

When reminded of your weak arbitrary and injurious conduct in vacating the sale and ordering a resale of James's Park, you attempt to give an appearance of propriety to your management in refusing to accept the advantageous offer made by Dr. Way, by telling us "that when sales were set aside by the intendant, and resales ordered, the commissioners alone had the power to make the resales." The man who has assumed a power to dispense with, and disregard the injunctions of, a most positive law, and who has frequently acted in the most arbitrary manner, makes a mere mockery of the understanding of the people, when he alleges he could not make an advantageous sale when an opportunity offered, because he was not authorized by law. Unfortunately for the state, and for the officer, the first instance he gives of a scrupulous regard to the injunctions of law, is attended with a heavy loss to the public! If it had been proposed to make an exchange of certificates, the measure would have been adopted without scruple or hesitation, although unauthorized by law and disadvantageous to the public. But this is nothing but shift and evasion. If you were authorized to vacate the sale, you were authorized to make the resale. The mischief was done in declaring void the sale under the circumstances of the case; and you very well know that, if the laws did not authorize you to sell, the commissioners were under your direction, and you might have directed them to sell at private sale. You found no difficulty on a former occasion in directing the commissioners to make a private sale, although to the disadvantage of the state.

I have refused your charge that the commissioners had received £. 1186 4 specie for commission, when they were entitled only to that sum in red money, by disproving the allegation. The treasurer's receipt has been produced for £. 450, and you were referred to the commissioners books, and the accounts and vouchers in the auditor's office, for the expenditure of the remainder. It was asserted by me, and the fact appears from the accounts you have published, that instead of receiving specie to that amount, when they were only entitled to receive paper, they have received paper to a much greater amount, actually worth no more than one half its nominal value, when the faith of the state was pledged by law to pay them in specie. And I proved by just reasoning, that the commissioners were entitled to specie for whatever balance might be due to them on settlement. I presumed that this would have been satisfactory to every rational being; but you seem to be inflexible in your opposition to truth, and to possess a determined resolution to persevere in error. Neither the feelings of shame, nor the reproaches of conscience are sufficient to deter you from the prosecutions of your designs, nor even to check your malevolence. Conscious of the odious and detestable light in which your conduct is viewed, one thing is certain;—that if you should be detected in a thousand additional untruths and meannesses, it cannot add to the infamy of your character.—You seem to be unwilling to admit even the treasurer's receipt for a part of the sum; and as for the remainder, you have not examined the auditor's office for the vouchers. In labouring to maintain falsehood by argument, and to support conjecture against fact, you observe that a part of this sum was paid to the treasurer before I was appointed a commissioner, and then it is asked, for what purpose it could be brought into our joint account? and what had I to do with it?—There is certainly an affected ignorance and stupidity in asking these questions. If there had been a separate settlement by each different board of commissioners; then their respective transactions would have appeared in separate accounts. But you very well knew that the commissioners books contain a continuation of the same accounts, and comprehend all the accounts of the different boards in one view.—You recollect, I presume, why separate accounts were not rendered. It was in contemplation, but it was not agreeable to you as intendant. You observed that the same men had been in and out of office in such a manner, that it would be difficult to separate the accounts, and directed one general statement.

It is observable that their account, which has been published by you, contains charges and credits which do not relate to commission; but these entries having been omitted in the account of expences, and in the cash account it became necessary to make the charges and give the credits in the account for commission, to ascertain the balance justly due; but then it by no means follows, that the sum alluded to was applied to the payment of commission. The cash account and the commissioners account must be considered as the same; and if this sum had appeared in the cash account, the balance of the cash account would have been greater accordingly, but the balance due to the commissioners must have been precisely the same.

Let it be observed, that the cash received by the commissioners, consisted of specie, and the different emissions of paper, viz. red, black, and continental state. The different sums of each species of money, are particularised in the commissioners books, except in a few instances where property was sold for different kinds of money. A view of the books, which you have long had in possession, will sufficiently evince the falsity of your assertion.

\* Sale of land to Mr. Slee, for 45s per acre, when double that price might have been obtained.  
† Gazette 18th January last.

You have asserted, that upon examining our book, you find that £. 196 4 received from Mr. Lecompte is credited in his account in it. This, Sir, is not true. Mr. Lecompte is credited by bond and by cash to the amount of his purchase. But this sum was afterwards paid to the commissioners towards discharging the bond before it was lodged in the treasury.—You have given another extraordinary reason to prove that the sum alleged must have been applied to the payment of commission.—"there is no mention of it in the account of expences." I may ask if any mention is made in any instance in the account of expences of the subjects out of which the money paid away, arose? Ought such an entry to have been made? Was it necessary, or were such entries ever made in any set of books in the universe? Such weak observations could not have been expected even from a man who has but a small share of knowledge in accounts.

After assuming a power to dispense with a positive law, you had not firmness enough to justify the measure, but wish to censure the commissioners, by alleging, that a list of the debtors was not delivered to you till the 28th of April, when it was too late to commence suits to May term. This finess is attempted, notwithstanding it appears by your advertisement that suits were suspended until after the 10th of July; and that you did not mean or intend to direct suits, until the result of your proposition could be known. And when I exposed your duplicity by stating, as the fact really was, that the list delivered to you was not for the purpose of commencing suits which you had previously postponed, but by way of information, upon your request, to enable you to estimate your plan; you reply that "why you should have wanted the list on the 28th of April to ground a resolution on, which I say was taken before the first of this month, is not easily to be conceived by any person less apt to form extraordinary ideas than I am," and then assert that "by me, contradictions are more readily believed than matters of fact; and things in opposition are used to prove each other to be true"—The impostor always finds a resource in subterfuge and pervercation. When deficient in argument, he answers his adversary by imaginary cases which never existed, or by insinuating the argument by which he is refuted, was designed for a purpose different from that for which it was evidently intended. These evasions may mark you as shifty and artful, but at the same time, they prove you insignificant and contemptible.

I mentioned your declaration in favour of the commissioners to prove your depravity and inconsistency, and not as you affect to believe, "to support my reputation." My reputation needs not your aid or commendation any more than it can be affected by your calumnies. I will readily admit that your opinions or assertions ought not to operate for or against any man. "There are reproaches that praise, and praise is that reproach."

You have thought proper to leave your own character to shift for itself. Upon the charges which have been exhibited against you, and which you affect to consider as absurd, frivolous and contradictory, the public voice has already condemned you. But you are cautious of descending to particulars; well knowing that it is not within the reach of human abilities to defend your conduct upon any principle.

You have complained of being abused and slandered.—Language, which, to a gentleman, might be deemed harsh and improper, must be considered as the effect of forbearance and moderation, when applied to you. Epithets properly adapted to the infamy of your character, would be unfit for a newspaper. And I believe it will be generally admitted, that when your baseness and treachery are the theme, it would be difficult for the most enlightened master to delineate a picture that would heighten the disgrace of the original.

G. D U V A L L.

April 6, 1787.

† Gazette 8th February last.

L I V O N I A, December 25.

**A**RUMOUR is in circulation, that the Maltese fleet had fallen in with the Algerine fleet, on the 4th of this month, about mid-day, near ten leagues from Messina, and a terrible engagement commenced between them. The ship Admiral was sunk in the heat of the engagement, and not one person saved. The Maltese lost two vessels, the one of which went to the bottom, the other was burned, besides three xebecs and a small galley. The Maltese fought with great ardour, and the pirates like men in despair; but it is not yet known on which side victory fell. Some here say, on the Maltese, others are afraid the Algerines conquered, as the Maltese fleet has come into harbour in a shattered condition, and without any prize. The loss to the Algerines, of men, amounts to 1800; the Maltese must have lost also a great number, as their crews were very numerous.

L I S B O N, January 2.

The negotiations for a peace with the Algerines, in the manner of that of Spain, are about to be begun; and Mr. Landefret, who is charged with the business, is to go to Algiers.

M A D R I D, January 8.

An express has arrived at Carthage from Algiers, with an account of the plague having broken out at Constantia with such violence as to spread the

alarm over all that part of the coast. The number of deaths was said to be from fifty to eighty in a day, and the consuls and other foreigners at Algiers had shut up their houses, and renounced all communication with the rest of the inhabitants.

**JAN. 16.** Our court has received intelligence from Carthage, that count d'Expilly and his suite are to sail with the first fair wind for Algiers. Between 10 and 12,000 rials de vellon are to be sent to Algiers as a ransom for the Spanish slaves, so that with this and the other sums which have been paid to that regency, it will appear that we have not bought the peace at a cheap rate.

L O N D O N, February 4.

By a letter from the Hague we learn, that a courier from the court of Madrid has just arrived there, with advices from the Cape of Good Hope, brought by a Spanish ship just arrived at Cadix, which mentions that two of the Dutch East-India company's ships have just arrived there from the Mauritius, with the intelligence of a revolt having happened there amongst the troops, which had been attended with the most fatal consequences.

Advices from Canton, in China, say, that two new quicksilver mines have been opened lately in that territory; in consequence of which that semimetal, which lately was exported to great advantage from Europe, fell near fifty per cent. and occasioned a considerable loss to the adventurers who carried it from this quarter of the globe.

Accounts have arrived from Dantzick, of the arrival in that city of two commissaries from Prussia to settle all affairs relative to ancient claims and restrictions.

Advices from the Hague mention several corps of the burghers having delivered up their arms with a pointed declaration in favour of the stadtholder.

A letter from Cadix, dated December 29, says, "The 23d and 24th inst. we experienced such a storm, or rather hurricane here, as has not been seen a long time; the sea broke in over almost half Cadix, and in the streets it may be said to rain salt water, from the spray. Since this we have received the most melancholy accounts of the number of vessels cast away. The captain of the Bay has had advice of upwards of 80 vessels and barks being lost from hence to Cape Tresfulgar, among which I am sorry to inform you, by papers drove on shore, that the Bilbao Packet, James Waye, jun. matter, from Galipoli to Bruges, with oil, is totally lost, and all on board perished. Nothing can be more distressing than to see the number of dead bodies and pieces of wrecks continually washing on shore. I assure you I never saw such a terrible and awful sight; the sea ran mountains high, threatening Cadix to be swallowed up every moment, which will certainly be the case, sooner or latter. I was on the cathedral, which is not twenty yards from the sea, and it was with difficulty I could stand, the spray continually passing over me. We have had no news as yet from the coast of San Lucar, which, as it is worse than that of Cape Tresfulgar, we expect to be very bad. There are missing out of this port, and Port St. Mary, 18 fishing boats, with upwards of 300 people on board, all supposed to have perished."

A letter from an English gentleman at Toulon has the following article: "They are very busy here in fitting out stout frigates to cruise against the pirates in the Mediterranean; they think that ships of this size are better for that service than those of the line. The pirates are become so daring that they cruise within sight of this harbour; if they are chased, by plying their oars they are almost sure of getting clear. However, two frigates, which were out at sea, suddenly bore down upon one of their galleys, which was lying off the harbour, took her, and brought her in here; and as the dey of Algiers sends all his prisoners into slavery, the French in this instance followed his example, having sent these men to the galleys, where they are to remain, unless the dey will exchange some French he has in slavery. The galley had on board a valuable cargo, of which they had plundered some ships. Provisions are very scarce here, and very bad, and the poor are in a wretched condition in all parts of France through which I have passed."

**GRANVILLE, (Massachusetts) March 6, 1787.**

On Friday last an ewe belonging to Mr. John Cows, of this town, brought forth a lamb and a puppy in perfect shape of a young dog, except his feet which were cloven, though of an extraordinary length; it measured from the end of his nose to the end of his back, two feet, his legs were in proportion, it was covered with very short slick hair.

**N E W - Y O R K, March 23.**

By a late arrival from Halifax, we are informed, that the winter in that frozen region has been the severest known there for many years; that the harbour of Halifax has been locked up by the ice for weeks past, and partly continues so; that many of the poor settlers, with all their exertions, have not been able the last season, to raise a sufficiency to carry them through so long and tedious a winter; their potatoes, on which they chiefly depended, are, in many families entirely consumed; and they must shortly be exposed to great difficulties, unless relieved by the hand of benevolence.

There is a singular instance of longevity exhibited in Montgomery county in this state. One William Copperrall being now living there, who was born in the year 1677, and is now 109 years old. This

old man has lived British sceptre; happiness to see the auspices of in those wilds, a short time since knowledge.

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By the PRESIDE

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April 3, 1787

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