

GEORGIA STATE GAZETTE

O R

INDEPENDENT REGISTER.

F R E E D O M of the P R E S S, and T R I A L by J U R Y, to remain inviolate forever. *Constitution of Georgia.*

AUGUST A: Printed by JOHN E. SMITH, Printer to the State; Essays, Articles of Intelligence, Advertisements, &c. will be gratefully received, and every kind of Printing performed.

charge delivered to the Grand Jury of the county of Washington, May Term, 1787.

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

absence of his Honor the Chief Justice, and by appointment of the Court, it becomes my duty to address you, which my indisposition yesterday prevented. I very sincerely congratulate the county of Washington that the period is now arrived when the administration of justice has taken, within its limits, when the good citizens are more compelled to pursue their just rights in the counties, and no longer called to answer charges against them before tribunals remote from their residence.

At a time when peace and tranquility pervade, it is your duty, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, to regulate the police of your county, so as to render it a blessing permanent.

One of the first objects which ought to engage your attention is the state of your academy, for the establishment of which an Act of the Legislature has been some time past. You must be very sensible that a general and diffusive knowledge of poetry is the life of all governments, which is only to be attained by education; it is replete with advantage to civil society; it produces that spirit in the cabinet, that renders people within themselves and respectable abroad; it refines the sentiments so it organizes the man, and fills the mind for the noblest purposes. The important considerations, merit in a particular manner your very serious attention; it will become you to enquire diligently of the progress made therein, into the state of the funds for that purpose, and what appropriations have been made thereto; and should you find that the necessary measures have not been taken to carry into effect a law so truly interesting, fail not to advise in whom this trust is reposed, feel your wish to censure for their neglect.

It is a misfortune common to frontier counties to be very remote from commerce, and the means by which the inhabitants can enjoy in a degree a participation of its advantages, is by the due regard to the state and condition of the public highways, you will therefore do well to recommend to the Court, that such roads be kept through the different parts of your county, you may think most conducive to its convenience.

Long experience having evinced our constitution in its present form inadequate to the grand objects of government, the Legislature at their last session thought proper to recommend to the public amendments thereto; should they take

place, I am persuaded it would add materially to the happiness and prosperity of Georgia.

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury,

Let me now call your attention in a most especial manner to the suppression of vice and immorality of every kind whatever which may come within your knowledge. It is too frequently the case in new settled countries that the peace and harmony of the public is interrupted by idle and dissolute adventurers; the common receptacles of such men are tippling-houses, and so long as they are tolerated, in vain may we erect public seminaries for the education of our youth, who too easily led away by bad examples, become a disgrace rather than an ornament to their country, and those great and noble purposes for which man was designed prostituted by the vilest practices.

Another evil incident to tippling-houses is gambling—You will for a moment reflect on the situation of the unfortunate gamester, (for some unfortunate there must be) led on perhaps by intoxication, view him deprived in an instant of all he possessed! View him surrounded by an innocent wife and family reduced to wretchedness by his folly! And then view him in despair untimely ending a wretched existence, to the disgrace of himself, and injury of his country! These, Gentlemen, are gloomy reflections indeed, and such, I trust, as will stimulate you to the most effectual measures to obviate.

It is much to be regretted that profane cursing and swearing is so generally tolerated as to become almost a principal ingredient in polite conversation; but, Gentlemen, let not such offenders escape your censure in whatever rank or condition of life they may stand.

The Tax Laws will be laid before you, together with the lists of taxable property for the last year, which you will carefully examine, and also recommend proper persons in the different districts for the purpose of receiving returns of taxable property for the current year.

Should any bills of indictment be laid before you, you will proceed to enquire of their merits with the utmost circumspection; but I am happy to find so little criminal business in your county.

You will now retire, Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, to your deliberations, in the course of which I shall be happy in giving you any further advice and instructions you may require.

WILLIAM SMITH, jun. Attorney
for the State pro tem.

Washington County,
May 23, 1787.

Presentments of the Grand Jury of Washington County, May Term, 1787.

WE, the Grand Jury of the county of Washington, on our oaths present as a grievance the present depreciated state of our paper medium, owing to a neglect in the Legislature in not establishing an adequate fund for its redemption by appropriating the late cession of land to that purpose.

We present as a grievance the many dangerous consequences arising from the delay of the Commissioners appointed to erect an Academy or Seminary of Learning agreeable to an Act of the Legislature passed in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.

We present John O'Neil and William Drake as disorderly persons, forsaking their wives and children, and cohabiting with idle and dissolute women, which is a nuisance to society.

We recommend the following as proper persons to receive the returns of taxable property for the current year:

For Capt. Shield's District, John Watts,	
Capt. Fort's,	James Evans,
Capt. Kemp's,	John Crawford,
Capt. Irwin's,	Benjamin Griffin,
Capt. William's,	himself,
Capt. Smith's,	Benjamin Tennill,
Capt. Barclay's,	himself,
Capt. McDowell's,	Joshua Williams.

We further recommend to the honorable Court, that a road be laid out from the Court-house in the most direct manner to the town of Sunbury, and that Commissioners be appointed for that purpose.

We have examined the tax returns, and are sorry to observe some of them not so correct as necessary, and recommend that the Clerk make out a report of all defaulters, and that the Sheriff immediately thereon proceed to the due execution of his duty.

We lastly return our thanks to the honorable Court and the Attorney for the state, for the great and worthy charge delivered us; and recommend that these our presentments together with the charge be published in the next Georgia Gazette, and laid before the General Assembly at their next meeting.

(Signed)

Alexander Irwin, Foreman, John Rutherford, William Johnson, Elisha Williams, Jacob Dennard, John Robertson, Joseph Beddingfield, Philemon Franklin, Aaron Sinquefield, Joseph Avent, John Shepperd, James Thomas, John Danie, William Irwin, Joshua Williams, Samuel Sinquefield, Benjamin Tennill, John Martin, John Burney.

Ordered,

That a fair copy of the charge and presentments