

village three miles from hence, got to the depth of about six toises, when, observing water to rise, they redoubled their activity, and were presently astonished by a most violent subterraneous expulsion. Having recovered out of their surprize, they again approached the pit, at the bottom of which they perceived one of their comrades, to whom they called, but received no answer. One of his brothers being apprehensive of his safety, descended in a bucket, in order to yield him some assistance; but this man shewed no signs of life, after he had reached the bottom. He was followed by a third, who experienced the same fate. A fourth had the courage to descend, his companions taking due precaution of fastening a rope to him, and following him with the eye, he was gently lowered; they soon perceived his head to droop, and his whole frame to be violently agitated. Being immediately drawn up, he continued without motion two hours. Recourse was had to experiments, which ought to have been first adopted. They let down a cock in the bucket, and on being drawn up, it was found on the point of expiring, with its feathers burnt. A similar experiment was tried on a cat, which was almost dead when drawn up. By the assistance of hooks and other implements the three persons were raised out of the pit, being quite lifeless, and all their skin appeared to be calcined. The letters further say, that the subterraneous noise still continues, and that the chymists are endeavouring to discover the cause of this explosion, and of the vapourous gas, which has proved so fatal in its effects. It is added, that vitrified matter has been taken from the pit, which it is supposed must have been in a state of fusion.

BOSTON, January 9.

A letter from Taunton, of the 21st ult. says—“While I am writing I am informed, that Mrs. T—, has made a piece of cloth, for blanketing, cut of the hair from the hides which her husband tans.—This is a laudable example of industry and frugality, and deserves imitation.”

Jan. 10. The preparatory measures now taking by government, for the support of the regular and due administration of justice, has produced an act of patriotism in the citizens of this metropolis, which, while it emphatically proves their loyalty, merit redound greatly to their honour. On the determinations of the executive being known, a plan was set on foot for raising money by voluntary subscription, to be loaned to government for defraying the immediate expences arising in the execution of these determinations; and we were yesterday informed, the amount of the sums already subscribed, greatly exceeded the expectations formed by the most sanguine, and were supposed, would in a few days be found adequate to the laudable object in view.

Jan. 12. The present session of the general court of New-Hampshire, which began at Portsmouth on the 19th ult. was opened by a message from his excellency the president of the state, in which he says, —“I am happy to inform you, that the military force in this state is in a most promising situation; and through the exertions of the officers, and activity of the soldiers, cannot fail to become, in a short time, truly respectable.—And it can be no less pleasing to have an opportunity of assuring you, that notwithstanding the machinations of a few interested, designing, and unprincipled men, the people are generally determined to support and maintain the constitutional authority of the state against every attempt of seditious insurgents.—I have also the satisfaction to acquaint you, that the individuals in most part of the states, are much engaged in fabricating these articles, which we have hitherto been furnished with from foreign countries, the purchase of which has constantly drained us of cash, and kept us in a state of poverty and dependence.”

NEW-YORK, January 16.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Augusta, dated November 23, 1786.

“Our paper medium, which has made so much noise among the people, is now on a footing with gold and silver.—The governor and council have determined to issue no more than will just defray the expences of the war, and to comply with the federal requisition. The sum will not amount to more than 23,000l.

PITTSBURGH, January 6.

We are happy to have an opportunity of congratulating our fellow citizens on the arrival in this town, of the great, the mighty, and the warlike Giosoto the First, king of the Seneca nation; defender of Hannah's-town; protector of the widow and orphan, &c. &c.

There was an elegant entertainment (consisting of three gallons of whiskey and twenty pounds of flour) prepared for his majesty and retinue, which they enjoyed with an uncommon relish, as these articles have become exceedingly scarce within his majesty's, Giosoto, dominions.

His majesty amuses himself whilst he remains here, in walking about to view the curiosities of this place, in quaffing good whiskey; and smoking tobacco and the bark of willow trees, through his curiously ornamented wooden pipe.—As anecdotes of great men can never fail to be interesting to the public, we shall not neglect to add, that his majesty was observed to be particularly fond of viewing the game of billiards—some biographers pretend to assert that his majesty has been a great gambler in his time, but

whether billiards or football was his favourite game, we cannot pretend to assert.

PHILADELPHIA, January 26.

A correspondent observes, that for some time past, we have heard nothing of an Indian war; perhaps it may be owing to the winter's coming on so severely as to prevent the lawless sons of cruelty from affording any recent evidence of what they have in contemplation for their next summer's amusement. It is, however, a consolation, that we have on our frontiers a number of spirited gentlemen, who are always ready and determined to oppose their depredations.—Though it is a subject of regret that one of our worthy partisans (Col. Williamson, of Washington county) has not met with the approbation of government, we are informed from authority, that that gentleman's conduct on the Moravian expedition, was by no means exceptionable; and that the unhappy massacre of those devoted people, was wholly owing to the impetuous and ungovernable affections of the troops, whose fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts, had been recently murdered by Indians.

Wednesday the 17th inst. being the anniversary of the birth of that venerable printer, philosopher, and statesman, his Excellency Benjamin Franklin, (when he entered the 82d year of his age) a considerable number of the Journeymen Printers of this city, met, as usual, to celebrate the occasion—an elegant entertainment being prepared, the greatest conviviality and good order prevailed, and a number of patriotic toasts were drunk.

ANNAPOLIS, February 8.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, January, 19, 1787.

ON the second reading of the report of Matthew Ridley, Resolved, That this house is of opinion that the said Matthew Ridley, in the execution of his commission as agent for this state to negotiate a loan in Europe, and to purchase military stores, has conducted himself with diligence and fidelity.

By the SENATE, January 20, 1787.

ON the second reading of the report from the committee appointed to consider the memorial of Matthew Ridley, Esq; Resolved, That this house approve the conduct of Matthew Ridley as agent to solicit a loan of money in Europe, and are of opinion that he executed the commission with which he was intrusted with diligence and fidelity.

From the MARYLAND JOURNAL, &c.

The HONEST PLAN for both STATE and CITIZEN to circulate a PAPER MEDIUM on, viz.

FIVE hundred thousand pounds to be emitted and applied as follows:—

Two hundred thousand to be distributed in due proportion to each county in the state, according to its taxation; the same to be vested in tobacco, corn, wheat, flour, bar and pig-iron, for the use of the state, and to be sold, or appropriated as follows:

Two hundred thousand to be applied in discharge of the state's notes now out on interest, viz.

One hundred thousand to be distributed in due proportion to the counties of Harford, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Montgomery, which counties are to be chargeable with said £. 100,000, in proportion to their taxes, and the same to be applied under the direction of the courts, in making and repairing public roads and bridges:—The said £. 100,000 to be repaid to the state by said counties, in gales of one tenth each, clear of interest, so that the whole be paid in 10 years.

The state may safely receive paper issued on the above principles, in payment for all taxes, duties, debts, &c. due to the state, of every nature whatever; as she, by this means, forecloses one year's taxes—lessens her debt £. 200,000, thereby lightening our taxes £. 12,000 per annum:—The state will then receive interest from her debtors, or will be paid the principal by them; such payment (if paid the principal) will purchase other state or continental notes:—In either case, the state is a clear gainer of £. 24,000 per annum, on the application of said £. 200,000.

Suppose the state's present income from taxes, duties, &c. to be £. 150,000 per annum, and the arrearages of taxes £. 250,000, in all £. 400,000, which will be called in in the following year, in said paper emission, and may be applied in the purchase of state produce, for the use of the state, as above mentioned:—There will then, after the first year, remain only £. 100,000 in circulation.

From the rapid calls for this money, and the justness of the plan of its emission, it will support an equal value with specie, and the state may always lessen or increase its circulation.

As to the plan of issuing money on a loan of years, it is too far to look forward to, especially when we are told by the very advocates for such a loan, that our union and independence is expiring; and more especially, when we reflect that on the plan of such a loan, we are bribing upwards of 6000 men of property (including the principal borrowers and their securities) to rebel, or overturn our laws and constitution; and that, however necessary a paper medium may be at present, we may be more happy, some years hence, than to need it:—But, above all things, let us consider, that if we are honest, we could pay our debts, and regain a good name.

The most moderate genius may easily comprehend the nature of the above suggested plan, and, likewise, of that alluded to; and must plainly see, that the £. 500,000 issued on the above principles, will circulate with more credit, ease and advantage to the state, and with more confidence throughout all ranks of citizens, than even £. 100,000 would on the loan plan; for, by the above plan, the state may receive said paper in payment for all duties, taxes and debts, &c. and every class of people will be encouraged to industry, and receive his reward; even to the labourer on the highway.

STATEMENT of the preceding PLAN, viz.

£. 500,000 to be emitted.

200,000 to be applied in purchase of state produce, for foreclosing taxes.

200,000 to be applied in payment of state debts now on interest.

100,000 to be applied in making and repairing public roads and bridges.

£. 500,000.

COLLECTIONS to be made in 1787, viz.

150,000 Taxes, duties, &c.

250,000 Arrearages of taxes, duties, &c. for several years past.

400,000 Amount of collections.

100,000 only remains in circulation.

£. 500,000.

The state pays a debt of £. 200,000—Taxation thereby lessened £. 12,000 per annum, exclusive of charges of collections, &c.—The state has now due from her citizens £. 300,000 in reserve, the annual interest whereof £. 18,000, and her paper, collected in hand again, which may be reissued, or not.

Baltimore, December 26, 1786.

SIR S,

The following draught of instructions has been proposed to the voters of Anne-Arundel county, it has already been signed by numbers, and is now submitted to the consideration of the people at large.

Messieurs GREEN. A. B.

WE, the subscribers, inhabitants of county, are impelled by a sense of duty to ourselves and fellow-citizens, to declare fully our unshaken sentiments on the principal matters contained in the address of the house of delegates. On a mature examination of the proposed plan of an emission, we do not conceive it calculated to extricate us from our embarrassments, or to produce any considerable good consequences to the government. We believe indeed, that paper money cannot be made to answer the salutary ends proposed. The diminution of taxes is merely nominal and fallacious; because, whatever revenue is by this scheme derived to the state, must ultimately come from the pockets of the people. As to burthens imposed under the name of taxes, if, on the one hand, a paper money enables the people to bear them with more facility; on the other hand it diminishes the real supplies of government, and enhances the public debt: Admitting even, that these positions are erroneous, experience hath taught us to dread the evils which have flowed from recent emissions. The difficulties under which we labour are magnified. Although serious, they are by no means such as to authorize expedients pregnant with certain mischiefs, and affording, at best, deceitful palliatives. From our present difficulties we may be delivered by a little economy and industry on our part, and the prudent management of the legislature in restoring public and private credit. The confidence of the people is government's best resource. A confidence between individuals would strengthen each others hands, and again put into circulation that medium which society has been deprived of by improvident laws.

There are cases, indeed, which call upon the legislature for immediate redress. We cannot, without the deepest concern, behold property wrested from our neighbours, and sold at less than half the value. The bill for the relief of debtors changes the nature of past contracts, and suggests a mode ruinous to creditors, repugnant to justice and good faith, disreputable to government, and fatal to our commercial interests. Instead of that bill, we would suggest a law obliging debtor and creditor to enter into a reasonable composition, proposed by either party, placing the one on a certainty of receiving his due at stipulated periods, and securing the other against suits before the expiration of the term.

To our immediate representatives we suggest this hint, and we entreat them to abandon that system which indirectly the people are advised to force upon the senate. On this head we declare, that we venerate a constitution under which we enjoy equal rights, and the greatest degree of liberty consistent with government. In the unhappy disagreement between the two branches of the legislature, the senate has our approbation; but, at the same time, we applaud the zeal and good intentions of the house of delegates.

We lastly declare our opinion, that until some fatal period shall arrive, when the ends of government shall be perverted, and liberty manifestly endangered, the people cannot constitutionally inter-