

month his clothes required to be made longer and wider; and, what was still very extraordinary in his growth, it was not preceded by any sickness, nor accompanied by any pain in the groin or elsewhere, and no complaint was made of any inconvenience but hunger, which the child was very sensible of from one meal to another.

At the age of five years his voice changed, his beard began to appear, and at six he had as much as a man of thirty; in short, all the unquestionable marks of puberty were visible in him. It was not doubted in the country, but that this child was, at five years old, or five and a half, in a condition of begetting other children; which induced the rector of the parish to recommend to his mother that she would keep him from too familiar a conversation with children of the other sex. Though his wit was riper than is commonly observable at the age of five or six years, yet its progress was not in proportion to that of his body. His air and manner still retained something childish, though by his bulk and stature he resembled a complete man, which at first sight produced a very singular contrast. However, it might be said that all was uniform in him, and he might be considered as an adult, though still far from being so; his voice was strong and manly, and few heard him speak without some emotion and surprise. His great strength rendered him already fit for the labours of the country. At the age of five years he could carry a good distance three measures of rye, weighing eighty-four pounds; when turned of six, he could lift up easily on his shoulders, and carry, loads of a hundred and fifty pounds weight, a good way off; and these exercises were exhibited by him, as often as the curious engaged him thereto by some liberality.

Such beginnings made people think that young Viala would soon shoot up into a giant. A mountebank was already soliciting his parents for him, and flattering them with hopes of putting him in a way of making a great fortune. But all these fine hopes suddenly vanished. His legs became crooked, his body shrank, his strength diminished, and his voice grew sensibly weaker. This sad alteration was attributed to the imprudent trials he was let to make of his strength; perhaps also it was occasioned by nature's suffering in so rapid an extension. He soon became just as he was at the age of six or seven years, and in a kind of imbecility. His parents were rather of the middle size, and their growth had nothing particular in it.

PHILADELPHIA, February 11.

Extract of a letter from Flanders, dated December 3, 1784.

"War is actually declared between us and the Dutch, and we have been already attacked by the latter near Fort Lillo; when our troops were obliged to retire on account of the inundation, occasioned by the Dutch breaking the dykes. Our cutter de Preupelen Duyrel is ready to sail on a cruise against the Dutch ships."

Extract of a letter dated Amsterdam, November 22, 1784.

"The situation of the public affairs is actually such, that we look on a war with the emperor as unavoidable. France still endeavours to bring on a reconciliation; but the success is very doubtful. Every necessary step is taken by our states to make a most vigorous opposition to the designs of the emperor. As this city is so situated as to render the approach of an army most impossible, we are under no apprehensions for our safety. We hardly doubt but, should matters not be amicably settled, that France and Prussia will join themselves in our behalf, in which case a general war is likely to take place on this continent."

Extract of a letter from Leyden, dated November 24.

"Letters from the empire mention a declaration made by the court of Russia to that of Versailles and Berlin, that if the emperor should be obstructed by other powers in his affair with the Dutch, she will assist him with all her forces."

Extract of a letter from Rotterdam, dated November 23.

"You well know that we have a war with the emperor, and of course it will be necessary to take neutral colours."

When we reflect on the immense force with which the emperor of Germany can take the field, we would almost be inclined to pronounce it madness in the Dutch to involve themselves in a war on account of the navigation of the Scheld. The Germanic empire is divided into nine circles, and possessed by near three hundred sovereign princes, of whom the emperor is the head. By the constitution, as established by Charles V. it is stipulated, that every prince must furnish a certain number of men, horse and foot, in time of war, the ecclesiastical princes are bound to furnish 74,500, and the secular 379,000 men, making in the whole, an enormous army of 453,500 men; nor will this account appear exaggerated, when the reader considers that the countries it is raised in, contain, upon a moderate computation, near twenty two millions of inhabitants.

Feb. 16. A bill is now depending before the legislature of New York, for the gradual abolition of slavery in that state.

The sloop Susanna, captain William Earle, jun. of Providence, is arrived at Charleston, South-Carolina, from the river Mississippi, where the Spaniards would not permit him to trade, nor allow him to proceed up to New Orleans. On his arrival

in the river, a number of soldiers were sent on board his vessel, and a boat dispatched to New Orleans, which returned in eight days, with orders for him to put to sea immediately. Several other American vessels, as well as some British, had been compelled to quit the river, previous to the arrival of captain Earle.

A letter from Lisbon, inserted in a Boston paper, says, that an American brig, bound from Cadiz to Virginia, has been taken by the Moors, and carried into Tangier; and that the Dutch resident had interceded for her release.

European accounts say, that there is a probability of a rupture between the emperor of Germany and the grand sultan. The cause of this is, the emperor having demanded of the sultan to concur with him in fixing precisely the boundaries of the two empires; and in his proposals on this subject, has claimed several districts now in possession of the Turks, and which the sultan refuses to deliver up. The court of France has offered her mediation between these powers.

France and Britain, these accounts farther say, are very busy in naval preparations: the workmen in Portsmouth harbour are ordered to work double tides, in order to fit out a fleet of observation, in case of a war with the emperor and the Dutch. The French navy is in such a state, that they could send to sea, in ten days time, a fleet of twenty two sail of the line.

Prussia and France, it is added, have actually concluded a treaty for the defence of Holland; and that one of the articles is, that prince Henry of Prussia, who negotiated the treaty, is to have the command of the French army, in case of a rupture.

The emperor of Germany does not make war on Holland in his imperial character, but as count of Flanders and duke of Austria. As emperor of Germany, he can neither make peace nor war, nor levy taxes, without consent of a whole diet of the empire; but in his other character, he is sole arbiter and sovereign, and can command 100,000 men without any allies.

We are informed, (says a late London paper) that the grand signior suffers all christians in his dominions, whether catholics, protestants, or Greeks, the free exercise of their religion.

A letter from Madeira, November 10, says, "A consul from the American states is announced in this island, where the English trade is greatly decreased and decreasing."

BALTIMORE, February 18.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Ostend, to his friend in Philadelphia, dated September 3, 1784.

"By a letter received in this city last week from a correspondent in Frankfort upon the Rhine, we are informed, that the ingenious Mons. Van Rheindes, has constructed a balloon at Munich, the capital of Bavaria, of a most stupendous magnitude, and upon a very different construction from any heretofore made; it will hold one hundred persons, and is accommodated with four separate apartments, and other conveniences—this machine he has elevated to the distance of eleven English miles perpendicular above the city, where it has remained stationary some time.—He has obtained permission from the police to open an ordinary or eating house therein, and likewise has procured a number of skilful gentlemen from the different colleges in France and the empire, to assist in navigating smaller balloons, capable of holding from ten to twelve persons, for the purpose of conveying his guests to the tavern balloon and down again.—Many of the German princes, lords and gentlemen, have already spent whole days and nights there; and it is supposed that Mons. Van Rheindes has already cleared 150,000 florins, exclusive of his expences.—He proposes also to open tavern in the clouds, over Vienna and other capital cities in Europe."

ANNAPOLIS, March 3.

ABSTRACTS from some of the public acts passed last session of assembly.

An act to establish funds to secure the payment of the state debt within six years, and for the punctual payment of the annual interest thereon.

All the present funds belonging to this state, consisting of confiscated British property unsold, and not specifically reserved, subject to the disposal of the general assembly, and all debts for confiscated British property sold, and all other debts on bond, (except as herein after excepted) and on all arrearages of taxes due the state before Jan. 1, 1783, shall be consolidated and made a general and aggregate fund, and pledged to all the creditors of the state for the payment of the principal of their debt, on or before Jan. 1, 1790, and for payment of the interest annually, to commence Jan. 1, 1785.

Bonds taken and lodged in the treasury before the first of June next, for property heretofore sold, and payable in specie only, and where the money is due before Jan. 1, 1786, and so many of the bonds to be lodged in the treasury before June 1, next, for the payment of the emissions of June 1780, as may be necessary to ensure the payment of said bills, shall be kept apart for redeeming those emissions.

So many of the bonds to be lodged in the treasury before June 1, 1786, for redemption of the emissions of May 1781, and bonds which may be taken for property sold and not bonded for the redemption of the emissions of June 1780 and May 1781, as will be sufficient, with the bonds taken for the redemption of the emissions of June 1780, shall be added to the bonds first mentioned; and to determine what bonds of the emission of May 1781, and the bonds taken, and not bonded for the redemption of the emis-

son of June 1780 and May 1781, shall be thus set apart; the whole of said bonds shall be listed and numbered, and put into a box, and so many of them drawn out by the treasurer as shall amount to the sum necessary to make up the deficiency.

Any creditor of the state on certificates on interest shall be allowed to discount such debt but of any debt due by such creditor, except the bonds appropriated as aforesaid, which can only be discharged in those emissions or specie.

If the intendant or auditor shall discover that any soldiers certificates have been fraudulently obtained, such certificates shall not be paid or discounted.

Indulgence to be given to debtors for confiscated property (except on bonds specially set apart) for five years, from Jan. 1, 1785; and to enforce the payment of interest due from said debtors, if not paid by the first of September annually, the intendant shall give six weeks notice in the Annapolis gazette, Baltimore journal, and Hall and Sellers's Philadelphia paper, to the debtors, and if the interest be not paid at the expiration of six weeks, execution shall issue agreeably to the act for the emission of bills of credit not exceeding 500,000 pounds, &c. upon bonds taken under that act, and the most speedy method shall be pursued upon bonds taken for property sold under any other act, which the directions of such act will warrant to compel payment; and if the emissions of June 1780 shall be redeemed before the time they become redeemable, the same indulgence shall be extended to such debtors, and out of the interest paid by state debtors, the creditors shall be paid the interest due them.

The emissions of June 1780, with the interest calculated thereon, and the emission of May 1781, and any certificate stipulated to be discounted in taxes, shall be received in payment of taxes due before March 1, 1784, and all certificates discountable in taxes, though since liquidated, shall be discounted in all taxes imposed to be imposed.

Confiscated property that remains undisposed of, and consoldated and pledged to pay the state debt, (except New Connaught manor, and such part of My Lady's manor and reserves as are settled on, and to the purchasers of which a preference was given) be sold by the intendant for current money or certificates before mentioned, payable Jan. 1, 1789, with interest annually.

Every purchaser of confiscated property, who has not given bond, shall give bond before April 1, with such security as the commissioners, under the direction of the intendant, shall require, for the payment of the purchase money with interest, agreeably to the contract, payable Jan. 1, 1790, with interest payable Sept. 1, annually; which indulgence shall not extend to bonds drawn for the redemption of the emissions of June 1780, but they shall be paid at the same time as others drawn, notwithstanding the time of payment mentioned in such bond; and if any purchaser shall neglect to give bond on or before April 1, the intendant is to enforce payment, if he shall judge such purchaser able to pay, and if unable the contract shall be void, and the property exposed to a second sale, for current money or certificates before mentioned, payable Jan. 1, 1790, with interest annually; and the intendant may direct suit to be brought against the first purchaser, to recover damages for the use, or waste committed on the premises, or the intendant may settle the damages, or have them ascertained by arbitrators; and in such suit it shall be only necessary for the attorney-general to issue a writ of trespass in the case, &c.

The tenants of New Connaught manor to have the preference of purchasing such parts as they possess or lease under the title of Talbot, or any late proprietors, on payment of a reasonable valuation, in current money or certificates, on giving bond payable as aforesaid; and the value of such lands, without improvements, shall be valued by the intendant, or any two or three persons to be nominated by him, such persons to be indifferent, or not living in Cecil county or within fifty miles thereof, and thereout shall be deducted the leases for lives or years, in the computation whereof the length of the term, the age and health of the tenant for life, and the chance of reversion, shall be considered; and if said tenant shall refuse or neglect to purchase, the intendant shall sell the same, on the same credit, for the highest price he can procure, in current money or certificates.

Tenants on manors and settlers on reserves shall have the preference of purchasing, on payment of a reasonable and moderate valuation therefor, to be ascertained as aforesaid, on giving bond, &c. payable as aforesaid, &c.

If the interest received from debtors be not sufficient to pay the interest due to creditors, the deficiency shall be paid out of the supplies for every year, until the principal be wholly discharged.

A tax of 2/8 shall be imposed annually, from the year 1785 to 1791 inclusive, on every 100 pounds worth of property, as the same shall be estimated in said years; and shall be annually paid to the treasurer of the western shore, and by him kept separate from other public money, and be inviolably appropriated to the payment of the principal and interest of the state debt; and if the said aggregate and sinking funds shall not be sufficient to answer the purposes for which they are applied, the faith of the state is pledged that such deficiency shall be provided for; and any specie certificate, &c. may be received in payment, but no collector shall have credit therefor, before he make oath, that he bona fide received the same in payment of said tax, and any collector (swearing falsely) shall be subject to the same punishment as for wilful and corrupt perjury; and any certificate received in payment shall be kept with the money, and shall be examined and destroyed by a committee of both houses.

After the amount of claims against the property of the Principio company shall be adjudged by the auditor, &c. such claimant may apply, before June 1, to the treasurer, for as many of the bonds taken for sale of property of said company, as will satisfy such claim; and all bonds taken on such sales shall be listed and numbered, and drawn out by the treasurer, and if any of the obligors shall bring in certificates issued for specie, the treasurer shall pay him cash to the amount, or the claimant may take certificates to the amount of their claim, and shall be paid on or before Jan. 1, 1785, out of the money by this act provided.

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