Fortune Calls—Come Quickly!



The Fell's-Point Baptist Church Lottery

WILL positively commence drawing on *Monday next*, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at Mr. Peter Wyant's. The few tickets on hand, it is hoped, will be sold by that time.—Tickets for sale by the following persons: Hiram Cochran, at the lumber yard Charles-street; William Carman, at the lumber yard O'Donnell's wharf; and Wright and Price, lumber yard, Frederick street dock; Jos. Haskins, No. 62, South-street; Levering and Nems, No. 28, Cheapside; Rowles and Mackubin, No 56, Cumberland-row; M. and J. Conrad and Co. No. 140, Market-street; Aquila Miles, corner of Bridge and High-streets, Old town; Samuel Leath, No. 42, Howard-street; and David Burk, No 2, Philpot-street, Fell's-Point.

June 8. d2t

SEVENTH

Congress of the United States;

At the Second Session,

Begun and held at the city of Washington, in the territory of Columbia, on Monday, the sixth of December, one thousand eight hundred and two.

AN ACT

For the relief of Insolvent Debtors within the district of Columbia.

BE *it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled*, That any debtor who now is, or may hereafter be, in actual confinement in jail, in the district of Columbia, at the suit of any creditor, may apply by petition in writing, to any one of the judges of the circuit court of the district of Columbia, and offer to deliver up, for the use of his creditors, all his property, real, personal and mixed, to which he is in any manner entitled, a schedule whereof, on oath or affirmation, together with a list of his creditors, as far as he can ascertain them, shall be annexed to and exhibited with his petition; and thereupon the said judge shall direct notice of such application to be published in some of the public newspapers, for such time as he may think proper, which notice shall likewise require the attendance of the creditors at the court-house of the county, in which the petitioning debtor is confined, and at such time as the said justice may appoint; and it shall be the duty of the said judge, and of the clerk of the county, to attend at the time & place appointed; and on the appearance of the creditors, either in person or by attorney, agreeably to the notification, or on their neglect to appear, the said judge shall administer to the debtor the following oath: "I A. B. do swear (or solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm) that I will deliver up, convey and transfer, for the use of my creditors, all my property that I have any title to or claim any interest in, whether in possession, remainder or reversion, and all claims, rights and credits that I have or am in any manner entitled to: and that I have not at any time given, sold, conveyed, lessened or disposed of for the use or benefit of myself, or any other person or persons, any part of my money or other property, claims, rights or credits, thereby to defraud my creditors, or any of them, or to secure the same with a view or expectation to receive any profit, benefit or advantage thereby," and the said judge shall thereupon appoint such person, as a majority of the creditors in value, their agents or attornies then present, shall recommend, to be a trustee, for the benefit of the creditors of the petitioning debtor; or in case of non attendance of the creditors, or of their not making a recommendation, the said justice shall name such person as he shall think proper, to be a trustee as aforesaid.

Sect. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That before the said trustee shall proceed to act, he shall give bond to the United States in such penalty and with such security as the said judge shall approve, conditioned for the faithful performance of his trust, which shall be recorded in the clerk's office of the county in which the proceedings are had; and a certified copy thereof shall be received as evidence in any court of law in the United States; and the said bond may be sued in the name of the United States, for the use of any person or persons who may conceive him or themselves aggrieved by the negligence or misconduct of the trustee. And in case of the death or refusal to act of any trustee, the said judge may appoint another in his place, who shall give bond in manner as aforesaid.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That upon the petitioning debtor's executing a deed or deeds to the said trustee, conveying all his property, real, personal and mixed, and all his claims, rights and credits, agreeably to the oath or affirmation of the said debtor, and on delivering all his said property which he shall have in his possession, together with his books, papers and evidences of debts of every kind, to the said trustee, and the said trustee's certifying the same to the said judge in writing, it shall be lawful for the said judge to make an order to the marshal, jailor or keeper of the prison, in which the said debtor is then confined, commanding that the said debtor shall be thenceforth discharged from his imprisonment; and he shall be immediately discharged, and the said order shall be a sufficient warrant therefor: *Provided*, That no person who has been guilty of a breach of the laws, and who has been imprisoned for or on account of the same, shall be discharged from imprisonment: *And provided likewise*, That any property which the debtor may afterwards acquire (except the necessary wearing apparel and bedding for his family, and his tools, if a mechanic or manufacturer) shall be liable to the payment of his debts, any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sect. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said judge may allow such petitioning debtor and his family to retain their necessary wearing apparel and bedding, and if the said debtor be a mechanic or manufacturer, he may likewise retain the tools of his trade.

Sect. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the said judge may direct the trustee to sell and convey the property of the petitioning debtor, at such time, and on such terms and conditions as he shall deem most to the advantage of the creditors, and the product thereof, after satisfying all incumbrances and liens, shall be divided among the creditors in proportion to their respective claims; and no process against the real or personal property of the debtor shall have any effect or operation, except process of execution, and attachments in the nature of executions, which shall have been put into the hands of the marshal antecedent to the application.

Sect. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That every trustee may sue for, in his own name, any property or chuse in action assigned to him by virtue of this act.

Sect. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That if any creditor, at any time within two years after the application of such debtor, shall alledge in writing to the circuit court of the district of Columbia, or at any other court of the United States, within whose jurisdiction such debtor may be found, that such debtor had at the time of his application as aforesaid, directly or indirectly conveyed, lessened or disposed of any part of his property, rights or credits, with intent to defraud his creditors, or had at any one time within twelve months next preceding said application, lost by gaming more than three hundred dollars, or had assigned or conveyed any part of his property, rights or credits, with intent to give a preference to any creditor or creditors, or any surety, the said court shall thereupon order notice of such allegation to be given in writing to the debtor, and upon his appearance before them, or on his neglect to appear, after proof that notice has been served, the said court shall, within a reasonable time, examine the debtor or any other person, upon interrogatories on oath, touching the substance of the said allegations, or may direct an issue or issues to be tried in a summary way, without the form of an action, to determine the truth of the same; and if upon the answer to the said interrogatories, or upon the trial of the issue or issues, such debtor shall be found guilty of any fraud or deceit towards his creditors, or of having lost by gaming as aforesaid, or of having given any preference as aforesaid, he shall be precluded from any benefit under this act; and in case such debtor, or any other, testifying either for or against him, shall at any time thereafter be convicted of falsely, wilfully and corruptly swearing or affirming to any matter or thing in virtue of this act, he shall suffer as in the case of wilful perjury, and upon such conviction of the debtor, or any other person testifying for him, he shall be forever precluded from any benefit under this act.

Sect. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That every judge charged with the execution of this act, may, in the respective cases which may be brought before him, allow the trustee a commission not exceeding eight per centum for his trouble, on the amount of debts paid by him; and if any complaint shall be made to the said judge of the misconduct of any trustee by any creditor, or by the debtor, the said judge may call such trustee before them, and enquire into the cause of complaint, and may make such rules and orders as he may think proper for the accomplishment of the object of the trust, and may in his discretion remove such trustee and appoint another in his place.

Sect. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the acting judge may, by order, limit and appoint a time for creditors to bring in and exhibit their claims to the trustee; and if the said trustee should think proper to contest any claim exhibited against the debtor, it shall be his duty to report the same to the judge having cognizance of the case, who may examine the creditor and debtor upon oath respecting the same, and may submit to a jury such issues as shall be proper to settle the points in contest, or may appoint two indifferent persons to act as arbitrators between the parties, with a power, if they differ, to chuse an umpire, and a decision thus made shall be final between the parties; and the said justice may order any part of the debtor's estate to be set apart, and retained for the eventual satisfaction of any contested claim, or to be brought again into distribution; and if any creditor to whom a debt is due shall collude with a debtor to gain an undue preference, or for the concealment of any part of the debtor's estate or effects, or shall contrive or concert any acknowledgement of the debtor by parol, or in writing, to give false color to his claim, such creditor shall lose the whole of his debt.

Sect. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That if any debtor who shall have been relieved under this act, shall be arrested or imprisoned on any process sued out on any judgment or decree, obtained against him for any debt, damages, or costs contracted, owing or growing due before his discharge as aforesaid, the court before whom such process shall be returned or returnable, or any judge thereof, shall discharge such debtor; and if any such debtor shall be arrested or imprisoned on any process for the recovery of any debt, damages or costs contracted, owing or growing due before his discharge as aforesaid, the court before whom such process shall be returned, or returnable, or any judge thereof, shall discharge such debtor out of custody, on his common appearance being entered, without special bail: *Provided*, and it is the true intent and meaning of this act, that no discharge whatever under this act shall be construed or taken as a discharge of any other person from any debt, contract or engagement of any kind or nature soever.

Sect. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That when the acting judge shall as above prescribed, give to the marshal an order for the discharge of a debtor, it shall be the duty of the said judge to lodge with the clerk of the county in which the discharge shall take place, a certificate in the following words, viz. "I do hereby certify, that I have this day ordered the marshal of the district of Columbia, to discharge from imprisonment A. B. an insolvent debtor, agreeably to the act of the congress of the United States, entitled "An act for the relief of insolvent debtors within the district of Columbia," which said certificate shall be recorded by the said clerk, and a copy thereof under seal shall be received in evidence, in any court of law in the United States.

Sect. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That if any judge before whom the operation of this act in any particular case shall have been commenced, shall die, resign his office or become disqualified, the proceedings may be completed by any other judge of the said court, in the same manner as if they had been originally commenced before him.

Sect. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the application of the debtor, the appointment of a trustee, the several claims exhibited to the trustee and the amount of sales of the debtor's property shall be transmitted to and recorded by the clerk of the county in which the debtor was confined at the time of his application; copies of which, under seal, shall be received as evidence in any court of law in the United States, and the clerk shall receive the same fees as are fixed by law for the like services in other cases, to be paid by the trustee out of the first proceeds of the debtor's estate that may come into his hands.

Sect. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That no discharge of an insolvent debtor under this act shall have a greater effect in any particular state than if such debtor had been discharged under the insolvent debtor's law of any other state.

Sect. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That the circuit court of the district of Columbia, shall, by a general order to be entered on the records of the said court, fix the daily allowance for the support and maintainance of prisoners in execution for debt or damages in civil suits, which allowance the said court may, by a like general order, increase or diminish from time to time, as circumstances may require. And no person taken in execution for debt or damages in a civil suit, shall be detained in prison therefor, unless the creditor, his agent or attorney, shall after demand thereof by the marshal, pay or give such security, as he may require, to pay such daily allowance, and the prison fees: *Provided*, that a release from prison for want of such payment or security, shall not discharge the debt; but the body of the debtor shall never be again taken in execution therefor.

Sect. 16. *And be it further enacted*, That the said court may cause to be marked and laid out reasonable bounds of the prisons in the said district, to be recorded in the said court; and from time to time, may renew, enlarge or diminish the same. And every prisoner not committed for treason or felony, giving such security to keep within the said bounds, as any judge of the said court shall approve, shall have liberty to walk therein, out of the prison, for the preservation of his health; and keeping continually within the said bounds, shall be adjudged in law a true prisoner.

Sect. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall not be construed to extend to any debtor who is or shall be imprisoned at the suit of the United States, nor to alter, lessen or impair the right of the United States, to be first satisfied out of the estates of persons indebted to them; nor to any debtor who has not resided in the district of Columbia one year next preceding his said application.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the house of representatives.
STEPHEN R. BRADLEY,
President of the senate, pro tempore.

APPROVED, March 3, 1803.
TH: JEFFERSON.
President of the United States.

METEORS.

From the New-Hampshire Gazette.

Messrs. PIERCE'S,

I was struck with the wonderful appearance of falling stars, observed at Richmond, in Virginia, and published in a few newspapers, but little thought that any thing of the kind was observed here. The account appeared to me so extraordinary that I copied it off in short hand from the Centinel. I had just done this, and referring to the paper a gentleman, (in whose relation I place the fullest confidence) took the paper in his hand and told me, to my surprise, that he saw with astonishment the same marvellous appearance here, in company with two of his acquaintance. He then proceeded to give a particular description of it, agreeing with the printed account—Wishing to learn every interesting particular, I have conversed with two of my neighbors, named by him as being with him. The three agree in every thing material. After the verbal account, I desired of one of them that he would state the matter in writing—he has done it—and I send it you for publication. His testimony, in his own words, as an eye witness, would be deemed unexceptionable by those who know him.

I am your's, Y. Z.

Portsmouth, May 30.

Portsmouth, May 24, 1803.

SIR,

Agreeably to your request, I will give you a detail of the circumstances of the meteors falling. I think it was about four weeks ago, on Wednesday morning about one o'clock, I went to the door; as soon as I opened it, the heavens seemed to be all on fire, the meteors fell in every direction; four, six, or eight would fall at once toward the south, that I could count (you will observe I could not count all that fell) and I could see the light of them which fell toward the north, but could not count them. I counted *one hundred and sixty-seven* in about ten or fifteen minutes; I found I could not count them regularly—they fell so fast I counted no more; I stood there until about two o'clock; I then went up to go to bed, and looked out of the window towards the north, and they continued to fall in the same manner as before, I stood there about an hour, and then went to bed—this was about three o'clock.

The circumstance of one was very peculiar; the first I saw of it was directly over my head; it appeared about one foot diameter; it fell to the eastward; the houses prevented my seeing how far it fell—there was light enough to see a pin on the ground, the tail of it was about one minute disappearing.

Please to pardon the inaccuracy of this statement.

Your very humble servant, D.

FROM THE STAR.

The Excellency of Religion.

Not more excellent is religion in theory than in its effects. Marvellous are the effects of religion on those who embrace it. Look around you, my friends, are you not personally acquainted with many, who from the time they *truly* embraced religion, have been better neighbors, better husbands, better citizens, in short, better and more agreeable and useful in every respect? Can the same with equal propriety be said of philosophy, deism, &c. I know it is often said that christians are selfish, austere, melancholy and the like. Many hard things are repeatedly spoken of them. But by whom are they spoken? Not by those who are in any measure, friendly to religion, but the reverse; and whose lives are such as strongly prejudice their minds against religion, and leads them to the adoption of conformable sentiments, to the rejection of the pure doctrines of our holy religion. For whatever may be the motives which unbelievers assign for rejecting religion, their daily lives prove that it is the purity of its doctrines which more than any thing else offends them.

That many failings are discoverable, even in true christians, is too true; but this is not their religion, but the want of it, for none are perfect in this life. But should any dare assert that it is in philosophic families we are to look for models of filial respect, conjugal love, sincerity in friendship, or fidelity among domestics, would not their own conscience, their own experience, suppress the falsehood, even before their lips could utter it? The true christian, instead of being melancholy and dejected, as many imagine he is, keeps a perpetual cheerfulness of temper, and enjoys every moment, the satisfaction of thinking himself in company, with his dearest and best of friends. The time never lies heavy upon him, it is impossible for him to be alone. His thoughts and passions are most busied at such hours as those of other men are the most unactive; he no sooner steps out of the world, but his heart burns with devotion, swells with hope and triumph in the consciousness of that presence which every where surrounds him; or on the contrary, pours out its fears, its sorrows, its apprehensions, to the great supporter of his existence. The christian's desires are innocent, and all his life is serene while "there is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Whatever those who have no religion may say, or think, of christians, none but such will ever speak lightly of them. Christians alone can be called happy. "Delight is not seemly for a fool." Above all things, therefore, let us adhere to morals and religion, with immoveable firmness. Whatever effect outward show and accomplishments may have in recommending a man to others, none but the *truly pious* is really happy in himself. Surely there is no truly wise man who, in times of affliction, does not seek succor in religion which has brought life and immortality to light. And if there be any who doubt our faith, let them think of what importance religion is to calamity, and forbear to weaken its force. For there are no principles but those of religion that may be relied on in cases of real distress; and if our opponents cannot substitute something that is equally capable of alleviating the miseries to which our frail lives are subject, let them not take away this solace of our afflictions. Let others boast of the pleasure of being called philosophers, deists, sceptics, &c. Be mine that of the sincere, devout, humble follower of the meek and lowly Jesus.

THE LAY EXHORTER.

ALBANY, May 31.

Another Fire at Schenectady.

Yesterday morning between 2 and 3 o'clock, a fire broke out in the city of Schenectady, in a hatter's shop belonging to Mr. S. Hatch, which destroyed that building, together with 14 others, viz. a large brick house and barn of Lawrence Vrooman; a large brick house, store and barn of Charles Martin; a house and barn of Peter Cowan; a house and barn in the possession of Robert Baker; a house and barn of Aaron Vrooman; a house and barn of Reuben Simons, and a barn of Mrs. De Graaf.

From the active exertions of the citizens the progress of the conflagration was checked, and the corner house and shop of Dr. Anderson providentially saved. It is not as yet ascertained how the fire originated.

The loss is very considerable. The utility of good fire engines was, in this instance, peculiarly evinenced, in being, in a great measure, the means of saving the city from almost total destruction. There was fortunately no wind which could add to the violence of the flames.

BY THIS DAY's MAIL.

NEW-YORK, June 6.

Jamaica papers of the 7th ult. mention, that no merchant vessel sails from that Island for England without convoy. In consequence of the present posture of affairs in Europe, admiral Duckworth, on that station, had offered the merchants to send the Ganges frigate to England, to convoy any vessels which might be ready to sail by the 8th May; which was accepted.

Previous to the departure of the Kennebeck from Trinidad, an express had arrived from London with orders to put that place in a state of complete defence.

Extract of a letter from Port-de-France, isle of Martinique, dated 11th Floreal, written by an aid-de-camp of admiral Villaret Joyeuse, captain general of Martinique, to commandant Touffard.

"Le Papillon has this instant arrived, bringing accounts of the continuation of peace in Europe, and departs this night to bear the information to your island.

"We have been at work here for some days, to put ourselves in a state of defence; but it is happy for our colony, & still more for yours, that this measure becomes unnecessary."

Our correspondent at Gibraltar, under date of the 4th May, writes us as follows: "A new proclamation has been issued by the governor, putting the inhabitants under war regulations and restrictions. The new governor, general Trigge, is arrived: but whether he will take the command or not is uncertain: some say the duke of Kent will remain, and general Trigge go to Malta. If this should be the case, no doubt remains but that the duke will be sent off by the soldiery per force. His discipline is severe, and he is a friend to the inhabitants: these, alone, would be sufficient motives for rendering any governor odious in the eyes of the military. A day or two ago there was a hot press in our bay for seamen, from all the English merchantmen, by the frigate Amazon, which is waiting to take the duke of Kent to England. He will stop at Lisbon to visit his brother.

"The English and Spanish merchants residing in Spain are alarmed at the prospect of a speedy war. The Spanish court has taken off the quarantine imposed upon American vessels, provided a Spanish consular certificate be attached to their bills of health.

"On the 29th ult. arrived ship Trent from Baltimore. No paper has been issued from the printing office here for 5 weeks. Our letters, just received by this day's mail, contain the opinion of the merchants in the different ports of France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal; they are uniformly in one sentiment—"*that war is inevitable.*"

Capt. Waterman, of the ship Fortitude, who arrived here on Saturday in 35 days from Lisbon, informs that a packet arrived there the day he sailed, which left London the 25th of April; the passengers in her reported that affairs then wore a more pacific aspect. Our former accounts from London are to the 24th April. The markets at Lisbon are overstocked with flour, and American produce was very low, except corn; flour had sold as low as 7 dollars per barrel. Business was at a stand, and the merchants dubious in making purchases or sales, in consequence of the unsettled state of Europe.

A letter from Cape-Francois, dated the 11th ult. says, "A brig from Bordeaux passed this port, bound to Port-au-Prince, with dispatches, bringing the intelligence of a large body of troops having embarked for this port; and preparations are now making here to receive them.

"All who are taken prisoners, are immediately devoured by the blood hounds, which are kept in town for the purpose of hunting them. A number of brigand barges are plying about different parts of the island."

On Friday se'nnight, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the woods on the Schenectady road, were discovered to be on fire. From the dryness of the leaves and bushes, it soon became very alarming, and fears were entertained for the Halfway-house, and other buildings, occupied by Mr. Sybrant Douw. Fortunately, however, by means of back fires, the progress