

been committed to you; when it is considered that by your management of those sales, they have netted, upon a moderate calculation, at least £.30,000 less to the state, than they might have produced under the direction and management of any man of understanding, who would have made the interest of the state the rule of his conduct.

You admit that the commissioners have in some instances sold property at a great price, but assert that some of the property, and that of considerable value too, was not sold by them at full price; and to prove this you have unluckily stumbled on the sale of the property of the Nottingham company. The property of this company, consisting of about 11,500 acres of land, some of it valuable, and some very incalculable; about 150 negroes, consisting of men, women and children; and other personal estate to the amount of about £.3500, was sold for upwards of £.92,000. This sale, you have often, but in vain, attempted to shew was improperly made. It was conducted with greater management, and was more advantageous and beneficial to the public than most of the sales which have been made. This is a fact both certainly true and generally known. In support of your opinion that this property was not sold at full price, your argument is this; that the company who first purchased, sold to a second company for twenty-five tons of bar iron, more than they gave; and then by some additions to the sum for which one of the company sold his eighth, and a dexterity of multiplication upon the whole you endeavour to shew that the property was sold for many thousands less than its value. Few of our readers, it is presumed, are weak enough to be deceived by this declamation and nonsense. Admitting your facts, which I make no doubt are exaggerated, the small profit gained by the first company on a purchase of £.40,000 and upwards, is by no means a proof that the property was sold to them for less than its value. You know the fact to be otherwise. Several of the company offered, and some of them made propositions in writing to you, when intendant of the revenue, to relinquish the contract, and to lose and give up the payments which they had made to the state; and those payments amounted to several thousand pounds. The inevitable conclusion is, that the purchasers had immoderately given greatly more than the value of the property; and it is a fact too true, that some of them are nearly ruined by the purchase.—You have suggested that many of the high priced sales made by the commissioners were of no benefit to the state, and have referred to the first sales made to Mr. Long,—to the sale of James's Park to Ridgely and company,—and others which you had mentioned; but have left the reader to conjecture how it happened that those sales were not beneficial to the public. The reason has already been explained. It happened by your interference,—by your deep and masterly management,—and by your arbitrary assumption of power.

You have stated a probable loss of £.7500 which the state may sustain by the commissioner exchanging state securities. By exchanging state securities, I presume your meaning is, that bonds have been taken for property from persons who were not purchasers. This is not admitted to be a deviation from the laws under which this property was sold, upon a liberal construction, according to their true intent and meaning. If it be a deviation, the state was considerably benefited by it. The commissioner, to induce the company to give the price proposed, stipulated to take bonds from the purchasers or from others with good security. Without this stipulation the property would not have been sold for the high price given by the company. Every man of common sense knows that if the securities taken by the commissioner are good, it is a matter of indifference to the public, by whom the bonds are given. There is not at present the smallest probability that the state will sustain a loss by the securities taken. Their solvency is not doubted; and if by any unforeseen event, unexpected bankruptcies should take place, the property sold will still remain subject to the payment of the debt due the state, and considerable payments have already been made.

You have also stated a probable loss of £.8000 on the unbonded debt, which you say ought to be made good by the commissioners, if occasioned by their neglect. I do not believe that any loss will be sustained. The debtors who have not bonded are few in number, and so far as I have any knowledge of their circumstances, they are of ability to pay. No neglect can be imputed to the commissioners, they having complied with the law by commencing suits against those debtors, and judgments are obtained for nearly the whole of the debt, as has before been stated and proved. The loss on resales, I have before shewn, has been occasioned by your weak, injudicious and arbitrary conduct and management.

You have asserted that the report of the committee alluded to was rejected in the whole by the house of delegates, and a vote of approbation passed; and that two gentlemen of the committee voted for the approbation of his conduct.—I deny that the report of the committee was rejected in the whole. No question was put to concur with the report; nor was there a question put on any paragraph of it. Different questions were propounded, but were prevented from being put by the previous question. Neither did either of the committee who made the report vote for the approbation of his conduct. For the truth of what I say I appeal to the journals of the house of delegates. It is admitted that the house

taking into consideration the general conduct of the intendant, passed a vote of approbation upon it. The vote is in these words; "That it does not appear to this house that the conduct of the intendant merits their censure or disapprobation; and that as far as they have considered the general conduct of the intendant it is their opinion, that great advantages have been derived to this state by a faithful discharge of the duties of his office with integrity, zeal and ability."—I can hardly suppose it possible that the house could have passed a vote of approbation upon the intendant's conduct in the exchange of certificates reported by the committee, if a question had been put on that part of the report. I will here recite it: "Your committee beg leave to report, that the intendant purchased, for the use of the state, certificates liquidated under the act of May session 1781, amounting with interest, to £.2897 16 0 specie. The certificates were for provisions furnished, and agreeably to all of assembly were discountable in the present or any future assessment; that these certificates were as good to the state as so much specie in the treasury. That the intendant exchanged these certificates with colonel John H. Stone for £.3497 16 3 depreciation certificates, principal and interest.

Your committee offer to the house an exact state of the matter, as entered on the intendant's books.

"Colonel John H. Stone		Dr.
1785, Nov. 1.	To specie certificates £. 2750	
	To interest thereon	
	from 8 Dec. 1784,	147 16 3
	to 1 Nov. 1785,	
	To allowance for exchange,	600
		<hr/>
		3497 16 3
	To balance due	£. 1 14 9
"Contra.		
	By depreciation certificates per list,	£. 2658 12 1/2
	By interest thereon,	837 9 4
	By balance due,	1 14 9
		<hr/>
		3497 16 3

"The house will readily discover the above entry wants method; and to illustrate the transaction more fully, as to the disposal of the above certificates by the intendant, your committee beg leave to lay before the honourable house the following statement:

Dr. Col. John H. Stone, to the state of Maryland.		
	To specie certificates,	£. 2750
	To interest from 8th Dec. 1784,	147 16 3
	to 1st Nov. 1785,	
		<hr/>
		2897 16 3
"Contra.		
	By depreciation certificates,	2658 12 1/2
	principal, is	903 17 1/2
	Balance,	<hr/>
		2897 16 3

"The above balance of £.903 17 1/2 disposed of in depreciation certificates, at the current exchange of £.75 in the 100 principal, would amount to £.1205 2 10; five years and three months interest thereon £.375 12 4; amounting in the whole to £.1584 15 2; out of which deduct £.600 paid in exchange by colonel Stone, there is a loss to the state of £.984 15 2; from which statement it appears evident to your committee, this remark must follow, that the intendant, in the exchange, did not strictly adhere to that economy, so pointedly recommended to him by the act of assembly passed last session, appointing an intendant."

To publish to the world that the house of delegates approved this conduct and management of the intendant in exchanging state certificates to the manifest loss and injury of the public, would in effect be a libel on the characters of the members, and the severest satire upon their understanding and integrity. If a question had been put on this part of the report, you must have been left friendless, without a single voice to countenance or approve. Your feeble attempt to palliate this conduct cannot be satisfactory to any impartial man.

The losses which this state has sustained by your conduct when intendant of the revenue, are certain, not imaginary. I wish it could be said that they are only probable, and that they depend on future contingencies. It may be truly said, that they are objects of serious consideration to those who pay taxes;—but the mischief is done, and the losses are irretrievable. To reconcile us to these losses, we have nothing left but the hope and expectation that our representatives will profit by example and experience, and carefully guard against similar mischiefs in future.

I have now fully answered every charge of misconduct, which you have thought proper to fabricate against the commissioners. To examine separately every peevish sneer and impertinent remark which your arrogance has prompted you to make, would be shewing too great a mark of respect to your petulance, and would tire the patience and insult the understanding of the reader. I have confined myself to facts which cannot be controverted, and made use of arguments which, I trust, will con-

vince my countrymen that they have been attentive to the interest of the state, and have discharged the trust reposed in them, with fidelity and integrity. In the discussion of the several matters in controversy, it must be evident that I have not endeavoured to divert the attention of the public from the real subjects of dispute; but on the contrary have pointedly answered and controverted your objections to their official conduct. The commissioners have never evaded open and impartial inquiry; but when the tongue of slander and misrepresentation had made impressions upon the minds of some men to their prejudice, they have requested inquiries, and have ever been able to give a satisfactory account of their conduct when scrutinized by the critical eye of honest discerning men.

In the investigation of your objections to their conduct I have been sometimes necessarily and unavoidably led to animadvert upon your conduct and character. This has not been done by way of reprimand, or to justify the conduct of the commissioners by the example of the intendant;—this I despise;—but it has been done to expose your malevolence and feigned pretensions to patriotism; and to prove that you were acting without principle, and were biased by passion and influenced by prejudice against them without any just cause whatever. And I am not to be deterred by your little censure from making any remarks and observations upon the conduct of a public officer, which appear to me to be pertinent and necessary for the information of the public. My opinions of your conduct and character are the result of the clear conviction; and I appeal to every man of candour for their justice and propriety. The language which I have used, and which you, who are a formalist in politeness, have complained of as coarse and indecent, has been adapted to the real dignity of your character; it therefore cannot be admitted that it has been improperly applied. When you had shewn yourself above all scruples, and capable of defending to any means to injure my character;—when you asserted that "I had, for the purpose of making an attack on you, been selected as the most likely of your enemies to gain credit with the public," it became necessary to inform the public, in plain unquivocal language, that you had asserted an impudent, base and infamous falsehood; and surely it can never be said that a man writes indecently when he writes with truth and freedom. In my own opinion the English language has scarcely any term of reproach which might not be justly and properly applied to a man who appears to be equally regardless of his own character, and anxious to destroy that of others.—Calumny and detraction have formed no part of my publications. Indeed I must have had a peculiar propensity to malevolence to have wished to slander a man who, from the facts I have disclosed, is proved to be a hypocrite in virtue and a pretender to patriotism; and who, in the opinion of those who best know him, has no character to lose.

I have not far to seek for the unworthy motives which have actuated your conduct on the present occasion. In all ages and in all countries there are hypocrites and sycophants who put on the appearance of virtue to gain the esteem of mankind; and who assume the garb of patriotism to impose on the multitude, and recommend themselves to the favour of the public. These artifices have too often succeeded; but I am inclined to think that you will once more experience the mortification of disappointment. Men of understanding and discernment will form their opinions from the uniform tenor of your conduct through life, and not from your falset panegyrics upon yourself. They can never admit, without renouncing their claim to rationality, that an unjust character has been supported, either in the exchange of certificates to the loss and injury of the public; or by your enterprising attacks on the treasury, in receiving specie from a collector of the tax, and making payments for him in certificates, when it was your duty to manage and improve the public revenue with the best economy, and to the utmost benefit of the public.

Whether you have sacrificed your time in the service of the public; or whether you have sacrificed the public interest to private emolument, and to accommodate particular persons, are questions upon which every man must decide for himself. Your friends may exaggerate your virtues, and endeavour to inflame the minds of the people against those who question the propriety and rectitude of your conduct, but it will not answer your present purpose. And you may indulge your genius, and continue to ransack the archives of scandal until there shall be a meliorating revolution in your nature, but you will never discover any act of my official conduct which can operate to my prejudice with any man of reason and reflection; and if ever there should be such a revolution in me, that at your time of life, I should discard all principle, reconcile myself to hypocrisy and falsehood, and wilfully propagate the blackest calumnies and falsehoods to traduce the character of a young man, without any just or reasonable cause,—I shall then expect to be abhorred, execrated and detested, in the same degree in which you now are by every man of honour and integrity in the community.

G. D U V A L L.

P A R I S, October 5.

THEY write from Bessers, that some workmen employed in digging a well at Antignac, a

village three miles about six toises, were redoubled their ad by a most violent jag recovered out proached the pit received one of the but received no apprehensive of in order to yield shewed no signs of tom. He was of the same fate. A his companions a rope to him, a was gently lowered to drop, and hit tated. Being im without motion experiments, whic They let down a drawn up, it was its feathers burnt on a cat, which By the assistance three persons were lifeless, and all The letters furth fill continues, an ing to discover the the vaporous gas effects. It is ad taken from the p been in a state of

B O S

A letter from "While I am v T—, has mad out of the hair tars.—This is a frugality, and de Jan. 10. The by government, due administration patriotism in the while it emphat dont greatly to tions of the exca foot for raising to be loaned to g diate expenses; terminations; an amount of the fu ced the expecta and were suppo adequate to the l

Jan 12. The of New-Hampsh the 19th ult. w celiency the pref —"I am happ —in this fla and through the of the soldiers, time, truly res pleasing to have notwithstanding ed, designing, a generally determ constitutional au tempt of seditio faction to acqui part of the stat these articles, w with from forel has constantly state of poverty

N E W

Extra of a let

"Our paper roise among th gold and silver determined to i expenses of th ral requisition, than 23,000l.

P I T T

We are happ tulating our fe town, of the F Giofeto the F sencer of Har and orphan, & There was a three gallons of prepared for hi joyed with an have become e Giofeto, domi His majesty is walking abo in quaffing go and the bark ornamented w men can never shall not negle ed to be part billiards—fom majesty has b