

CONNECTICUT GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, JANUARY 25, 1788.

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To the PRINTER of the CONNECTICUT GAZETTE.

S I R,

If you judge the following lines worthy of inserting in your Gazette, you have liberty for so doing. I should have sent them before now, but my distance, and the difficulty of conveyance at this season have prevented.

A CUSTOMER.

WHEN we enter upon a new revolution of time, it seems natural to call into view, some remarkable events and overtures, which have taken place in time past; and also to look forward and think of what must take place according to scripture prophecy, and what may, according to the run of human probability. It hath been observed by some learned men, that the revolution of a hundred years (especially in these latter times) hath produced new motions and alterations in the Church, and the state of public affairs: in some respects like to those that fell out a hundred years before. So it was in *Germany and Bohemia*, the famous *John Huss*, at the stake in the year 1416, uttered this remarkable speech, "after a hundred years you papist shall be called to an account." The *Bohemians* caused *Pest centum annos*, to be stamped on their coin, for the preservation of so memorable a prediction: and accordingly in a hundred years, viz. 1517, Luther arose, and with him the reformation. We pay no special attention to the superstitious regard which some of the ancients had to the meeting of octavos, or the figure 8 repeated in the same number; yet as protestants, we ought ever to hold in memory, with a flow of gratitude, the wonderful year 1688. It is well known what eminent destructive evils were impending over England and the protestant cause at that time, which were diverted by the accession of the Prince of Orange to the crown. A wonderful revolution was effected, when King WILLIAM and Queen MARY were settled on the throne! And it is surprising to reflect on the remarkable appearances of divine providence, in the rise, progress, and consummation of this important event, in the year 1688. If we look back to the year 1588, it will appear as a year signal and eminent for salvations, a year of the right-hand of the Most High, to be had in perpetual remembrance: for this year, Philip, King of Spain, fitted out a fleet called the *invincible armada*; it consisted, say some, of above 425 ships. This fleet designed to invade England, and to reduce it to the catholic faith. The fleet was well manned, and arrived in the mouth of the *Thames*; where, partly by storms, and partly by the valour and wise conduct of the Queen's admirals and sea captains, the whole fleet was burnt and destroyed; so that not a Spanish vessel foot upon English ground; nor was there a ship left entire to carry the news back to Spain. These interesting events in the years 1688, and 1588, are the more considerable, as immensely great in their consequences, in that England for a long tract of time has held the balance of power among the nations of Europe; and has also been the bulwark of the protestant cause and interest in the hand of divine providence. We might now step back and take a view of events for three or four centuries preceding 1588; and in so doing, we should find in each one of them, in or about 88, there were grand commotions and revolutions among the nations; but it would engross too much time and room at present.— Now, we are not warranted to draw an absolute conclusion from past wonderful events and revolutions occurring in 88, for so many hundred years successively, that this year, 1788, will be productive of similar or signal grand events; yet according to the analogy of divine dispensation, some capital and grand events may take place this year, or, at least the foundation may be laid this year, for some events of great consequence to take place in times not far distant. I am apt to conclude from prophetic numbers, that between 88 and 96, there will be a heavy blow upon *anti-christian* power in the west, or *Mahometan* power in the east, or on both, preparatory to yet more grand events. If the American states this year adopt the system of confederate government, proposed by the late Convention at *Philadelphia*, this event is like to be some how great. We are willing to hope it will be attended with beneficial consequences to the present generation, and such as will be immensely so, to millions in future ages. But be all these things as they may, we have reason to believe very great and wonderful events are near, even at the door: for the holy scriptures must be fulfilled. Happy, thrice happy they, who are prepared to meet all the events of time! Thus happy is the truly pious man:—

Should the whole frame of nature round him break,
In ruin and confusion hurl'd,

He unconcern'd, would hear the mighty crack,
And stand secure amidst a falling world.

STATE of CONNECTICUT,
IN CONVENTION, January 9.

(Continued from our last.)

UPON the general discussion of the subject, His Excellency Governor Huntington, expressed himself nearly as follows:

Mr. President, I do not see to detain this convention for any length of time. The subject has been so fully discussed, that very little can be added to what has been already offered. I have heard, and attended with pleasure to what has been said upon this subject. The importance of it merited a full and ample discussion. It does not give me pain, but pleasure, to hear the sentiments of those gentlemen who differ from me. It is not to be expected from a human nature, that we should all have the same opinion. The best way to learn the nature and effects of different systems of government, is not from theoretical dissertations, but from experience, from what has actually taken place among mankind. From this latter source of information it is, that mankind have obtained a more complete knowledge of the nature of government, than they had in ages past. It is an established truth that no nation can exist without a coercive power, a power to enforce the execution of its political regulations.— There is such a love of liberty implanted in the human breast, that no nation ever willingly gave up its liberty. If they lose this inestimable birth-right of man, it is from a want not of will, but of the proper means to support it. If we look into history, we shall find that the common avenue through which tyranny has entered in, and enslaved nations who were once free, has been their not supporting government. The great secret of preserving liberty, is to lodge the supreme power so as to be well supported and not abused. If this could only be effected, no nation would ever lose its liberty. The history of mankind clearly shews, that it is dangerous to entrust the supreme power in the hands of one man. The same source of knowledge proves that it is not only inconvenient, but dangerous to liberty, for the people of a large community to attempt to exercise in person the supreme authority. Hence arises the necessity that the people should act by their representatives; but this method, so necessary for the support of civil liberty, is an improvement of modern times. Liberty however is not so well secured as it ought to be, when the supreme power is lodged in one body of representatives. There ought to be two branches of the legislature, that the one may be a check upon the other. It is difficult for the people at large to know when the supreme power is verging towards abuse, and to apply the proper remedy. But if the government be properly balanced, it will possess a renovating principle, by which it will be able to right itself. The constitution of the British nation affords us great light upon the subject of government. Learned men in other countries have admired it; but they thought it too fine spun to prove beneficial in practice. But a long trial has now shewn its excellence; and the difficulties which that nation now experiences, arise not from their constitution, but from other circumstances.

The author of nature has given to mankind a certain degree of insight into futurity. As far as we can see a probability that certain events will happen, so far we do well to provide and guard. But we may attempt to go too far; it is in vain to think of providing against every possible contingency. The happiness of civil society depends not merely upon their constitution of government, but upon a variety of circumstances. One constitution may suit one particular nation exceedingly well; when a different one would suit another nation in different circumstances. Even among the American States there is such a difference in sentiments, habits and customs, that a government which would be very suitable for one, might not be agreeable to another.

I am fully of opinion, that the great council of the union must have a controlling power with respect to matters of national concern. There is at present an extreme want of power in the national government; and it is my opinion that this constitution does not give too much. As to the subject of representation, at first view it appears small; but upon the whole, the purposes of the union could not be so well answered by a greater number. It is impracticable to have the numbers of the representation as great, and the times of electing as frequent, as they are in our state governments. Nor is this necessary for the security of liberty. It is sufficient, if the choice of representatives be so frequent, that they must depend upon the people, and that an inseparable connection be kept up between the electors and elected.

The state governments, I think, will not be endangered by the powers vested by this constitution in the

general government. While I have attended in Congress, I have observed, that the members were quite as strenuous advocates for the rights of their respective States; as for those of the Union. I doubt not but this will continue to be the case, and hence I infer that the general government will not have the disposition to encroach upon the states. But still the people themselves must be the chief support of liberty. While the great body of freeholders are acquainted with the duties which they owe to their God, to themselves, and to men, they will remain free. But if ignorance and depravity should prevail, they will inevitably lead to slavery and ruin. Upon the whole view of this constitution, I am in favour of it, and think it bids fair to promote our national prosperity.

This is a new event in the history of mankind. Heretofore, most governments have been formed by tyrants, and imposed on mankind by force. Never before did a people in time of peace and tranquility, meet together by their representatives, and with calm deliberation frame for themselves a system of government. This noble attempt does honour to our country. While I express my sentiments in favour of this constitution, I candidly believe that the gentlemen who oppose it, are actuated by principles of regard to the public welfare. If we will exercise mutual candour for each other, and sincerely endeavour to maintain our liberties, we may long continue to be a free and happy people.

Governor Wolcott. Mr. President, I do not expect to throw any new light upon a subject which has been so fully discussed. Yet I cannot content myself without giving my opinion more explicitly than by a silent vote. It is generally agreed, that the present confederation is inadequate to the exigencies of our national affairs.— We must therefore adopt this plan of government or some other, or risk the consequences of disunion. As the present articles of confederation are inadequate, we ought to consider whether this constitution be as good as can be agreed on by so many different States; or whether it be a dangerous system; whether it secures the liberties of the people, or whether its tendency be unfavourable to the rights of a free people. I have given it all the consideration in my power; I have a considerable time since made up my mind upon it; and I think it my duty to give my voice in favour of adopting it. It is founded upon the election of the people. If it varies from the former system, or if it is to be altered hereafter, it must be with the consent of the people. This is all the security in favor of liberty, which can be expected. Mankind may become corrupt, and give up the cause of freedom; but I believe, that love of liberty which prevails among the people of this country, will prevent such a dismal calamity.

This constitution effectually secures the States in their several rights. It must secure them for its own sake, for they are the pillars which uphold the general system. The Senate, a constituent branch of the general legislature, without whose assent no public act can be made, are appointed by the States, and will secure the rights of the several States. The other branch of the Legislature, the representatives, are to be elected by the people at large. They will therefore be the guardians of the rights of the great body of the citizens.— So well guarded is this constitution throughout, that it seems impossible, that the rights either of the States or of the people should be destroyed.

I do not see the necessity of such a test as some gentlemen wish for. The constitution enjoins an oath upon all the Officers of the United States. This is a direct appeal to that God who is the avenger of perjury. Such an appeal to him is a full acknowledgment of his being & providence. An acknowledgment of those great truths is all that the gentlemen contend for. For myself, I should be content either with or without that clause in the constitution which excludes Test Laws. Knowledge and liberty are so prevalent in this country; that I do not believe that the United States would ever be disposed to establish one religious sect, and lay all others under legal disabilities. But as we know not what may take place hereafter, and any such test would be exceedingly injurious to the rights of free citizens, I cannot think it altogether superfluous to add a clause which secures us from the possibility of such oppression. I still only add, that I give my assent to this constitution; and am happy to see the States in a fair way to adopt a system which will protect their rights, and promote their welfare.

Mr. Law. Mr. President, the important subject before us has been examined so particularly, that I do not expect to add any thing new. As we have been a long time pouring upon the defective parts of this constitution, I think it will not be amiss to pay some attention to its excellencies. There is one clause in it which provides a remedy for whatever defects it may have. The clause to which I refer, is that which

S A L E M, January 1.

The following circumstance will give an idea of the increased population of the state of Franklin:—On an incursion of a number of men being in the vicinity, Governour Savier, in two days and one night, rallied and marched 1500 men.

If Kentucky, and other tracts of western country, whose settling has been by mere accident, without any original plan, or previous system of police, have sustained so rapid and to considerable a multiplication of people as has been often represented—what must be our ideas of the future growth of that tract of country which the Ohio Company have lately purchased of Congress, when we consider, that, added to the advantages of the most luxuriant soil in the world, a government is previously established for its inhabitants—that a regular and judicious mode of settling it is pursuing—that the trees, which age has rendered venerable, are already falling, to make way for a noble city, upon the banks of one of its finest streams—and that many men, of the most liberal minds, versed in the world, in business, and acquainted with every useful science, are engaged, and interested, in promoting its prosperity!

A letter, from a gentleman of accurate observation, at Pittsburg, dated the 24th of November last, says, that no less than 4200 people had passed that place down the Ohio, since the first of that month, and that several boats were still preparing to follow, with more settlers.

The Brig Hector, Captain Lewis, arrived here, since our last, in 42 days passage, from Gottenburg.

While the Brig lay at Marlstrand, (where she discharged her cargo) a Swedish ship was wrecked on a very rough and rocky part of the island, in a violent storm: The crew with assistance from land, soon got safely ashore, except the Mate, who went overboard with the foremast, to the top of which he had retired for safety; the mast remained attached to the wreck by the shrouds, and the man continued his hold on the mast, the waves continually breaking over him. The sea was in such violent agitation, and the shore so rugged, that an attempt to recover him was extremely hazardous. About 20 sail of Swedes were then in the harbour, whose boats were many of them employed to succour the distressed object—but returned without effecting it, intimidated by the danger. At length, application was made to Captain Lewis's crew, for their assistance, with the offer of a considerable pecuniary reward, if they would make the attempt, even should it fail of success; but they nobly refused going on a mercenary principle; however, from pure motives of humanity the Mate and six hands went off in a boat, at the utmost hazard of their lives, and under the discouraging representations of those Swedes who had before failed—surmounted every danger and brought the sufferer, with just the remains of life, ashore, after hanging, as it were by a straw, several hours, in the water. The offer of money was now repeated to them and again refused. The Governour of the place being made acquainted with the transaction, sent for these brave Americans to his house; and taking each of them by the hand, made the most honorary acknowledgements for their successful exertions to rescue from destruction a subject of Sweden, but a stranger to them; and presented the Mate with a golden spoon, and each of the others with a silver spoon, as testimonies of their heroism and humanity; and also granted them liberty of walking in any part of the city, at any time of day or night—a privilege, in which even their own subjects are not indulged. In short so much was this act admired, that it gained

them every mark of respect from the citizens—and the name of an American became synonymous with those of a hero and friend.

To be sold at this Office, (Price 6d.)

CONFERENCES BAPTISM, BETWEEN A QUÆRIST and an APOLOGIST.

Search the Scriptures: John 5. 39.

WHAT IS TRUTH?—This is an inquiry, which, especially in religion, claims the attention of all. To those who are serious enquirers after Truth, these conferences address themselves for consideration. As the author is not known, they appear on the side of no particular denomination of Christians; but being built on the Scriptures as the foundation of truth, are recommended to the serious and unprejudiced consideration of all.

A READER.

The above piece may also be had of Capt. Peleg Brown, Stonington; Mr. Samuel Mather, Lyme; Ebenezer Ledyard, Esq. and Deac. Simeon Smith, Groton; Mr. Peter Lanman, and Mr. William Lefingwell, Norwich; and by the Post Riders.

List of LETTERS remaining in the Post-Office, New-London, January 5th, 1788.

ELISHA Avery, Mont. Andre, John Allen, Zephaniah Brown, William Bridges, Lavton Burdock, New-London; Zebulon Baker, Hepzibah Baker, Montville; Blissha Carter, John Caldwell, Gabriel Calborn, Rosanna Collison, New-London; Nathan Cray, Groton; Elizabeth Dorrance, Preston; Thomas Darrel, Stonington; Jonathan Douglass, Mr. McDaniel, Ebenezer Goddard, Betsey Greene, New-London; John Greene, Preston; Ebenezer Gallup, Abel Gore, Groton; William Hillhouse, Marcy Hollebird, James Holmes, Francis Hopkins, Daniel Hull, New-London; Oliver Huntington, Lebanon; Jeremiah Halsey, Preston; Daniel Hahl, Abigail Johnstone, Lyme; Edward Jeffery, Groton; John Ingraham, Patrick Lenox, New-London; Giles Latham, Edward Latham, Frederick Larrabee, Groton; Stephen Miner, Windham; James Morrow, John Nalby, Greta Plumb, Timothy Parker, James Parker, Foster Penrice, Alpheus Palmer, Jean Pohl, Nathaniel Peck, John M. Pentard, Daniel Packer, New-London; Humphrey Peatt, Saybrook, John Richards, Peter Robertson, New-London; James Rhodes, Oliver Smith, Stonington; Samuel Seabury, John Simmons, John Swan, Paul Smith, Mr. Shaw, New-London; Ezekiel Shalor, West-Haddam.

NOTICE is hereby given to all whom it may concern. That application is made to the hon. William Hillhouse, Esq. Judge of the Court of Probate, for the district of New-London, and Judge of the County Court for the County of New-London, for establishing copies of the last will and testament of Thomas Fosdick, late of New-London, the elder, deceased, and of the division of the estate of said deceased, instead of the originals which were burnt on the 6th day of September, 1781; and that a court for the purpose aforesaid, will be held at the house of Daniel W. Richards, inholder in New-London, on the 2d Monday of February next, at 10 o'clock forenoon.

CLEMENT FOSDICK, one of the heirs of said deceased.
New-London, Jan. 14, 1788.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber, whose accounts are one year old, are desired to call and settle the same by payment, or their notes of hand, or expect to be sued at February court without further notice. Also, those indebted by notes which have become due, are requested to make immediate payment, or depend their notes will be put into an attorney's hands to collect, except some particular agreement to the contra.

Colchester, Dec. 19, 1787.
6w JONATHAN DEMING.

Norwich, January 4th, 1788.

STOLEN on the night following the 2d instant, from the house of Mr. Daniel Thomas, in Preston, a likely three years old dun or mouse colour'd MARE, with a saddle and bridle, marked with a black list along her back, shod all round with new shoes, and corked, one white hind foot, about 13½ hands high, and trots and canters altogether.—Whoever will take up said Mare, and return her to the subscriber, or to Mr. Joseph Latham, of Groton, and secure the thief, shall have Ten Dollars reward; for the mare only, Five Dollars, and necessary charges paid, by their humble servant,
IZRAHIAH WETMORE.

ALL persons indebted to the subscribers by note or book, are earnestly requested to make payment immediately, otherwise they must be under the necessity of putting them in suit without respect of persons.

They have at their Store in Groton, A quantity of barreled Pork, mels and common Beef in barrels and half barrels, Hog's Lard, Tallow, Cheese, Indian Corn, Oats, Beans, Codfish, &c. together with an assortment of Dry Goods as usual.

ERENY LEDYARD & SONS.
Groton, 26th Dec. 1787.

CASH given for Hatters' and Shipping FURRS, by JOSEPH EMERSON, New-London.

Cash given for all kinds of Shipping FURRS, By EBENEZER BACKUS, of Windham.

73) Dec. 25, 1787.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the hon. Court of Probate, for the district of West-Haddam, has allowed eight months from the date hereof to the creditors to the estate of Neziah Bliss, Esq. late of Hebron, deceased, to exhibit their claims for settlement. All legal claims will be received till the expiration of said time, after which none will be allowed. Attendance will be given at the late dwelling-house of the deceased, on the first Tuesday of every month within the limited time. All persons indebted to said estate, are desired to make payment without further notice.

MARTHA BLISS, } Ex'rs.
SILVESTER GILBERT, }

December 4, 1787.

THE hon. Court of Probate, for the district of East-Haddam, have allowed seven months from the 4th day of December inst. for the creditors to the estate of SAMUEL CHURCH, 2d, the elder, late of Colchester, deceased, to bring in their claims against said estate. Those who neglect to bring in said claims by said time, will be debared a recovery.

SILAS CHURCH, Adm'r.

Said Church gives notice, that he will attend on said business at the dwelling-house of Joshua Morgan, in Colchester, on the first Wednesday in February next, and Thursday and Friday following, Colchester, December 24, 1787.

THE hon. Court of Probate, for the district of East-Haddam, have allowed seven months from the 4th day of December inst. for the creditors to the estate of SAMUEL CHURCH, 2d, the younger, to bring in their claims against said estate. All those who neglect to bring in said claims by said time, will be debared a recovery.

LUCY CHURCH, Adm'r.

Colchester, Decem. 24, 1787.

THE hon. Court of Probate, for the district of Windham, have allowed six months from the 28th day of December inst. for the creditors to the estate of Mr. NATHAN SCOVELL, late of Lebanon, deceased, to bring in their claims against said estate. Those who neglect to bring in said claims by said time, will be debared a recovery.

ELIZABETH SCOVELL, Executrix.

Lebanon, Dec. 28, 1787.

To be Sold at Public Vendue, for hard money, Morris's notes, Lawrence's certificates, soldier's notes due before 1785, state money, and Inlay's certificates, as the law directs,

Such of the real estate of the following persons, as will pay their state and town taxes in my hands to collect, with lawful cost, viz. Peter Bulkley, Esq. Silas Stark, Hezekiah Kilborn, and Robert Beebe, at the public sign-post in New-Salem society, in Colchester, on the 17th day of March next, and John Treadway, and Miles Wright, at the sign-post in the first society in Colchester, on the 18th day of March next.

ELIAS WORTHINGTON, Collector, (and Administrator on the estate of Elias Worthington, jun. late of Colchester and Montville, deceased).

Colchester, January 1, 1788.

Just published, and to be sold by the Printer hereof,

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.