

MUNGO speaks. THANK you, my Ma! I have you laugh your fill? Then let me speak, nor take that freedom ill. Even from my tongue some heart-felt truths may fall. And outrag'd nature claims the care of all. My tale in any place, would force a tear. But calls for stronger, deeper feelings here: For whilst I tread the free born British land; Whilst now before me crouded Britons stand; Vain, vain that glorious privilege to me, I am a slave, where all things else are free.

Yet was I born; as you are, no man's slave. And heir to all that liberal Nature gave; My thoughts can reason, and my limbs can move The same as yours; like yours my heart can love; Alike my body food and sleep sustain; And 'e'en like yours—feels pleasure, want, and pain. One globe supports us; and one grave must bound. Why then an I devoid of all to give? That manly comforts to man can give? To live—unthought Religion's soothing balm; Or life's choice arts; to live—unknown the calm Of soft domestic ease; those sweets of life, The tedious offspring, and the endearing wife. To live—to property and rights unknown, Not 'e'en the common benefits my own; No arm to guard me from oppression's rod, My will subservient to a tyrant's nod. No gentle hand, when life is in decay, To soothe my pains; and charm my cares away; But, helpless, left to quit the horrid stage; Harsh'd in youth, and destitute in age. But I was born on Africa's tawny strand, And you in fair Britannia's fairer land. Count Freedom from them?—Blush with shame! And let strong Nature's crimson mark your blame. I speak to Britons—Britons, then, behold A man by Britons rear'd, and friend and sold; And yet no Briton flatters damns the dead. Nor do the more than merit rous villains bleed. O sons of Freedom! equalize your laws, Be all consistent—plead the Negro's cause; That all the nations in your code may see The British Negro, like the Briton, free. Not, should he supplicate your laws in vain, To break forever this disgraceful chain, At least, let gentle usage to abate The galling terrors of his passing fate. That he may trace Heaven's all facial plan; For though no Briton, Mango is—a MAN!

PRISONERS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

An ACT to provide for the safe keeping all Prisoners committed under the authority of the United States, in the several Goals within this Commonwealth. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the keepers of the several Goals within this Commonwealth, shall under the like penalties as by law are provided for the custody and safe keeping the prisoners thereof, take custody of, and safely keep all prisoners committed under the authority of the United States, until they shall be discharged by due course of the laws thereof. And be it further enacted, That the several Treasurers of the respective counties, within this Commonwealth, and their successors be, and they are hereby authorized and directed, to receive for the use of their respective counties, to defray the County charges arising therein, all such monies as the United States have agreed to pay for the use and keeping of such Goals; and to account for the same according to law.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 25, 1790. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted, DAVID COBB, Speaker. In SENATE, February 26, 1790. This bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted, SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President. Approved, JOHN HANCOCK. True copy—Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety. An ACT repealing an Act, passed in July, in the Year of our Lord, one THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE, entitled "An Act to prevent unnecessary Petitions to the Great and General Court." BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said Act, entitled "An Act to prevent unnecessary Petitions to the Great and General Court" be, and hereby is repealed and made void. In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 17, 1790. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted, DAVID COBB, Speaker. In SENATE, February 17, 1790. This bill having had two several readings passed to be enacted, THOMAS DAWES, President, pro tem. Approved, JOHN HANCOCK. True copy—Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

A CURIOUS COURTSHIP. A young gentleman and lady happening on a Sabbath in the same pew. During the course of the sermon the youth read something in the eyes of the fair which made a much deeper impression on his soul than the pious lecture of the Parson—as love is seldom at a loss for an expedient, he presented her with the following verse in the Second Epistle of John—'And now I beseech the lady, not as though I write a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.' After perusing the in an unworpened to the 11th chapter of Psalms and 16th verse—'And Ruth said, intrust me not to leave thee or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.' This was a treaty proposed which in a little time was fully ratified by the Parson.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the Year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

An ACT authorizing Judges of Probate, to dismiss Guardians from their Guardianship in certain cases. WHEREAS the several Judges of the Probate of Wills in this Commonwealth, are by law authorized to appoint Guardians to Minors in certain cases, persons who spend their estates by excessive drinking, idleness, or debauchery, Idiots, non compos mentis or lunatic persons, & doubts have arisen whether the said Judges of Probate have any authority to displace such Guardians in any cases whatever, which may operate to the disadvantage not only of the Bondfidee but of the Ward also. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this act, each and every Judge of Probate within this Commonwealth be, and hereby is fully authorized to dismiss any such Guardian, appointed by himself or his predecessor in that office, whenever it may appear to the said Judge, that the necessity or expediency may require the same, and to appoint some other person Guardian, in his place. Provided, That no such Guardian shall be dismissed as aforesaid from his Guardianship, before he shall have had notice in writing given him by such Judge, fourteen days before the time of hearing, to appear and show cause why he should not be so dismissed. In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 1, 1790. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted, DAVID COBB, Speaker. In SENATE, March 1, 1790. This bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted, SAMUEL PHILLIPS, jun. President. Approved, JOHN HANCOCK. True copy—Attest, JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

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ANECDOTES.

A Gentleman travelling thro' Massachusetts pass'd at a certain inn, and going to retire requested to have clean sheets put on his bed. The Landlady told him that the sheets were clean, for no one had slept in them but the President of the United States, who was there the preceding night. The gentleman declined sleeping after the President or any one else; and the Landlady not chusing to change the sheets gave him another bed. The next night young lady arrived early, some time (and being told the story of the curious gentleman who refused to sleep after the President) declared she would sleep in the sheets, and if she could not be where he was, was glad to be where he had been.

LAST New-Year's day a grave old man, passing thro' Poughkeepsie, to his great astonishment beheld a number of children staggering under the weight of the New-Year's gift. He accosted them in the manner following—"Children, I am sorry to see the sin of drunkenness seize you in your infancy." A lad not having quite lost the power of speech, replied—"Father, we read that the children shall bear the iniquities of the fathers unto the third and fourth generation." The old man passed by in haste.

FROM A LATE LONDON PAPER. MR. PRINTER, COMING through Ripley, from London, I was favoured with the following extraordinary list of persons, who spent the evening together, and danced at the Tabbot Inn, on Shrove Tuesday. Mr. C. Randal aged 98 years. Widow Ayres, 93. George Stone, 91. Widow Wingham, 84. Widow Gamp, 84. William Faulker, 80. Nicholas Ayling, 64. Robert Spalens, 86. Robert Stevens, 82. Mary Gavel, 82. Richard Janaway, 80. Sarah Scarsier, 83. Total years, 1235. Henry Knight, an old blind man, was father.

The Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire, who enters upon the duty of his office on the first day of May next, informs all holders, retailers, and others accountable for Excise that agreeable to law he shall commence his circuit thro' the several towns in said County in May next, for the purpose of collecting the Excise due from the first day of November last, until the first day of May next. Seasonable Notice will be given of the time and place where he will attend the business in the several towns in said County. Punctil compliance with the law will be expected. NOAH GOODMAN, Collector of Excise for the County of Hampshire. South-Hadley, March 25, 1790.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ANDREW LUCAS, late of Colrain, deceased, represented insolvent, and six months being allowed from the second day of March next to bring in and support their claims—DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE—That we shall attend said business at the house of Andrew Lucas, in Colrain, on the first Wednesday of May, July, and August next, from one to five o'clock P. M. on said days. No accounts will be allowed after said term. HUGH McALEEN, WILLIAM CALDWELL, JAMES STEWART, ANDREW LUCAS, Adm'rs. Colrain, March 13, 1790.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the creditors to the estate of ORRIS TAYLOR, late of Shelburne, deceased, represented insolvent, and twelve months being allowed for the creditors to bring in and support their claims—Do hereby give notice, that we shall attend the business of our appointment, at the dwelling house of the widow Sarah Nims, in said Shelburne, on the first Monday of May, July and September next, from 2 to 5 o'clock P. M. No accounts will be allowed after said term. SAMUEL BOID, ASA CHILDS, JAMES RANSOM, ELIZABETH RANSOM, Administratrs. Sarah Nims, Administratrs. March 24, 1790.

WANTED, As an Apprentice to the Taylor's business, a BOY, about 14 years of age. Enquire of JOHN CUNNINGHAM. Worthington, March 19, 1790.

CONGRESS. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11. IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. On the REPORT of the SECRETARY of the TREASURY. Mr. Maddison's motion for a discrimination under consideration.

MR. SEDGWICK observed, that the proposition contained a question of the utmost importance: That committee must be obliged to the gentleman who brought it forward, for his very ingenious discussion of the subject of the Domestic Debt. With respect to the question now before the committee, so much has been said, he thought it would not be necessary to consume much of their time in the investigation. On the subject of Contracts he observed: Whenever a voluntary engagement is made for a valuable consideration, for property advanced, or services rendered, and the terms of the contract are understood, if no fraud or imposition is practised, the party engaging is bound to performance according to the literal meaning of the words in which it is expressed. That such contract, whether of a government or not transferable, might be either transferable, or not transferable. That the latter species of contract received an additional value from its capacity of being transferred, if the circumstances of the possessor should render a sale of it necessary or convenient to him. That to render the transferable quality such evidence of contract, if any degree advantageous to the possessor, it was necessary to consider the alliance possessor, in case of sale, of all the property of the original holder; and indeed that it was highly absurd, and even contradictory to say, that such evidences of debt were transferable, at the same time to say, that there was in them a kind of property that the holder could not convey by bona fide contract. This was the construction which had invariably been given to these contracts, whether formed by government or by individuals. That to deprive the citizen of the power of binding himself by his own voluntary contract, or to prevent a disposition of property in its nature alienable, would be a violent and unjustifiable invasion of one of those rights of which man as a citizen is the most tenacious, and would indeed break one of the strongest bonds by which society is holden together. That in the transfer which had been made, the contract were fairly made; and whole rights had been transferred; that it was not pretended any fraud or imposition had been practised: That the price was calculated by the parties, and it was observed, that the trifling contemplated a revolution in the government. From the foregoing deduction of particulars, it was presumed to have been proved that property was vested in the transferees. That if this property was divested by the government, the law for that purpose would have a retrospective operation; and that no ex post facto law could be more alarming, than that by which the right of private property was violently invaded. Having considered the nature of the contract, and of the obligations which resulted from it, the attention of the committee was called to advert to those circumstances by which that obligation might be destroyed, impaired or suspended. They were listed to be: 1. Performance. 2. Voluntary discharge. 3. Composition. 4. Inability. And gentlemen were called upon to give information of any other causes which would produce either of these effects. With regard more particularly to the proposition before the committee, it was observed that with regard to the contract, it was observed that with regard to the consequences thereof had existed a depreciation in consequence of the failure of government regularly to pay the interest: That in this depreciated state the securities had been alienated; that of course the original holders had sustained a loss; and that if the loss resulted from the fault, and not the misfortune of the government, the creditor had undeniably a demand against the government for compensation: that the demand, however well-founded, could neither authorize the government to invade the honestly acquired property of the present possessor, a property warranted by the terms of the contract itself, and sanctioned by the Acts of Congress of April, 1788, and the validity of it recognized by the Constitution, we had sworn to support. With regard to the claims of the original holders, it was observed that the domestic creditor at the time the contract was formed, well knew the nature

of the constitution of the government administered by the other contracting party, Congress; that its power of performance depended on the ability and good-will of the States; that Congress had always performed its duty, had made the necessary requisitions; that this was its utmost power; that the failure had arisen wholly from the neglect of the States. He therefore submitted to the committee, whether, if the original holder had a just or equitable demand, he should not refer to the State which he is a member of. It was admitted, that the case of an original holder was indeed a hard one; that the speaker had a respect for his misfortunes and his pretensions: That if satisfaction was discovered to be just and practicable, he would not hesitate to go to the utmost ability of the government for that purpose. But it was asked, what merit would the government possess, if it stripped one class of citizens, who had acquired by the known and established rules of law, property, of that property, under the specious pretence of doing justice to another class of citizens. It was observed, that it was implicitly agreed, that 80 per cent. depreciation would not authorize the interference proposed by the motion. It was asked that some point of depreciation should be pointed out which would authorize such interference. It was observed, that the side of the question for which he contended, had received the universal approbation of mankind; that there was no instance of interference contended for, and that this general sense of mankind afforded some evidences of truth. It was said, that this contract was founded on a valuable consideration.—It was the price of our liberty and independence. That the possessor claimed according to the very terms of the contract. That it was not pretended that the engagement of government had not been performed. No composition with the creditor was proposed; nor was the proposition founded on any pretended inability of the government; for to comply with the intention of it, 1,600,000 dollars annually more, was necessary than was proposed by the report of the Secretary. It was observed that by reason of the circumstances which had taken place, Mr. Maddison supposed, that if the whole amount of a security shall be paid to the present possessor, he will have a firm of money to which the original holder is equitably entitled. If this is true, then no interposition is necessary, it being well known by the law, that an action will always lie to recover money out of the hands of another to which the plaintiff from the principles of equity and good conscience is entitled. With regard to its effects which would probably result from this measure, it was observed, that it would be destructive to our national character: That the world was now willing charitably to impute our former misfortune to events we could not control. But should our first measures in regard to public faith be a violent infraction of our contracts, it would furnish all our bitterest enemies had said to our disadvantage. With regard to its effect on credit, it was observed that little dependence would be placed on the pledged faith of a government, which under the pretence of doing equity, had exercised a power of discharging its contracts, and had thereby formed for itself a precedent of like future violation, both with respect to its funds and contracts. That with regard to discharging who was the original holder, except so far as it related the army debt, it was declared that there were no documents by which the necessary facts could be discovered. It was stated as a fact, that with regard to much the greater part of the debt, any fictitious name was inserted. That with regard to the army debt, the soldiers generally, who were in the service at the conclusion of the war, had received ample satisfaction for their service, on an average, than 250 dollars per annum. It was further declared, that the proposed system would lay a foundation for infinite frauds and perjuries, and that it would, beyond all powers of calculation, multiply the evils of speculation.

MONDAY, Feb. 15. IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. On the Report of the SECRETARY of the TREASURY. Mr. Maddison's motion for a discrimination under consideration. Mr. Lawrence observed, that the proposition of Mr. Maddison derived force from the talents and knowledge of that gentleman in public transactions; but that, on examination, it would be found to contain doctrines very repugnant to the interest and prosperity of the nation. Mr. Lawrence stated, that the debts contractually the United States, were for loans of money—loans of articles necessary for the public wars, and for actual services rendered in different employments. These debts were uniformly adjusted and reduced to their present transferable form. Every part of the contract was essential to it. The negotiation was a material part, and the nature of the contract was frequently recognized by the late government. That 1783, Congress recommended certain funds to be allocated to pay the interest, and put the principal in course of discharge. This recommendation was unobeyed, as to the nature of it, and more so discrimination between the possessor and the original holder. The subsequent conduct of that body was conformable to this recommendation. They annually called on the States to furnish money to pay the interest, without discriminating between the original holder and present possessor. They paid interest on the securities without making any discrimination. Provision has been made for holders of loan-office certificates, that were subject to liquidation, to have them cancelled and others issued for the specie value. And the holders of certificates were enabled to have them registered to guard against accidents; and no distinction was made between the original holder & the assignee. The transferable nature of the thing was for the benefit of the creditor, because it gave it an active value. He consented to take it, and consulted his own advantage. The conduct of the late Congress, since the war, has been uniform in the support of this contract, and they have done so to impair its obligation according to the terms of it. This contract is valid against the government; for, notwithstanding the truth of Mr. Maddison's observation, that the nation was the same, though the bodies that administered the government were different—there is yet a far greater tenacity; and to remove all doubts, a clause is inserted in the constitution, that made all debts and engagements, valid against the United States under the late government, valid against the present. Mr. Lawrence further observed, that this contract having descended upon the present government, there is no right in the legitimate creditors to sue for it. The particular governments are restrained from passing laws impairing the obligations of contracts. This interference would be a violation of the contract between the individuals when the certificates were transferred, and it will not be pretended that the States are prohibited, and the general government has power to do it. Mr. Lawrence adverted to the principles of Mr. Maddison, to rest the obligation of the public on the original holder; and observed that the same principles are in favour of the present possessor. That public justice requires a performance of contracts, when there is no fraud on the part of the holder. The possessor has been guilty of no fraud or deception; the contract being given him and the original holder was fair, and a hazard and risk attending the purchase side of the advantage; and nothing short of a revolution in government could have produced payment. If there was imposition, the public obligated it; and, between the original holder and the public, there might be a claim for contribution. Public faith is as sacredly pledged to the bearer, or present possessor, as to the original creditor. Public credit results from fair and upright conduct; and the government, to support it, must perform its contracts. This is a contract recognized by them, and no fact should be discharged. The situation we have been in made it proper for us to be cautious on this subject; and even at present, people doubt our disposition to establish our credit. This would give a small blow to it. Much has been said about public opinion; but public opinion is difficult to be ascertained; gentleness have different modes to determine it. He supposed it was better ascertained by the acts of public bodies, than by squibs in the newspapers, or by a pamphlet written by any individual. The uniform conduct of men, deputed by the particular States to represent them in the late general government was a standard; and their opinion from 1785, was in favour of the present possessor. The conduct of the particular States is a better circumstance: I do not know of any discrimination made by them, tho' they had been attempted. The general opinion of men of property, against it, and these sources of public opinion are not certain and unequivocal. Mr. Lawrence further observed, that although he believed Mr. Maddison supposed no advantage would be derived to the United States from this discrimination, yet much would arise. Part of the army had been composed of foreigners; many had left the country, others are dead and their relatives; all their part would be unclaimed. That certificates were issued to public officers to a great amount, and were paid by them to persons from whom they purchased. The difficulty of making proof of the original creditor will be great; and from this circumstance great losses would be gained to the public. There are persons enough who would

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