

...deliberating whether they should accept the bribe and release him... Were there not other subjects which would demand consideration at that moment? And he had shown them a passport from Arnold—might they not be expected to express their mutual conviction that his guilt was clearly proved by his attempt to corrupt them, notwithstanding his being in possession of that paper? Would they not naturally give their tolerance to their astonishment at his being furnished him, and consider whether it would be more prudent to inform Arnold of the arrest, or to commit their captive to the custody of some other officer? It is extraordinary that a consultation of this kind should have been carried on in a tone of voice which could not be overheard by the prisoner. Whether these were the thoughts which occupied their minds, cannot now be ascertained; it seems, however, extremely probable. But whether their attention was engaged by these, or by other reflections, the circumstance of their conferring with one another, affords not the slightest presumption of their guilt, because as there were three of them, an interchange of opinion was absolutely necessary before any measure whatever could be adopted. But there are other circumstances which furnish such strong presumption of their innocence, as to remove all room for doubt. If their motive for rejecting the proffered reward had been that they considered it too small, is it credible that during their whole conversation with Major Andre not a single word should have been uttered in the subject? No enquiry made respecting the magnitude of his treasures, no hint given that a larger sum would accomplish his design? Would any thing have been easier than to have detained him a hostage among the fastnesses of the highlands until he sent to New-York and procured whatever sum they thought proper to demand? The suggestion that they expected a more liberal reward from Congress than could be obtained from the British, is as preposterous as it is generous. They knew that if the service were of sufficient moment to attract the attention of America, it must be equally important to England, and no child in the United States could have been ignorant that in a contest of expenditure between the two nations, Great Britain must be successful. Her superior wealth was clearly manifested by the numerous fleets which lined our shores, and the appointed armies that desolated our country: whilst our poverty was too painfully evident from the wretched and squalid appearance of our militia, and from the total inability of Congress to pay a cent to feed them. The criminal motives then of Paulding, Williams, and Van Wart, are proved by the wild and extravagant conjectures or an enemy, of a fellow countryman more fitly bent on their destruction than any enemy could possibly be. On the other hand, every rational inference that can be drawn from their conduct, the unimpeachable character which they have sustained through life, and the oath of a man now tottering on the brink of eternity, combine to furnish evidence of their innocence, which is absolutely irresistible. What then must be thought of the man who could coolly and liberally make so cruel an attack without evidence and without provocation? He must incur the merited and indignant reprobation of the American people. Nor can any thing restore him to the station from which he has fallen, but prompt and unqualified retraction of his charges, and the fullest reparation to the venerable patriot whose feelings have been so cruelly wounded. With the solemn oath which he owes to his conscience and his God, I do not presume to meddle. Of that, heaven must judge.

...eso men of being as often in the camp of the enemies of their country, as in our own; of being benighted not only of patriotism, but of common honesty and honour; of belonging to that detestable gang usually known by the name of Cow-boys. He charged them, in effect, therefore, with being the vilest of thieves and robbers; and in doing so, represented general Washington and the Congress as bestowing the public praise and the public bounty upon wretches, utterly base and contemptible on mere motives of policy. There is, in this attempt, an intrepidity worthy of a better cause; but at the same time a rashness which he will never cease to repent. Col. Tallmadge has endeavored to tear the first leaf from our history, and to deprive the yeomanry of our country of a theme in which they are proud, and of an example whose influence is not less extensive and important, than was that of the immortal William Tell. If he has done so, when there was the least probability that he might be in an error; he could never upon the reflection justify himself. But if he has done so upon slight, upon very slight grounds; not from his own knowledge, but from the calumnies of the envious, and the mere suspicions of an enemy, he has incurred a responsibility, which he must set, a responsibility from which he personal respect with which he ought not to protect him, nor general coincidence of political opinion to release him. Upon what grounds did the colonel accuse these men of being cow-boys? of being as often in the enemy's camp, as in our own? Did he know the facts? If he did, he must have seen them steal; he must have seen them in the enemy's camp; but he does not pretend this. That then is the evidence of these facts? At most hearsay—which might indeed be true—but it might so, as in fact it was, false.—This evidence was assuredly too weak, for the charge he advanced against men whose service had certainly been important and who, present, were not in a condition to justify themselves. The colonel is a Christian. Did he here observe the golden rule? The colonel has his enemies; how would he feel, if his community should judge of his character, by their calumnies. The utmost that can be said in allusion to Col. Tallmadge's conduct, is that he believed what he said to be true. He believed them to be Cow-boy plunderers, because he heard so! He believed they would have permitted Andre to proceed, if he had had more to give them, because Andre said he was of that opinion!—Upon such grounds the colonel employed the weight of his character, and the authority of his place, to consign to infamy the three men who had saved West Point and the army! There is not a court of justice in Christendom which would not spurn such evidence. There can therefore be no fear that it will be received by a grateful people. And thus we are fully persuaded that nothing has appeared to put the accused upon their defence, yet we proceed, gratuitously, to lay before our readers, such conclusive testimony as will satisfy the whole world. And first, as to those men being cow-boys. Their neighbors would be, of all others most likely to know the fact, if it were so; and he annexed certificate from men, aged and venerable, will show that they were not even suspected.—but the oath of Mr. Van Wart is decisive. As to the second point, whether the Captors of Andre would have released him for a very large bribe, provided he could immediately have paid it, that is a circumstance which could be known only by themselves. And Mr. Van Wart expressly denies the imputation in the annexed Affidavit. The only possible question that can remain is, whether the witness is worthy of credit. To this point we bring men who have known him from his infancy, men whose venerable hairs are silvered by age; they speak to us from the verge of the grave; and they unite in the declaration that no man is more entitled to be believed, than Isaac Van Wart! The nature of the case does not admit of testimony more precise, perfect and conclusive. The refutation is solemnly sworn to, and by a man who in moral and religious

...department during a long life, has had no superior. Isaac Van Wart's Affidavit. Isaac Van Wart, of the town of Mount Pleasant, in the county of Westchester, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he is one of three persons who arrested major Andre, during the American revolutionary war, and conducted him to the American camp. That he this deponent, together with David Williams and John Paulding, had secreted themselves at the side of the highway, for the purpose of detecting any persons coming from or having unlawful intercourse with the enemy; being between the two armies a service not uncommon in those times. That this deponent and his companions were armed with muskets; and upon seeing major Andre approach the place where they were concealed, they rose and presented their muskets at him, and required him to stop, which he did. He then asked them whether they belonged to his party? and then they asked him which was his party? to which he replied, the lower party. Upon which they deeming a little stratagem, under such circumstances, not only justifiable, but necessary, gave him to understand that they were of his party; upon which he joyfully declared himself to be a British officer, and told them that he had been out upon very particular business. Having ascertained thus much, this deponent and his companions deceived him as to their characters, declaring themselves Americans, and that he must consider himself their prisoner. Upon this, with seeming unconcern he said he had a pass from general Arnold, which he exhibited, and then insisted on their permitting him to proceed. But they told him that as he had confessed himself to be a British officer, they deemed it to be their duty to convey him to the American camp; and then took him into a wood, a short distance from the highway, in order to guard against being surprised by parties of the enemy, who were frequently reconnoitering in that neighbourhood. That when they had him in the wood, they proceeded to search him, for the purpose of ascertaining who and what he was, and found inside of his stockings and boots next to his bare feet, papers, which satisfied them, that he was a spy. Major Andre now showed them his gold watch, and remarked that it was evidence of his being a gentleman, and also promised to make them any reward they might name if they would but permit him to proceed, which they refused. He then told them, that if they doubted the fulfillment of his promise, they might constrain him to some secret place, & keep him there until they could send to New-York and receive their reward. And this deponent expressly declares that every offer made by major Andre to them was promptly and resolutely refused. And for himself he solemnly declares that he had not, and he does most sincerely believe that Paulding and Williams had not any intention of plundering their prisoner, nor did they confer with each other, or even hesitate, whether they should accept his promises, but on the contrary they were, in the opinion of this deponent, governed, like himself, by a deep interest in the cause of the country, and a strong sense of duty. And this deponent further says that he never visited the British camp, nor does he believe or suspect that either Paulding or Williams ever did, except that Paulding was once before Andre's capture, and once afterwards, made a prisoner by the British, as this deponent has been informed and believes. And this deponent for himself expressly denies that he ever held any unlawful traffic or any intercourse whatever with the enemy. And appealing solemnly to that omniscient Being at whose tribunal he must soon appear, he doth expressly declare that all accusations, charging him therewith, are utterly untrue. Sworn this 28th day of Jan. 1817. before Jacob Radcliff. ISAAC VAN WART. We the subscribers, inhabitants of the county of Westchester, do certify, that during the revolutionary war we were well acquainted with Isaac Van Wart, David Williams and John Paulding, who arrested major Andre; and that at no time during the revolutionary war, was any suspicion ever entertained by their neighbours or acquaintances that they or either of them held any undue intercourse with the enemy. On the contrary they were universally esteemed and taken to be ardent and faithful in the cause of the

...country. We further certify that the said Paulding and Williams are not now resident amongst us, but that Isaac Van Wart is a respectable freeholder in the town of Mount Pleasant, that we are well acquainted with him; and we do not hesitate to declare our belief that there is not an individual in the county of Westchester, acquainted with Isaac Van Wart, who would not hesitate to describe him as a man of a sober, moral, industrious and religious life—as a man whose integrity is as unimpeachable as his veracity is undoubted.—In these respects no man in the county of Westchester is his superior. Jonathan G. Tompkins, aged 81 years. Jacob Purdy, aged 77 years. John Odell, aged 60 years. John Boyce, aged 72 years. J. Requa, aged 57 years. William Paulding, aged 81 years. John Requa, aged 54 years. Archer Read, aged 64 years. George Comb, aged 72 years. Gilbert Dean, aged 70 years. Jonathan O'lell, 87. Cornelius Vantassell, aged 71 years. Thomas Boyce, aged 71 years. Tunis Lynt, aged 71 years. Jacobus Dvckman, aged 68 years. William Hammond. John Comer. BALTIMORE, Feb. 22. FIRE. On Thursday morning last, a fire was discovered in the celebrated Tavern at Havre de-Grace, kept by Mr. James Gilbert, which was entirely consumed, with all the furniture. Gen. Brown and several other passengers narrowly escaped with their lives—and only escaped by leaping from the second story windows. The general first discovered the blaze and alarmed the lodgers—He then attempted to return, for the purpose of securing his effects, but was prevented by the fire and smoke from so doing.—Destitute of clothing he escaped through the windows—his baggage was entirely consumed, amounting in value, it is believed, to about one thousand dollars. A lady passenger, we are sorry to relate, received considerable injury from the blaze. The amount of property destroyed, is estimated from fifteen to seventeen thousand dollars. The flame is supposed to have been occasioned by some burning coals falling from the lower floor into the cellar, which was filled with combustible materials—Gen. Brown is now in this city. Between seven and eight o'clock Thursday evening, the upper part of a back building belonging to Mr. Charles Burrell, on Wilks-alley, was discovered to be on fire. The building contained a quantity of hay which had been put in during the afternoon, and there is no doubt it was set on fire, probably by some mischievous boys. The fire was extinguished by the exertions of the citizens without causing much injury. Charleston, Feb. 15. Symptoms of War between Great Britain and Spain. We learn by the British brig Mohawk, Capt. John B. Avelilhe, arrived here yesterday evening from Havana, that the British Frigate Active, which went from Jamaica some time since to demand the Specie forcibly taken from the wreck of the British sloop of war Tay, by a Spanish government vessel, had returned, without effecting the object of her mission. It was the current opinion at Havana, when the above vessel sailed, that a RUPTURE between the two governments would grow out of this occurrence. Letters received in town yesterday from Havana, via Savannah, also mention that such a result was very probable. Public Sale. By virtue of an order from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, the subscriber will expose to public sale, on Tuesday the 18th day of March next, if fair, if not the next fair day thereafter, on the premises, all the personal estate of Nicholas Baldwin, of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, consisting of horses, cows, sheep, hogs, bacon, thirty barrels of corn, & fodder, household and kitchen furniture, with a variety of farming utensils, too tedious to enumerate. Terms of sale, for all sums above twenty dollars a credit of six months will be given, the purchaser or purchasers giving bond, with approved security, and under the cash to be paid on the day of sale. Rezin D. Baldwin, Admr. Feb. 27. 2

SHERIFF'S SALE. By virtue of two writs of fieri facias to me directed from Anne-Arundel county, edert and the court of appeals, will be exposed to public sale on Tuesday the 8th day of April next, at my office, in the city of Annapolis, at 11 o'clock, for cash. One brick house in London-Town, with three acres of land attached thereto, two horses and three head of cattle, being taken as the property of James Larimore, to satisfy debts due Solomon G. Albers & Alexander Steuart, admn. Dr. John Gassaway. U. Welch of Ben. Sh'ff. A. A. county. PUBLIC SALE. By direction of the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, will commence on Monday the 24th day of March instant, at the store of the late Barney Curran, deceased, the sale of an assortment of DRY GOODS, The stock of the deceased, among which are a great many articles both useful and fashionable. The sale will be at auction, and commence at ten o'clock, and continue from day today until the whole is sold. The terms of sale are, that for all sums above fifty dollars, bonds with approved security will be required, for paying the purchase money, with interest, within six months from the day of sale, and for all sums under fifty dollars the cash to be paid. Nich. Brewer, } Ex'rs. Dennis Claude, } March 6. The above invoice of goods will be disposed of at private sale, on accommodating terms, to a good purchaser, if applied for previous to the day of sale. The executors take this opportunity of urging to those persons indebted to the deceased, the necessity for their making immediate payment, as the duties enjoined upon them will not justify delay. N. B. D. C. State of Maryland, sc. Anne-Arundel county, Orphans Court, February 22d, 1817. On application by petition of Henrietta Hicks, administratrix of John Hicks, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, it is ordered that she give the notice required by law, for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks, in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer. John Gassaway, Reg. of Wills, for A. A. county. Notice is hereby given, That the subscribers of Anne-Arundel county, have obtained from the orphans court of A. A. county, in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of John Hicks, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers therefor, to the subscriber, at or before the 10th day of April next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 24th day of February, 1817. Mary Hicks, administratrix. STATE OF MARYLAND, sc. Anne-Arundel County Orphans Court, March 4th, 1817. On application by petition of Jeremiah Drury, executor of the last will and testament of Abel Hill, late of A. A. County, deceased, it is ordered, that he give the notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks, in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer. John Gassaway, Reg. Wills, A. A. County. Notice is hereby Given, That the subscriber of A. A. county hath obtained from the orphans court of A. A. county, in Maryland, letters testamentary on the personal estate of Abel Hill, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the tenth day of April next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate. Given under my hand this 4th day of March, 1817. Jeremiah Drury, Executor. March 6. R. G. Haller STRAY COWS. Came to the subscriber's, sometime in December last, two stray COWS, trespassing on the premises of the subscriber. One a red and white cow about four or five years old; the other a red cow, about the same age, with a star in the forehead, and wide horns; the red and white cow has a swallow fork in the left ear, and under bit on the right ear and a crop; the red cow has an under bit on the left ear, & a crop on the right. The owners are requested to come, prove property and pay expenses, and take them away. Thomas Bailey, Head of South River. Feb. 13. Anne-Arundel county, to wit: I hereby certify, that John Bailey, a free-colored man, of said county, informed and satisfied me, that he had taken up, between the mouth of Magothy, and Sandy Point, a small Boat or Bateau, about sixteen feet long, two and a half wide, and painted red inside. Given under hand of me, one of the justices of the peace for said county, this 7th day of Feb. 1817. Henry Hammond, J. W. Feb. 13. 2

NOTICE. All persons having claims against the estate of Nicholas Baldwin, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, are requested to exhibit the same to the subscriber, legally authenticated, and all persons indebted to him are requested to make immediate payment. It is hoped that due attention will be paid to this notice, as legal measures will be resorted to against all those who disregard it. Rezin D. Baldwin, Administrator. March 6. Taken up as a Stray, By the subscriber, living near Bladensburg, in Prince George's county, a BLACK HORSE, with a sore back, both hind feet white, a white spot on his shoulder, fourteen hands high, supposed to be eleven or twelve years old. The owner is requested to apply, prove property, pay charges; and take away the said horse. Wm. Magruder. Prince George's County? 1/2 3w March 6, 1816. State of Maryland, sc. Anne-Arundel county, Orphans Court, March 4, 1817. On application by petition of Mary Armiger & Ricard G. Hutton, administrators with the will annexed, of John Armiger, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, it is ordered that he give the notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six successive weeks in the Maryland Gazette and Political Intelligencer. John Gassaway, Reg. Wills, for A. A. County. Notice is hereby given, That the subscribers of Anne-Arundel county, hath obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters of administration with the will annexed, on the personal estate of John Armiger, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased.—All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the 10th day of April next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 4th day of March, 1817. Mary Armiger, } Admrs. W. A. Richard G. Hutton, } March 6. A Teacher Wanted, At the Anne-Arundel county Free School, on the Head of South River, by the first day of April. The situation will be an eligible one to a person who can produce testimonials of his good character and capability. Application to be made to either Bruce J. Worthington, Thomas Smithson, Nicholas Watkins of Taos, Stephen Ward, Charles Watson, Thomas Hodges. March 6. Public Sale. By virtue of an act of the late legislature, & of an order thereupon of the Chancery court of Maryland, will be exposed to sale to the highest bidder, on Monday, the 17th day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, on the premises, (this property being formerly occupied by Mary Pearson) those two tracts, parts of tracts, or parcels of land, bounding on Glebe Creek of South River, in Anne-Arundel county, called Bessenden, and Gassaway's Meadows, containing about one hundred and forty acres, adjoining the property, late the dwelling plantation of Doct. John Gassaway deceased, and now the property of Mr. Edward Collinson. The terms are, that the purchaser shall give bond with security to be approved by the subscriber, for the payment of the purchase money with interest from the day of sale within twelve months, and on payment of the purchase money a good title will be given thereto, by Isaac Mayo, Trustee. N. B. It has been reduced to a certainty that this place will support more stock than many others of double the number of acres. 2. Feb. 27. SALE. The subscriber will offer for sale, at Hunt's tavern, in the city of Annapolis, on Saturday, the 29th of March next, (if not before disposed of at private sale) that small tract of land near South River, and adjoining Mr. Wm. Steuart's farm, whereon he resides, containing about one hundred and forty six acres. This place has many advantages, but it is presumed those wishing to purchase will view it. A credit of twelve months will be given; bond with approved security will be required, and upon the payment a conveyance will be made. Sale to commence at 12 o'clock. Richard Harwood, (of Thos.) Feb. 27. 2