

# VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT CHRONICLE.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1787.

[Concluded from our last.]

IN respect to the balance of trade, which he thinks so much hackneyed, before I saw it observed by MODESTUS! I did not even know, that I had added any reasoning, either *avant* or *strong*, to the number before used—the same wrinkled character, only in humbler attire, was all I meant to throw him!—that I should look upon it, indeed, as the very quintessence of wealth, (as I now do *avidely*, of *wealth*!) could I see it but operate in our favour, is a fact, I trust, not doubted! but that I ever dreamed of a proof thereof, excepting figuratively, is an assertion, I must venture to deny! The comparison was suggested, for the convenience of MODESTUS! to give him some faint idea of balances! I left his knowledge, of such matters, should have proved too contracted, to have reached beyond the limits of his own diurnal footsteps! the extent of his comprehension, I was not then advised of, which, a later penned production, has proved fully adequate! The *strict* justice of the comparison, however, I might venture to insist upon; the balance being, mediately, between the foreigner, and the planter; the merchant being only the vehicle of commerce! the planters purchases then, I must rather fear, are but seldom, perceptibly applied, to the improvement of any thing; unless his known folly, is capable of improvement, which is never possible but; were they to be applied, to the most laudable purposes, if he still falls in debt, he is certainly growing richer, at the expense of his creditors; by act of injustice, of all others, the most flagrant; derogatory to the dignity of a civilized nation!

Were MODESTUS's *touring* *scenes*, but once to all in concert, of *rising cities* from *wild regions*, and wide *spread fertile countries*, the one in manufactures, arts, sciences, and commerce! the other in agriculture, and industrious emulation, the prospect, let me tell him, would be more than truly promising! well worth our admiration!—but alas! more's the pity! with horror, view the contrast!—the reverse is too obvious! at present, their intention, seems just the very contrary!—behold their hutton actions! like all-devouring monsters, do they worry one another!

To have put three years exhortation into my calculations, would as well have served my purpose; but then, since it is, most undoubtedly, undeniably a fact, that the importations too, have yearly continued; and have not, to our sorrow, as it may, probably, be MODESTUS's interest, to persuade us to believe, lain on hand with the merchant, a treble proportion against us, would have then appeared against us, would have been the difference—what has been the consequences, of our *beneficial* *commerce*, is what I have attempted to show; not what possibly might have been, or may be; for, though faintly, do I hope, to see it shortly reversed, and the scale to preponderate wretchedly!

And why, in the precious name of modesty! I not make my calculations in *our specie*; as long as we hold it, it is ours, most indubitably; as much as it would be, his *Holliness*, the Pope's, the treble *headed St. Peter's*! and is, at present, I believe, our only real image, or common sign current, by which our real worth can well be determined!—If the balance of trade, was to be settled in the scales, between our *produce*, and European *friskery*, the gravitation, I presume, might be somewhat in our favour; but not a jot to our advantage!—Wherever this light might originally flow from, is to us quite indifferent; though an *independent* people, it is our duty to keep it, at least a sufficiency, which is simply in our power, and the policy of all ages, must confirm the presumption!—the *inconvenience* of its absence, we now feel but too sensibly! a trial of the experiment, "for half a century" longer, though

it were held forth by a greater, than ever was SMITH's authority, would be quite too dear a purchase, for any sons of freedom!—His doctrine, is best calculated, for more eastern climates!—With respect to America, in her present fell-condition, it is not strictly sterling! but admitting that it was, as certainly be a pernicious one, for general propagation! The ever ready multitude, it might heading plunge in errors; in pursuit of flattering fantasies, or visionary riches; and the *cheat* would be discovered, but when ruin was inevitable! Such a doctrine, indeed even now, might, in some measure, perhaps, suit the little contracted views, of some pitifully, narrow minded lawyer, or like transient merchant; but any one, who had thoughts of residing long amongst us, or had the interest, and happiness, of posterity but at heart, would surely, view its consequences with aptitude, or horror!

I am not, as yet, acquainted with the excellencies of this author, though, by MODESTUS's commendation, I should be proud to consult him, who he says, has penned all that can be said upon our subject; but, suffer me to conceive, that if all that he has said, is not more to the purpose, than what is contained, in MODESTUS's selection, I may doubt his omniscience will not easily be discovered; and that he too, with these morals, must place his famed pavilion, amongst the non-infallibles!—But I must now drop the curtain, and yield the plume to MODESTUS!—the nature of my avocation, demanding a short absence, at least from politics; till some future opportunity, then, with reluctance, adieu!

A M I C U S.

Chesterfield, Aug. 12, 1787.

*oblivion or general amnesty! relieving the debtor, by the ruin of the creditor!—Fell stupidity! let us bludge our ignorance! if a nation thus circumstanced, is adding weight to her riches, it is not by the wisdom of her councils! nay, in what greater proportion, might not her wealth be increasing, by pursuing the reverse of this conduct!—it is, in fact, just as much, and no more, than what we vulgarly call trusting to providence, or we thinking of a remedy, till the greatness of the evil, must pain one out to us!—What! I never will reason be fought!—lament our degeneracy!—We have been natural long enough; it is now, my friends, time, we should try to be rational!*

To the FREEHOLDERS of the COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA.

IT is said, and I believe pretty generally felt, that your country is at present most dolefully circumstanced. It is said that you have lost your credit abroad, that mutual confidence is destroyed at home, and that you are bowed down and dispirited by the weight of your taxes. These evils, and evils they certainly are of the greatest magnitude, it is in your own power to remedy; and as I can hardly think that you would delay this, when convinced of the ease with which it is practicable, I shall trace them to their sources in the plainest manner I am able, and also propose the methods by which they may be rectified: Fortunately no great depth of research is necessary.

The causes of your loss of credit, and of the distress in each other, which has taken place among you, are generally allowed to be, the delay of justice, arising from the limited and short time of the sitting of your General Court, together with the continual dread of PAPER MONEY. As this last measure is agitated, in almost every session of your Assembly, it is unknown at what unlucky hour, a Legislature fluctuating in its members, and unstable in its councils, may give sanction to it. Under these apprehensions the common transactions of men with each other must be necessarily embarrassed; for they cannot look up to the Laws as the guarantees of their contracts, or confide in them as the guardians of their properties—whilst the delay of justice gives up the unhappy Creditor, for many years, perhaps, to all the horrors of penury and distress, the annual dread of Paper Money obscures, in the interim, every ray of hope, of seeing his difficulties, once they relieved, can he form to himself the least assurance, that this detestable bubble will not take place before he can recover his debt! Will he not rather expect

at each session of your Assembly, to see himself deprived, forever, or, perhaps, half of it, after waiting so long through the delay of justice? when the Debtor may be enabled to put him off with paper, at a depreciation of 50 per cent. or more. You will remark, that it must be impossible, but that a cry of the scarcity of specie should be heard in a country thus circumstanced; here legal obligations have little or no value, though mediums of exchange in countries where justice is faced, specie is required in every transaction, and no prudent man will venture to convey his property by the left hand, that does not at the same time reach out the right, to receive an equivalent.—But undoubtedly there is not a surer way, of rendering a scarcity of any article apparent, than that of multiplying the use, and increasing the demand for it, unless the entire quantity could be speedily augmented in the same proportion, which I am afraid, in this case, is not at present in our power; one great cause of which I shall now attempt to delineate.

Your taxes are raised for the payment of your Civil List, and of your debts, or rather the interest of your debts: Objects no doubt to be religiously attended to, at the same time the strictest economy consistent with dignity and justice, should pervade every department. With respect to the support of your Government, you will, I believe, be found sufficiently economical: But, I must add, in the paying of your debts, which is something uncommon, that you are obviously profuse, that you are grossly abused, and that you are unjust towards yourselves. In this case a considerable saving is practicable, it can be made consistent with the strictest justice, and self-preservation calls aloud for it.

It is well known that by far the greater part of your military debt, is no longer due to your well deserving soldiers; pressing necessity has caused their HEROES, these ASSURTERS of the RIGHTS of MANKIND, to become the prey of usurers and speculators, who have got almost all their certificates into their hands, and that at an enormous discount, varying from time to time from 10 to 5 for one; at this day £.100 specie will make the public A Debtor to you one for £.500, and entitle the holder to £.50 per annum interest. Is the State to be thus given up to the plunder of those men, after their flagrant deprivations on the decayed VETERAN? The whole amount of your military certificates, now due, is £.874,236, omitting fractions, of which, I am well assured, and can confidently assert, £.100,000 does not remain at this day with the original owners. Speculators and usurers possess, by consequence, £.774,236 in your funds, for which at £.6 per cent. you pay them a yearly interest of £.46,454. Here then, VIRGIANIANS, is the secret channel your wealth flows off in; here is the court, where the worst of your poor takes falling, as you have fondly deemed my friends, for the honorable support of your public engagements. When the nature of the distress is known, good sense will suggest the remedy, and exertion will complete the cure; on this last topic therefore I shall be concise, and will only show that it entirely depends on your own energy, and public spirit. Let a petition to the next General Assembly, be carried through each county, stating your grievances, and praying redress. That this should be the more punctually and generally executed, let Committees of Correspondence be established in each county, which shall invite the neighbouring counties to take party with them; this will ensure unanimity, and thus reunited and irreducible, your Legislature, notwithstanding the contrary bias private interest may impress on some of its members, must obey your voice. Insist on the terms of your Courts being lengthened, or rather on the establishment of Circuit Courts—Recommend the calling of a Convention, with the avowed purpose of doing away all future dread of Paper-Money, by putting it out of the power of your Assembly, to certify people every year with the expectation of it.—Lastly, instruct them to make a law, obliging the Auditor to grant interest warrants, for the full amount of such certificates only, as shall be presented to him by the Soldiers who fill pockets those they have earned; let the others be reduced to the sums the speculators purchased for, or as near it as can be discovered, by the current price, at the time of purchase, and let warrants be

issued accordingly: Nor, certainly, can it be said, that they are hardly dealt with, when they get credit for the full amount of their money, and are besides punctually paid its interest.

In objection to me, perhaps, it will be represented, how dangerous it is to tamper with public credit, and how essential the support of it is, in a country such as this, that has its reputation to establish: All this will freely enough allow, but must at the same time insist, that there cannot be a breach either of public or private faith, unless an injustice be committed; and I defy the sophistry of the most interested, to give the least colour of truth to the contrary position. But, here you only disapprove the selfish views of the useless and idle drones, who are living on the common stock.

However, the plan itself, which I have proposed, will afford a method of satisfying the most scrupulous; to explain this, let us suppose the £.774,236 that are computed to be in the hands of the speculators, reduced to £.154,847, the real sum vested, allowing the certificates to be all purchased at 5 for one, and it is well known that they have been seldom higher in the market; the distressed soldier was obliged to come to. Then instead of £.464,544, the annual interest of this £.774,236, you will in future pay them only £.9591, by consequence, you will have an annual saving of £.37,163, which applied, as a sinking fund, to the immediate discharge of the above £.154,847, for which the speculators have got credit, will give them back in about 6 years and 8 months the whole capital employed by them in your funds: at the same time that they are punctually paid interest from unit instrument to the other, on what remains due to them; thus, surely, without even bringing in to the account, what they had previously gained from the public, at their £.50 per cent. nobody, except, perchance, themselves will call hard treatment.

After this £.774,236, is thus sunk, the £.37,163 having increased to £.46,454, by the additional interest of the £.154,847 now liquidated, may be employed in paying off the £.100,000 due to your soldiers, and thus annually increasing in a continued progression, this original saving made from the speculators, will without any additional tax, become capable of sweeping away, in a very few years, your whole debts, both foreign and domestic.

I beg of you to compare this with your present gloomy prospect, to calculate the time it must take you under the present system to get rid of this enormous burthen, under which you are at present groaning; what heart-achs you must frequently feel; and to what degree the progress of this country, in wealth and improvement is likely to be hindered during its continuance. I must therefore take the liberty to tell you, that if what I advance is found reasonable, and that on reading of it each of you would allow, but still do nothing in consequence of it, thinking your individual exertions insignificant in the general cause, I must tell you, I say, that if ever a man ever against the weight of your taxes breathe from one of you, at the sight of a sheriff, I should be glad to be then at your elbow, to do you, what you had exerted yourself in promoting the above measures, in order to prevent this your distress; and if answered in the negative, to enjoy an influence of the punishment, due to lillened, and the want of public spirit.

I must, in fine, beseech you, to thoroughly am I convinced, of the benign influence, that a pursuit of the above plan would shed on this country, that the general cause of the inattention of the public to anonymous addresses, viz. a suspicion of their being dictated by the prejudices or interests of the writer, may not operate here; to obviate it, I shall only remark, that no supposition can be formed, under which any individual can be benefited by the measures recommended, except by participating in the general welfare; nor, indeed, do I, as has been before, pretend to any new discovery or depth of investigation, the matter insisted on is too obvious, not to have met the attention of every reflecting person of this State, in some one point of view or the other, and I shall be sufficiently rewarded by finding my thoughts and feelings in unison with yours.

PLAIN REASON.  
(To be continued.)

\* Whether such may be meant, by Mr. Smith, as a substitute, in scarcities of specie, I am not able to determine, but certain I am, that when a nation is obliged, to have recourse to emissions, of unfunded paper money, in order to relieve its difficulties, the less able, to which it is sinking, is by far too conspicuous! it shows the majority to be in debt, beyond the reach of their abilities, and, shocking to humanity! and all else that it avers to be, flying to a remedy, which reason cannot justify! amounting to little less, than an act of

would, undoubtedly, take measures, to counteract the designs of Great Britain, respecting our trade. *Ply* says the gentleman, what can the Americans do? They have neither government nor power. Great Britain could shut up all their ports, so that an American vessel would not dare to fit out of their harbours, and burn all their towns on the sea-coasts into the bargain. America take measures against Great Britain indeed!—Now, a man who knows nothing of such notions, but by hearsay, feels them not, nor cares any thing about them; but a man who frequently sees, hears, and feels the effects of them, must feel extreme pain and mortification.

A gentleman of some eminence, from one of the English West-India Islands, assures us, that in company with Prince William Henry, Captain of the British frigate *Pegasus*, it was, by that vain, deified youth, declared, that he never wished, nor was permitted, by his ROYAL *Majesty*, to visit any of the French Islands, or to use his own elegant and impolitic expressions, contained in his *gracious answer* to the *King*, Gudgeons of Halifax, Nova-Scotia, on the 2d July last, "those unhappy and deluded men, who have on this continent, forfeited their fidelity to their sovereign and the [enormous] advantages arising from being subjects to his Majesty."

**PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15.**  
The debates of the Federal Convention continued 'till five o'clock on Monday evening; when, it is said, a decision took place upon the most important question that has been agitated since the meeting of this assembly.

We are informed, that the Honorable HENRY LAURENS, Esquire, of South Carolina, with a liberality habitual to his great and good mind, hath presented, through the hands of Samuel Vaughan, Esquire, FIFTY POUNDS sterling, to the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, to assist them in carrying on the building they have undertaken in this city.

However inattentive to their situation the citizens of the United States may appear, or however licentious and perverse they may be represented, it is a truth, which numerous events avouch, that when eminent occasion calls for an exhibition of the good sense, which is the foundation of political happiness.—It bursts forth in all the strength of Majesty, and teaches the world that the latitude of the patriotism and public spirit of Americans is as unbounded as the country they possess.

The convention, I am told, have unanimously agreed on a system for the future government of the United States—which will speedily be laid before the several legislatures for their acceptance and ratification. What this system is, is not yet known, but to the framers of it—that it will be a system founded on justice and equity, in which the rights of citizens will be properly balanced, considering the character who have formed it, none can doubt: That consistent with these, it may be energetic, none can but wish.

Occasion, therefore, now presents itself, in which the good sense of the people can produce the most desirable event—for the people will now determine, whether a nation possessing every advantage which nature can bestow to make it great, and to which nothing is wanting but to improve those advantages, to make it such, shall be so or not. But, my respected fellow-citizens, can we have a reasonable doubt—Are we to behold a new thing under the sun?—Will the nature of things be reversed?—No—the experience we have had, answers the queries in the negative, and bids us anticipate the wisest for event of its meeting the approbation of all ranks of citizens—those excepted, who are, or ever will be, enemies to the prosperity of our infant empire. Against such it behoves us to be on our guard—Be assured they will artfully cast stumbling blocks in your way to national happiness and honor, and under the mask of patriotism, will endeavour to work your political destruction.—That such are among us is certain—But I trust your penetration will discover their designs—however thick their cloak—however specious their hypocrisy.

**Aug. 16.** The conduct of the *Anglo* States, says a correspondent, has been like that of the prodigal son in the Gospel. They have taken the portion of their Independence, that should have been lodged forever in Congress, and spent it in riotous living in a far country. They now return, burdened with dainties and debts, to their Father's house—that is, to a federal government—in which their independence and liberties received their existence. Their Father no sooner beheld signs of distress and contrition among them, than he opened his arms, to take them in a second time under his protection. In a little while, it is to be hoped, the federal robe and ring will be put upon each of them—the fattened calf will be killed—and every city, village, farm-house and cabin resound with joy—since it affates that were lost and dead are now found and made alive, in a vigorous, efficient, national government.

It is to be hoped, says another correspondent, that the Convention will not lessen the safety, dignity or usefulness of their government, by any imprudent accommodation to the present temper or prejudices of the unforgotten part of the community. It is a wife and good man only they can depend to support their measures. They ought to be pleased—their principles ought to be consulted—or they cannot concur in establishing the new government.

**AUGUST 18.**  
We are well informed, that many letters have been written to the members of the federal convention from different quarters, respecting the reports idly circulating that it is intended to establish a monarchical government, to send for the Bishop of Osnaburgh, &c. &c.—to which it has been uniformly answered, "tho' we cannot, affirmatively, tell you what we are doing; we can, negatively tell you what we are not doing—we never once thought of a King."

Accounts from France mention a probability that the patriotic conduct of the Marquis la Fayette, respecting the impeachment of Calonne, will produce a dispute between Monsieur, the King's brother, and that nobleman. It seems that the impeachment was personally opposed by Monsieur, and that the Marquis then asserted his right as a gentleman, to lay the matter at his sovereign's feet.

From the *Edward* we understand, that the spirit of *Shaytan* rapidly subsides, and that Shays himself is almost destitute of a companion. It is remarkable however, that notwithstanding the rewards offered by the different states, no attempt has been made either to seize, or to betray him. This circumstance recalls the extraordinary fortune of the Pretender, who after his defeat at Culloden discovered himself to a Scotch peasant. The peasant declined earning thirty thousand pounds sterling by the treachery of giving up the prince to his enemies, but was hanged, within twelve months afterwards, for stealing five shillings.

**Aug. 20** On Thursday last the *Asia*, a large ship intended for the trade to India, was launched at the war of Mr. Marsh. Capt. Barry is appointed to command her.

Letters from Holland inform us, that there is little probability of a compromise taking place between the Stadholder and the States. The parties are making formidable preparations for war; and the prince of Orange, will certainly take a trip to England, in order to engage that country to support him in a quarrel which has, in a great measure, proceeded from their councils and promises. Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Barbadoes, to his friend in this city, dated July 23, 1787.

"By a fresh act of parliament, no negroes, as sailors, are admitted to work on board of square rigged vessels, under forfeiture of vessel and cargo; and therefore guard against it."

A correspondent observes, that, as there is so much frailty in human nature, the people, from whom all power is derived under a pure republican system of government, when they are about to invest man with power and authority, even for the necessary purposes of government, that it be strictly guarded and limited; so that it be not abused to the oppression of those who conferred it. Hence, from neglect or inattention in fixing those essential checks and restraints on rulers and governors, it is that we behold in the world to small a portion of mankind who are not tyrants or slaves, oppressors or oppressed. Let America for ever boast, that her subjects freely and fully enjoy liberty and property, and all those natural rights which God and nature has assigned to them.

**CHARLESTON, Aug. 2.**

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia.  
"A report prevails in this city, and it is credited by all ranks, that the federal convention, finding how difficult it will be to carry off the national debt to foreigner within the time stipulated, have resolved,—That it be recommended to the Congress of the United States, to let up the whole rate of Rhode-Island for sale to the highest bidder, or bidders, citizens or states, of the confederacy, in the view of applying the nett proceeds of such sale to the liquidation of the foregoing debt.—Whereupon it is confidently asserted, that a private citizen of the state of Georgia, after having estimated the real value of his rice plantations, slaves and other property (over and above his debts) and presuming the same to be considerably superior to the real value of the state of Rhode-Island, has already transmitted to Congress his proposals for purchasing it by private contract;—and that Congress have taken this generous offer of his ad referendum."

**WINCHESTER, August 8.**

By a gentleman from Clinch, on whose veracity we may depend, we are informed, that the Indians are become very troublesome in that quarter, that a party of about fifteen in number, had come to the house of a farmer in that neighbourhood, about day light on the morning of the first ult. just as the man had got out of doors, who was much surprised at their appearance, and went to alarm the neighbourhood; before he could return with proper assistance they had entered the house, flung the infant from its mother's breast, and knocked the brains out, striking his head against the wall; they then fired on the woman, whom they killed and scalped; and next examined the bed, where finding six children, they killed and scalped them also, and then set fire to the bed. There was a negro girl in the house, who unexpectedly crept under the bed, and by that means escaped the fury of those barbarians. They made a precipitate retreat, as soon as they had finished this bloody scene. The fire from the bed communicated itself to the house, which was consumed before any timely assistance could be had.

**AUGUST 18.**  
A foreigner has remarked, very faintly, that the attachment of the Americans to commerce arose from their connections with Great-Britain, which led them to adopt all her ideas upon every subject, without attending to the difference of our situations. Our deficiency of inhabitants, in proportion to the extent of our territory, will render it for many centuries improper for us to encourage any pursuits that are unfriendly to population. Foreign commerce, besides checking the increase of the species, is the avenue of foreign vices. The carrying business should therefore be left to the countries that are overgrown with inhabitants, or to the citizens of monarchies, among whom vice is a less evil than in republics. The trade of the United States with each other (if confined wholly to themselves) will always be sufficient to breed all the women we shall require. This trade will neither destroy the lives nor morals of our citizens, nor check population. It will moreover help to bind the States together.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, to his friend in Charleston, dated July 4, 1787.

"You requested me in your last to inform you of the state of our markets and politics in general; which in my last I treated of in brief, when I only advised you of the nature of the abuses at the opening of the Convention; but many matters have been proposed and debated on since—and although Jersey was agreed on, it is credited by some of the first informers in this city, that among the matters now under consideration, are—

"A continuance of the federal government, and to include the state of Vermont;  
"To establish a revenue for 23 years (cash in its collection) of 5 per cent. on all imports: two and a half per cent. on all exports; on such articles as are not produced in any of the British provinces—The 5 per cent. to be appropriated to the payment of our foreign and domestic debts.—The two and a half per cent. for the expenses of keeping up a small land force and navy;  
"A poll-tax of one shilling per head on all whites; and two shillings on all other inhabitants, to be applied for granting bounties on ships built in the United States, and on every ton of shipping employed in the fisheries.  
"And as many of our present difficulties arise from the embezzlement of the inhabitants to pay their debts,—that it be strongly recommended to each state, to pass laws for paying off all debts contracted before the 1st of October 1784, by instalments of one, two, three, four, and five years, giving security;  
"That serious application be made for the free navigation of the Mississippi, according to the treaty of peace.  
"That no new states be established, until the public debt is paid off.  
"Five hundred troops to be raised and kept up in each state; one half on the sea-coast, and the other half on the frontiers.  
"That three frigates of forty guns be built immediately.  
"Congress to be called the General Assembly of the United States, and to sit six months in the year.  
"No doubt much more is talked of, but as these few leading points, I hand them to you; and shall, whenever I have good grounds to go on, keep informing you of what I learn, particularly on matters of commerce."

Yours, &c.  
Extra of a letter from London.

"Did you ever hear of the extraordinary woman who died lately at Canada? she was twenty years without any evacuation, except a little perspiration at the stomach; received no sustenance but one glass of wine in the 24 hours, which was poured down her throat—All parts literally dead, except the stomach, and dried like bone.—Some vegetation like moss grew on her forehead.—Her mouth always open; the inside of which was black as jet—Was so shrunk, that it was not supposed there were two ounces of flesh on her whole body, which as it lay drawn together, did not seem longer than about two feet and an half. All the year round she lay on one side upon a single sheet laid over a hand-board, and one blanket over her. Only signs of life exhibited was a slight vibration at the stomach about the time that her glass of wine used to be given her. Her daughter drew money for her as a show to all curious people. I have had accounts of her by different persons who went to see her, particularly one who saw her once a year for the last six years of her existence. It is pretty remarkable, that her husband, who had been long blind, received his sight a short time after her death, and married another woman."

We are informed that a negro woman belonging to the Rev. Mr. Fontaine of Gloucester, was lately delivered of 4 Children; two of which died in their birth, and soon after the mother expired.

On Saturday the 18th instant, departed this life, in the 48th year of her age, Mrs. ELIZABETH WYTHE, spouse of the Hon. GEORGE WYTHE, Esq. of the city of Williamsburg, after a very long and lingering illness, which bore with the patience of a true Christian.—Amidst her disposition, engaging in her manners, and possessed of every virtue which could render

her beloved in this world, there can exist no doubt of her happiness in that to which she is gone. As a retrospect of her life could awaken no sigh, the prospect of her dissolution could cause no fear. An unaffected piety, which strongly marked her character, supported her in the last awful period of her existence, and the resigned her soul to that Being who gave it, without a murmur at the divine decree. A life thus virtuous, an exit thus composed, should afford alleviation to the anguish of her friends: The voice of reason however tells but in whippers upon the care of affliction, and both fortitude and philosophy are too weak to struggle against nature and affection. The husband and the friend must feel for a wife like this, nor can felicific itself venture her forrows.

For sure, when love and friendship, hand in hand, O'er the cold grave, attending mourners stand; The firmest heart dissolves to softness there, And piety applauds the falling tear.

Yesterday morning died, Mrs. ANNA HARRISON, Spouse of Benjamin Harrison, jun. Esquire, of this City.  
Died at Leeburg, the Hon. HENRY LEE, Senator for Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

**ENTRIES at the CUSTOM-HOUSE**

- Norfolk, since our last, Ship Hanover, Cook, Bourdeaux.
- Brig Eliza, Craig, Antigua.
- Kitty, Houston, Liverpool.
- Schooner Dispatch, Talem, Martinique.
- Banbury, Charleston.
- Sloop Charles, White, New-York.
- Peace & Plenty, Kitter, New-York.
- Livingstone, Port-au-Prince.
- Sally, Davidson, Philadelphia.
- Polly, Morris, Montserrat.

**From Mr. LINDLAY'S MARINE INTELLIGENCER.**

**AUGUST 19.**  
We are informed by Capt. Hewston, that on the 8th inst. he spoke a schooner in lat. 16. o. N. and long. 70. 50. W. from Baltimore bound to St. Thomas, out 6 days; and that on the 12th, saw a brig with a jury fore-mast and fore-top-mast; it being calm he could not speak her.

Notice is hereby given, that a PETITION will be presented to the next General Assembly, to confirm the freedom of sundry slaves, late the property of Charles Moorman, deceased, of Louisa county, agreeable to direction of said Moorman by his last will and testament.  
August 28, 1787.

**RUNAWAY the 2d of this**

month, from the subscriber, living near Raccoon Ford, Orange county, a reddish yellow negro man slave, named

**PHILL;**

he is about 5 feet 8 inches high, about 30 years of age, weighs about 245 lbs. when he walks, rather turns in his toes, speaks slow and rather short; he is a blacksmith by trade, and when he speaks, or discourses with any person, appears as if his eyes were almost shut. When he went away, he had on a brown linen shirt, blue pair of breeches, and a sailors' red jacket buttoned at the sleeves, and a blue jacket; if expect he will change his clothes. He was born and raised in Frederickburg, and when a boy worked on Cook, Lewis' Wharf, who was his master; he afterwards worked in Frederickburg gunnery as a bricklayer.—I expect he will change his name, as his design is to free himself.—I will give ten dollars reward to have him secured in any jail out of said county, or five dollars if taken in said county, and also reasonable charges for bringing him to me in said county.  
CHARLES PORTER.

July 11, 1787.

**Four Dollars Reward.**

**STRAYED or STOLEN.**

From the commons of this City, about the sixth of this month, a large dark BAY MARE, about 7 or 8 years old, 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, branded on the right buttock with three large dots, and thod all round.

DANIEL TORRANCE.  
Richmond, August 24, 1787.

**TAKEN up by the subscriber, on the South river, in the lower part of Louisa county, a grey HORSE, about 10 years old, 4 feet 7 inches high, branded on the near shoulder B. P. though difficult to be perceived, of some dark coloured saddle spots, and of a sea-bitten colour about his head.—Appraised to nine pounds.**

BENJAMIN TIMBERLAKE.  
August 1, 1787.

**CASH given for Military Certificates.**

Enquire of the Printer hereof.