

the propriety and importance at all times of a sincere and vigorous co-operation.

We are taught by the constitution to rely on the militia for our general defence. On sudden emergencies it is certainly our only resource; it is therefore at all times important, but especially now, to place them on the most respectable footing.

My duty for the last twelve months has called me, in conjunction with the council, often to deliberate on this subject; it would be criminal in this crisis of our public affairs to withhold from the legislature its derangements and imbecility.

In various parts of the state indeed a spirit of patriotism has displayed itself, and the zeal and intelligence of the officers have surmounted the defects of the system; but such temporary effects are not to be relied on. The safety of a community ought not to depend upon the voluntary effusions of a few patriotic men. The law must govern and invigorate the whole mass. To answer this important and necessary purpose, it is indispensable that it be revised in all its parts, and ample powers given to produce order, discipline and obedience.

All men are now satisfied of the propriety of putting the country in a complete state of defence; and in case of actual war, or a remote expectation of it, it would be unbecoming the wisdom of the legislature to trust the peace and safety of the country on the present weak and defective system. Menaced as we are from abroad by a brave, intelligent and enterprising nation, this subject is all important; and in the deliberations of the legislature, all others ought to yield to it, as of inferior moment.

Attached to this subject, is the condition of our arsenals. Their present state, and the conduct of past legislatures, would induce a belief, that they really considered themselves as exempt in all future times from the calamities of war.

Arms and ammunition are indispensable; in times of profound peace, a certain proportion of both are proper; it is peculiarly so now; and while it is possible that our altars, or any portion of our social happiness, may in any degree depend on these things, no rational man, it is hoped can doubt what course to pursue.

It appears important that the earliest and most unremitting attention of the legislature should be bestowed on these subjects, and a supply of both speedily procured.

Expenditures on these articles are not lost, they are of a durable nature; and if from a display of animated and united councils, together with vigorous preparations for war, we should fortunately escape the present desolating scene, which is laying waste the fairest portion of Europe, still they will be useful on future occasions, and will remain a standing monument how much the peace and safety of a country depend on a prepared condition for war.

It was greatly desired by the Executive to complete the quota of men under the late call of the President of the United States. Orders from the commander in chief, before I came into office, and since, have been often but ineffectually repeated. It was finally determined to send the adjutant-general to various parts of the state, to try the effect of his official influence and exertions; various returns were procured in consequence of this measure, but the business is still incomplete, and will continue to be so till the system is radically improved. By those who are best acquainted with military subjects, an adjutant-general's office, upon a respectable footing, is essential. His residence ought to be at the seat of government, and his emoluments adequate to a suitable maintenance. In revising the militia system this subject will, no doubt, receive due attention.

It is with great deference that I call your serious attention to these important measures of defence; it may be thought unbecoming in an individual to press what is so obvious to the understandings of all. I shall, however, rely upon the seriousness of the times, the great deficiency of all military articles, the solicitude which an high public officer may be permitted to express for the general welfare, and, above all, the dangerous and embarrassing imbecility, as well as the utter insufficiency of the militia system, for my justification.

It was early foreseen, that the principles upon which our constitution was originally founded, and the spirit of the times, would have a discomposing influence on the minds of a certain species of property among us.

To these powerful and operating causes have been added the establishment of certain self-created societies; the practices of individuals among some religious orders of men, have also combined to hasten the fulfilment of this prediction; its effects are now in operation, and daily felt, and the magnitude of the evil calls for all the aid and circumspection which it is in the power of the legislature to exercise.

The deficiency of this subject renders it inexpedient to descend to particulars; it however appears not improper to remark, that while the laws of a great portion of the union countenance this kind of property, self-created societies, and individuals of certain religious orders of men among us, ought not, of their own motion, and without authority, to set up their own judgments in opposition to the sealed order of things.

The height to which these matters are carried by individuals in some of the neighbouring states, call for a speedy remedy.

A candid representation from the highest authority in the state, or a deputation from the two houses, would no doubt produce salutary effects, both on public bodies and private individuals.

As to those classes of men among ourselves, and who reside within the limits of the state, the laws can be framed to reach their delinquencies. The pro-

priety of bestowing early and serious attention on this subject, is, with great deference, submitted to your consideration.

An early practice, now sanctioned by a positive law, requires the chief magistrate, in cases where a sentence of death is passed, to issue a warrant for the execution of the criminal. Trials of this kind are often remote from the seat of government, where the parties and the circumstances attending their cases are wholly unknown to the governor. It is difficult, however ardently it may be desired, to procure impartial information, and it can seldom be had, except from the judges themselves.

A record is forwarded to the executive containing a naked sentence of death. Is it possible in such a case that he can exercise, with due deliberation, the authority with which he is constitutionally invested? Can he intuitively determine whether it is proper to execute or meliorate the sentence of the law? The difficulty is felt. It is thought, and humbly suggested, that the judges before whom the trial is had ought to be enjoined, either to state the circumstances of the case, and the department of the criminal, or to express their opinion on the propriety of executing or of extending mercy to the criminal.

Since the legislature was last assembled, some resolutions have been received from the state of Massachusetts, respecting the dangerous tendency of foreign influence, and proposing an alteration in the constitution of the United States in this respect, which are now submitted to your consideration.

No one will seriously contend that there is any physical virtue in the spot of earth which gave us birth, and yet all will readily acknowledge, that without the exercise of our reason, and, indeed, independently of it, it produces a predominant affection and preference in its favour, which no time, nor scarcely any circumstances, will eradicate; and from hence arises the exclusion of foreigners from the affairs of nations to which they are not allied by their birth.

The experience of our own times, and the history of past ages, equally assure us of the propriety and truth of this practice.

That philosophy, however flattering to the pride of human nature, which teaches men to look upon themselves as citizens of the world, and who, when they are asked where their country lies, will point with their fingers to the Heavens, is too loose and universal for the present age, and will for ever endanger the firmest structure which human ingenuity can devise.

The country from which we derive our origin, and indeed all the kingdoms of Europe with which we are best acquainted, have, from the most remote antiquity, fostered this passion. It has, in some degree, contributed to their grandeur and security. It is therefore no wonder that the prejudices of education should be put on its side, and the mind early impressed with its truth and importance.

Seeing then how guarded most nations have been upon this subject, and telling the truth of it by the short experience which we ourselves have had, we have sufficient reason to be satisfied, that it is either too late or too early to support such systems of liberality. However exalted the virtue or distinguished the talents of an individual may be, and however worthy of public confidence, yet it is nevertheless true, that in general it is unwise to trust the high concerns of a nation to men not born within its limits.

My own mind has long been satisfied on this subject, and it appears salutary to carry the Massachusetts resolves into effect.

By a resolution of both houses, the governor was directed to transmit a copy of our laws to the executive of each state. This desirable measure I was not able to execute, from the impossibility of procuring the acts of some sessions. It was thought therefore advisable to wait till a complete copy could be procured.

I was early made sensible of the propriety of passing an order in favour of Charlotte-Hall School. This fostering care of the legislature, while it does honour to the individuals concerned, is most certainly useful to the country at large; and if I may be permitted to express an opinion, there is no subject on which the public money can be so usefully expended as on institutions similar to Charlotte-Hall School, which brings a certain part of a liberal education within the resources of men of moderate fortunes.

From an early period of my life I have participated in the councils of my country, and it is not without reluctance that I now separate myself from them; and this indeed I cannot well do without looking back upon the various and interesting scenes which have passed, and of expressing, with gratitude and great respect, my obligations to my fellow-citizens. My heart, and its best affections, are devoted to their happiness, and will continue to be so to the end of my life.

Should my name therefore be presented to you for the purpose of filling the station which I now enjoy, you will be pleased not to receive it, as it is my determination to become a private citizen.

I have the honour to be,
With sentiments of great respect,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN HENRY,
The honourable The GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

On Monday last the general assembly, agreeably to the constitution and form of government, proceeded to the election of a governor, in the room of John Henry, Esquire, who resigned, and appointed the hon. Thomas-Sim Lee, Esquire, who declined accepting the appointment, and yesterday they proceeded to a new election, when the hon. Benjamin Ogles, Esquire, was elected and qualified as governor.

Arthur Sheeff, John Davidson, James Brice, James Thomas and Jonathan Wilmer, Esquires, are chosen a council to the governor.

A commencement for conferring degrees in St. John's college was held at the college-hall, on the 9th instant, before a numerous and respectable audience, consisting of the legislature of the state, and the ladies and gentlemen belonging to the city.—After prayer to the Supreme Being by the vice-principal, and a prayer oration in Latin by the principal, the exercises were performed in the following manner:

1. A Latin Salutatory Oration, by Mr. John Rumsey, of Harford, Maryland.
2. An Oration on the advantages of Commerce, by Mr. William Potts, of Frederick, Maryland.
3. An Oration on the advantages of the Study of History, by Mr. John Claude, of Annapolis.
4. An Oration on the happy effects of Religion, both on Individuals and Society, by Mr. William Campbell, of Frederick, Maryland.
5. An Oration in praise of the Newtonian Philosophy, by Mr. Alexander Hammett, of Maryland.
6. An Oration on the advantages of Representative government, by Mr. John T. Lomax, of Virginia.
7. An Oration on Patriotism, by Mr. John H. Thomas, of Frederick, Maryland.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts was then conferred on Messrs. John Rumsey, William Potts, John Claude, William Campbell, Alexander Hammett, John T. Lomax, John H. Thomas, John L. Kerr, and also on James D. Lowry, of Alexandria, and William Donaldson, of Maryland, who unfortunately were prevented from attending the commencement with their fellow-graduates.

8. A Valedictory Oration, by Mr. John L. Kerr, of Easton, Maryland.

The principal then concluded the business of the day with an address to the graduates, respecting their future conduct in life, expressing his wishes for their prosperity and usefulness; and commending them to the care of the Almighty Governor of the Universe.

It would be injustice to the young gentlemen not to observe, that they appeared to acquit themselves well to the satisfaction of the polite and judicious audience that honoured them by attending on the occasion.

* * The oration delivered by Mr. John Hanson Thomas at the commencement of St. John's College, on the 9th instant, will be inserted in our next.

To be SOLD, at PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday the 25th of November, instant,

TWO large brick HOUSES, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the city of Annapolis, on Blossbury Square, one of them lately occupied by WILLIAM COOKE, Esq; the other lately occupied by Mr. JUB FOWLER. The said property is subject to a ground rent of thirty shillings sterling per annum, and have forty-eight years of the lease unexpired from January next
WILLIAM WHETCROFT.

JOSEPH WYATT,

Has for Sale,

A FEW DRY GOODS and GROCERIES, which he will make as low as possible.
Annapolis, November 15, 1798.

To be SOLD, on Friday the 23d of this inst. at the late dwelling of JOHN GARDNER, of Anne-Arundel county, deceased,

ALL the PERSONAL PROPERTY of said deceased, consisting of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, with some household furniture, &c.

All persons having claims against said estate are desired to exhibit them, legally attested, on the day of sale, which will begin at 11 o'clock, and for CASH only.
ELIZABETH GARDNER, Administratrix.

I WILL SELL, on moderate terms, several small tracts of LAND, within two miles of the city of Annapolis. For terms apply to
JOHN HESSELIUS.
Primrose Hill, November 10, 1798.

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE.

THE COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE will sit from nine o'clock every morning until three o'clock in the afternoon.
By order,
R. K. WATTS, Clk.

By the COMMITTEE of CLAIMS.
THE COMMITTEE of CLAIMS will sit every day, during the present session, from nine o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon.
By order,
S. MAYNARD, Clk.

Six Dollars Reward.

WAS lost, on the 3d instant, going from Annapolis to Upper-Marlborough, two silver CRUETS, belonging to a set of castors, old fashioned, they are marked B. T. in a cypher. Six dollars shall be paid to any person who will deliver them to Mr. WHARF, in Annapolis, or three dollars for each of them. The silver-smiths are desired to stop them in their hands if offered for sale.
November 4, 1798.