

dinances, which will secure the blessings intended for them by the happy constitution of government they have established. Of me they have a right to expect I shall exert the powers vested in me for their benefit and advantage, and it shall be my highest ambition not to disappoint them. To preserve, gentlemen, sacredly and inviolate, our constitution of government, to relieve as much as possible the burthens of the people, and to maintain a strict adherence to private and public justice, shall be the great object of my administration, and in the pursuit of them, I doubt not of your assistance and support, as well as those of all good men.

Having declared, gentlemen, my acceptance of the office to which I am elected, I am now ready to comply with the qualifying requisitions of the constitution.

JOHN HANCOCK.

His honour the lieutenant-governor then addressed the legislature as follows, viz.

I HAVE been informed by a very respectable committee of both houses, that you have been pleased to elect me to the office of lieutenant-governor for the year ensuing. I have a due sense of the honour you have conferred upon me in this appointment. I consider it as a mark of your esteem and confidence. It has been my constant aim, while I have had the honour of being employed in the public service, to consult, and to the utmost of my abilities to promote the best interests of the people; and it has afforded me the highest satisfaction, that my conduct has generally met their approbation. I am obliged to you for the polite manner in which you have acquainted me with this appointment. I now declare my acceptance of it, and you may rest assured, I shall endeavour to discharge the duties of this office with faithfulness and impartiality, and am ready to take the oaths and subscribe the declarations required by the constitution.

THOMAS CUSHING.

The reverend Peter Thacher, is re-chosen chaplain to both branches of the honourable the legislature.

BENNINGTON, May 7.

As many unfavourable allegations have been spread abroad, to injure the good people of Vermont, relative to their harbouring the insurgents of Massachusetts, the following transaction may serve to show our disposition not to encourage factious and rebellious fugitives, who have fled from justice.

ON Monday se'night, about 100 of the rebels from Massachusetts, who fled from justice, met at captain Calusha's, in Snaftsbury, in convention to agree on measures for continuing their opposition to that government. The authority of Snaftsbury being alarmed at such an illegal collection, immediately met, and demanded of the insurgents the occasion of their meeting. A committee, consisting of colonel Smith (who was appointed their president) and four others, were chosen to make answer to this demand, which was "that they were driven from their country, and had contented with a view of concerting measures whereby they might return and enjoy their properties," and on being duly questioned, they produced two letters, one from Shays and one from another of their principals, encouraging them to hold out and be spirited in their opposition for five weeks longer, and they might be assured of relief. Judge Olin, who acted as principal on the part of the authority, conducted with a spirit truly patriotic and noble. He informed them that if they were met for the purpose of petitioning the legal authority of Massachusetts for pardon and leave to return, that their proceedings would be deemed highly commendable; but if their views were hostile, and their business was to concert plans for committing depredations and continuing their opposition to that government, they must disperse immediately, for no such unlawful assembling could be allowed in Vermont. Colonel Smith answered, that the hopes of any advantage by petitioning was now at an end.

The sheriff of the county who had been previously notified was present, for the purpose of dispersing them in case they refused to withdraw. The rebels pleaded for leave to be by themselves for a few minutes, which was granted, after which they dispersed and proceeded immediately to White-creek, in the state of New-York, where we have understood there was a considerable body collected, who sit in convention from day to day without opposition.

The governor and council of Vermont have given the strongest assurances to his excellency governor Bowdoin, that in case the insurgents residing in this state, pursue any measures that are hostile, the most effectual measures shall be taken by the forces of this state for apprehending and delivering them up to his authority and punishment.

May 28. A young man from Brattleborough informs us, that as he was crossing the mountain on Tuesday last, he called at a landlord Thompson's in Wilmington, who told him that about an hour and a half previous to his coming in, Luke Day, and 7 or 8 men under arms, left his house and came on this way, with a justice of the peace belonging to Massachusetts, whom they kept as a prisoner, and threatened to execute him if those two men condemned to be hanged at Great-Barrington, on the 25th instant, are not set at liberty. Our informant further says, that he received the same information at several other places as he came on towards Bennington, but did not come up with the party or learn where they were going.

A L B A N Y, May 31.

We are authorized to inform the public that peace is again restored in the county of Berkshire; and that the reports which have circulated for some weeks past, that the insurgents, to the number of 6 or 800, had assembled with design of releasing the prisoners in confinement at Great-Barrington, are without foundation.

A paragraph has appeared in several of the newspapers in the United States, setting forth, That this state, in compliance with the late recommendations, of congress, had passed an act for repealing all laws and parts of laws, in force in this state, which militate against the treaty of peace with Great-Britain; but we are sorry to acquaint the public that no such act has ever passed our legislature.—We suppose that the paragraph here alluded to, must have been occasioned by a bill which passed the house of assembly, for the repeal of the said laws—but as this bill was not acted upon by the senate, it of consequence, did not become a law of the state.

Extra of a letter from Augusta, (Georgia) April 21.

"Tuesday last an express arrived here from doctor White, superintendent of Indian affairs for the southern district, now in the Creek nation, with dispatches for the honourable the executive of this state, said to contain the alarming intelligence of the Creek Indians intending to commit hostilities against the citizens of this state.

"We hear that doctor White, superintendent of Indian affairs, who returned here from the Creek nation on Saturday last, has appeased the minds of the Indians for the present."

POUGHKEEPSIE, May 30.

On Wednesday evening last a most shocking accident happened at the house of Mr. Jesse Oakly, merchant in the Nine Partners.—He having received five or six-quarter casks of gunpowder with other goods, and through hurry of business neglecting to secure the powder by conveying it from the store room, put it in a closet in one corner of it. Having several persons in the store with him, one of them taking a candle which had burnt in a manner to the snuff, and carelessly going to the closet, unobserved by Mr. Oakly, let what was left of the candle fall into one of the kegs, which taking fire instantly, blew up the whole—by which melancholy affair the person who had the candle was torn to pieces, and one who stood next to him was thrown through the window into the street, another carried into the cellar, and there buried in rubbish, and the remainder in the store very considerably burnt and bruised. We are however informed that they are all alive except the one who had the candle, though it is expected the person thrown into the street, and the one in the cellar will not recover—the rest are likely to do well, amongst whom is Mr. Oakly. We sincerely regret, that our merchants in general are too careless with this very dangerous article, and ardently wish this dreadful catastrophe may be duly regarded and be a sufficient warning to those who keep the article of gunpowder for sale. It appears to be very extraordinary, that the powder when going off, carried away the corner of the store in which it stood, and instead of taking its course upwards, went through the lower floor in the cellar, where the most damage was done, by starting several hogheads of liquor and half a dozen barrels of fish. The goods in the store were not so much damaged, though the loss to Mr. Oakly is supposed to be near five hundred pounds.

N E W - Y O R K June 1.

The following curious circumstance, which happened near Belfast, we are assured from good authority, is an absolute fact: A number of people were assembled at a house near Kilmore, to hear a Methodist preacher. A soldier and a trumpeter passing that way, on their road to Belfast, being much fatigued, on seeing a light, made up to the house; but, as the people within were engaged in singing psalms, they could not gain admittance; they were obliged to lay themselves down in some straw in a barn adjoining the room where the preacher was, and from which it was separated by a wall of but a few feet high. The preacher took his text from revelations, chapter viii, beginning at verse 6. describing "the seven angels sounding their trumpets, and there following hail mingled with blood, &c." In the midst of the preacher's harangue, hell, last trumpet, &c. when the feelings of his auditors were wrought up to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, the trumpeter founded a charge.—Every one thought it was the day of judgment—the preacher was so panic-struck that he dropped from the chair on which he was standing, flat on his face—the hearers were not less terrified: Some of them fell down in the same manner, afraid to look up, while men, women and children, tumbling over each other, in the greatest confusion, thought themselves happy in getting out with the loss of hats, wigs, cloaks, &c. In the mean time the trumpeter and soldier slipped off undiscovered, nor was it known from whence these sounds had proceeded, which occasioned so much confusion and dismay."

June 4. By the eastern mail received on Saturday evening, we learn, that Dr. Pomeroy and Mr. Metcalf, the two gentlemen carried off as hostages by the insurgents, have been released by them from an apprehension of their inability to hold them in defiance of the authority of Vermont, the magistracy of which state it seems, had issued warrants for apprehending,

the culprits; that about 800 of the insurgents from Massachusetts are scattered about in the woods and thin inhabited towns near Bennington; that they are awed by the authority there; that they sometimes meet together in small parties and soon disperse, some of them talk high and threaten hard; that the house of representatives of Massachusetts will be the fullest of any for many years past, and will consist of a large majority of men of firmness and integrity, who it is thought, will make great exertions for the common good; that there is the best representation from the county of Berkshire, that has been for many years; that on the 29th ult. agreeable to the orders of major-general Lincoln, the Boston regiment of militia, independent cadets, light infantry, and republican volunteers, underwent a critical inspection of arms, &c. by their respective officers; that several persons about a fortnight ago, were discovered in Andover, who have, for several months past, been employed in the lucrative business of making dollars, two of the number have become evidences against the rest; that on the 17th ult. as Mr. James Chappell, tender of a ferry-boat from the west side of Conanicut to Narragansett, Connecticut, was pushing off the bow of his boat, with an oar placed against the wharf, the oar slipped, and Mr. Chappell fell overboard and was drowned; that a martial spirit prevades all ranks of people of Massachusetts; and that the people in general arouse from that supineness and languor which has had a tendency to invite the attacks and insults of the seditious, lately offered to the laws and government of that commonwealth; that the insurgents are meditating plans for rescuing their brethren in sedition and rebellion, now under sentence of death; but their designs being known, proper measures were taken to counteract them.

Extra of a letter from a gentleman at Norfolk, to his friend in Petersburg.

"Accounts just received from Halifax, in Nova Scotia, inform of advice from England, relative to a prolongation of the powers granted to the commissioners, and also enlarges their commission, by allowing them to grant relief unto British subjects in the states, and who were there prior to the war, except only those who bore arms, those who did not, will be paid every shilling of property they have lost. A number of claims have been rejected that were offered the commissioners at Halifax; in consequence of which the king and council have declared, that every person offering surreptitious claims, who shall at any time be convicted thereof, shall be liable to the pains of pillory in some cafes, and in others to transportation to Botany-Bay. A large quantity of ordinance stores are arrived—many conjectures about their intentions. This place is sinking very fast in every shape, and from causes which cannot perfectly be ascertained. A prohibition has lately taken place upon all tobacco, and a variety of other enumerated articles. I trouble you with these lines for the information of our friends in the country."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, June 2.

The following melancholy accident shews that a tyger is not always deterred from approaching fire. A small vessel from Ganjem to Calcutta, being longer on her passage than was expected, ran out of provisions and water: being near the Sugar-Island, the Europeans, six in number, went on shore in search of refreshments, there being some cocoa nuts on the island, in quest of which they strayed a considerable way inland. Night coming on, and the vessel being at a distance, it was thought more safe to take up their night's lodging in the ruins of an old pagoda, than to return to the vessel. A large fire was lighted, and an agreement made, that two of the number should keep watch by turns, to alarm the rest in case of danger, which they had reason to apprehend from the wild appearance of the place. It happened to fall to the lot of one Danfon, late a silversmith and engraver in Calcutta, to be one of the watch. In the night, a tyger darted over the fire upon this unfortunate young man, and in springing off with him, struck its head against the pagoda, which made it and its prey rebound upon the fire, on which they rolled over one another once or twice before he was carried off. In the morning the thigh bones and the legs of the unfortunate victim were found at some distance, the former stript of its flesh, and the latter shockingly mangled.

A strict calculation has lately been made in Massachusetts of the number of inhabitants in that state, by which it appears that exclusive of a considerable portion of persons not rateable, there has been an increase of 28,000 freeholders, since the last calculation in the year 1772, when the amount was 72,000. In so short a period as 15 years, ten of which have been consumed in a destructive war, this seems an almost incredible multiplication of the human species.

There is no situation which admits of perfect content. The husbandman who lately deplored the drought of the season, is now as anxiously dissatisfied with the continuance of rain, which has indeed been considerably injurious in the neighbourhood of this city.

A few days ago a young man in Chester-county, being violently afflicted with the tooth-ach, applied to a neighbour for advice, and was recommended to extract the aching tooth and to furnish himself with another from some dead man's skull. He accordingly repaired to Brandywine, and opening the grave of a Hessian who had been killed and buried there, in lifting the head, a considerable number of guineas,