" Incenſed at the diſgraceful conduct of the militia, and determined to prevent, if poſſible, a repetition of it upon any future occaſion, I reprehended it in my next orders with great ſeverity. This meaſure, though harſh, will appear to have been neceſſary. It operated as a ſtimulus to wipe off the foul ſtain, which the reputation of the militia had incurred.

" The great object of the expedition being now completely effected, that is, the deſtruction of the Omee towns, and the proviſions laid up for their ſubſiſtence. On the 21ſt the army began to return towards Fort Waſhington by the route they came.

" It was originally my intention, to have returned by the way of the Ouiattanon (commonly called the Weeah) towns on the Wabaſh; and break them up alſo. Major Hamtramck, commanding at Fort Knox, (Vincennes) had been previoully ordered to make a movement towards them with the troops under his command: 300 militia from Kentucky were ordered to reinforce him. The movement was intended as well for a diverſion to prevent an union of the Indian ſtrength, as for the purpoſe of effecting a junction with our whole force, in caſe I ſhould have judged it adviſable to enter the country of the Ouiattons. Circumſtances however rendered it impracticable for me to attempt it, at this time, with any tolerable proſpect of ſucceſs. The horſes of the army were now by various cauſes, reduced to two thirds of their original number, and the remainder ſo worn down with hard ſervice, as to preclude the poſſibility of reaping much farther benefit from them. I have not yet received any communication from major Hamtramck, notwithſtanding the long lapſe of time ſince he was ordered to march.

" On the 21ſt October, the army decamped from Chillakothe, returning on the route we had come about eight miles. Here we remained till the morning of the 23d. Finding, in the mean time, that the enemy ſtudiouſly avoided coming to a general action; and conceiving it improper to leave them in the quiet enjoyment of their late ſucceſs, I reſolved to make an effort to bring on another partial engagement. For this purpoſe I detached, on the 21ſt, late at night, Colonel Hardin and major Wyllys, with 360 men, 60 of whom were federal infantry—the reſt being militia, from Pennſylvania and Kentucky. I had ſometime before, mounted a company of militia, and annexed it to the two troops of Kentucky cavalry, giving the command of the whole to major Fontaine, a brave and deſerving officer, at that time ſerving as my Aid-de-Camp. This corps made a part of the preſent command.

" I gave orders to find out and fight the enemy at all events, and to be ſparing of no means that might tend to leſſen the number of the ſavages.—Knowing of what importance the life of every warrior is held among them. The detachment reached the confluence of the Omee aud St. Mary, early next morning, and filed off in three columns. The left, under colonel Hardin and major Hall, croſſed at Kegaiogue, and proceeded along the weſt bank of the St. Joſeph. The centre, conſiſting of the federal troops, under major Wyllys, having paſſed the Omee at the French village, moved up the eaſt bank of the St. Joſeph, at ſome diſtance from the river, while major M'Millan led the right column over ſome heights on Wyllys's right. The enemy now appeared in different quarters, and the columns were ſoon and ſeverally engaged with various ſucceſs. A body of the ſavages having appeared in Wyllys's front, and cheriſhed the idea of an attack there, ſuddenly gained the unoccupied heights on the right, and turned his flank. At this criſis fell major Wyllys, an officer whoſe long and meritorious ſervices claim the grateful remembrance of his country. With the talents of a cultivated mind, he united the beſt virtues of the heart. The little party, unſupported, and overpowered by numbers, now gave way, leaving 50 out of 60 dead upon the field. Free uſe was made of the bayonet, which the ſavages experienced to their coſt. Lieutenant Frothingham, of my regiment, was killed in the action. I have loſt in him an uſeful officer, and a worthy man. While this part of the buſineſs was acting, the militia were not idle: they behaved with the ſpirit of veterans, and ſlew numbers of the enemy; who met their fate with uncommon bravery. In ſhort, each ſide ſeemed emulous to eſtabliſh a character over the other.—The militia every where gave ſtriking proofs of determined courage. The ſavages were in no inſtances behind them, and the ſlaughter was reciprocal.

" From the beſt information the enemy loſt in the courſe of this affair, upwards of 100 of their prime warriors,—men who appeared to fear no danger. Not a ſquaw or a child was ſeen this day to ſwell the number of the ſlain. The enemy's loſs cannot be replaced. Ours, too, was heavy. Major Fontaine commanding the cavalry, was a young gentleman of the moſt amiable manners, with a ſoul formed for enterpriſe. Years only were wanting to moderate his ardour in the field, and unite, in the accompliſhed gentleman, the character of a good ſoldier. He fell covered with wounds, in ſingly charging with his ſword about 40 of the enemy. Some other officers of the militia were killed, and ſome few wounded. Our whole loſs in killed, wounded and miſſing, amounted to 180, including officers. Upwards of 20 of the wounded were brought off.

" Among the officers who ſurvived the ſlaughter and diſtinguiſhed themſelves more particularly on this day, I mention, with pleaſure, the names of major M'Millan, of Fayette, major Hall, of Bourbon, and brigade major Ormſby, of Nelſon county, in Kentucky; together with captain Gaines, of the cavalry. The conduct and perſonal courage of the firſt demand my warmeſt acknowledgments. He ſlew with his own hand, three of the ſavages, and the column he led, made impreſſive exertions, wherever it appeared. The ſecond, was on all occaſions obedient and brave, and diſplayed great perſonal courage. The third ſignalized himſelf in a manner that does him honour, by judiciouſly rallying a broken body of militia, which, in conſequence, did great execution under the immediate command of this gallant young officer. Captain Gaine is deſerving of great praiſe, for his ſoldiery conduct during the whole expedition, and particularly for the intrepedity he diſplayed in a perſonal combat of ſome duration with a mounted ſavage, whom he at laſt overcame, bringing off the arms of his antagoniſt as trophies of the fact. I am under many obligations to all the field officers, both of the Kentucky and Pennſylvania militia, who gave me uniform proofs of the beſt diſpoſition to ſecond my endeavours during the expedition. Colonel Hardin, who commanded the whole militia, is in a particular manner entitled to my acknowledgements, as well for his cool and determined conduct in action, as for his attention and perſeverance in the execution of orders. As to the officers of the federal troops under my command, I muſt, in juſtice to them, obſerve, that their whole conduct was marked by a ſtrict attention to diſcipline, a promptitude to obey orders, and alacrity in the execution of them.

" After the action of the 22d, the detachment rejoined the army in its encampment; and at 11 next morning the troops reſumed the route towards Fort Waſhington, which we reached by eaſy marches, on the 3d of November. No interruption whatever was offered by the enemy on our return; a convincing proof this, of their having received a blow which they felt. I flatter myſelf good conſequences will be the reſult. We have not, I conceive, loſt much more than man for man with the ſavages. Our loſs can be repaired: their's irreparable.

" On my arrival at this fort, the pack-horſes of the line did not exceed one half of their original number. Many had been ſhot or ſtolen on the expedition; others were loſt in the woods; and others again, being worn out with fatigue, were either killed or left behind. The advanced ſtate of the ſeaſon having deprived us, in a great meaſure of forage, I ordered them, at times, to be tied up at night, and flour to be ſerved out at the rate of three pounds daily to every horſe; hence you will perceive an extraordinary conſumption aroſe of that article.

" I detained in confinement here the Shawanoe priſoner we had taken, till the 18th inſtant, when I diſmiſſed him back to his nation; but in a way, I truſt, that impreſſed him with ideas of our ſuperior power, his own inſignificance, and our contempt of his brethren. I ordered him a few trinkets, and an eſcorte to ſee him ſafely advanced on the road 25 miles, leſt any of our hunters might fall in with him, and uſe him leſs tenderly than I wiſhed. He appeared to be thankful and departed from the garriſon with a mixture of ſorrow, gratitude and joy."

Extract of a letter from governor St. Clair, to the ſecretary of war, dated Marietta, November 26.

" If the report reſpecting major Hamtramck be near the truth, that he had deſtroyed four of the Indian villages, and all their proviſions, and had returned without the loſs of a man, the ſucceſs will then have been as complete as it could have been wiſhed; and the firſt news we ſhall hear from the Indians, will be a humble ſupplication for peace: Should that, however, not happen ſoon, I will find means to let them know, that it will not be refuſed them if they deſire it on reaſonable terms."

ANNAPOLIS, *January* 20.

David Craufurd and Walter Bowie, Eſquires, are appointed aſſociate juſtices for Prince-George's county. And

William Morris and Peter Chaille, Eſquires, for Worceſter county.

Meſſieurs GREEN,

IN your laſt weeks paper I diſcover a piece of poetry, doggerel double diſtilled, directed to me, with the ſignature ABARIS. Had the performance been any way genteel or conſiderable, I could conſent to addreſs him with an anſwer; but as it is an opprobrious ſubterfuge, ſhall only make a few curſory remarks upon his ſtrange production, and, if you pleaſe, offer them through your impartial preſs to his and my readers.

I mean to make his great ſignature the text of my preſent ſtrictures.—ABARIS ſignifies " a man ſlain by *Perſeus*; alſo a Scythian and prieſt of *Apollo*, who was endued by that god with the gift of prophecy; alſo by virtue of an arrow or dart given him by *Apollo*, he travelled ſwiftly through the air without eating, and gave oracles in all parts."

Probably he has prophecied, in divining that my " *ſchemes* (or rather wiſhes for liberty) *may be effected in a ſhort time*;" though I expect not too ſoon, nor by the " *decree of fate*," but by the wiſdom of civil government, under the providence of God: I am no heathen philoſopher, aſcribing to *the fates*, but a profeſſor of the Chriſtian religion.

His whole oracle ſeems to be delivered while flying through the *air*, having no argument or reaſon as a foundation to ſettle on. Moſt certainly he is in a labyrinth and mazy flight; much, but the virtue of his arrow, or wings, fail him before his oracles are ſpread *in all parts*—he ſhould take heed leaſt his fall proves to be in the " *dirt*" or " *hog-ſtye*." As to " *a hungry belly by the bye*"—*Abaris*, we are told, " flies without eating;" probably he conquered the power of hunger—but he will be hard ſet to conquer the power of equity, truth and reaſon: he muſt fly again or yield. I think, would he take a little food of inſtruction, it might add to his prudence, and enable him in his next flight to give wiſer and better oracles.

I have been conjecturing *Apollo* gave him a very crooked arrow, as I ſee he goes on ſo ſlowly and awkwardly. It would take him an age, at his preſent rate of travelling, to ſpread his oracles through the continent of well informed equitable minds. I don't know what ſucceſs he might meet in diſpotic minds, or a country of tyrannical power; where avarice ſubſtitutes prejudice, ſubterfuge, hypotheſis and ambition; for juſtice, argument, reaſon and truth: but Americans ſhould be better informed than to adhere to ſuch artifices.

He ſignifies in his rhymes, were ſlaves liberated they would go in " *rags, dirt, be lazy, ſteal and court the gallows*"—'Tis very evident many who have " *been ſet free*," are induſtrious civil people in the circle where they move. Of the ſame ſtyle of life (as *Bembo* ſays) " white man be lazy, ſteal and come to gallows too"—They would not generally ſteal ſo much in freedom as in ſlavery. Some maſters preſs their ſlaves to ſteal by hard uſage, almoſt periſhing them with hunger, giving them from three to five ears of corn a day for their only ſupport; and no time to grind and cook that, but the hours allotted for ſleep. If one out of twenty ſhould ſteal, the whole are deemed rogues immediately, and, poor creatures, if ever ſo honeſt and innocent, they can get no redreſs, nor have their characters retrieved. The maſter can ſtigmatize twenty for the evil of one, without fear of anſwering for his conduct; thus the characters of the helpleſs with impunity are ſported with and injured. Should the maſter be worſe than any ſlave he has, who among them dare report it? That muſt lie ſtill—he is a " *monarch*" over " *the blacks*," and his own uncontroled will, though ever ſo unjuſt or cruel, gives laws and inflicts puniſhment at pleaſure. In this ſervile ſtate, under the moſt arbitrary power, ſufferings and reproaches, having no character to gain or loſe, I have wondered they were not worſe than they are! Had they liberty, the caſe would be different; they would have a character to think of; and intereſt would ſtir them up to induſtry.

Frequently I have applauded, and ſtill expreſs an attachment to the humanity of good maſters, who feed, cloath, and otherwiſe uſe their ſlaves well. But I do contemn the conduct of cruel men, to thoſe under their power; unlimited but by death!—Better be ſuch a man's horſe, or dog, than his ſlave! I apprehend were the ſlaves free, the laws of the land would govern and keep them in civil order, equally with whites in the ſame ſphere of life. And as they improved, which they would do, in freedom (but ſlavery prevents) they would evince their geniuſes, and ſtand in ſociety more and more reſpectably. I am very ſure *Abaris* himſelf is not half a match for *Phillis Wheatly* (a negro girl) in poetry: her poems are publiſhed to the world, and are worth reading.

As to " *black wives*" or huſbands I would diſapprove of, with as virtuous principles as *Abaris* himſelf—My ſons and daughters ſhall be better taught—hope his will alſo: then we need not fear from that quarter. But if it ſhould be the caſe, which may in time, the *whites* themſelves will be to blame—they will never be compelled to intermarry, it muſt be a low choice of their own. But will ſlavery prevent a mixture?

I think friend *Abaris* had better never appear again, till he has a better dart or arguments to defend his cauſe, or refute thoſe he comes forth againſt—unleſs he reſolves to be ſlain by *Perſeus*, which was the lot of *old Abaris*. *Perſeus* alſo delivered an Ethiopean princeſs, *Andromeda*, from a ſea monſter, that would have devoured her. May *liberty*, like that daughter of king *Cepheus*, be delivered from *tyranny*, that huge ſea monſter!

I have no deſire of another poem from my correſpondent, unleſs he learns better how to compoſe it; and on ſome argument, that it may be worth reading. Be aſſured I am not offended, but feel willing at any time to receive a friendly letter, (he may change his ſignature if he pleaſes) but if he deſcends from gentility to grovelling, I ſhall take but little notice of him. Though even then in any equitable caſe would be his friend. And were he in unjuſt bondage would as freely reſcue him from ſlavery if I could, as I would *liberty* from *tyranny*, or as *Perſeus* did *Andromeda* from the ſea monſter. May Providence bleſs the UNION and confirm LIBERTY!

Gentlemen, I ſtill remain

A FREEMAN.

January 7, 1791.

NOTICE is hereby given, that I intend to petition the juſtices of Cæcil and Kent county courts, at their next ſeſſions, for a commiſſion to prove and mark the bounds of the following tracts of land, viz. HOLT, HEATH'S OUTLET, WORSELL MANOR, HEATH'S RANGE, the firſt part, and SEDGEFIELD, lying in Cæcil, and HEATH'S RANGE, the ſecond part, lying in Kent county, agreeably to an act of aſſembly in that caſe made and provided. 6w

1 DANIEL CHARLES HEATH.

Annapolis, January 14, 1791.

COMMITTED to my cuſtody, as a runaway, a negro man named NED, appears to be about forty years of age, and ſays he belongs to RICHARD DENT, of Prince-George's county. His maſter is hereby deſired to pay his fees and take him away.

10 7/6 BEN. HOWARD, Sheriff of Anne-Arundel county.

NOTICE.

ALL perſons having claims againſt the eſtate of Mr. ROBERT WHITAKER, late of Prince-George's county, are requeſted to bring them in legally proved, and thoſe indebted are deſired to make immediate payment, to

MARGERY WHITAKER, Admx.

December 10, 1790. 4t