

CONNECTICUT GAZETTE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1787.

NEW-LONDON: Printed by TIMOTHY CREEK, at the Northwest Corner of the PARADE.

To the Landholders & Farmers. NUMBER V.

Remarks on the objections made by the Hon. ELBRIDGE GERRY, to the new Constitution, continued.

IT is unhappy both for Mr. Gerry and the public, that he was not more explicit in publishing his doubts. Certainly this must have been from inattention, and not thro' any want of ability; as all his honourable friends allow him to be a politician even of metaphysical nicety.

In a question of such magnitude, every candid man will consent to discuss objections, which are stated with perspicuity; but to follow the honourable writer into the field of conjecture, and combat phantoms, uncertain whether or not they are the same which terrified him, is a task too laborious for patience itself. Such must be the writer's situation in replying to the next objection, "that some of the powers of the Legislature are ambiguous, and others indefinite and dangerous." There are many powers given to the legislature, if any of them are dangerous, the people have a right to know which they are, and how they will operate, that we may guard against the evil. The charge of being ambiguous and indefinite may be brought against every human composition, and necessarily arises from the imprecision of language. Perhaps no two men will express the same sentiment in the same manner, and by the same words; neither do they connect precisely the same ideas with the same words. From hence arises an ambiguity in all languages, which the most perspicuous and precise writers are in a degree chargeable. Some persons never attain to the happy art of perspicuous expression, and it is equally true that some persons thro' a mental defect of their own, will judge the most correct and certain language of others to be indefinite and ambiguous. As Mr. Gerry is the first and only man who has charged the new Constitution with ambiguity, is there not room to suspect that his understanding is different from other men's; and whether it be better or worse, the Landholders presume not to decide.

It is an excellency of this Constitution that it is expressed with brevity, and in the plain common language of mankind.

Had it swelled into the magnitude of a volume, there would have been more room to entrap the unwary, and the people who are to be its judges, would have had neither patience nor opportunity to understand it. Had it been expressed in the scientific language of law, or those terms of art which we often find in political compositions, to the honourable gentleman it might have appeared more definite and less ambiguous; but to the great body of the people altogether obscure, and to accept it they must leap in the dark.

The people to whom in this case the great appeal is made, best understand those compositions which are concise and in their own language. Had the powers given to the legislature, been loaded with provisos, & such qualifications, as a lawyer who is so cunning as even to suspect himself, would probably have intermingled; there would have been much more danger of a deception in the case. It would not be difficult to shew that every power given to the legislature is necessary for national defence and justice, and to protect the rights of the people who create this authority for their own advantage; but to consider each one particularly would exceed the limits of my design.

I shall therefore select two powers given them, which have been more abused to oppress and enslave mankind than all the others with which this or any legislature on earth is clothed. The right of taxation or of collecting money from the people; and of raising and supporting armies.

These are the powers which enable tyrants to scourge their subjects; and they are also the very powers by which good rulers protect the people, against the violence of wicked and overgrown citizens, and invasion by the rest of mankind. Judge candidly what a wretched figure the American empire will exhibit in the eye of other nations, without a power to array and support a military force for its own protection. Half a dozen regiments from Canada or New-Spain, might lay whole provinces under contribution, while we were disputing, who has power to pay and raise an army. This power is also necessary to restrain the violence of seditious citizens. A concurrence of circumstances, frequently enables a few dissatisfied persons to make great revolutions, unless government is vested with the most extensive powers of self-defence. Had Shays, the man content of Massachusetts, been a man of genius, fortune and address, he might have conquered that state, and by the aid of a little sedition in the other states, and an army proud by victory, become the monarch

and tyrant of America. Fortunately he was checked, but should jealousy prevent vesting these powers, in the hands of men chosen by yourselves, and who are under every constitutional restraint, accident or design will in all probability raise up some future Shays to be the tyrant of your children.

A people cannot long retain their freedom, whose government is incapable of protecting them.

The power of collecting money from the people, is not to be rejected because it has sometimes been oppressive.

Public credit is as necessary for the prosperity of a nation as private credit is for the support and wealth of a family.

We are this day many millions poorer, than we should have been had a well arranged government taken place at the conclusion of the war. All have shared in this loss, but none in so great proportion as the landholders and farmers.

The public must be served in various departments.

Who will serve them without a meet recompense? Who will go to war and pay the charges of his own warfare? What man will any longer take empty promises of reward from those, who have no conditional power to reward or means of punishing them? Promises have done their utmost, more than they ever did in any other age or country. The abusive bubble has broke, and in breaking it has beggared thousands, and left you an unprotected people, numerous without force; and full of resources but unable to command one of them. For these purposes there must be a general treasury, with a power to replenish it as often as necessity requires. And where can this power be more safely vested, than in the common legislature, men chosen by yourselves from every part of the union; & who have the confidence of their several states; men who must share in the burdens they impose on others; men who by a seat in Congress are incapable of holding any office under the States, which might prove a temptation to spoil the people for increasing their own income.

We had another objection to be, "that the executive is bleisid with and will have an undue influence over the legislative." On examining you will find this objection unfounded. The supreme executive is vested in a President of the United States, every bill that hath passed the senate and representatives, must be presented to the President, and if he approves it becomes a law. If he disapproves, but makes no return within ten days, it still becomes a law. If he returns the bill with his objections, the senate and representatives consider it a second time, and if two thirds of them adhere to the first resolution it becomes law notwithstanding the president's dissent. We allow the president hath an influence, tho' strictly speaking he hath not a legislative voice; and think such an influence must be salutary. In the president, all the executive departments meet, and he will be a channel of communication between those who make and those who execute the laws. Many things look fair in theory which in practice are impossible. If lawmakers in every instance, before their final decree, had the opinion of those who are to execute them; it would prevent a thousand absurd ordinances, which are so hastily made, only to be repealed and lessen the dignity of legislation in the eyes of mankind.

The vice president is not an executive officer, while the president is in discharge of his duty; and when he is called to preside his legislative voice ceases. In no other instance is there even the shadow of blending or influence between the two departments. We are farther told "that the judicial department, or those courts of law, to be instituted by Congress, will be oppressive."

We allow it to be possible, but from whence arises the probability of this event. State judges may be corrupt, and juries may be prejudiced and ignorant, but these instances are not common; and why shall we suppose they will be more frequent under a national appointment and influence, when the eyes of a whole empire are watching for their detection.

Their courts are not to intermeddle with your internal policy, and will have cognizance only of those subjects which are placed under the control of a national legislature. It is necessary there should be courts of law and executive officers, to carry into effect the laws of the nation; as that there be courts and officers to execute the laws made by your state assemblies. There are many reasons why their decisions ought not to be left to courts instituted by particular states.

A perfect uniformity must be observed thro' the whole union or jealousy and unrighteousness will take place; and for a uniformity one judiciary must pervade the whole. The inhabitants of one state will

not have confidence in judges appointed by the legislature of another state, in which they have no voice. Judges who owe their appointment and support to one state, will be unduly influenced, and not reverence the laws of the union. It will at any time be in the power of the smallest state by interdicting their own judiciary, to defeat the measures, defraud the revenue, and annul the most sacred laws of the whole empire. A legislative power, without a judicial and executive under their own control, is in the nature of things a nullity. Congress under the old confederation had power to ordain and resolve, but having no judicial or executive of their own, their most solemn resolves, were totally disregarded. The little state of Rhode-Island was purposely left by Heaven to its present madness, for a general conviction in the other states, that such a system as is now proposed is our only preservation from ruin. What respect can any one think would be paid to national laws, by judicial and executive officers who are amenable only to the present assembly of Rhode-Island. The rebellion of Shays and the present measures of Rhode-Island ought to convince us that a national legislature, judiciary and executive must be united, or the whole is but a name; and that we must have these or soon be hewers of wood and drawers of water for all other people.

In all these matters and powers given to Congress, their ordinances must be the supreme law of the land or they are nothing. They must have authority to enact any laws for executing their own powers, or those powers will be evaded by the artful and unjust, and the dishonest trader will defraud the public of its revenue.

As we have every reason to think this system was honestly planned, we ought to hope it may be honestly and justly executed. I am sensible that speculation is always liable to error. If there be any capital defects in this constitution, it is most probable that experience alone will discover them. Provision is made for an alteration if on trial it be found necessary.

When your children see the candor and greatness of mind, with which you lay the foundation, they will be inspired with equity to build and adorn the superstructure.

A LANDHOLDER.

An account of the VOLCANOS in the MOON, by WILLIAM HERSCHELL, L.L.D. F.R.S. read before the Royal Society of London.

IT will be necessary to say a few words by way of introduction to the account I have to give of some appearances upon the moon, which I perceived the 19th and 20th of April last. The phenomena of nature, especially those that fall under the inspection of the astronomer, are to be viewed not only with the usual attention to facts as they recur, but with the eye of reason and experience. In this we are however, not allowed to depart from plain appearances; though their origin and signification should be indicated by the most characterizing features. Thus when we see, on the surface of the moon, a great number of elevations, from half a mile to a mile and an half in height, we are strictly entitled to call them mountains; but when we attend to their particular shape, in which many of them resemble the craters of volcanos, and these argue, that they owe their origin to the same cause which has modelled many of those, we may be said to see by analogy, or with the eye of reason. Now, in a latter case, though it may be convenient, in speaking of phenomena, to use expressions, that can only be justified by reasoning on the facts themselves, it will certainly be the safest way not to neglect a full description of them, that it may appear to others how far we have been authorized to use the mental eye. This being premised, I may safely proceed to give my observations.

"April 19, 1787, 10h. 30m. sidereal time."
I perceived three volcanos in different places of the dark part of the new moon. Two of them are either nearly extinct, or otherwise in a state of going to break out; which may perhaps be decided next lunation. The third shews an actual eruption of fire, or luminous matter. I measured the distance of the crater from the northern limb of the moon, and found it 3 deg. 57 min. 2 sec. Its light is much brighter than the nucleus of the comet which M. Melchani discovered at Paris the 10th of this month.

"April 20, 1787, 10h. 2m. sidereal time."
The volcano burns with greater violence than last night. I believe its diameter cannot be less than 3 miles; by comparing with that of the Georgian planet. As Jupiter was near at hand, I traced the telescope to his satellite, and estimated the diameter of the burning part of the volcano to be equal to at least

Edward Hallam, & Co.

Have just received a quantity of
Turks-Island SALT,
which they will exchange for
FLAX-SEED.

New-London, Dec. 4, 1787.

Just published, and to be sold by the Printer below.

Freebetter's NEW-ENGLAND ALMANACK

For the year of our LORD CHRIST,
1788.

Containing, besides the usual calculations,
a variety of useful and entertaining matter.

EIGHT months from this day is limited by the
Hon. Judge of Probate, for the district of
Pomfret, for bringing in of claims against the es-
tate of CHARLES CHURCH CHANDLER, Esq.
late of Woodstock, deceased, of which the credi-
tors to said estate are notified, by

ROGER GRISWOLD, } Adm'rs.
MARIAN CHANDLER, }

Woodstock, Nov. 20, 1787.

WHEREAS we the subscribers are appointed
by the hon. Court of Probate, for the dis-
trict of Norwich, commissioners to receive and ex-
amine the claims of the creditors on the estate of
Abel Spicer, late of Preston, deceased, represented
insolvent, do hereby give notice, that we shall at-
tend on the business of our appointment, at the
dwelling-house of Joseph Chapman, jun. in Groton,
on the 3d Monday of December next, and on the
3d Monday of April next, at one o'clock afternoon,
on each of said days.

JONATHAN BREWSTER, } Com'rs.
ELISHA WILLIAMS, }

Preston, Nov. 7, 1787.

To be Sold at Public Vendue, as the law directs
SO much of the real estate of the following per-
sons, as will satisfy their taxes that we have to
collect, and the lawful cost thereon, viz. Isaac
Phelps, a resident proprietor, Benjamin Stevens, non-
resident proprietor, and Deac. Azariah Beach, de-
ceased. The sale of said Phelps' estate will be on
the 9th day of February next, on the premises, and
the sale of said Beach and Stevens, on the 10th of
said February, on the premises.

Hebron, Nov. 29, 1787.

JOSHUA PHELPS, } Collectors.
ROGER FULLER, }

RUNAWAY from the subscriber, about the
10th day of September last, an apprentice boy
named ROCKWELL CHAPMAN, in the 19th year
of his age; had on when he went away, streaked
jackets, white short breeches, and worsted Stock-
ings. Whoever will return him to me, shall have
Six-pence reward, and no charges paid. All per-
sons are forbid to harbour said boy.

GURDAN CLARK.

Lyme, Nov. 21, 1787.

STRAYED from the subscriber sometime since,
a small COW, with a white face, white along
her back and legs, her sides red, a little inclined
to yellow; about her nose and eyes a little spotted
with black, small head and neck. Whoever will
inform where she is or return her to me, shall be
well rewarded.

SIMON WOLCOTT.

New-London, 5th Dec. 1787.

PROPOSALS

For printing by Subscription,

The Vision of COLUMBUS;

A Poem in nine Books.

By JOEL BARLOW.

The Second Edition.

A Large Edition of this work was first publish-
ed in March last, in one volume Octavo, and
is all disposed of, at the price of One Dollar and a
Third.

This Edition will be printed on the best of pa-
per that can be made in the country, in one volume
Duodecimo, neatly bound, gilt and lettered, and
delivered to subscribers, at One Dollar.

Those who subscribe for six, shall have a seventh
gratis, and the usual allowance will be made to
Booksellers, who take a considerable number.

Several hundred subscriptions for the first edition
were received too late to be printed in the list of
names. Those will be published with the list of
subscribers for the second edition.

Subscriptions taken in by Thomas C. Green, at
the Post-Office, New-London.

SIMEON SMITH, jun.

SADDLER.

TAKES this method to inform his customers
and others, that he has hired the house late-
ly improved by Joshua Coit, Esq. near the Prin-
ting-Office, and opposite the New-London Coffee-
house, where he will carry on the Saddlery in all
its branches. Those who may favour him with
their custom, may depend on having their saddles
faithfully ironed, and warranted if they please, and
on the shortest notice. Said Smith having served
a regular apprenticeship at his business, flatters
himself that he shall give satisfaction to all those
who may favour him with their custom.

N. B. Cash, country produce, West-India or
dry goods and oak bark, will be taken in pay.
New-London, Nov. 28, 1787.

STRAYED or stolen from the pasture of Mr.
David Frink, in New-London, on the 7th day
of November inst. a dark brown or black MARE,
fourteen hands high, thick mane and tail, hind feet
white, branded on the left shoulder W. Whoever
will return said mare to said Frink, or Jonathan
Summer of Lebanon shall be generously rewarded.
New-London, Nov. 20, 1787.

THE hon. court of probate, for the district of
Stonington, have allowed six months from
this date, for the creditors to the estate of Col-
THOMAS GARDINER, late of Stonington. (ali-
as Plumb-Hill) deceased, to bring in their claims
against said estate; those who neglect to bring them
in by said time will be debarred a recovery. No
accounts will be received, unless properly attested.
And all who are indebted to said estate, are re-
quested to make immediate payment, to

OLIVER GALLUP, Adm'r.

Preston, Nov. 17, 1787.

To be sold at public Vendue, for hard money,
Lawrence's certificates, and soldier notes out
1784.

SO much of the real estate of the following per-
sons, as will pay their state and town taxes in
our hands to collect, with lawful cost, viz. Peter
Buckley, Esq. Jonathan Dodge, jun. Benj'n Mor-
gan, Nathan Royers, David Royers, Simeon Rath-
bun and David Chapman, and Charles Palmeter
and Lee Peck, non-resident proprietors of Col-
chester. The sale to be at the public sign-post in
New-Salem society, in Colchester, on the 1st day
of February next—Elisha Scovel and Eleazer Bades
at the sign-post in the first society in Colchester
on the 2d day of said month—Elijah Buell, John Eells
and Isaac Carrier, at the sign-post in Marlborough
parish, on the 4th day of said month.

ELIAS PALMER, } Collectors.
JOHN DUGLAS, }

Colchester, Nov. 27, 1787.

AN elegant Pleasure SLEIGH steel shod, with
harness complete, ready to take the advan-
tage of the first snow, to be sold for country produce,
West-India or European Goods, by Theophilus
Parsons, of Scotland Society in Windham.

WANTED by said Parsons, a Journeyman
Shop-joiner that understands the trade in all its
various branches, likewise one that understands
Turning, and the Windsor-chair business, to whom
good encouragement will be given.

DANIEL BURROWS,

RESPECTFULLY informs the public, that he
has taken the shop of Mr. Jonathan Brooks,
a few rods north of the Market, where he carries
on the saddling business in all its various branches,
with neatness and dispatch. As he expects to car-
ry on said business in an extensive manner, he flat-
ters himself he can afford his work on very rea-
sonable terms. The smallest favours will be grate-
fully acknowledged. Country produce and West-
India goods received in payment, and Cash not
refused.
New-London, Nov. 28th, 1787.



To be SOLD or RENTED.
The Subscriber's new
Dwelling-House,

On the parade in the city of New-
London, together with the old House adjoining
the same, now completed inside with shelves above
and below, with a long counter for a dry good or
grocery store. If the above concerns are not sold,
they will be rented for one or three years, from
the first day of May next.

A large residue of Goods, chiefly very saleable,
and well adapted for this state, will be sold on re-
markable low terms for cash or short credit.

Those who have any just demands against the
subscriber, are desired to apply for immediate pay-
ment; and those indebted to him by book account,
or notes due, are requested to make payment.

MICHAEL PRICE.

New-London, 20th Nov. 1787.

Pay-Table Office, Nov. 3, 1787.

THE Select-Men of the several towns in this
State, who have not already returned to this
office an account of the bounties paid by towns and
classes for the purpose of recruiting the late Con-
tinental Army, are requested to complete the same
without delay, as the time limited by Congress for
exhibiting claims against the United States is near-
ly expired.

BLEAZER WALES, } Com'tee.
OLIVER WOLCOTT, Jun. }

TO BE SOLD,
The Subscriber's new and convenient
Dwelling-House,

PLEASANTLY situated, a few rods north of
the town-house in Middletown; having a good
garden of three quarters of an acre of land belong-
ing thereto. For terms apply to the subscriber,
who requests that all those indebted to him on note
or book, will make him immediate payment, to
prevent being sued. ASAHEL JOHNSON.

To be Sold on reasonable Terms,

A FARM, containing about eighty or one
hundred acres of choice land; on which may
be cut annually about 14 tons of good hay, with a
good proportion of plowing and pasturing, with a
dwelling-house and saw-mill thereon, and will be
augmented with about two hundred acres, which
is under good improvement, with a dwelling-house
and barn thereon. Said Farm is situated in Mont-
ville, near Chesterfield meeting-house, and about
eight miles from New-London city. For particu-
lars, enquire of WETHEREL LATIMER, liv-
ing on the premises.

November 28th, 1787.

THE Judges of the Courts of Probate within
whose districts estates both real and personal, of
inimical Persons have been confiscated—All Per-
sons who have been appointed by the County Courts
to improve the real estates of inimical Persons for
the use of the State—And all Selectmen, or other
Persons duly appointed to sell any estate of inimi-
cal Persons, or who have recovered any debts due
to such Persons which have not settled their Ac-
counts and paid the balances into the Treasury are
requested to do it by the 1st day of January next.

JAMES WADSWORTH, Compt'r.

Hartford, Nov. 24, 1787.

WE the subscribers being appointed commis-
sioners by the hon. court of probate, for the
district of Hebron, to examine and certify to the
creditors to the estate of ASAHEL PHELPS,
late of Hebron, deceased, represented insolvent,
do hereby give notice, that six months is allowed
from the 6th day of November instant, for said pur-
pose, and that we shall attend the same at the dwel-
ling-house of the widow Anna Phelps, in said He-
bron, on the third Tuesday of December, second
Tuesday of January, and second Tuesday of March
next, on each of said days.

Hebron, Nov. 16, 1787.

Asplvester Gilbert, } Com'm'rs.
Joshua Phelps, }
Elihu Penroy, }

Webster's Institutes, first, second
and third parts, to be sold by the dozen or
single, at the same prices as they are sold by
the publishers in Hartford,

By ANDREW HUNTINGTON,
At his Store in Norwich.

Also, West-India & Dry Goods
as usual. (8w)

FOR SALE,

A Valuable LOT of LAND, lying in Preston,
containing about three acres, adjoining to
Prquatanoek cove, and the highway leading from
Groton to Norwich, with a large Store and three
Dwelling-Houses standing on it, being the same
lately occupied by Mr. John Wright. For terms,
apply to Mr. Miles Sherbrook, New-York, or the
subscriber in New-London.

JOSHUA COIT.

New-London, Nov. 20, 1787.

WATTS'S

Psalms and Hymns,

Corrected and enlarged

By JOEL BARLOW, Esq.

To be sold by the dozen or single.

By THOMAS C. GREEN.

Cash given for small FURRS,
By JOSEPH EMERSON, New-London.