TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR.

SIR,

We enclose you a copy of Judge ROBINS's address, delivered yesterday to the Grand Jury, for Worcester county, which is furnished at our request,—you will do us a favor in giving it a place in your paper.

In behalf of the Grand Jury,
JOHN WILLIAMS, Foreman.
SNOW-HILL, May 9th, 1809.

Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury.

IN compliance with a duty which is expected from the Court, I avail myself on this occasion of expressing to you my sentiments, relative to your present service: In doing this I shall not attempt a detailed description of every offence which may be proper, for the operation of a Grand Jury, but shall confine myself to some general remarks, which may be applied to most of the cases that will occur during the present session.

In a government like ours, where the public sentiment gives tone to every operation of the government, it is peculiarly important, that *that* sentiment should be correct, not only in its views but in its motives. The general diffusion of knowledge through the mass of community is perhaps the only means of effecting the first. This task devolves on the legislature—but the correction of the morals, the inculcating a sacred regard to the majesty of the laws, by noticing every infraction of them, is properly your province.

A Grand Jury forms so essential a feature in the administration of public justice in this country, that every gentleman who becomes a member of that body, should well understand the ground on which he stands—When composed of men unworthy of the task, the law lies a dead letter, palsied with apathy and neglect, or it becomes the engine of ruthless oppression to the innocent and virtuous. But with gentlemen who know the importance of their station, a Grand Jury is the pride and the glory of our civil institutions, it is a shield to guard our persons from lawless aggression, it is a mound of protection to our houses and our fire-sides—it becomes the sanctuary of innocence—a rampart against disorder and confusion; it is the still voice of law, and of reason, calming the tempestous passions of our nature, and rendering them subservient to our best interests.

The oath which you have just taken is the commission under which you act; by that you are taught to discard those passions that influence half the actions of our lives, you are to assume the upright character of man; to be governed by your understanding, and your reason; your motives should be as pure as the doctrines of that gospel on which you are sworn. Favour, affection, partiality, hatred, malice, and ill will should be alike discarded from your view:—Nothing but the public good, your duty to God and your Country, should influence your judgments.

In your proceedings, gentlemen, you should move with guarded circumspection. Every indictment carries with it a presumption of guilt, and however innocent a party may be, when he is arraigned as a criminal at the bar, a degree of reproach attaches to his character, and his feelings suffer a sting, for which nothing can atone. "An honest man is the noblest work of God," and to sanction his conduct is the highest tribute *you* can pay to his worth. Beware of the whispers of malice, the insinuations of malevolence:—Regard character as an inestimable jewel, which, when once lost can seldom be regained. But in doing this, you are not to understand me as recommending a blind apathy to guilt; in avoiding Scylla, I would not have you run into Charybdis.——In the testimony adduced before you for the state, a proper discrimination must be made between groundless accusations and substantial charges; a thorough investigation should be made, and every presentment should be grounded on such evidence, that if nothing contradictory was brought into view, the party accused would be deemed guilty of the charge. Remember that in all your accusations you are to present the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

[Here a detailed view of a number of offences, cognizable before the Grand Jury, are noticed at some length, which is unnecessary to be here inserted.]

For some time past, the policy of our law has discountenanced the importation of persons of colour, whether as freemen or slaves, within this state: That there should be men so far lost to every sense of humanity, so far absorbed in a groveling cupidity, as to seize those free persons, transport them from the state, and expose them to sale as slaves, is truly lamentable. This conduct is so offensive to justice, so destructive to personal security, and so abhorrent to the finer feelings of our nature, that the legislature has stamped this offence with peculiar marks of disapprobation. The situation of this county, its proximity to the neighbouring states, and its facility to water communication, renders it peculiarly favorable to this species of traffic—and it is to be feared that culprits of this description frequently evade the law altogether from the obscurity of the wretched victims, whom they doom to a life of slavery, to gratify their infernal avarice. Men capable of perpetrating this crime must have drank deep into the dregs of corruption and infamy, and merit the decided indignation of every man who has the least spark of philanthropy for the sufferings of his fellow-man.

Consistent with the rights due to human nature, you will not, you cannot neglect offenders of this discription.

The conduct of tavern-keepers, and retailers of spiritous liquors, will be a subject of your consideration; perhaps nothing contributes more to the demoralizing the great mass of the community than the uncontrouled use of spiritous liquors. The legislature has wisely guarded the retailing them, with restraints that are too frequently overleaped, and the laws evaded or wantonly violated.

It has been said that in some parts of the county, stores and taverns are opened merely to become a rendezvous for the drunken and worthless of the neighbourhood; and in those collections the most abandoned and flagitious scenes are acted—every moral restraint is put out of view, drunkenness becomes a veil for their enormities, and one hedious vice is covered by another—gaming, fighting, drunkenness and blasphemy, fill a train of amusements to their society.—They are a stepping stone to every vice, a nursery for every crime.——I trust, gentlemen, you see this subject in the same light that I do; that it is introducing a pernicious habit of intoxication among our citizens, and must, if persisted in, prostrate our whole society from the dignified character of rational men, to the level of the brutes of the field—when, therefore, you have knowledge that ordinary keepers suffer the idle and disorderly to resort their houses: when you observe retailers of spirits selling in small quantities, in open vessels, and with a view of its being drank in a short distance of their stores; or if persons without license presume to retail, they are all equally liable to your presentment.

With respect to assaults and batteries, (gentlemen) it is not to be expected from a Grand Jury, that they should rake up the cinders of every trifling quarrel that may have taken place, and resuscitate them to a flame. They are frequently of little consequence to the parties, and of no importance to the public,—it is the peace, the order, the harmony of society that should be the primary objects of your care, and unless they come within your own knowledge, unless information come directly before you, or are the fruits of drunkenness, or vice, or are enormous in their degree, I do not hold you bound to ransack the county for witnesses to support a trifling and very frequently a groundless charge.

It is our duty to remind you of the state of the public roads, how it is that gentlemen who compose the grand juries can ride those roads and not notice their wretched condition, is truly astonishing, you will be wanting in your duty to the county, to suffer the neglect of the overseers to pass with impunity—where they suffer the roads to be out of repair, they are liable to a presentment, and if you have a knowledge of it, or are informed of the neglect you are bound to notice it.

Gentlemen, standing as you do, at the threshhold of Justice—having in charge the great interests of your county, much, very much is expected from your efforts. To you in a special manner, it belongs to instill into this community, a reverence for the laws, and a sacred regard for the harmony and good order of society.

It is of little consequence, for a judge to advise you at the bar, unless when you retire to your rooms, you shew it to the world by your official conduct—through you, it is expected that the community will be rendered wiser and better—you are equally the deposit of safety from malevolence and ill will, and a scourge to the guilty.

I dismiss you, gentlemen, with a hope that in all your transactions on this jury, you will be governed by a spirit of impartiality, and that you will be emphatically, "a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well."

Imagination is more powerful than reality.

On the talk of a partial raising of the embargo, flour rose to eight dollars;—when the thing took place it fell to six dollars and three quarters. On the report of the arrival of the English messenger, and a probability of an adjustment of our differences, this article rose again to eight dollars—when this thing was confirmed, it began to decline again and is now heavy.——*(Bost. Detect.)*

Great Britain is supposed to have received from the Prince of Peace, the old King, and other plunderers of Spain, within eighteen months, upwards of one hundred and ten millions of dollars—about five millions of which she has *generously* spent in the service of Spain the remainder becomes necessary for his majesty's use in fighting for the liberty of the ocean and of man.—*(B.)*

To the Printers of the Boston Patriot.

SIRS—from Mr. Murray, the American minister at the Hague, who had been appointed by President Washington, I received assurances from the French government, similar to those in Mr. Balow's letter and so many others. They were conveyed from the French directory to Mr. Pichon, secretary of legation and charge des affairs of the French republic, near the Batavian republic, in the absence of the French ambassador, by him officially communicated to Mr. Murry, and by him to the executive of the U. States. The communication was in these words:

[*Translation.*]

EXTERIOR RELATIONS.

3d DIVISION. LIBERTY. EQUALITY.

N. B. The good order of correspondence requires, the answer should relate the number of the division above indicated. { *French seal of the department of exterior relations.*

Paris, the 7th Vendimaire, of the 7th year of the French republic, one and indivisible.

The minister of exterior relations to citizen PICHON, *secretary of legation of the French republic, near the Batavian republic.*

I have received successively, citizen, your letters of the 22d and 23d of Fructidore. They afford me more and more reason to be pleased with the measures you have adopted, to detail to me your conversations with Mr. Murray. The conversations, at first merely friendly, have acquired consistency by the sanction I have given to them, by my letter of the 11th Fructidore. I do not regret that you have trusted to Mr. Murray's honor a copy of my letter. It was intended for you only, and contains nothing but what is conformidable to the intentions of government. *I am thoroughly convinced that should explanations take place, with confidence, between the two cabinets, irritation would cease; a croud of misunderstandings would disappear; and the ties of friendship would be more strongly united, as each party would discover the hand which sought to disunite them.* But I will not conceal from you, that your letters of the 2d and 3d Vendimaire, just received, surprise me much. What Mr. Murray is still dubious of, has been very explicitly declared even before the president's message to congress, of the 3d Messidore (21st of June) last, was known in France. I had written it to Mr. Gerry, namely, on the 24th Messidore, and the 4th Messidore. I did repeat it to him before he set out. A whole paragraph of my letter to you of the 11th of Fructidor, of which Mr. Murray has a copy, is devoted to de- [illegible] of the French republic. According to these bases you were right to assert, that *whatever plenipotentiary the government of the United States might send to France, to put an end to the existing differences between the two countries, would be undoubtedly received with the respect due to the representative of a free, independent, and powerful nation.*

I cannot persuade myself, citizen, that the American government need any further declarations from us to induce them, in order to renew the negociations, to adopt such measures as would be suggested to them, by their desire to bring the diferences to a peaceable end. If misunderstandings on both sides have prevented former explanations from reaching that end, it is presumable that these misunderstandings being done away, nothing, henceforth, will bring obtacles to the reciprocal dispositions. The president's instructions to his envoys at Paris, which I have only known by the copy given you by Mr. Murr, and received by me the 21st Messidor, (9th July) announce, if they contain the whole of the American government's intentions, and dispositions, whin could only have added to those which the directory has always entertained; and notwithstanding the posterior acts of that government, notwithstanding the irritating and almost hostile measures they have adopted, *the directory* has manifested its perseverance in the sentiments which are deposited both in my correspondence with Mr. Gerry, and in my letter to you of the 11th Fructidore, and which I have herein before repeated in the most explicit manner. Mr. Gerry, therefore, citizen, to Mr. May, those positive expressions in order to convince him of our sincerity, and prevail upon him to transmit them to his government.

I presume, citizen, that this letter will find you at the Hague, if not, I ask it may be sent back to you at Paris.

Salute and esteem,
(Signed)
CH. MAURICE TALLEYRAND.

This letter was transmitted by Mr. Murray to the American government, and I own I am not acquainted with any words, either in French or English language, which could have expressed in a more solemn, and explicit, or a more decided manner, assurances of all that I had demanded as conditions of negociation. How could I get rid of it, with honor, or even with safety? If ever there was a regular diplomatic communication, this was one. The diplomatic organs were all perfect and complete. Mr. Pichon was well known at Philadelphia, where he had resided some years in a public employment in the family of the French ambassador, as a respectable man and a man of letters. He was now secretary of legation, held a commission from his sovereign as a minister plenipotentiary; and every secretary of legation in the absence of his principal minister, is, of course, charge des affairs and the acts of charge des affairs are as official, as legal and authentic, as those of any ambassador extraordinary.

In what other manner could Mr. Talleyrand have transmitted the assurances demanded? He had communicated them to Mr. Gerry, but was desirous of sending them by another way, that he might increase the chances of their arrival. At war with England, he could not send them to Mr. King. If he had sent them to Madrid to col. Humphreys, there was no probability of their arriving in America so soon as through Holland. If he had sent them to Berlin, to Mr. Adams, the course would have been still more circuitous, and the probability much greater of long delay and uncertain arrival. If he had sent them to Mr. Smith, at Lisbon, there would have been the same difficulties. Of all the diplomatic organs, therefore, in Europe, he chose the best, the shortest, the safest, and the most certain.

Mr. Gerry's letter to the secretary of state, dated Nantasket Road, Oct. the 1st, 1798, confirmed these assurances beyond all doubt, in my mind, and his conversations with me, at my own house, in Quincey, if any thing further had been wanting, would have corroborated the whole. As I have not a copy of that gentleman's letter, if he should chance to read this paper, I ask the favor of him to publish copies of his letter and of Mr. Talleyrand's letter to him, and if he pleases, to repeat the assurances he gave me in conversation. This gentleman's merit in this transaction was very great. They have been treated like all other sacrifices, services and sufferings in the cause of his country.

If, with all this information, I had refused to institute a negociation, or had not persevered in it, after, it was instituted, I should have been degraded in my own estimation as a man of honor; I should have disgraced the nation I represented, in their own opinion and in the judgment of all Europe.

JOHN ADAMS.

Quincy April, 1808.

INDIAN WAR IN LOUISIANA.

St. Louis, (U. L.) April. 12.

GENERAL ORDERS.

[illegible] April 10, 1809.

The Commander in Chief, directs all the volunteer companies of cavalry, riflemen, and infantry, within the territory of Louisiana, to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning. These together with the corps, which are already held in a state of requisition under the general orders of the 28th of November last, will form a body of service to act as their contiguity to the point of attack, or other circumstances, may render their services necessary for the defence of the Territory.

The commander in chief informs the militia of the districts of Cape Girardeau Saint Genevieve, Saint Louis, and Saint Charles, that if they each within their respective districts, form a volunteer company of infantry to act as circumstances may require for the defence of the frontiers of this territory, and to co-operate in the defence of the adjacent frontiers of the territory of Indiana, he will immediately furnish them with Muskets and Bayonets at the public expence, and will appoint such officers to command each company as shall be recommended to him for that purpose by a majority of the individuals composing them respectfully.

The commander in chief directs, that the inhabitants of the frontier of the district of Saint Charles, extending from the Mississippi to the Missouri, do immediately erect such stockade works defended by block houses, as may by the officers of that district, be deemed necessary to defend and secure the inhabitants of the same, and as far as circumstances will permit, against the threatened invasion of the savages; Col. Timothy Kibby, Majors Daniel M. Boone, and James Morison, or any two of them, are hereby constituted a Board of Vigilance, with powers to determine on the necessary number of, and scites for the fortifications; they are further empowered to call upon the captains of the several companies in the interior of the district to furnish their respective quotas of such number of men and implements, as they may deem necessary, to assist the more exposed inhabitants in erecting those fortifications. All persons who, from their exposed situations on the frontier, would in the opinion of the Board of Vigilance seek protection for themselves and families in these fortifications, are required, without exception, under the direction of the Board, to contribute their due proportions of labour in erecting the same. MERIWETHER LEWIS.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head Quarters, St. Louis.

April 10, 1809.

In consequence of the extreme reluctance on the part of the Young men of Louisiana, to engage in the service proposed by orders of the 3d inst. the Commander in chief for the protection of the frontier, finds himself under the necessity of ordering, that the militia of the districts of St. Louis and St. Charles, who were directed by the General order of the 24th November last to be organized, armed and equipped, within those districts, as their proportions of the requisition made by the secretary of war on the territory of Louisiana, as her quota of one hundred thousand militia, do and the same are hereby directed to repair to their respective rendezvous; those of the district of St. Louis, will rendezvous at the town of St. Louis, on the 19th instant; and those of the district of St. Charles at the town of St. Charles, on the 20th, armed and equipped, as is directed by the order of the 28th of November last.

Colonels Chouteau and Kibby will cause this order to be punctually and promptly executed, within their respective districts.

The Lieutenant Colonels, or commanding officers of the militia, within their several districts of this territory, will without loss of time, take such measures as they may deem expedient, to cause such company of militia in their respective districts to be divided into six classes.

When the companies shall have been thus formed into classes, the several captains, or commanding officers thereof, shall cause a roll of the same to be made out, expressing the name and class of each individual, and shall forthwith transmit the same to the major commanding them, by whom they will be forwarded to the lieutenant colonels of the districts, who are required to cause the same to be deposited in the office of regimental adjutant.

The volunteer companies are exempt from the foregoing regulations. The first and second classes, of each company, will hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning.

MERIWETHER LEWIS.

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

Complete list of members of Congress from Virginia.

Dr. Walter Jones,	Mathew Clay,
Joseph Lewis, (F)	John Randolph (Op)
Thomas Newton,	Wilson C. Nicholas
Burwell Bassett,	Daniel Sheffey,*
John Roane,*	J. Stephenson,*(F.)
Edwin Gray, (op.)	G. Breckenridge,*(F)
John Dawson,	Jacob Swoope,*(F.)
John Clopton,	Wm. A. Burwell,
John W. Eppes,	Gen. John Smith,
Thomas Gholson,	Peterson Goodwin,

Present Congress	*Last Congress.*
13 Dem.	15 Dem.
4 Fed.	1 Fed.
2 Op	3 Op.
1 Doubtful.	1 Doubtful

* *New members*

COMMUNICATION.

On Saturday the 29th of April the Arlington Sheep Sheering was held near Arlington house, at the seat of George Washington Park Custus, Esq. A large assemblage of gentlemen from various parts of the country were present, most of whom were clad in home-spun. Mr. Custus himself was dressed in a full suit home manufactures—it was truly gratifying to see this laudable and patriotic establishment attended by so many respectable and independent citizens, and exhibiting such evidence of the advantages contemplated by its patriotic founder.—William Fitzhugh, Esq. of Ravensworth, Doctor William A. Dangerfield, of Notley Hall, and John Scott, Esq. of Fairfax County, each shewed a fine Ram Lamb, and were competitors for the prize Cup of $60 value, which was adjudged to John Scott, Esq. William Fitzhugh, Esq. of Ravensworth, and William H. Foote, Esq. of Hayfield, each shewed a pair of fine Ewe Lambs and contended for the prize Cup of $40 value, which was adjudged to William H. Foote, Esq. Many specimens of excellent home-made cloth and other articles were also exhibited, and premiums adjudged accordingly.

The visitors were likewise highly gratified by the exhibition of many of Mr. Custis's own flock of sheep, and in witnessing the great improvement made in this invaluable stock by his judicious care and attention, no less honorable to him than beneficial to the country. Mr. Custus is justly entitled to the gratitude of his fellow citizens for this laudable institution, which promises such advantages to his country, by encouraging the breeding of sheep and promoting domestic manufactures, without which *we boast in vain of our independence.*—At half past 4 o'clock the company partook of the hospitality of Mr. Custus, who had provided a very abundant and excellent dinner, served in the field under a handsome spacious marque, at which nearly one hundred gentlemen were seated, among whom the greatest hilarity and good humor prevailed.

Alex. Adv.