by resales in cases of such neglect might be justly imputed to the commissioners. But this charge of neglect has been proved to have no foundation in truth. It was made before the governor and council; but they were soon convinced that it was a fiction. Letters were produced from each individual purchaser at the first sale, in which those very reasons were stated, which I have before assigned, why bonds could not be obtained. And yet you want the candour and integrity to acknowledge this truth, and possess the basenes and effrontery to assert, that bonds were not taken through the neglect of the commissioners. You must believe that the public are as weak and ignorant, as you are wicked and corrupt, if you expect that they can give credit to your assertions, contrary to fact, while they have such convincing proofs that you have very little compunction in asserting a falsehood, and as little shame in being detected in it.

You have published Mr. Hollyday's petition and my remonstrance to the general assembly in 1784, to shew, that in *our own opinions* we should not be entitled to a commission on the unbonded property, unless the *resales* should be made by the commissioners; and assert, that "it was our request that we should have the *opportunity* of securing *a commission* by the resales." It is astonishing, that such an assertion should be hazarded, or that such an inference should be drawn, when the whole tenor of the petition and remonstrance directly contradicts them. We both remonstrated *against a second sale altogether*; and I stated in the most clear, explicit, and unequivocal language which I was capable of using, my right to commission on those sales. These facts will appear by the following extract of my remonstrance: "Your "remonstrant flatters himself, that he has discharged "his duty as a faithful trustee of the public, and "that he has ever, with unshaken integrity, steadily adhered to the true interest of the state. And "under the circumstances he has had the honour to "premise, which are strictly true, and capable of "the clearest demonstration, he conceives himself as "much entitled to a proportionate part of the commission arising on the unbonded sales, as any citizen of the state is entitled to any property which "he has acquired under the sanction of law. He "appeals to the dispassionate consideration of your "honours as to the justice of the claim, and hopes "that that part of the said report which directs a "*second sale of the unbonded property* may not be passed "into a law, as the legislature will thereby give "their *fiat* to deprive him of that which he apprehends to be justly due to him for services performed years ago." Hence it is evident, that my opinion was the same in 1784 that it now is; nor was I under an apprehension of *losing* the commission if that part of the resolve alluded to had been passed into a law; and to remove all doubts, I have subjoined the certificate of a gentleman of unquestioned veracity:

"I was present when Mr. Duvall drew a memorial to the general assembly, and which is published in this Gazette of the 30th November last. "I well remember his opinion as to commission on "the unbonded sales, mentioned in the memorial, "to be the same as declared in this publication.

"Jan. 3, 1787. BENJ. HARRISON."

We seldom see a man hardy enough to contend for a construction different from the apparent meaning of the writer; but we find that the late intendant of the revenue is so hardened in iniquity, so "worn and hackneyed in the ways of men" that he will not hesitate perversely to insist, by a forced construction, upon wresting an implication contrary to the writer's plain expression and meaning. That the commissioners intended and expected to finish the business of those sales is certain. But let me ask, *how* was it to be finished?—By taking bonds of the purchasers, or by commencing suits against them. The discretionary power vested in the intendant of the revenue to direct a resale *in case of inability in the purchaser to pay*, was not given by the resolve alluded to, but was inserted in the act, *by way of amendment*, long after the remonstrance was preferred. Bonds were taken or suits commenced in all the cases in controversy, except the four following;—the company who purchased James's Park, colonel Adams, Mr. Long, and Mr. Vanhorn. The commission which arose on the resale of the property purchased by them, which you are pleased to call a *double* commission, amounts to £.177 1, from which may be deducted, according to your own mode of reasoning, £.56 6 4 for commission on sales which has not been charged, which will leave the sum of £. 122 14 8. If you are serious in your objection to the commission on resales, you will acknowledge that this is the sum in dispute between us. In your first address you contended that we were not entitled to a commission on resales; in your subsequent publications you deny our right to commission in every instance where bond and security has not been taken, not only in cases where suits have been commenced agreeable to law with your advice and direction, but even in cases where judgments have been obtained. I shall leave you to reconcile these absurdities. Impartial men will be apt to believe that you are a "thing of wire by others played," or that, if you have any opinion, it varies upon every *northern blast* which you receive. I cannot admit that any man who is an advocate for fair discussion will deny the right to commission in cases where suits have been commenced, unless the purchase should be denied. In such case it is incumbent on the commissioners to prove the sale. I deny that you had any authority under the act to establish funds, &c. to vacate the sale of James's Park; and I also affirm that the other sales were wrongfully vacated; and being so far finished that no act remained to be done by the commissioners, their right to commission was indisputable. The purchase made by colonel Adams he was well able to pay; and it is a fact, that after his death his brother came to the western shore to settle with the state for the property, and take possession of it, but the sale had been vacated and the property resold. Mr. Vanhorn did not pretend inability, but urged that a claim was set up to the property which he did not know of at the time he bought. The purchase made by Mr. Long was considerable, and it is a fact that he possessed some very valuable property adjacent to that purchased of the state, which not only increased the quantity, but rendered the whole much more valuable. He had also a claim against the state for damages done to his property by the Principio company, for which it is awarded that he should receive £.900, of which the state are to pay eleven sixteenth parts, being their proportion of the property of that company. From these facts, which cannot be denied, it will appear that the sale was wrongfully vacated, and that Mr. Long was not unable to pay.

To justify your conduct you say, that Mr. Washington and Mr. Hughes had bid for a considerable part of this property sums of money not far short of what it sold for; and that upon Mr. Long's refusing or neglecting to bond, the property ought to have been set up again; in which case, Mr. Washington and Mr. Hughes would have bought and would have given bond for a sum nearly equal to that which was bid by Mr. Long. This is conjecture opposed to fact, and an opinion, the absurdity of which has been already exposed. Mr. Hughes bid only for a small part of the property purchased by Mr. Long, and I cannot learn that Mr. Washington bid at all. If this property had been resold immediately on the spot, Mr. Long must have been excluded from bidding; *competition* would have been in a great measure destroyed, and a *certain* and heavy loss must have ensued. The commissioners had no reason to doubt Mr. Long's solvency, and they could not foresee that you would have it in your power to vacate the sale.

The circumstances attending the sale and resale of James's Park have been already stated to the public. The facts are not denied. To reconcile your conduct in directing the resale you say, "Dr Way applied to purchase it, and said he and company would give nearly as much as Ridgely and company had bid for it; and that I informed you that Mr. Paxson, a partner with Dr. Way, would give as much for the property as had before been bid for it." I know nothing of Dr Way's offer more than you have disclosed, but deny positively that I gave you the information which you assert. I informed you that, from a conversation with Mr Paxson, I had reason to believe that Dr. Way would give a good price for the property. This you must perfectly recollect. But admitting your reasons to be as alleged, your conduct has been weak and ridiculous to an extreme. Any man of common sense would have adopted a certainty by selling the property to Dr. Way, and would not have hazarded the uncertainty of a sale at auction under the disadvantages of the different claims made to it. Whether the claims are well or ill founded upon such an occasion, is in a great measure immaterial. The bidder considers the expence and trouble of the law suits which he must encounter, and will not easily be persuaded to purchase upon any terms.

You have attributed the loss on those resales to the commissioners, and assert, that the property was sold without giving four weeks notice in the Baltimore news-papers agreeably to law, when you know that no law existed that required such notice. A *reasonable notice* as required by law was given, and the number of people who attended the sale from different parts of the state, and who were bidders for the property, will convince any rational being that the sale was properly conducted. You would willingly attribute the sum for which James's Park was resold, to the manner in which the sale was conducted, and because the *competitors* were suffered to *combine*. But these are the peevish sneers of old age, and are unworthy of notice. There were several bidders for this property besides the two companies who are styled by you *the competitors*, and a man must have very little discernment or penetration not to discover that the losses which have been occasioned by those resales, have proceeded from the weak, imprudent and arbitrary exercise of powers, which, unfortunately for the citizens of Maryland, were vested in you.

[*To be continued.*]

Jan. 3, 1787. G. DUVALL.

CADIZ, *August* 23.

WE have accounts from Algiers, that during the last month a conspiracy was formed against the life of the Dey, whose cruel and despotic character has excited the hatred of the Algerines; the plot was however discovered before it could be put into execution, and most of the conspirators, to the number of twelve, were taken up, and confined in a dark dungeon; eight of them were immediately executed; the other four, though condemned to the same punishment, were not put to death at the same time, but kept, as it was supposed, to see if the torture could extract any discovery from them; but it is likely they remained firm, as they were executed soon after their accomplices. Some imagine that this severity will extinguish this conspiracy; but let it be remembered, that a tyrant has as many enemies as he has subjects; and it is not very possible that the Dey of Algiers can extirpate all his people; and not very likely that he will amend his mode of governing them, it seems probable that a revolution is in embryo that may prove fatal to him.

PARIS, *September* 22.

The attention of the people of this capital, is fixed on the troubles of Holland; and we are persuaded here, that the king of Prussia will not engage in this affair which is foreign to him.

The wife of Charles Carone, formerly a grenadier, and now a labouring man at Damiere, in the diocese Auxarre, was on the 25th and 26th of June, brought to bed of four children, all alive at this moment; they were each of them 14 inches long when born; the mother suckles two of them and the two others are out at nurse. It was seven years since this woman had borne any children, and in a week after her delivery, she attended the market of St. Amand.

LONDON, *September* 15.

A strange circumstance happened last Thursday at Drury Lane theatre, when the Royal family were there present. It was literally as follows: A boy among the crowd, making up to the door, put into the hand of the serjeant of the guard a written paper or letter, purporting that the king's life would be in danger on his return from the theatre. The serjeant instantly delivered the paper to his officer, the officer to the lord in waiting, and his lordship to the king. His majesty with the utmost composure, read the contents, burst into laughter, and with the utmost seeming disregard, gave it back to the lord in waiting, who returned it to the officer, who deliberately placed it in his waistcoat pocket; and thus ended the notice that had been taken of this ridiculous and contemptible design, if indeed there was any design at all in this business.

Extract of a letter from Naples, September 20,

"Our government has a long time had it in contemplation to put the navy on a respectable footing, which is become the more necessary on account of similar exertions that are making by the powers around. An inspector general has been appointed for this purpose, who is to visit the dock yards every year. Mr. Freeman, an English gentleman is made the builder at Bologne, and Monsieur Vianette, of the French nation, is appointed to the same post at Danety; at both which places there are building large men of war."

Oct. 5. By letters from Madrid, dated Sept 15, we learn, that some extraordinary demands have been made by the Spanish minister at that court, respecting the revival of a claim upon part of the dukedom of Savoy; that these pretensions had been strongly supported by the Imperial and French ambassadors.

Advices from Gibraltar say the Sphinx frigate, just arrived express, say, they have had a Portuguese line of battle ship, accompanied by two frigates, cruising about there for some time past: that a few days ago they chased an Algerine into Gibraltar, which made several attempts to get away, but without effect: that on the third instant, when the Algerine got out of the bay, one of the Portuguese frigates came and fired several shot at her, which killed two of the men: The Algerine then run in at the back of the rock, and the Portuguese continued to fire at her every five minutes, on which the Algerines abandoned their vessel and the Portuguese set fire to and burnt her.

Extract of a letter from Harwich, September 25.

"We now learn somewhat of the damage done by the late storms in Holland; 26 sail of vessels are totally lost in the Zuyder Zee, whence they report the weather to have been the most tempestuous ever known: some mischiefs have also been done at the Texel, and at the island Ulie, a tract of land upwards of 70 acres is entirely washed away, into the sea, with a number of cattle."

Extract of a letter from Mr. Lunardi, dated Newcastle upon Tyne, September 20.

"Dear Sir,

"As bad news is generally conveyed with more velocity than good, and perhaps with enlargements, I will therefore inform you of the real truth.

"There is no possibility of preventing that immense croud, which is generally round the ballon when it is filling; nor the activity of gentlemen too willing to give their assistance, and too officious about a subject so new to them.

"My balloon was about one third full, and a great many gentlemen were holding it by the netting when I went to pour into the cistern the rest of the oil of vitriol destined for that purpose; this having caused a strong effervescence, generated inflammable air with such rapidity that some of it escaped from two different parts at the lower end of the apparatus, and spread among the feet of several gentlemen who were holding the balloon, and who were so alarmed, that leaving it at liberty, they ran from the spot. The balloon now rose with great velocity, and carrying up with it a gentleman of this town, twenty two years of age.

"This unhappy victim held a strong rope (which was fastened to the crown of the balloon, and was to have been the cable of my big anchor) and could not disengage himself when the other gentlemen fled; he was of course elevated the height of St. Paul's cupola, when the balloon turned downward, the crown divided from it, and the unfortunate gentleman fell to the ground.

"He did not expire immediately, having fallen upon very soft ground; he spoke for some time to his unhappy parents, and to the surgeons who came to assist him; but his internal vessels being broken, he died about an hour and an half after the fall.

"Before this unhappy accident, I had taken notice of the young gentleman, and twice entwitted the fatal rope from his hand, brought him to leave it loose, and give free expansion to the balloon, which was now filling apace. But I think it was his destiny, and his appointed hour was come —

"I can write no more, I am so affected by the loss of this unfortunate young man that my frame is entirely discomposed. I never suffered so much since I was born. Adieu

VINCENT LUNARDI."