

made of goods in October, 1780, when you were in their service under a per diem allowance, which were sold at a very short credit, and that the monies arising from the sales were to have been applied to the immediate relief of their dear children, (then in prison and dying daily for want of food and other nourishment) and for other very pressing purposes, mentioned in their order. But notwithstanding the clear and explicit direction given, which could not have been misunderstood, you took of these goods to the amount of £. 3095, and charged the same to A. L. who tendered certain notes for your benefit, not in the contemplation of your employers to have been paid out of their effects. And which if notice had been given that the goods were to have been sold for such notes, they would have commanded a much higher price than they did.

The case of Mr. Slee, as represented to me from undoubted authority before the sale of the property was thus circumstanced. He married the sister of captain Richardson, who settled him on the land referred to, and had promised to convey it to her, in consequence thereof Slee had made considerable improvements, and was equitably entitled to compensation for them. Under these circumstances, the land, without taking into consideration the improvements, was well sold at 45/ per acre. It would be well for the state, that your sales would be equally productive in proportion to the respective values of the property sold.

Since my last publication, I have inquired into the circumstances of the 80 acres of land sold by me to Lyon, who was entitled to a renewable lease for ever, his predecessor Christopher Jones, having complied with all the terms enjoined by the proprietary instructions to his agent, to entitle him to it, and Lyon supposed from an entry with Mr. Chew, the steward of Connaught manor, that he was also entitled to 40 acres more. I sold but 80 acres, and under these circumstances, it was well sold, the land is very poor, without wood, and would not, in all probability, if it had been valued, netted as much; but be this as it may, I did not think it justifiable to deviate from a general rule laid down, of letting those who were entitled to renewable leases have the lands on moderate terms. But the 80 acres was but of small consideration in the price, 47 acres of vacancy which lay between the tract sold and the river, and through which the canal runs, and which M'Neilly expected would be compounded for at 8/9 per acre, the price given for the 80 acres, together with a prospect of a situation for a town and a mill seat on the canal, and also having sold 100 acres of leased land to Mr. Hollyday for £. 800. (which before had been sold by a wealthy man for £. 140,) were the inducements to give such an extravagant price to Lyon.—The late steward has assured me, that under all circumstances, that the 80 acres would have been a very dear bargain at 11/3 per acre, or even 10/, and further adds, that no person but M'Neilly who had made a gainful bargain of his own lands just before, would have given any thing like the price he did.

I do not conceive that the lands in Cecil, Baltimore, or Harford counties, can come properly under the description of a sale; the possessors were to compound for them at a reasonable and moderate value, without estimating the improvements, and if this value was not ascertained between the tenants and landlord, persons were to be called in to value the land on oath; whatever they said the land was worth, was to be conclusive.—The barrens of Baltimore and Harford were valued from eighteen-pence to 5/, the average price not 2/9 per acre.

In Cecil county it was the opinion of reputable men, upon oath, that the lands of tenants in possession ought not to be valued to more than 20d current money per acre, and this you know was Mr. Job and Mr. Bond's valuation on oath of 20 acres of land in the possession of Messrs. Parker, Oglevee, and Murray, and which I might with equal propriety, say, the commissioners sold them for 33/4 currency, which sale the intendant set aside, and afterwards sold the said 20 acres to the same persons for £. 150, which was 90 times more than the sale by the commissioners; but it does not follow they were to blame, any more than the intendant, the hands of both being tied up; but he having the power of control over the commissioners transactions, not only set the above sale aside, but several hundreds more, by which the state gained upwards of £. 15,000.

Whether your bare assertion, that you had refused the charge that the commissioners had received £. 1146 4 specie for commission, instead of that sum in red money, must be submitted to the judgment of those who have examined your commission and per diem account, wherein this sum is credited, and let them recollect before a decision is past, that the commissioners per diem allowances, except the sum of £. 50, were all paid before the articles of credit making up that sum, was given, and if (as I formerly observed) you paid 10, and expended for the state, the sum of £. 1,186 4 0 specie, then it ought not to have been set off against the per diem account, because that account was paid off, nor against the article of commission, because that money was

The case of Colonel Ramsay, who purchased in the name of Aquila Johns, of the property belonging to Fosterell's heirs, and James Christie, and then tendered depreciation certificates in payment, instead of paying specie, which the act directed to be remitted for the relief of our prisoners, then languishing in a prison ship at New-York.

received when no commission was due, or if due, it ought to have been credited at two for one, as I have observed in a former publication, and as it has, it ought to be struck out, or the expeditores charged in the account, and if either of these is done, the balance due you, will appear to be £. 3,410 15 8, instead of the sum of £. 2,224 11 8. You observe, that the "commissioners account, as published by me, contains charges and credits which do not relate to commission, and that the 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 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." But how happened it that such capital sums should have been omitted for years? And how came it to pass that the account of expences were not charged with the various expenditures, and the cash account credited for the monies disbursed? Instead of giving credit for £. 1,186 4 in your commission account, it was as easy for you after discovering these capital omissions, to have carried the debits and credits to the proper accounts, as improperly to have carried them to the commission account, which it had nothing to do with. It would puzzle you to give any other reason than the following: That had the commissioners made the proper entries, it would have appeared by the cash account, (if you had kept a regular one in your books) that instead of £. 587 3 4 being the balance of that account, the balance would have been £. 1773 7 4, and this would not have appeared so well, because the money ought to have been put into the treasury years before the settlement of the commissioners account, they being indebted much more to the state for property purchased and the money due, than their commissions could have possibly amounted to, and therefore there could not have been the smallest pretence for retaining the money in their hands.

As to the sum of £. 196 4 0 which you received of Mr. Lecompt, whether before or after taking bond, is of little consequence, you have credited the state for this money in the commission account, and if there be a mistake in the entry, you have made it and set me

You have decorated your last address with a motto in verse; I will, in answer to it, conclude this address with some lines from Churchill, full as applicable to you as your quotation was to me.

Bred to the law, he from the first
Of all bad lawyers was the worst;
Perfection (for bad men maintain,
In ill we may perfection gain)
In others is a work of time,
And they creep on from crime to crime;
He for a prodigy design'd
To spread amazement o'er mankind,
Started full ripen'd all at once,
A perfect knave, and perfect dunce.

DAN. of St THO. JENIFER.

L O N D O N, March 10.

LETTERS from Madrid mention, that the communication between Spain and Gibraltar is at last opened; and that it was not, by any means, the fault of the Spaniards that it has been so long shut up.

The French have formed an offensive and defensive alliance with the Porte; with Spain, which has covenanted to supply them with ten thousand horse; with Sardinia, with Sweden, and with Denmark.

March 20. The board of commissioners for inquiring into the American claims will be continued by another act, as they have not yet settled all the business. They are now busied in examining the most important case of all, that of Mr. Harford, whose claim amounts to 18,000l. a year; his immense estate in Maryland, with all the patronage, having been confiscated.

It is said, that a convention has lately been signed between their most catholic and christian majesties, relative to a mutual guarantee of trade and commerce in the West-Indies and America.

Extract of a letter from Arcutt, July 26, 1786.

"The Marattoes and Tipoo Saib are at war, and the company are rather afraid that it will cause a rupture between us and our old enemies the French, who have lately landed at Pondicherry and the Mauritius near 5000 troops from France; the Dutch have also ceded the harbour and fort of Trincomale to the French; so that they are gaining strength in this country every day; and should hostilities commence, there will be a violent contest, as they will strain every nerve to recover their former possessions. However, I trust our superiority by sea will enable us to cope with them.

"This country now wears the face of plenty; and should the peace continue a few years more, the company's finances will be in a flourishing state."

March 24. The return of the flatholder to Loo, is a matter finally decided on, preparatory to a reconciliation. The dragoons, Swiss guards, and other troops, which attend him at Nimeguen, have received orders to prepare their camp equipage, to form a camp at Loo, in the same manner they did last

year; and his highness and family go from Nimeguen the beginning of April.

A report was circulated upon 'Change yesterday, which was brought by the Dutch mail, and generally believed, that there had been a dreadful riot in Holland. The mob proceeded to outrages, in which several houses were demolished, and many obnoxious characters to the rioters have been very roughly treated; but the particulars have not yet publicly transpired.

The emperor of Morocco is reported to have made a very singular demand on our government, in consequence of the war subsisting between his Moorish majesty and the Maltese. He has sent an ambassador to Gibraltar to demand from our court two ships of 50, two of 60, and two of 70 guns, to be hired for an unlimited time, offering 150,000 piastres for the first year; that is to say, 100,000 piastres in ready money, and 50,000 in duties on fresh provisions, which the English shall have a right to load at Tetuan. The emperor's minister is to remain at Gibraltar till an answer arrives from the British court. This curious requisition will probably be the means of shutting the port of Tangiers, &c. against our cruisers in the Mediterranean, as it is impossible his majesty's ministers can comply with it.

B O S T O N, April 23.

It is with inexpressible sorrow we relate, that about sunset last Friday evening, a fire broke out in a malt-house belonging to Mr. William Pattee, near the Liberty Pole, at the south end of this town, and was attended with a destruction similar to which the inhabitants of this town have not experienced since the year 1760; the wind at N. E. blowing hard, carried the flakes of fire to a great height and distance, by which, the houses, being very dry, were set on fire in many places, as rendered it impossible to direct the exertions of the inhabitants to any point. The spire of the reverend Mr. White's meeting-house, situated at the distance of near 50 rods from the place where the devastation first began, was observed to be on fire at the ball just below the vane, in less than 15 minutes—a fire could not be extinguished by reason of its height, the fire falling therefrom, and from the houses then in flames, in a short time demolished that large edifice. In the direction of the wind for a space of 20 rods wide, the fire carried havoc as far as the building extended, crossing the main street, and destroying the buildings on one side from Mr. Knapp's to Mr. Bradford's; and on the other side from Mrs. Inche's to Mr. Osborn's.

There were several houses empty, which with the meeting-house, shops, barns and out houses may be computed at 100 buildings. Providentially no lives were lost.

Much praise is due to the inhabitants of Charlestown, Roxbury, Dorchester, Milton, Cambridge and Medford, for their very spirited and cheerful assistance with their engines, on this occasion.

Yesterday there were contributions for the above unfortunate sufferers, in every church in this town, when considerable sums of money were collected.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, May 3.

Extract of a letter from a house in Tortola, to a house in this city, dated April 7, 1787.

"A SCHOONER called here two nights ago and got a supply of provisions from us, which they paid for, and by a man they turned on shore on one of the quays, we find she was runaway with from Dominica—She is called the MARY ANN, and owned by either Alexander M'Kenzie or William Buoy, or by both of them, has three blacks and three whites on board. The pretended captain's name is M'DONALD, marked with the small-pox, a crippled hand, which we think is the left, wears his own hair short, brown complexion, about five feet nine inches high. The schooner appeared Virginia built. The informer says that they had 37 hogsheads of sugar, and one bale cotton on board at first, which they took in at Martinico for Dominica, they sold the cotton for provisions and after they got what supplies they stood in need of on shore, they bartered three of their hogsheads of sugar on board the shipping for other goods in the night. The captain promised us to bring his owner on shore next day to barter for his cargo, and said they were going a trading voyage to St. Domingo. It is uncertain whether the vessel may appear under English or French papers, as perhaps they have both. The captain and mate are said to be on shore at Dominica, we wish it may be the case. As this is a circumstance which commands every inquiry, we are well convinced from your goodness, your assiduity TO DETECT THE VILLIANS will not be wanting. If you should get any information, pray communicate it to Mr. Alexander M'Kenzie, Dominica, who, we do assure you, is a worthy character."

(The printers throughout the United States are requested to insert the above in their useful news-papers)

Extract of a letter from Newbury-Port, (Massachusetts) dated April 18.

"Last Saturday evening came to this town a Mr. Stewart, formerly mate of a brig belonging to Savannah, Captain Clark, commander, who informs, that they took in a cargo of tobacco at Alexandria, in Virginia, in 1784, bound therewith into the Mediterranean. Soon after they had passed Gibraltar, they were surrounded by three Algerine Corsairs, who took possession of their vessel and cargo, stripped the master, mate and seamen of every article of clothing and effects, and gave them in lieu thereof a