

years more, to reduce them down to a single month. In military transactions, there are many reasons why, in some matters, accompts should be rendered weekly, and even daily.

4th.—Coercion, where necessary, should be prompt and energetic. The secretaries, in their report, treat this subject with great delicacy. There can, however, exist no doubt of the rights of the government. In private life, the individual has the right to take his own property wherever he can find it. It is only requiring of him not to violate the public peace. Certainly the right of a government ought not to be less than the right of an individual; and, with respect to a government, there cannot be a breach of the peace. The government itself is but a bailee between the people and the holder of public monies. It is a principle of law, as well as of reason, that securities are exposed to the same liabilities as their principles—no possible injury can be done—the path of justice is open to either principal or securities. If any thing unfortunate should occur; if there should be a misapprehension, an injury, an oppression, the government should be extremely liberal in its indemnifications. If, in any case, it has unhappily failed in its own engagements; if its servants have not been paid when they ought to have been, or have suffered by any loss of credit it may have incurred, the remuneration should be honorable. The sublime maxim of the American Chatham, should prevail:—"It is better to drain the treasury of its last dollar, than to violate just principles or sully the purity and honor of the government." There are many other cases than those under consideration, where summary proceedings are practised, and in which they are unquestionably proper. Taxes, collectors, sheriffs, attorneys, securities in stay of executions, are all subjected to them. Executions emanating from the judicial comproller, ought to run both against the principals and the securities: & against their persons and their estates, whether real or moveable, at the same time. The equity side of the tribunal ought, nevertheless, to be always open.

5th. There should never be a deficiency of accompting officers. It is a most miserable sort of economy to let the public finances suffer for want of officers. Men ought not to be obliged to attend personally from a great distance, to be delayed, to be exposed to captious objections in the settlement of their accompts. He who is ready to accompt, should be immediately attended to.—When the pressure is extraordinary, and the adjustment of the public accompts must necessarily fall behind, without assistance, the President ought to be authorized to employ as many additional officers as may be requisite, during the emergency. The privilege of franking should be extended to both the solicitors. To the public solicitor, it would naturally be imparted; but experience will shew that it ought to be extended to the private solicitor. No person ought to be

compelled to relinquish a small claim, which he conceives to be just, merely because he cannot, like the government, bear the expence requisite to obtain it.

For the Western Sun.

To the Governor of Indiana.

SIR,

THERE are ills which time alone can mitigate; others there are which should be buried in oblivion—Interest, as well as duty, in some instances, prescribe this mode to the sufferer; but when these wounds are inflicted by the high hand of power, silence becomes criminal—honor, patriotism, manhood, forbid it—"Nature cries aloud."

If your 'Excellency,' as in courtesy, and the republican spirit of the times, you are called, should glance to the signature of this address, you will readily conceive that the writer alludes to your agency in the establishment of a press in this town.—This act has been deservedly execrated throughout the state, and in a tone, which, sooner or later, will reach your 'excellency's' ears. You seem, sir, to have forgotten that you preside over freemen; and you seem to have yet to learn, that the people are sufficiently sensible of their rights, sufficiently jealous of their liberties, to apply that judicious maxim of Horace, '*principiis obsta*,' to arrest the first encroachments of power. The press has ever been regarded, even in the most tyrannical governments, as an invincible check to despotism, when left free, or the most powerful engine of oppression under the control of executive patronage. That the one in question is under the immediate control of your 'excellency' and bound to your interest by a stipulated pecuniary price, I do not assert, because, I am unable to prove it.—But, that an undue influence has been used by you in its establishment has already been exhibited by Reflector, a writer who appears well acquainted with your 'excellency,' and full of the noble fire of patriotism. So much for the general principles on which this affair is to be viewed.—Let us descend to particulars; and here is discovered a littleness, a baseness, in which I could have wished you had not been a participant; not from any respect I bear you personally, but for the honor of the station you now hold.

You could not have been ignorant that a prospectus had been issued for a paper termed "The Vincennes Gazette"—true, I did not 'do myself the honor,' to transmit a copy to you; I had been educated in a different school from that of servility: I wanted no patronage; but there is a certain pliancy expected of editors in these republican days, which I did not happen to possess; nay, I had the presumption to publish my determination to conduct a free press, unshackled by power, uncorrupted by patronage—which should present to the people a full length portrait of their rulers, and arraign their improper measures, without fear, favor or affection. This I conceive to be the principal object of

a press devoted to political information; but this stubborn spirit it appears, did not suit the palate of certain influential personages, who are your supporters, one of whom intimated thus much to me, when I remonstrated with him, for aiding in foisting in a new press in my absence, and undermining my intended establishment!—These, sir, are parlous times; Shakespear said in his day, "There live not three good men in England, and *one of them is fat*, and grows old; God help the while."

On my first arrival in Vincennes, I received much encouragement from the gentlemen of the town, to commence my proposed paper. I determined, however, to explore the ground slowly and cautiously. An intimate friend of your 'excellency,' informed me, that he had received a letter from you on the subject of a new press here, and requested my immediate determination as to my intended publication.—My prospectus, in manuscript, was then shown him. On reading it, he observed, that he should write to you, discouraging a third press—I am convinced he did so. Business calling me to St. Louis, the prospectus was committed to press, and published under a full conviction that, after the conversation with your friend, your press would not come on. After my return, I was obliged to go to Shawneetown, where I was detained longer than I had anticipated. Judge, sir, of my astonishment to find on my return, this same third press establishing by your excellency's recommendation! Here was manœuvring with a vengeance! If the object of yourself and your friends was fair and manly, why apparently desist, on the perusal of my independent prospectus? Why mask the affair until my departure? Why issue a new prospectus, and forward the types and other materials, in my absence?

"About it; for it stands me much upon
"To check those hopes whose growth
"may injure me,"

said a well known usurper in former times; whether the quotation be a faithful transcript of your 'excellency's' cogitations on a recent occasion you best can determine; your partial determination, however, will not satisfy the people; nor is it difficult to foresee that they will ere long overwhelm with contempt, both the principal and sub-agents in this nefarious transaction.

This, sir, is a plain and dispassionate statement of facts; I possess no irritation on the subject, either towards you, or your puppets, your little great men, or your great little men; for them and for you, I feel about as much respect as I ever did: they are as incapable of awaking my resentment, as of attracting my esteem; they are every way too inconsiderable—"It seems as if Nature's journeymen had made them, and not made them well."

Your station, however, is entitled to some attention, and it shall be paid with all *due deference*. You may trample upon the rights and the interests of an individual; you may render unavailing a long & expensive jour-

ney, undertaken with a view to a particular object, but you shall not do it with impunity—the new press is a matter of indifference to me; but the manner of its establishment is not so; and from the very great regard I bear the people, I shall keep your 'excellency' advised of their sentiments on the subject.

The only apology that is offered for this pitiful trick, is, that my return was not expected!—This subterfuge may screen some of your friends; but it has been reiterated by one who was too well acquainted with all my movements to be passed over slightly—his duplicity shall form the subject of a separate communication.—Here I shall take my leave of your excellency, as I do not wish to fatigue you by my first letter.

I have the honor to be,

With all proper

Respect, &c. &c.

SERGEANT HALL.

Vincennes, March 18, 1817.

GAS LIGHTS.

A committee of the corporation of New-York, have made an able, and very ingenious report on the subject of lighting the city with hydrogen Gas, instead of oil, and finally recommended its inexpediency, at present, from the great expence of the process, and the probability of higher improvements being made in the science of chymistry, so as to render the operation cheaper than the present mode of illumination. The committee, however, express their warm approbation of the experiments which have been made; and of their hopes, that a company may be formed, to try the operation still further, assured that if the arrangements are judiciously planned, the institution might be made useful to the parties concerned, as well as to the public. Of the articles of sea coal and rosin, to produce flame, they give the preference to the latter, as much the cheapest, and unsusceptible of the sootid quality, which adheres to coal. By experiment, they found that a cylinder filled with coal, produced 1500 cubic feet of gas in a day, while the same cylinder filled with rosin, in the same time produced 5000 feet.

FOR SALE, A KEEL BOAT

OF ten or twelve tons burthen—she is almost new, substantially built, and will be sold reasonable—apply to

JOHN EWING.

February 7, 1817.

10-tf

KENHAWA SALT

Of the first quality, for sale by

JOHN DULY

IN Busselon prairie, one mile from Carlisle, which will be sold low for Cash, Furs and skins, or for produce, such as Corn and Wheat.

8-tf

January 23, 1817.

NOTICE.

ALL those indebted to John Houston & Co. are requested to call and pay off their book accounts, against the first day of April next, as they are about going away.

JOHN HOUSTON, & Co.

March 14, 1817.

15-3t*

BLANK DEEDS,

FOR SALE

AT THIS OFFICE.

The Constitution of Indiana.

FOR SALE at this OFFICE