

GEORGIA STATE GAZETTE

OR

INDEPENDENT REGISTER.

FREEDOM of the PRESS, and TRIAL by JURY, 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.

Washington, Wilkes County,
Nov. 10, 1787.

Lieut. Col. ABRAHAM LANDERS.

(Concluded from our last.)

SIR,

IN your letter you lay hold of your true excuse for all neglects and disorders, namely, my absence from Greene county. My absence was still the result of unavoidable unforeseen casualties; especially, previous to the month of August last, my wife met with an accident which deprived her of the use of her limbs, which misfortune was followed by a swelling in my son's thigh, that rendered his situation dangerous. As I was frequently obliged to be out on duty, I hope it will be allowed by the generous public, that it was highly necessary and reasonable I should turn my thoughts, in the turbulent state of affairs, to the security of my helpless wife and child, who were altogether incapable, in my absence, of fleeing to any place of safety, in case of a sudden irruption of the Indians. Accordingly that they might be in some measure more secure, I sent them in towards Washington, and in the mean time I accomplished every thing necessary towards the establishment of proper stations on the frontiers. This service being effected, my next care was to dispose of my family in such a manner, as might make their existence comfortable, their condition absolutely demanding it, and no place so naturally presented itself in my ideas, as my plantation near Washington, where they now are. Here I found my frequent presence was still necessary to assist them, to supply their indispensable wants, as who would suppose a woman scarcely able to move with the help of crutches, at the same time the has the care of small children, capable to make a necessary provision for a family. Their unfortunate state, therefore, obliged me to be as often with them, as the duty I owe my country would permit. In these circumstances to obviate even a suspicion of the public service suffering on account of my not residing constantly in Greene county, I informed General Clarke, I was ready either to resign my commission, and serve occasionally as a private, or continue in command, accordingly as he would think proper. The General replied, it would be more agreeable to him I would continue to hold my commission, and that it corresponded better with convenience I should reside at Washington, as I should be more convenient to forward his orders. In pursuance to this arrangement, and orders received from General Clarke, dated the 10th of August, directing a muster in Greene county, I designed to issue orders immediately from myself to the officers of the battalion; but was prevented by a sudden and violent indisposition of my wife. However, I submitted

to you as Lieutenant-Colonel, and to Major Phillips the necessary orders, which were delivered to you by the Major, whom you told, you would pay no regard to my orders, as I was not in the county;—that you were Colonel of Greene county; and that he as Major should pay no regard to them himself;—that you would mention to the inhabitants you had received some indirect verbal intelligence concerning a muster; but that you would take no notice of my orders, as orders; and accordingly you rode amongst the people, giving orders for a muster in your own name. This proceeding of yours, as well as many others, being subversive of all necessary subordination, I considered it my indispensable duty to notice, and had you arrested at the muster for this misconduct. You told the officer who presented the arrest, you would soon settle that affair, taking the paper out of his hand, and writing thereon, "The within protested by me Abraham Landers Lieut. Colonel of Green County" In this instance you certainly forgot you were on the parade, in the front of a battalion;—you must have imagined yourself in your old employment, behind the counter, protesting some false daunt. However, for recollecting yourself, and the muster over, you rode through the county, directing both officers and privates to pay no regard to my orders; that you alone were Colonel of Greene county. Thus, instead of a meritorious discharge of your duty, you industriously exerted to mutiny, by an endeavour to sow sedition, and infuse a spirit of defection in the breasts of men, who may be naturally well disposed to unite in the defence and support of general interest and tranquility. Observe a further characteristic of the man to whom I direct myself. You have forwarded several petitions to his Excellency the Governor, stating my conduct, signed, however, but by a few out of all that are in the county, not exceeding sixteen persons, some of whom are such, as I should not expect to find connected with any thing more laudable, than insidious misrepresentations; for, against some of them, I am now possessed of writs for crimes not less than that of murder, &c. You say in your letter, I have disposed of my "persons and property" in Greene county. I would not reply to this, as it is well known I am possessed of two different plantations there, did not the flagrantcy of this false assertion forcibly attract attention.

On the whole, it is conspicuous, your malevolent insinuations, and groundless assertions, are the effect of either, an unprovoked enmity to my person, as a man, or an officer, or both, or of a vain desire to be established Colonel of Greene county. If of the first, it would be a piece of great prudence, to wrest the sword from the hand of the man, whose heart is guided by causeless, partial hatred; as no doubt, on a proper occasion, when you

might expect the blow to escape with impunity, you would strike it home against the wife or the child, who might be so unfortunate as to be the object of your partial resentment. If of the second, you, and such, are of all men, the persons whom I would prevent from the acquisition of power; for, when once the rage of the love of power rules despotically the heart, public good, private happiness, conjugal felicity, and domestic tranquility, must all give way to its gratification. It rends the bonds of parental engagements, breaks the ties of brotherly affection, disregards the supplications of the widow, and the cries of the orphan, nay, even the lives of Monarchs fall a sacrifice, and all are too insufficient to quench its insatiable thirst. Let the ungenerous flame be extinguished now at its first appearance; for what can be more dangerous than to invest a man with power, who loves it for itself, and not for the sake of doing good. Witness, a Cromwell before whose ambition thousands fell; and a Kouli Khan who swam in the blood of myriads of Moguls, Turks, Tartars, and Persians, to the possession of an usurped crown.

I will now take the liberty to inform you, if you do not already know it, that true glory is not derived from a foolish exercise of power however unlimited. Learn faithful to obey from an universal patriotic principle, before you aspire to command; for a vigilant sentinel, who secures his post by a two hours faithful observance of his orders, has merit, and deserves thanks, when an unskilful general, by imprudent conduct, losing a decisive battle, and deriving death on ten thousand, perpetuates his memory in infamy. Let us beware how we introduce low artifice and party influence, for the purpose of establishing rank or securing employment, lest these practices pave the way for greater enormities, and we become at last like the unhappy Poles, who determine elections by the longest sword; or like the petty Asiatic Princes, who acquire and usurp a precarious regal possession and authority at the expence of blood, and oppression of their fellow creatures. If you wish to rise otherwise than by honest merit, you are an enemy to society, and, therefore, certainly, the "wisdom" of our Government will never listen to the solicitations of your folly, which is the result of what has been too explicitly mentioned before to need repetition. I do not expect my domestic happiness shall be established on a firm basis, until the general tranquility of my fellow citizens shall be restored; and though my wounds exempt me from duty, the best services shall be rendered them either as an officer or a private soldier, at any time, that can be performed by

Their most obedient and

Devoted Servant,

HENRY KARR.