointed to examine the conduct and proceedings of the commissioners, as to the justness of their accounts and fairness of their transactions, you have recited an instance, which, instead of supporting your opinion, is an undeniable proof of your prejudice and incorrigible stupidity. Captain Aquila Johns is charged with property to the amount of £ 3095, purchased at the sale in April 1781. It is asked, why was not this property charged to the true purchaser, and if there can be any reliance on accounts, alter instances of this kind of management are discovered? Whether you are "sincere in your ignorance, or wilful in your malignity," in asking these questions, is left to the public to determine. Captain Johns was the bidder and purchaser of this property, and was returned as such to the commissioners in the account of sales, by the auctioneer of Baltimore county, who made the sale, and the commissioners could not, with any propriety, charge it to any other person. Whether he purchased it for himself or his friend, is a matter of trust between his friend and himself, and which the public have nothing to do with. It is altogether indifferent whether the state are to be paid by Mr. Johns or colonel Ramsey.—This transaction happened before I was a commissioner, but as it has been published, with a view to cast an unmerited odium on colonel Ramsey, justice requires, that the matter should be truly stated before any opinion is passed. This property was sold under an act of October session 1780, on the terms of paying one fifth in specie, and the remaining four fifths in black and continental state money, at the periods you mentioned. The act of the same session, chap. 38, under which certificates were directed to be issued to the officers and soldiers of our army, provides, that those certificates shall be received, *as specie*, in payment of the property pledged for their redemption, or any other *British property to be sold in this state, except that specially engaged to sink the new state bills of credit and such as is or shall be specially engaged for the security and payment of loans to be made to this state*. The property sold in April 1781, was not specially engaged for either of those purposes. Hence a question arose, whether the certificates before mentioned, ought not to be received in payment of the one fifth payable in specie. Most of those, who intended to become purchasers, had taken counsel previous to the sale, and some of the ablest lawyers in the state, were clear and decided in their opinion, that the certificates must be received in payment of the one fifth. Many of the purchasers made tenders, but as it was a matter of some doubt, the certificates were not received. At the ensuing session in May, this subject was taken into consideration and an act was passed, declaring, that if any of the purchasers of this property should determine to insist on a conveyance of the lands purchased on the terms of making the first payment in certificates, such purchaser might file his bill in chancery, &c. In consequence of this act, a bill was filed by almost every one who had made a purchase, and the suits were depending until the year 1785, when the state gave up the dispute. This is a true state of the case, and the circumstances suggested have been the cause of the delay. Those who know colonel Ramsey, will not be led to believe, that he had any design in making the purchase to defeat the intentions of those for whom he was acting. The report of a committee composed of men of understanding and integrity, who have a knowledge of the subject submitted to their consideration, and are fully competent to decide upon it, with impartial men ought to be considered as satisfactory evidence of the rectitude of our conduct, and the justness of our accounts, though it may hurt the feelings of a man who wishes to condemn. To have the approbation of respectable and worthy characters is flattering to me; but indepen-

dent of the report, the books and accounts of the commissioners afford the strongest proofs of the rectitude of their conduct, and their attention to the public interest. The revenue which the state has derived from the property sold under their direction, is an indisputable criterion by which the public may judge of their attention to the interest of the state. And the internal evidence of my own conscience sets all calumny and detraction at defiance.

It seems that other dark transactions of the commissioners may probably hereafter be pointed out. This, I presume, is to be done in a pamphlet, with which you have *threatened* them, and for which you have been for a long time industriously hunting up materials. The public may form an opinion of the degree of truth and accuracy which may be expected in it, from the blunders and misrepresentations of your former publication. It would redound more to your credit to decline it. If you are a man of *slender abilities*, you will only expose yourself; if you are a man of *great powers*, you ought to know that there is no greater evil than the abuse of the understanding, and that perseverance in a man of talents in an iniquitous cause, is no better than *resolution in an assassin*.

G. DUVALL.

* £. 454,181.—The lands sold by the commissioners exclusive of town lots, averaged £. 3 8 4 per acre. Those sold by the intendant do not average 7/6 according to a report of a committee of the house of delegates.

In the publication of last week, in the 24th line of the 1st column of the 2d page, read *sale* instead of *commission*, and in the 5th line from the bottom of the 2d column of the 3d page, read *answered* instead of *answer*.

L O N D O N, August 9.

THOUGH every thing seems peaceable in Italy, still some steps are taking there that might indicate an apprehension, though, perhaps, a remote one, of a war. The fortifications of Crotona, Valentia, and the citadel of Alexandria, in the Italian dominions of the king of Sardinia, are still carrying on; and from the number of hands employed, and the activity with which the planners of the works press the finishing them, one might be inclined to suspect, that the wife and provident court of Turin foresees a storm, and is preparing, like a prudent pilot at sea, for weathering it out.

The same advice add, that the empire's, in consequence of a late edict for suppressing convents, and other religious establishments in that part of Poland belonging to Russia, has gained an immense tract of land, with an increase of 120,000 peasants, whom she has emancipated, and to whom she has given every encouragement to continue on the soil.

Aug 14. The departure of Mr. Adams for Madrid, seems to announce an approaching rupture between this country and the United States; in which case an invasion of Canada will certainly take place. Some people think the French will keep aloof in this contest, but that is to be questioned. They have long looked on our possession of Canada with regret, and would no doubt hazard much to recover it, that they may sell their assistance at a dearer rate. Of what advantage a settlement on the continent of North America is to those powers who are in possession of islands in the West-Indies, we know by experience; nor are the French insensible of it; they therefore will be eager to procure it by any means whatever; and if they can prevail on the Americans, as a stipulation for their assistance, to cede to them, in case of conquest, the province of Canada, or even Nova-Scotia, they will embrace the cause of the United States with pleasure.

ANNAPOLIS, November 2.

A late London paper, contains the following interesting paragraphs:

"LONDON, August 17.

"Yesterday a messenger arrived at the secretary of state's office, with the important advice of the death of Frederick the third, king of Prussia, which happened on Friday last. Frederick the Great was born on the 24th of January, 1712. He married on the 12th of June, 1733, Elizabeth Christiana, of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle. Frederick IV. was born on the 25th of September, 1744. He married July 14, 1765, first, the princess Elizabeth Christiana Ulrica, of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle: And secondly, on the 14th of July, 1769, Frederick Louisa, of Hesse Darmstadt, and he has issue by both marriages.

"The death of the king of Prussia will considerably affect the politics of Europe. It is an event for which the nations have been preparing for many months, and which will not be suffered to pass over unimproved. The emperor will now, perhaps, find other employment for his troops than merely preparing them for war; and he will give an opportunity to the new king to illustrate his character. It is said of Frederick IV. that he possesses the strong features of his uncle's character: That he has imbibed his politics, and will religiously follow his footsteps. If he does not, what will become of the embarrassed Stadtholder?"

The following gentlemen are elected members of the house of delegates in the ensuing general assembly, viz.

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John Gale, and
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For Cecil
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ward, Esquire.
For Queen-A
Seny, William
For Worcester
Mitchell, Will
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For Frederic
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