

Yet, these same judges legislate continually—and more than this, the judges of his majesty George the 4th, in their long wigs and silk gowns, and the judges of New York, and sometimes of Kentucky legislate for the people of Indiana. The whole system is wrong. The common law, and the statutes of England in aid of the same, prior to the 4th James 1st, founded in barbarism, nourished in ignorance and tyranny, and cherished by aristocracy and monarchy, is now a vast and confused mass of sayings and opinions, and rules, scattered through a thousand heavy volumes.

I know there are men, whose opinions deserve regard, who reverence this system, tattered and patched as it is. I know that the majority of the profession, of which I am only an humble, and a junior member—of a profession in every thing but their attachment to this common law, liberal and enlightened, highly venerate this system. And I know that many of the most influential members of society dread innovation, and tremble at reform. But I have a right to think even of the law, and accident has made it my duty freely to declare my sentiments to you—freely you shall have them, right or wrong. Men who have grown grey in the study and the practice of the common law, may be allowed to reverence its want of fixed rules, & of general principles—its “unaccountable fictions and circuities,” and “its fanciful niceties and metaphysical subtleties.” The timid who dread innovation, may be allowed to prefer our present system bad as they will acknowledge it to be, to the dangers of a reform. But a free people must despise a law whose rules are inconsistent with each other; which is without fixed principles; which is often contrary to justice and common honesty, and sound policy; and which was formed in a dark & ignorant age, to meet the wants of an ignorant, enslaved, and barbarous people. And above all, which is not tangible. Some individuals have heretofore in the Legislature proposed to re-enact the British statutes in force among us. This I consider useless labor. Those statutes all prior to the 4th year of James the 1st, A. D. 1606, have in the course of more than 220 years, become essentially parts of the common law, and are all expressed in a language uncouth, barbarous and technical, whose meaning can only be ascertained from the reports. A separation cannot be made without injury to the whole system. I propose a collection of all the law by which we are governed, and such changes in the present system as the interests of commerce and the useful arts, the state of society, the nature of our government, and enlightened experience may dictate, into a written code. A digest of the whole common law and of its appendages; the statutes of England in force with us, and the decisions of the Chancery courts; amended as justice and good morals, experience, and the spirit of our institutions enjoin, and as the present state of society requires—arranged in a systematic manner, under proper divisions and subdivisions, and expressed in the plainest but most exact manner. This would render a knowledge of the principles of the law attainable by most men, and promote good morals. Would disencumber justice of the absurd and often times expensive and tedious forms, and John Doe and Richard Roe proceedings which now trammel its administration. Would render law and equity as they should be, synonymous, and avoid the necessity for distinct courts of Equity; and especially, “would free our laws from uncertainty, elevate a liberal and honorable profession, and utterly destroy judicial legislation.” Is not such a digest practicable? Is it not necessary? And would not justice be administered under it more easily, & with less expense to the state and to individuals, than under our present jumble of Saxon, Danish, and Norman customs, and of feudal and barbarous statutes, decorated here and there with principles of justice sometimes drawn from the civil law, and sometimes enacted into law by the judges? In the midst of his splendid career, Napoleon found an opportunity to reduce the various & discordant customs which had originated in the several independent provinces of France in the middle ages; the conflicting decisions which in the long lapse of ages had become the law of the numerous sovereign parliaments of the ancient kingdom; the rules of the Ecclesiastical and military establishments, and the laws of the republican legislatures into a written code, calculated to promote justice, and encourage industry amongst thirty millions of people. Under this written law, notwithstanding continual wars; notwithstanding that invasion which restored the race of ancient monarchs; France had so flourished, that as the dearest boon they could bestow upon their people, the Bourbons proclaimed the work of Napoleon, and France continues to

enjoy the offspring of the revolution.—Several of the nations of Europe are governed by written laws. In our own country, Louisiana has adopted a written code, and prospers. And why the people of this state—republicans—at peace with all the world, and prosperous, should continue to be governed by a law which only excuses the ignorance of those who administer it, and yet is every thing and any thing, as the minds of the judges vary—which is the production of a barbarous people, whose superstition we have discarded, whose philosophy we have abandoned, & whose knowledge in science and the arts we call *truly*, ignorance—and which at variance with justice, is enveloped in darkness and mystery, I know not. To me it appears that it is time to change. And henceforth, in public and in private, I shall endeavour to advocate a written code of law. In the execution of the work I propose, much would depend upon the knowledge and experience of those to whom it might be confided.—Too much caution could not be used, and much time would necessarily be employed, and some expense must be incurred; but the object when attained would amply repay every care, and every expense.

Many portions of our state are at this moment much excited in relation to the Michigan road. The great question is—where shall the road strike the Ohio river? Lawrenceburgh and Madison are contended for by their respective friends in the east; Jeffersonville and New Albany, and other points, are advocated by different sections of the centre. And the west has its pretensions. I would eagerly take any course favourable to the west, and gladly avail myself of any opportunity of leading the road down White river to this place, and hence to the most favorable site for a town on the Ohio, & near the mouth of the Wabash. Any contest between the west, and the centre or the east, would, if I may judge from the lessons of the past, result unfavourably to us. There will always be found among us—for we are divided—some, who to gratify private feelings, or to promote private interest, will ever be ready to act contrary to the interest of the western portion of the state. The location of this road will most probably govern every question which may be agitated during the ensuing session, and I shall endeavor to make the most of it. Should I see any reasonable prospect of succeeding in the claims the west may make, I will support our pretensions most heartily. But if the prospect is not good, I shall not cast away the power my vote will give me by a contest fruitless and unprofitable, against a decided majority.

I have now, fellow citizens, touched upon every subject of interest which has occurred to my mind; and have endeavored candidly to state my opinions in a clear manner. My object will be faithfully to discharge my duty to you, and to myself, and I trust with much confidence, that at the termination of the session I shall merit at least your good opinion of my intentions.

SAMUEL JUDAH.

October 15th, 1827.

## NEW GOODS.

24 S. TOMLINSON,

(MARKET STREET, VINCENNES.)

HAS just received from Philadelphia and Baltimore, a new and very general assortment of

### MERCHANDIZE,

CONSISTING OF

### Spring and Summer DRY GOODS,

An extensive assortment of Hardware, Cutlery, Glass, and Queensware.

FRESH GROCERIES—of the latest importations, and of the first quality.

All at which are offered for sale at the lowest cash prices.

14-3m

May 10, 1827.

## NEW GOODS.

JOHN R. M. LEROY

HAS lately received a new supply of GOODS suitable for the present and approaching season, which he will exchange (on delivery of the article) for

Beef Cattle, Feathers, Live Hogs, Dried Apples, Oats & Corn, Dried Peaches, Beans, Beans, Flax and Tow Linen.

And any other article suitable for the New Orleans market, delivered before the 1st of December next.

Vincennes, October 6, 1827

35-4f

3 LIST of Letters remaining in the Post Office at Vincennes, the quarter ending the 30th September 1827, which if not taken out before the expiration of three months, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

ABC Alexander, William Andrews, Tillinghurst Almy, C. & M. Alexander, John Austin, Dr. Austin 2, S. Almy, Robison Anderson, Isaac Blackford 2, B. V. Beckes 2, Susan Bailey, J. Brown, Joseph Beard, John Bidone 2, Eli Budd 2, James Boner, Thomas Burres, Elizabeth Councilman, Thomas Case, Elizabeth Cunningham, Grand R. A. Chapter, Messrs. H. & A. Collins, Andrew Correll 2, Jonathan P. Cox, John L. Compton, David Collins, Mary A. Carruthers, Michael Catt,

DEF Durham, J. Douglass, J. Durell, Samuel Emison, William Faris, James Foyles, Solomon Fry, Robert Fraker 2, Wilus Fellows,

GHI Peter Gmann, T Hall, An Hogue, James Harbin 2, Joseph Holdingsworth, Reason Harben, Jonathan Hornback, Samuel Judah,

LMN Alexis Ladsoute, Daniel Loundsdale, William McCoy 2, James Mays, John Marney, William Miner, Asa McChord, John Myers, William Noy,

ORS Enoch Organ, Benjamin Orney, Harvey Roberts, Samuel Rogers, Simon Rook, John I. Simpson, John Sheilus, James Smith 3, T. Scott, Jacob Small 2, John Swanger, G. W. Salters,

TWV Bernard Thompson, Bernard H. Thompson, Samuel Thompson, Ira Thompson, Jas. Vermilion, Joseph Vankirk, David Vance, Joshua Vance, Thomas Waters, Philip Wease, Betty Madley, Levi H. Woke-man.

SAMUEL HILL, P. M.

October 1st, 1827 35-3t 180

Persons inquiring for the above letters will please say they are advertised, otherwise they may not get them.

### Two hundred dollars Reward.

UNAWAY from the subscribers, living in Nashville, Tenn. on Saturday night the 28th July 1827 two likely Mulatto Fellows, one named

WILLIAM or BILLY,

belonging to Alexander Porter; about 22 years of age, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, of a yellow complexion, a well made fellow, has been on board a Steam boat commanded by Anderson Miller, from Louisville to Orleans, as a Cook and Barber—He took with him a shot gun, and wore crape on his hat; his clothing cannot be well described—they were pretty good—BILLY formerly belonged to Moses Grant, near Lancaster, Ky.

The other boy is a very bright mulatto named

8 NED,

and sometimes calls himself JAMES EDMONDS, belonging to Charles Cooper. Ned is about 18 years of age, stout made, active and quick in his movements, cheek bones prominent, hair not very black, and inclines to curl more than to kink; and when spoken to harshly stammers a little. Among his clothing he has a mixed cloth coat nearly new, with polished steel or white metal buttons; a black bombazett coat and pantaloons much worn; his shirts were either Irish linen or common country flax linen. They left the town of Nashville on Monday night the 30th July 1827. We have understood their intention was to descend the river some distance and then make their way across the country to Indiana or Ohio.—The above reward will be given for their apprehension and secured in any jail so that we get them, or \$100 for either of them. Thomas Washington, Esq. of this place has also a mulatto boy named

WILLIAM,

who absconded on Tuesday the 31st July; the three intended going together, and it is probable they may get in company.

ALEXANDER PORTER CHARLES COOPER.

Nashville, Aug. 21, 1827. 30-3m

### 25 PROTECTION.

SAMUEL HILL.

Agent for the PROTECTION FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY of Hartford, Connecticut.

IS prepared to insure on Steam, Keel, and Flat Boats, and Cargoes. Also, on Stores, Houses, Mills, &c. and their contents, at the lowest rates of premium.

Satisfactory evidence of the liberality of the Protection Insurance Company in adjusting losses, and promptness in paying the same, can be had by applying as above.

12-6m

Vincennes, April 1827.

### Collectors Sales for Taxes.

#### Collector's Sale for Taxes,

To all whom it may concern,

#### TAKE NOTICE.

THAT I shall proceed to sell at the court house in Wasaington, Daviess county, Indiana, on the second Monday in Nov. next, all and singular, the lands and town lots lying in said county of Daviess, on which the taxes due thereon for the years 1825, 1826 and 1827, are unpaid.—Sale to continue from day to day until all are sold or offered.

GEO. A. WALLER, c. d. c.

October 1, 1827 35-4t

#### Collector's Sale for Taxes.

All persons concerned will

#### TAKE NOTICE,

THAT I shall proceed to sell at the court house door in Princeton, Gibson county, Indiana, on the second Monday in November next, all and singular the lands and town lots lying in said county of Gibson, on which the taxes due thereon for the years 1826 and 1827 are unpaid.—Sale to continue from 9 o'clock A. M. and 4 o'clock P. M.—from day to day until all are sold or offered for sale.

JAMES DEVIN, c. d. c.

October 5, 1827

35-4t

#### Collector's Sale for Taxes.

All persons concerned will

#### TAKE NOTICE.

THAT I shall proceed to sell at the court house door in Vincennes, Knox county, Indiana, on the second Monday in November next, all and singular the lands and town lots lying in said county of Knox, on which taxes due thereon for the years 1824, 1825, 1826 and 1827, are unpaid. Sale to continue from day to day until all are sold or offered for sale.

THOMAS M'CLURE, Col. & c.

October 3, 1827

35-1d

#### Collector's Sale for Taxes.

NOTICE is hereby given, that on the second Monday of November next, at the house of J. D. Clements, in Hindostan, I shall offer for sale, all and singular, the tracts of land and town lots, in the county of Martin, state of Indiana, on which the taxes have not been paid for the years 1824, 1825, 1826, and 1827—sale will commence at ten o'clock, A. M. and continue from day to day, until all are offered.

SANFORD BROWN, Col. M. c.

October 6, 1827.

36-4t

#### Collector's Sale for Taxes.

ALL persons concerned are hereby notified, that I will, on the second Monday in November next, commence selling, at the court house door in Petersburg, Pike county, Indiana, all and singular, the lands and town lots in the said county, on which the taxes for the years 1826 and 1827, have not been paid, and that I will continue from day to day, between the hours of nine o'clock, A. M. and four o'clock, P. M. to offer the same, until all have been offered for sale.

JAMES LOWNSDALE, Col. P. c.

October 8, 1827.

36-4t

To all whom it may concern

#### TAKE NOTICE,

THAT I shall proceed to sell at the court house in Merom, Sullivan county, Indiana, on the second Monday in November next, all & singular, the lands and town lots, lying in said county of Sullivan, on which the taxes due thereon for the years 1825, 1826, and 1827, are unpaid—sale to continue from day to day, until all are sold, or offered.

EDW. WILKES, Col. s. c.

October 8, 1827.

36-4t

#### LAFAYETTE HALL

THE subscriber has opened a PUBLIC HOUSE, in SALEM, Indiana, at the stand formerly occupied by capt. Wm. Baird, on South Main street. The building has been enlarged, and is commodious.—He has attached to his house an extensive READING ROOM, furnished with Papers from each of the states.—Travellers who call at his house, will be furnished with Way-Bills giving the distance from Salem, to all the principal towns in the state, and the public houses kept in the same.

HENRY S. HANDY.

Salem, October, 1827.

#### NOTICE.

I make it known that my wife Rachel left my bed and board on the 28th September last, without any just cause—therefore I caution all people from crediting or harboring her, as I will not pay any debts of her contracting.

GEORGE LETTSON.

September 28, 1827

35-3t