

the agents proceeded to make exact copies of them in the manner detailed in their report. This refusal will perhaps be less regretted by the General Assembly, when they are informed that the books, if they deserved that name, were so abused, detached, and generally in so bad preservation, that a large part of them would not probably have answered any valuable purpose after the carriage of so long a journey: the copies which are now lodged in the Secretary's office, appear to have been taken with great care and accuracy, are duly certified by Martin Armstrong, and respectively sworn to as true copies by the Agents.

The report has been in a clear point of view, the various frauds committed in this office, and the books exhibit an entire dereliction of duty and principles, by Martin Armstrong and persons to whom the conduct of the public business in that office was committed.

It is suggested, and I suppose with truth, that as a number of the Surveyors have grossly abused the confidence of the public, in making entries and obtaining grants for service rights, I have directed the Secretary to prepare a statement of their claims, that these officers may not be involved in undistinguished censure, and to enable the Legislature to take the proper measures respecting them; the copy of my letter to Martin Armstrong on this subject, will show how far his co-operation was expected and required, and legislative provision is necessary to prescribe the mode of settling and finally settling the claims and accounts of Martin Armstrong and all his deputies.

As it may be of great consequence to the interests of many of the citizens of this State, that the books now lodged in the Secretary's office, should be considered as a record, and as many persons may seek relief in the courts of this State, against the frauds committed in that office, I thought it proper to direct that the copies should be regularly certified by Martin Armstrong, and also sworn to in the manner above stated, that if the Legislature thought proper to establish them as a record, copies of them might be used in our courts with as little deviation from the common law maxims of evidence as possible.

It is an object worthy of legislative attention, to place this office on a footing that the whole of the business dependent upon it might be closed in the course of one or two years, by placing it under the direction of a man of business, worthy of the public confidence, and under regulations precluding as far as possible, future frauds and impositions.

No 4.

Gentlemen,

The late General Assembly, on the 24th of December last, passed a resolution, authorizing and requiring me to call a court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery, for the purpose of prosecuting with effect, such persons, as from the report of the board of Commissioners, might appear principally chargeable with the frauds committed upon the land office, referring the expediency of such a measure to my judgment, after the report of the board was received.

Taking it for granted, that if the persons inculpated could be prosecuted with the same effect in the ordinary course of law in the superior courts, that it would not be expedient to call an extraordinary court for that purpose. I requested the law officers of the State, in whose hands this business must be finally placed, and who were presumed to be acquainted with any difficulties that would arise in the prosecutions in the ordinary way, to give an official opinion on this subject. These gentlemen, after the necessary consideration, politely favored me with their opinion on the 15th of August. The proceedings of the Commissioners, together with their opinions, were submitted to the council of State, who gave it as their advice, that it was not expedient at that time to call a court of oyer and terminer, supposing that legislative provision was necessary. It also appeared to me, for the numerous and weighty reasons stated in the above communications, that a court of oyer and terminer expressly constituted by law with jurisdiction commensurate with the various frauds which have been committed in the different offices, could alone effect the purposes of public justice, or comport in any manner with the dignity and character of a large and respectable State. I beg leave, however, to refer the General Assembly to the communications accompanying this message, and particularly the opinion of the Attorney-General, in which he has taken a just and comprehensive view of the subject.

A letter from Blake Baker, Esquire, under date of the 28th of August, on the subject of the employing an agent on behalf the State, for the purpose of collecting and arranging the evidence against the offenders, is also submitted with these documents, and the subject recommended to the attention of the Legislature. I have already had occasion to remark on the fidelity, diligence and ability evinced by Samuel D. Purviance, Esq. in discharging his duty as a Commissioner, and I have no doubt that they will attract the attention of the General Assembly, should they think proper to act on this business, the expediency of which is fully considered in the official opinions above mentioned.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and consideration, Gentlemen, your, &c.

Wm. R. DAVIE.

Raleigh, September 10.

Ordered, That the foregoing message be referred to a joint committee; and that Messrs. Porter, John

Moore, Robt. Smith, Lacy, Seawell, Yancey, R. Long, Harwell, Montgomery, Hinton, of Palmetto, Stanley, Grist, Ashe, Thos. Hill, Hay and Purviance, compose the same on the part of this house.

SATURDAY, November 23.

A message from the Senate:

Mr. Speaker—We have received and had under consideration your message of the 20th inst, accompanied by the message of the late Governor Davie, the reports of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the frauds committed in the Secretary's office, and other official documents respecting that business.

We do not perceive any apparent necessity for secrecy, but agree in the propriety of appointing a joint committee of both houses, to whom these reports and papers may be referred; and here for this purpose on our part named Messrs. Johnson, Alexander and Irwin; who will act with such gentlemen as you may make choice of by ballot or otherwise.

A message to the Senate:

Mr. Speaker—The communications from his Excellency Governor Davie, which we proposed in a former message, should be referred to a joint confidential committee, we do now refer on our part, to that committee to whom the messages No. 4, &c. stand referred.

The following important intelligence is forwarded for publication to the Editor of the New York Mercantile Advertiser, by a respectable commercial house in that city, who received it from their correspondent in New Orleans:

New Orleans, September 25.

We inform you with regret, that the dispatches from Spain, arrived here since three days, bring an order from the King to stop the entry of all neutral vessels in the Mississippi. This order extends likewise to the Americans, who will not be permitted to sell their cargoes in the city; but will enjoy the privilege of depositing up the river, as is agreed by the treaty between Spain and the United States. Our intend-ant has already put his order in execution: but the merchants and planters knowing the evils which would attend it, have joined to make a representation to government, in order that we may be allowed the same privileges we have enjoyed heretofore; and as we expect the protection of our superiors, we are almost convinced they will favour our request.

However we beg you will not slip any thing to this city until you receive more positive advice from us, so that you may not experience any disappointments in your operations; and rest assured, we shall always inform you exactly on this subject. We remain with friendship, your obliged humble servants.

"Lisle, Surry, Clifton & Co."

IMPORTANT NEWS.

By an arrival at New Bedford, we have fresh foreign news.

La Haye—The British have taken possession of Eukhuysen after an action. A letter from the Duke of York dated at Heider, September 14, mentions the landing of 7000 Russian auxiliary troops; and that he had had a conference with the hereditary Prince of Orange. The Russian troops marched to the neighbourhood of Alkmaar, to join the British army already there, and entrenched to their chins. That town had been summoned, but refused to surrender. Many loyal Dutchmen were employed in the British army and navy. Vessels were put in motion to bombard Amsterdam. On the 18th and 19th, the Anglo-Russians were to advance. Amsterdam was expected soon to fall. The French were said to contemplate and actually to have commenced the inundation of the country. Hopes of keeping off this evil rested on the rapid march of the British. The Dutch troops in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, are supposed to be in favour of the Stadholder. About the 16th of September, 10,000 fresh troops sailed from England for Holland. The Dutch fleet have arrived in England. The loyal Dutch seamen and marines, entered the English service before the ships sailed from Holland. Prince William of Gloucester, has left England for Holland.

France. Insurrection and massacre continue. The Directory have caused the Editors and Printers of the following Journals to be arrested, *Bulletin Official des Armes Conisces, La Parisienne, La Quotidienne, Le Courier de Paris, Le Democrat, Le Miroir, La Feu ille de Jour, Le Necessaire, Les Hommes Libres, Le Grandeur, and Le Defenseur de la Patrie*. They were afterwards banished to Oleron. It is said France has a secret expedition on foot to be commanded by Bernadotte. Delamotte is commanding admiral at Brest, Macdonald is at Paris consulting. The Pope is dead; lime was thrown into his grave, and consumed his body; this was in order to evade a demand the Spaniards were expected to make for the corpse to embalm it. Preparations are said to be making for the election of a new Pope. There are three or four candidates.

Russia has ordered a new levy of 180,000 to recruit her armies.

Prussia is determined to remain neutral. Saxony, belonging to the German Empire, has made a declaration to the same effect. The Russians and Germans have sent new envoys to Berlin: Object not known. It was said that the English minister had been ordered from the Prussian court, and that a war between those powers was expected.

In England. The Parliament prorogued to October 29, was suddenly summoned to convene on the 24th.

This measure has caused much speculation. It depressed stocks. Some attributed it to some extraordinary project in the Continental Cabinets, on which it was necessary to consult Parliament. Others thought it only done to procure a law to send an additional body of militia to Holland. 30,000 are talked of.

Armies in Italy. Moscow remains covering the Genoese territory; expecting Championnet with 30,000 men. The Austro-Russians have taken Tortona, and threaten Coni; and have dispatched 20,000 men to intercept General Grenier, in coming from the Alps towards Suza. A letter from the French head quarters, Connegliano, Aug. 23, states, that their position cannot be long maintained as they run the risk of being entirely destroyed. They are almost without food. Genoa can no longer afford assistance. The government is alarmed. One Director has fled, and another resigned. The merchants with the arrival of the English. There is no money; the pay of the troops is greatly in arrears; they have been supplied on with bad bills; and every thing conspires against us.

Switzerland. Massena's army has been reinforced till it amounts to 100,000 men. Prince Charles has quitted Switzerland with part of his army, in consequence of French movements on the Rhine. Gen. Hotze commands in his absence. Some accounts say the Prince was afterwards successful over the French. Gen. Kray was expected in Switzerland from Italy.

The Rhine. The French crossed at Spire. Took their head-quarters at Heilbrun, and were 30,000 strong. Philippsburg is to be besieged. The French are thought to have expected by drawing the Archduke from Switzerland, to give Massena an opportunity of gaining a victory. The people of the Electorate of Mentz, rose en masse, and drove the French.

The Fleet. Sept. 13, Lord Bridport was off Brest with 40 sail of the line. The 5 Spanish ships had escaped.

Tripoli has declared war against Hamburg, Bremen and Lubec.

Buonaparte. A report from Minorca is, that he has surrendered to Sir Sydney Smith.

An English Squadron in the East-Indies, is rumoured to have destroyed a French Squadron bound to the Mauritius.

THE GRAND LODGE of North-Carolina,

WILL convene this evening at 6 o'clock, at the usual place; to which time the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge, and Delegates from the respective Lodges, are requested to attend. By order of the Right Worshipful the Honourable Judge HAYWOOD, Deputy Grand Master.

ROBERT WILLIAMS,

Tuesday, 26th Nov. Grand Secretary.

Wanted to Purchase, THIRTY or 40 NEGROES, who have been used to the planting of corn, &c. amongst whom a Carpenter and Blacksmith will be expected. A considerable sum will be paid on delivery of the Negroes, and the balance well secured, to be paid in one or two years. For further particulars apply to the Printers.

GENERAL ORDERS.

November 20, 1799.

THE Honourable the Brigadier-General of the second brigade, has presented the following as the Uniform to be worn by the officers and privates of the second brigade.

The officers—long blue coats, faced with red, white under dress, black cravats, military hats with feathers. Field officers, Adjutants & Quartermasters, full boots; officers in the line, booties.

The non-commissioned officers and privates of a company—short blue coats, faced with red, white under dress, black cravats and knee bands, round hats, white and red feathers, and booties or gaiters.

Non commissioned officers of a regiment or battalion, dress in the same manner as commissioned officers.

The uniform of General Officers, and of those attached to the general staff, will, as heretofore, be blue and buff. By order of Brigadier-General Simpson, CALVIN JONES, Aid de Camp.

PITTSBOROUGH ACADEMY.

THE semi-annual Examination of the students of this academy, will commence on the 16th day of December next, and continue several days; the examinations of the day, and Speeches of the young Gentlemen, will be followed by some dramatic entertainment to be performed by the Students in the evening. WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, Secretary of the Trustees.

Nov. 16.

THE subscriber has just erected a good Fulling Mill, for the manufacturing of cloth, in the county of Rockingham, within fifteen miles of the court-house, and about twelve miles from Martinsville, in Guilford county—only wanting some plates and screws, &c. which he will rent, or carry on the business upon shares, for a term of years.

It is necessary to observe, that the mill stands on a never-failing stream, in a good neighbourhood for custom; there being no other mill for many miles. The terms will be made known by applying to the subscriber at the premises. SAMPSON LANIER.

November 19.