

We can upon the best authority assert, our government has received explicit and satisfactory assurances, that the ministers of his Britannic majesty have given no authority, commission, instruction, or promise of support to W. A. Bowles, and that his hostile practices among the Indians, have been without their knowledge.

RICHMOND, September 16.

The account we gave in our last, relative to the conspiracy of the negroes in this town and the adjacent counties, was only an incorrect and hasty sketch, the minutiae of this diabolical plot not having then come to light. But since the evidence, upon which the criminals were condemned, and their confessions since, have been detailed to us, we find that the ground for public alarm was extremely serious. The plan of operations to be pursued by the conspirators, as it comes out in evidence on the trials, were formed by two Frenchmen (as yet unknown) in this place—and every Frenchman in the general massacre of the whites that was meditated, was to have been spared. Their object was to have seized on the magazine of arms, &c. deposited at the penitentiary-house, on the treasury, &c. and to have commenced an indiscriminate slaughter (the French only excepted). They were then to have issued a proclamation to the negroes to come and rally round their standard at the metropolis. Had they succeeded in their attempt (which was happily frustrated by the deluge of rain that fell and rendered the water-courses impassable on the evening fixed on for the execution of their scheme) it is hardly possible to say how extensive and how terrible might have been its consequences.—There appears to have been great exertions among the conspirators immediately in this neighbourhood, and from papers found on some of them, it would seem that a correspondence was carried on with Philadelphia, as well as with the towns of Petersburg, Norfolk, &c. in this state.—From the whole complexion, however, of this daring project, it is evident that the French principle of liberty and equality has been infused into the minds of the negroes, and that the incautious and intemperate use of these words by some whites amongst us, have inspired them with the hopes of success. What effects this awful business will have on the public mind, must depend on the calm reflection of our countrymen.

Last Friday five of the negroes concerned in the conspiracy, and condemned the day before to be hanged, were executed at the gallows, near this city, pursuant to their sentence. Yesterday five more were executed at the same place, pursuant to their sentence. Several others have received sentence of death, and will be executed in a few days. The trials are still going on.

BALTIMORE, September 19.

The citizens of Philadelphia, at a meeting at the state-house, on the 17th instant, appointed a number of persons in each ward of the city and liberties, for the purpose of collecting charitable donations for the relief of the distressed indigent of this city, Norfolk and Providence, (R. I.)

The governor of the province of West-Florida has issued a proclamation, offering FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS to any person who will deliver in Apalache, the body of WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOWLES, or else produce sufficient proof of having killed him.

Annapolis, September 25.

We are authorized and requested by the honourable Jeremiah T. Chafe, to publish the following articles for the information of the people.

Extract from the address of President Adams to congress in March, 1797.

"EMPLOYED in the service of my country abroad, during the whole course of these transactions, I first saw the constitution of the United States in a foreign country. Irritated by no literary altercation, unimposed by no public debate, heated by no party animosity, I read it with great satisfaction, as a result of good heads, prompted by good hearts; as an experiment, better adapted to the genius, character, situation and relations of this nation and country, than any which had ever been proposed or suggested. In its general principles and great outlines, it was conformable to such a system of government, as I had ever most esteemed, and in some states, my own native state in particular, had contributed to establish. Claiming a right of suffrage in common with my fellow-citizens, in the adoption or rejection of a constitution which was to rule me and my posterity, as well as them and theirs, I did not hesitate to express my approbation of it, on all occasions, in public and in private. It was not then, nor has been since, any objection to it, in my mind that the executive and senate were not more permanent. Nor have I ever entertained a thought of promoting any alteration in it, but such as the people themselves, in the course of their experience should see and feel to be necessary or expedient and by their representatives in congress and the state legislatures according to the constitution itself adopt and ordain.

"Returning to the bosom of my country, after a painful separation from it, for ten years, I had the honour to be elected to a station under the new order of things, and I have repeatedly laid myself under the most serious obligations to support the constitution. The operation of it has equalled the most sanguine expectations of its friends; and from an habitual attention to it, satisfaction in its administration and delight in its effects upon the peace, order, prosperity and happiness of the nation, I have acquired an habitual attachment to it, and veneration for it.

"What other form of government indeed can so well deserve our esteem and love."

Certificate of Mr. Peregrine Fitzbush, a gentleman of unquestionable veracity, honor and integrity.

In a conversation which took place a few months after the late election for president and vice-president of the United States, Mr. Jefferson expressed to me the great satisfaction he felt at the choice of president having devolved on Mr. Adams instead of himself; observing at the same time that he was undoubtedly the most proper person, having the confidence of both houses of congress, which would probably not have been the case with himself, and that the charge of Mr. Adams's being a monarchist, however it might have served to answer an electioneering purpose, was totally unfounded; that he had been in habits of the strictest intimacy with him for more than fifteen years, during which time a regular and confidential correspondence had been kept up betwixt them, and that he could with great truth pronounce Mr. Adams to be as firm and decided a republican as ever lived.—In giving this certificate I derive additional pleasure from the hope that it may tend to rescue Mr. Jefferson from the unmerited charge exhibited against him by some of his friends, that the high encomiums which he passed on Mr. Adams's character in his speech on assuming the office of vice-president, were not his real sentiments, but the effect of mere compliment.

PEREGRINE FITZBUSH.

Annapolis, Sept. 9th, 1800.

Extract of a letter from general Washington to Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, dated Mount Vernon the 2d of August, 1798.

"Although I highly approve of the measures taken by government to place this country in a posture of defence, and even wish they had been more energetic; and shall be ready to obey its call under the reservations I have made, whenever it is made; yet I am not without hope, mad and intoxicated as the French are, that they will pause before they take the last step.—That they have been deceived in their calculations on the division of the people and the powerful support they expected from their party, is reduced to a certainty; though it is somewhat equivocal still, whether that party, who have been the curse of this country, and the source of the expences we have to encounter may not be able to continue their delusion.—What pity it is this expence could not be taxed upon them."

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

GENERAL SMITH has attended almost every public meeting in his own county, and even several in ours. At most of these he has addressed the people, and amused them with pretty stories out of that ancient well known book, called *Aesop's Fables*. One that I well remember is the Horse and the Stag, which, on the account of the general, I am sorry to say, happens not to be very applicable. The man went not to the horse, requesting him to give up part of his liberty for his own good; no, no, the horse came to the man, craving his assistance, not for the purpose of doing himself any real service, but through a motive of revenge, to destroy his adversary the stag. I am afraid that some of my fellow countrymen in the opposition, are likewise actuated by revenge and disappointed ambition, and, to gratify these vicious passions, would destroy not their own liberties, (as they vainly imagine,) but that of the people. For this purpose they have attempted every thing to mislead the people.

The part of the story which was intended to alarm the public mind, is where the horse was unable to recover his liberty after his adversary was subdued, and was obliged to become a slave to the man. Could this apply to the people of Maryland, it would be sufficient to terrify; but as one of the thousands of sovereigns that inhabit this state, I have no apprehensions from a change in the mode of choosing electors of president and vice-president. The change is warranted by the constitution; it depends therefore only upon the people; and the people are about to make the change in the persons of their representatives, for the purpose of continuing in the presidential chair the man of their choice. But it is insinuated that we are to lose for ever the right of choosing electors, if we for once give up the darling privilege. What I do not choose the electors when we annually choose the representatives? Aye, but we do not elect them immediately ourselves. If the mode intended to be adopted be good, in the name of God let it continue. And if this mode be abused or more liable to abuse than the one we have at present, the people surely have it in their power to return to the old one, when they can choose the legislature who make the laws. I hear it, however, whispered on each side of me, that the senate can prevent this law from being repealed. This I acknowledge to be true; yet the senators themselves are to be elected every five years, and they know it too; they will not then act in contradiction to the will of the majority, when that is once generally known and correctly ascertained. Besides, it is contemplated in the ensuing congress to propose an amendment to the constitution, providing an uniform district election of electors over the whole union, which will be a measure so just and proper, that it cannot fail of being adopted; and it is well known that the constitution of the United States is paramount to all state laws and state constitutions. Suppose, however, that this should not be done, and that the law could not be repealed; suppose too, (what, I am sure, can never happen,) that poor Mr. John Adams should lose the confidence of the people of this state, and that they should consider Mr. Thomas Jefferson as the only fit person to preside at the helm of our national bark; suppose all this to happen, and yet the people of Maryland will have it in their power to

to place such a number in the house of representatives as to ensure Mr. Jefferson's election, and by that means turn the tables upon the Federalists. Then then the majority will rule; surely the opposition will not oppose this! they will not pretend to say, that the minority ought to dictate to the majority; if they do, they will throw off the mask entirely, and show themselves equal to Marat and Robespierre of France, who also called themselves THE FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE.

Having digressed thus far, I mean now to return to my subject. General Smith attempted to amuse the people with several pretty stories, as I have before related, and, I am told, met with a good deal of success. Now, as I consider myself a good hand at telling stories, and am moreover desirous of the favour of the public, which it would be my happiness to obtain honestly, I will even follow general Smith's example. Having now explained my intention, I will also promise, that I mean not to say a word concerning the merits or demerits of Mr. Adams or Mr. Jefferson; they have been ably handled by other writers; and I should have said nothing about the contemplated change, had it not been to shew how little applicable the Horse and Stag were to the subject. Neither will I make the applications, nor explain the morals, of my stories, leaving these things to my sensible readers, who, I am sure, will be sufficiently capable of the task.

Such of my fellow-citizens as are discontented with the present government, because it is not perfect, and on that account wish for a change, I beg to attend to the following tale. "An hungry spaniel, having stolen a piece of flesh from a butcher's shop, was carrying it across a river. The water being clear, and the Sun shining brightly, he saw his own image in the stream, and fancied it to be another dog with a more delicious morsel; upon which, unjustly and greedily opening his jaws to snatch at the shadow, he lost the substance."

I would crave the attention of these men likewise to the following tale, and intreat them to be cautious, for fear they might meet with the same fate. "The commonwealth of frogs, a discontented, variable race, weary of their government, and fond of change, petitioned Jupiter to grant them a king. The thunderer, in his wrath, sent them a crane, who, no sooner took possession of his new dominions, than he began to devour his subjects, one after another, in a most capricious and tyrannical manner. They were now far more dissatisfied than before; when applying to Jupiter again, they were dismissed with this reproof, that the evil they complained of they had imprudently brought upon themselves, and that they had no other remedy now but to submit to it with patience.

What I have now to relate, ought to confirm the people in their caution, as it shews how apt we are to change. "A herdsman misfed a young heifer out of his grounds, and after having diligently sought for it in vain, when he could by no other means gain intelligence of it; betook himself at last to his prayers. Great Jupiter, said he, shew me but the villain who has done me this injury, and I will give thee in sacrifice the finest kid from my flock. He had no sooner uttered his petition, than, turning the corner of a wood, he was struck with the sight of a monstrous lion, preying on the carcase of his heifer. Trembling and pale, O Jupiter, cried he, I offered thee a kid, if thou wouldst grant my petition; I now offer thee a bull, if thou wilt deliver me from the consequence of it.

To those people who complain of the taxes, and the other burthens of government, I address this story. "A fox, closely pursued by a pack of dogs, took shelter under the covert of a bramble. He rejoiced in this asylum; and, for a while, was very happy; but soon found, that if he attempted to stir he was wounded by thorns and prickles on every side. However, making a virtue of necessity, he forbore to complain; and comforted himself with reflecting, that no bliss is perfect; that good and evil are mixed, and flow from the same fountain. These briars, said he, will tear my skin a little, yet they keep off the dogs. For the sake of the good then, let me bear the evil with patience; each bitter has its sweet; and these brambles, though they wound my flesh, preserve my life from danger."

Many little dirty stories have been spread through the union to the prejudice of Mr. John Adams, which, upon investigation, have proved as false as the hearts of their inventors and propagators are malicious. Those people who may have heard these stories, but have been kept ignorant of their constitution, I earnestly pray to attend to the following recital. "A farmer, who had just stepped into the field to mend a gap in one of his fences, found, at his return, the cradle where he had left his only child asleep, turned upside down, the cloaths all torn and bloody, and his dog lying near it, besmeared also with blood. Immediately conceiving that the creature had destroyed his child, he instantly dashed out his brains with the hatchet in his hand when turning up the cradle, he found his child unharmed, and an enormous serpent lying dead on the floor, killed by that faithful dog, whose courage and fidelity in preserving the life of his son deserved another kind of reward. These affecting circumstances afford him a striking lesson, how dangerous it is too hastily to give way to the blind impulse of sudden passion."

The Federalists, the true friends of the constitution and the administration, but who are divided about Mr. Adams and Mr. Pinkney, I have this story to tell. "A lion and a tiger jointly seized on a young fawn, which they immediately killed. This they had no sooner performed, than they fell fighting in order to decide whose property it should be. The battle was so bloody and so obstinate, that they were both com-